# Western Cape Department of Agriculture

# FACT SHEET

# 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

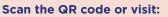
#### State Veterinarian: Worcester

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.



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



Western Cape Government

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#ForTheLoveOfAgriculture

