

Foot-and-Mouth Disease information for Agricultural Shows



1. WHAT IS FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE?

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a **highly contagious viral illness** affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. It causes:

- Painful blisters in the mouth and around the hooves
- Lameness and drooling
- Reduced appetite and movement
- Long-term economic losses
- National trade restrictions

2. INCUBATION AND RISK

- **Incubation period:** 2-14 days — animals can appear healthy but still be infectious.
- The disease spreads quickly via **animal movement, contaminated clothing and equipment, and transport vehicles.**
- **Outbreaks have been confirmed recently** in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga.
- **The Western Cape remains FMD-free** — we must keep it that way.

3. LEGAL AND BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

To protect our province and participants, **strict compliance is required.**

3.1 BEFORE THE SHOW

a) Origin/Owner Declaration Form

- Every animal must be accompanied by this form indicating its origin and health status.
- Available on the Elsenburg Animal Health page:
www.elsenburg.com/veterinary-services/animal-health-and-disease-control/#Situation

b) Veterinary Certificate (strongly recommended)

- Issued by a private veterinarian confirming the animals are clinically healthy.
- Template available online.

c) Avoid high-risk animals

- Do not bring animals from restricted or outbreak areas (e.g. in KZN, MP, GP). You will be held liable under the Animal Diseases Act if you spread disease.

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3.2 DURING THE SHOW

- **No contact between animals from different farms.**
- Avoid shared handling of animals by people from different farms.
- Provide **footbaths and disinfectant stations** (disinfectant list below) for people and equipment.
- Disinfect tools, pens, and vehicles regularly.

3.3 AFTER THE SHOW

a) Buyer/Destination Declaration Form

- Animals leaving the show must be accompanied by this form signed by the receiving party, stating that the mandatory 28-day quarantine will be observed.

b) Mandatory 28-Day Quarantine

- All animals must be **isolated for 28 days** on return or arrival at a new farm, regardless of veterinary clearance.
- This has been a **legal requirement since October 2022**.
- You will be held liable under the Animal Diseases Act if you spread disease.

c) Clean and Disinfect

- All vehicles, equipment, and trailers used at the show must be disinfected before returning to the farm.

4. IF YOU SUSPECT FMD

- **Immediately report any suspicion** (excessive salivation, mouth blisters, lameness) to your local **State Veterinarian**.
- Do **not move the animal** or allow further contact.
- Contact details for all state veterinary offices are available at: www.elsenburg.com

5. SUMMARY OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Stakeholder	Key Responsibilities
Show organisers	Ensure forms are submitted, pens are managed, and hygiene is enforced.
Animal owners	Bring healthy animals, provide documentation, isolate animals post-show, avoid risky purchases.
Buyers	Agree to quarantine new animals and monitor for symptoms.

NOTE:

FMD is not just an agricultural concern — it's a **national biosecurity issue**. Let's work together to keep our province free from disease.

6. DISINFECTANTS EFFECTIVE AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VIRUS

Active Ingredient	Trade/common name example	Concentration for FMDV (%)	Contact time (minutes)	Important to note
Sodium hydroxide	Caustic soda	2	10	Add powder to water and not water to powder. Corrosive.
Sodium carbonate	Soda ash	4	10	Mildly corrosive.
Citric acid		3	Porous surfaces: 30 min. Non-porous surfaces: 15 min	Clean well before applying.

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Active Ingredient	Trade/common name example	Concentration for FMDV (%)	Contact time (minutes)	Important to note
Acetic acid	Household vinegar (4-8% acetic acid)	2	10	Clean well before applying.
Sodium hypochlorite (NaClO)	Household bleach (approx. 3% sodium hypochlorite in South Africa)	0.3	Porous surfaces: 30 min. Non-porous surfaces: 15 min.	Use immediately after mixing the solution. Add NaClO to water. Corrosive.
Potassium peroxymono-sulphate	Virkon S	1	10	

CONTACT US: VETERINARY SERVICES

State Veterinarian: George

044-803-3771/0
Ms Shirelle Strydom (Admin Clerk)
Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg
083 797 0010

State Veterinarian: Boland

021-808-5028/5253
Ms Renee Jack (Admin Clerk)
Dr Vivien Malan
082 228 9076

State Veterinarian: Swellendam

021-808-5059/028-425-4850
Mr Bidwell Gelwana (Admin Clerk)
Dr Christi Kloppers
083 641 5163

State Veterinarian: Beaufort West

023-414-9220/1
Ms Chriszelda Mtwalo (Admin Clerk)
Mr Anton Barnard (Acting)
082 805 9757

State Veterinarian: Vredendal

027-201-3514/0
Ms Deidre Daniels (Admin Clerk)
Dr Chanel Lombard
027-201-3510

State Veterinarian: Malmesbury

022-482-1380
Ms Samantha Burger (Admin Clerk)
Mr Marius Vrey (Control Animal Health Technician)
083 528 7741

State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn

044-203-9443/5
Ms Jeoninse Noni (Admin Clerk)
Dr Cathy Fox
082 699 6043

State Veterinarian: Worcester

021-808-5052
Mr Daniel Ryan (Admin Clerk)
Dr Ansulize Pepler
021-808-5052

IMPORTANT: New Animal Health Regulations Apply

View the latest government notices and gazetted requirements for animal gatherings, movement and disease control.

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.elsenburg.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Government-Gazette.pdf>

