



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 3 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 51 OF FMD OUTBREAK RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 50 (1st June 2026 to 5th June 2026) of the FMD outbreak response. The activities include FMD vaccination, awareness activities and sanitary controls in the country.

2. WEEK 51 HIGHLIGHTS/ REPORTS

In week 51, vaccination continued in nine (9) dip tanks where 5 dip tanks in Luve/ Mliba were getting first vaccination shots and four dip tanks in Ntfontjeni were getting booster shots. A total of 5005 cattle were vaccinated in week 51. After week 51, a total of 347 281 cattle have been vaccinated since the start of the FMD mass vaccination. The remaining vaccine in the store room is 2500 doses.

During Week 51, dip tank inspections continued throughout the country. No cases of FMD were observed in the majority of the inspected dip tanks. In Lomkhoco and Mathanjeni, cattle are still criss crossing for dipping a practice which is supposed to be address by Shiselwein Veterinary Services. The dip tank structures are not up to the required standard in Lonjinga, gege and Mahlabatsini dip tanks. These structures are to be attended to by the dip construction team. In Mozane dip tank, it was discovered that cattle still cross into RSA and back into the country posing a risk for FMD reinfection.

A lot of goats are smuggled from Eswatini to neighboring countries, on close inspection, it was discovered that the goat permits are written to dip tanks that are closer to the frontier line such as Zombodze and Hhuhuma dip tanks. AHIs were to be on the lookout when issuing small stock permits.

Since there are no more cases of FMD in the Shiselweni region, all checkpoints in Shiselweni will from week 52 focus on spraying grass products, cattle trucks, trailers and bakkies which were transporting cloven hoofed animals. Disinfection of others car tires and people will be stopped.

Because of the shifting of the outbreak, three out of the four Hhohho checkpoints were relocated. These were moved from Lozimvu, Siganganyaneni and Masheleleni to kalaZwane, Gangakhulu and Magadzeni.

3. OTHER DISSEASES

Abortions are early deaths of calves were reported at Mphameni, Mpotshini, Ntfwalamkhono, Mathanjeni and dip tanks. Samples collected from aborted cattle and submitted to the laboratory tested positive for Q-Fever (caused by a bacterium *Coxiella burnetti*). *{Late term abortions, still births or calves born with low birth weights, retained placentas, metritis, low conception weights. The disease is zoonotic and can infect farm workers through inhalation of infected manure or drinking unpasteurized milk. Signs in humans include severe headache, muscle and joint pains extreme fatigue and pneumonia}*. More investigation needs to be done before this disease can be confirmed.

4. VACCINATION

A total of 5 005 cattle were vaccinated in week 51. Of these, 2 178 cattle got booster shots and 2 887 got first FMD doses. To date, a total of 347 281 have been vaccinated in the country. In the vaccine store, 2 500 doses of the FMD vaccine is remaining.

5. AWARENES AND SENSITIZATION

- FMD awareness and sensitization activities continued in selected dip tanks across the country. Livestock owners were reminded of the importance of complying with disease control measures, including movement restrictions, vaccination programmes, and reporting suspected disease cases promptly.
- There was training of AHIs, LEOs, Farm Managers and VOs on the SOPs for feedlot and breeding cattle at Mpisi Training Centre on the 3rd June 2026. This training was aimed to raise awareness on the SOPs and on how to apply them. The necessary documentation was discussed. The participants were happy that the training brought both animal health and livestock extension officers together.

6. CORDON FENCES

Lubombo team visited the cordon fence on Tuesday the 2nd June 2026 together with Microprojects and Act. DVLS to appreciate the quality of work and the progress which has been done at Sitsatsaweni cordon fence. From Sitsatsaweni, 9.3km was completed and the quality of the fence was good. The one from Mhlumeni towards Sitsatsaweni was 2.3km and 800m work in progress was completed out of the expected 10km. Microprojects was yet to account for the material taken by the constructor who could only complete 2.3km. Another contractor was awarded the tender to continue where the previous contractor had failed (the one who did 2.3km).

7. WAY FORWARD

a. Vaccination schedule for week 52

Date	Day	Dip Tank
9.06.2026	Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lismore Farm• Parrys (Mpisi Breeding) Farm

b. Awareness and sensitization will continue in some dip tanks in the contry.

