



**How to Spot Rift Valley Fever
in Cattle**

**Winter Licks and Nutritional Supplements
for Cattle on Dry Grazing**

**How Farmers Access the
Vaccine**

Auctions

**2026 National Livestock Auction
Calendar (March – October)**

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Editor's Note



Across the agricultural calendar there are many things a farmer cannot control: the timing of rain, the severity of drought, market prices, pests, and the uncertainties that arrive with every new season. Yet throughout Scripture we are reminded that while we labor in the fields, God remains sovereign over the harvest. Prayer, therefore, is not merely a religious habit for rural life—it is a vital practice that anchors the heart of those who work the land.

The New Living Translation reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to “never stop praying.” For farmers, this instruction carries practical meaning. Prayer is not limited to Sunday mornings; it belongs in the tractor cab, beside the kraal, in the lambing shed, and in the quiet moments before sunrise when the land begins to stir. Continuous prayer keeps our perspective aligned with the One who ultimately sustains creation.

Agriculture has always been closely tied to faith in the Bible. In James 5:7 (NLT) believers are encouraged to be patient like farmers who wait for the rains in the fall and spring. This comparison is powerful. Every producer understands the patience required between planting and harvest. Prayer nurtures that patience, reminding us that growth often happens in unseen ways before it becomes visible in the field.

Scripture also emphasizes that God is the provider behind every successful season. Matthew 9:38 (NLT) urges believers to pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest. While this passage speaks about spiritual harvest, the imagery resonates deeply with those who cultivate crops and raise livestock. It points to a truth farmers already know well: harvest is never entirely the result of human effort.

Prayer also brings peace during difficult seasons. In Philippians 4:6 (NLT) believers are told not to worry about anything but instead to pray about everything, presenting requests to God with thanksgiving. When drought lingers or costs rise, prayer becomes a place where anxiety is exchanged for trust.

Agriculture has always required resilience, humility, and hope. Prayer cultivates all three. As stewards of the land, we plant, we tend, and we work diligently—but we also pray, trusting that the same God who created the soil and the seasons still watches over every field today.

With gratitude and expectation,

The Editor

God always hears the prayers of His people

Many people wonder why some prayers seem to go unanswered. According to the Bible, God always hears the prayers of His people, but His response may be yes, no, or wait. Scripture reveals several reasons why prayers may not be answered in the way we expect. Using passages from the New Living Translation (NLT), we can understand God's perspective.

1. Unconfessed Sin

One of the most common reasons prayers are hindered is unconfessed sin. God desires a sincere and clean heart before Him. The Bible says:

"Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins that have cut you off from God." (Isaiah 59:1-2, NLT)

When a person continues in sin without repentance, it creates a barrier in their relationship with God.

2. Wrong Motives

Sometimes people pray with selfish motives rather than seeking God's will. When prayers are driven by personal gain instead of spiritual purpose, God may refuse them.

"And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure." (James 4:3, NLT)

God answers prayers that align with His purposes and glory, not merely our desires.

3. Lack of Faith

Faith is essential when approaching God in prayer. Doubt can prevent a person from receiving what they ask for.

"But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver..." (James 1:6-7, NLT)

God wants believers to trust His power and character fully.

4. Ignoring God's Word

When people deliberately ignore God's instructions,

their prayers may not be honored.

"God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law." (Proverbs 28:9, NLT)

Obedience shows respect for God's authority and opens the way for a stronger prayer life.

5. Broken Relationships

Unresolved conflict, especially within close relationships, can hinder prayers.

"Treat your wife with understanding... Then nothing will hinder your prayers." (1 Peter 3:7, NLT)

God values love, respect, and unity among His people.

6. God Has a Better Plan

Sometimes God does not answer immediately because His wisdom sees a better path than the one we request.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts... And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." (Isaiah 55:8-9, NLT)

God's perspective is eternal, while ours is limited.

7. God's Timing

Even when the request is good, God may delay the answer because the timing is not right.

"Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you... Blessed are those who wait for his help." (Isaiah 30:18, NLT)

Waiting strengthens faith and prepares believers for what God intends to give.

Conclusion

When prayers seem unanswered, it does not mean God is absent. According to Scripture, unanswered prayers may result from sin, wrong motives, lack of faith, disobedience, broken relationships, God's greater plan, or His perfect timing. Understanding these reasons encourages believers to examine their hearts, trust God's wisdom, and continue praying with humility and faith.

2026 National Livestock Auction Calendar (March – October)

Livestock auctions remain a primary marketing channel for cattle and sheep producers in South Africa. Auction houses such as BKB, Vleissentraal, OVK, SwiftVEE and various breed societies collectively host hundreds of livestock auctions annually. These events include stud production sales, elite breed auctions, commercial weaner calf sales and wildlife auctions.

Stud sales typically take place between March and October, aligning with the Southern African breeding cycle and the seasonal marketing of replacement genetics. According to auction calendars published by BKB, Vleissentraal and multiple breed societies, several key auctions scheduled during 2026 fall within this window.

The following calendar compiles notable livestock and stud auctions confirmed or traditionally scheduled between March and October 2026, based on auction listings and breed-society calendars available up to 15 March 2026.



March 2026

March marks the start of the autumn.

- 18 March 2026 – OSHER Boerdery Vee & Implements Auction (Bela Vista Farm) – Vleissentraal
- 19 March 2026 – Karoo Meatmaster Club Auction – Vleissentraal
- 20 March 2026 – Hanley Wildlife Auction (Alldays, Limpopo) – Vleissentraal
- 21 March 2026 – Groblersdal Wildlife Auction – Vleissentraal
- 21 March 2026 – Inni-Bos Bosvelders Production Auction (Roedtan, Limpopo) – Vleissentraal
- 26 March 2026 – Upington Dorperland Elite Auction (Northern Cape) – Vleissentraal
- 27 March 2026 – Nylsvlei Wildlife Auction (Limpopo) – Vleissentraal

- 28 March 2026 – Leadwood & Friends Limousin Sale – Limousin Society of South Africa

These early sales focus primarily on stud genetics, wildlife trading and regional production animals.

April 2026

April traditionally hosts large weaner calf sales as summer-born calves are marketed to feedlots.

Major scheduled sales include:

- 1 April 2026 – Special Weaner Calf and Young Cattle Auction (Standerton) – Vleissentraal
- 11 April 2026 – Eeram Online Weaner Auction (Bloemfontein) – Vleissentraal
- 13 April 2026 – New England Weaner Calf Auction (Aliwal-Noord) – Vleissentraal
- 14 April 2026 – Stud & Commercial Auction (Standerton) – Vleissentraal

- 15 April 2026 – Towton Bonsmara Production Auction (Kuruman, Northern Cape)

Weaner auctions during April are significant because feedlots increase purchasing ahead of winter finishing programs.

May 2026

May marks the peak of the weaner calf marketing season in South Africa.

Typical national auctions during this period include:

- Large regional BKB Weaner Calf Sales in the Free State and Eastern Cape
- Bonsmara Club Auctions hosted across the Northern Cape and Limpopo
- Drakensberger Production Auctions organized through Vleissentraal and OVK
- Multiple commercial weaner auctions hosted weekly across the country

Industry estimates indicate that tens of thousands of weaner calves are sold through formal auctions during May alone.

June 2026

June continues the weaner season while also introducing mid-year stud sales.

Common auctions scheduled during this period include:

- Regional Bonsmara Production Sales
- Nguni Cattle Breeders Auctions
- Santa Gertrudis Production Auctions
- Commercial cattle auctions hosted by BKB and OVK

These sales allow producers to purchase breeding bulls before the spring breeding season.

July 2026

July is one of the most active months for elite stud genetics.

Important sales typically held nationally include:

- National Bonsmara Elite Sale
- Drakensberger National Sale
- Santa Gertrudis National Sale
- Nguni Cattle Society National Auction

Stud sales during July attract buyers from across Southern Africa, including Namibia and Botswana.

August 2026

August is dominated by sheep and small-stock stud auctions.

Major sales commonly held in August include:

- National Dorper Sale
- Meatmaster National Auction
- Dormer National Sale
- Merino and Dohne Merino stud auctions

Sheep stud sales are strategically placed before the main spring lambing seasons.

September 2026

September continues with high-value stud cattle auctions.

Notable national breed auctions usually include:

- Brahman National Sale
- Simmentaler National Auction
- Angus National Sale
- Charolais Stud Auctions

Many of these sales feature elite genetics and attract buyers from commercial and stud operations.

October 2026

October traditionally marks the closing phase of the stud auction

season.

Key livestock auctions include:

- Beefmaster National Sale
- Brangus Stud Auctions
- Boran Production Sales
- Late-season commercial cattle auctions hosted by major auction houses.

By October, most commercial producers have secured replacement bulls before summer breeding cycles begin.

Role of Livestock Auctions in South Africa

Livestock auctions remain a central mechanism for price discovery and genetic improvement in the national red-meat industry. South Africa's beef sector consists of more than 80,000 commercial cattle producers, while formal auction houses collectively conduct hundreds of livestock auctions each year.

Stud auctions in particular play an important role in genetic improvement. Elite bulls sold at national breed sales frequently become foundation sires for commercial herds across Southern Africa.

Digital livestock platforms and online bidding systems have also expanded access to auctions, allowing producers to participate remotely while maintaining biosecurity during disease outbreaks.

Sources

1. BKB Livestock and Auctioneering Calendar
2. Vleissentraal Auction Listings
3. Limousin Society of South Africa Calendar
4. Bonsmara Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa
5. Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO)
6. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

Source: FARMhere

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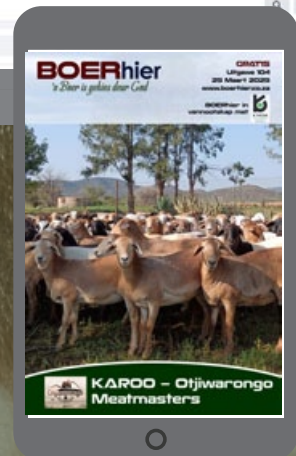
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The role of vitamins and trace minerals in immunity in ruminants – Focus on selenium and vitamin E



Trace minerals are required in small amounts in the body. Important trace minerals and vitamins include copper, zinc, manganese, cobalt and selenium, vitamins A, D and E and B vitamins. Trace elements and vitamins play an important role specifically in the antioxidant systems of the body. They are incorporated into specific enzyme systems that are responsible for protecting the body against free radicals that cause damage at the cellular level. In essence, trace minerals and vitamins form part of the systems in the body that are responsible for protecting it against normal “wear and tear” and therefore play an important role in the general health, immunity and fertility of animals. ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}



Selenium and Vitamin E work synergistically in the body:

The main function of both selenium and vitamin E is to prevent oxidative damage to biological membranes.⁶ Selenium and vitamin E influence growth, reproduction, immune function, health and product quality in ruminants.⁶ Selenium and vitamin E ensure optimal cellular function by maintaining low concentrations of reactive oxygen species and lipid hydroperoxides.⁶

Clinical selenium and/or vitamin E deficiency can result in white muscle disease in ruminants.⁴ Typical symptoms observed include weak lambs or calves that are stiff and weak or that die suddenly. Characteristic white streaks or spots can be seen in the heart muscles or leg muscles on post-mortem examination.

Subclinical selenium and/or vitamin E deficiencies can also occur, and can manifest as infertility, irregular oestrous cycles, embryonic deaths, higher incidence of mastitis and retained placentas.⁴

The functions of selenium and vitamin E also extend beyond the classical antioxidant properties and evidence of involvement in immunomodulation and intracellular cell signal transduction and gene regulation has also been found.⁶ Research has also shown that supra-nutritional supplementation of selenium and vitamin E is necessary to improve the performance of ruminants under certain stressful conditions such as heat stress and during the transition period.⁶

Strategic supplementation

During certain critical stages in an animal's production stage, animals are under stress, among



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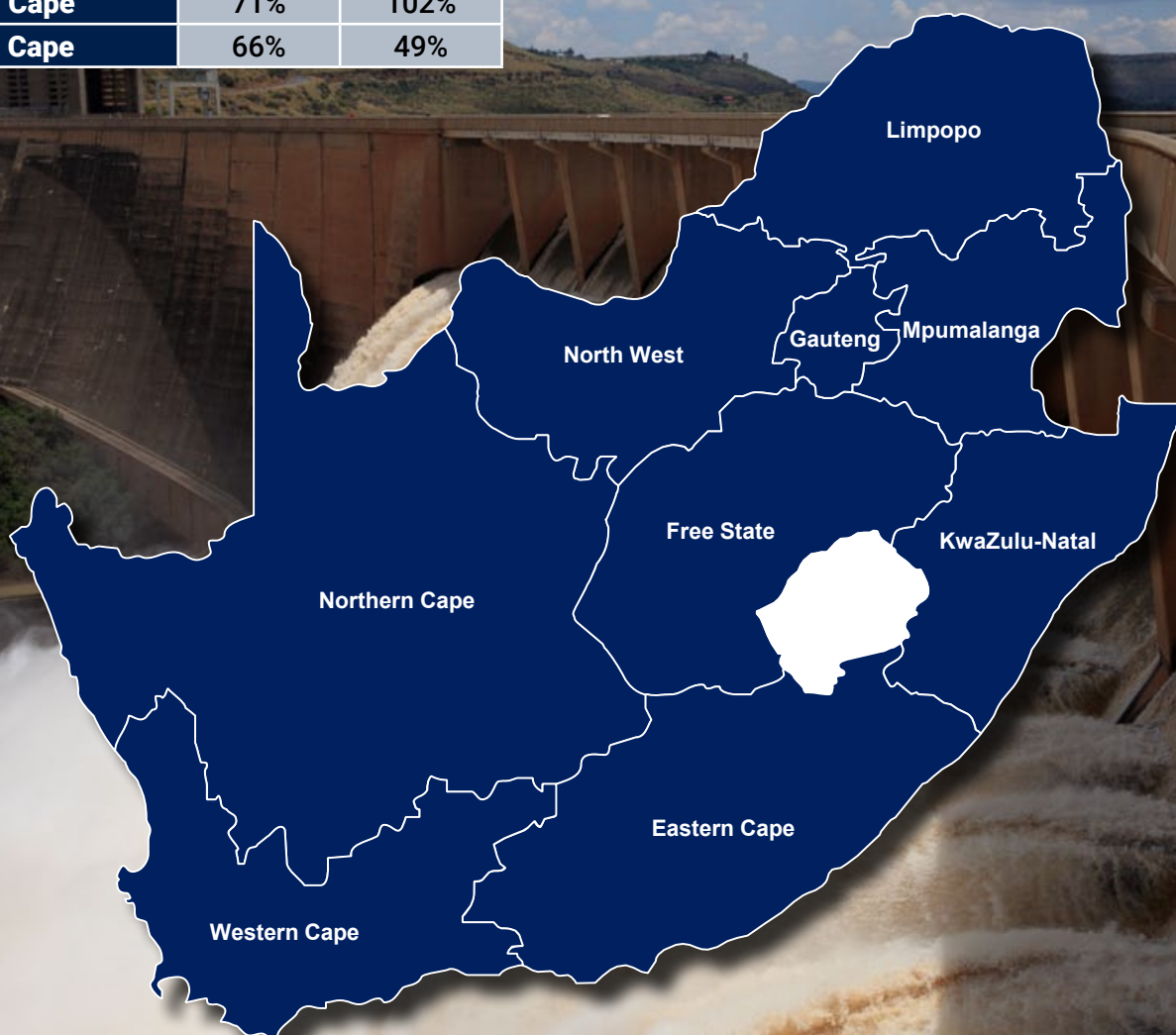


Holland.

Dam Levels

as at 10 March 2026

March		
	2025	2026
Eastern Cape	82%	81%
Freestate	87%	103%
Gauteng	98%	101%
KwaZulu-Natal	95%	91%
Limpopo	91%	101%
Mpumalanga	99%	100%
North West	100%	97%
Northern Cape	71%	102%
Western Cape	66%	49%



Provincial Summary (sawx.co.za)

How to Spot *Rift Valley Fever* in Cattle

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is a viral disease of livestock transmitted primarily by mosquitoes, and it remains one of the most important climate-linked livestock diseases in Africa. Periods of heavy rainfall and flooding — such as those commonly experienced in southern Africa during March — significantly increase the risk of outbreaks because they create ideal breeding conditions for mosquito vectors.

RVF affects cattle, sheep, goats and wildlife, but cattle are important indicator hosts during outbreaks. Early recognition of symptoms is essential to reduce losses and limit spread.

What Causes Rift Valley Fever

Rift Valley Fever is caused by the Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV), a member of the Phlebovirus genus in the Phenuiviridae family.

The virus is transmitted primarily by *Aedes* and *Culex* mosquito species, although animals can also become infected through contact with infected blood, tissues, or aborted foetuses.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):



RVF outbreaks typically follow periods of above-average rainfall and flooding

Mosquito populations can increase 10–100 times during flood conditions

The virus can remain dormant in mosquito eggs for years until flooding triggers hatching

Large RVF outbreaks have occurred repeatedly in southern Africa. The 2010–2011 South African outbreak infected more than 14 000 livestock and caused significant livestock losses, particularly in sheep but also in cattle.

Mortality and Economic Impact

Mortality varies depending on the age of the animal.

According to the FAO and WOAH:

- Adult cattle mortality: typically 5–20%
- Calf mortality: up to 70%
- Abortion rate in pregnant cattle: 40–100%

Because abortion storms can affect entire herds, RVF outbreaks can cause rapid and severe production losses.

Key Symptoms in Cattle

Clinical signs can vary from mild illness to severe disease.

The most important signs farmers should watch for include:

1. Sudden Abortion Storms

One of the most distinctive signs of RVF is large numbers of abortions occurring within a short period.

Abortions may occur in up to 100% of pregnant cows

Abortion can occur without previous visible illness

Foetuses are often autolysed (decomposed)

Abortion storms are often the first sign of RVF activity in a region.

2. Fever

Infected cattle typically develop high fever (40–41°C).

Other symptoms linked to fever include:

- Loss of appetite
- Depression
- Reduced milk production
- Weakness and lethargy

Fever usually occurs 24–72 hours after infection.

3. Nasal Discharge and Excess Salivation

Many infected animals develop:

- Watery or mucous nasal discharge
- Excessive salivation

These symptoms are often accompanied by swollen lymph nodes.

4. Diarrhoea and Digestive Distress

Gastrointestinal signs may include:

- Diarrhoea
- Bloody faeces in severe cases
- Rapid weight loss

These symptoms occur as the virus affects internal organs.

5. Jaundice (Yellowing of the Eyes)

RVF commonly causes severe liver damage.

Visible signs include:

- Yellowing of the eyes and mucous membranes
- Weakness and collapse in severe infections

Liver damage is particularly severe in young calves, contributing to the high mortality rate.

6. High Death Rate in Young Calves

Young animals are the most vulnerable.

Statistics from WOA and FAO reports show:

- Calf mortality can reach 70%
- Death often occurs within 24–48 hours after symptoms appear

In many cases calves may die without obvious early warning signs.

Environmental Warning Signs

Certain environmental conditions strongly increase RVF risk.

According to the FAO Early Warning System for Rift Valley Fever, outbreaks are strongly associated with:

- Heavy rainfall events
- Flooding of low-lying grazing areas
- Large mosquito populations
- Warm temperatures following rain

Satellite monitoring has shown that RVF outbreaks in Africa often occur 2–6 weeks after major rainfall events.

Why Early Detection Matters

Rift Valley Fever is classified as a notifiable disease in South Africa under the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984).

Early reporting is critical because:

- The disease can spread rapidly across regions
- It can infect humans through contact with infected tissues
- It can cause major economic losses to livestock industries

Veterinary authorities rely on rapid reporting and laboratory confirmation to control outbreaks.

Sources

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – Rift Valley Fever Technical Disease Card
2. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Rift Valley Fever Fact Sheet
3. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), South Africa
4. Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) RVF surveillance reports
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rift Valley Fever overview

Source: FARMhere

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Identifying Symptoms of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Cattle During Active Outbreaks

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is one of the most contagious viral diseases affecting livestock worldwide. The disease primarily infects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, and spreads rapidly through direct contact, contaminated equipment, vehicles, clothing, feed, and aerosols. Because of its extreme transmissibility, FMD outbreaks trigger strict movement restrictions, quarantine measures, and vaccination campaigns in affected regions.



As of early 2026, South Africa has experienced widespread outbreaks, with more than 297,000 cattle affected and over 120,000 animals culled as part of disease-control efforts. The outbreak has severely disrupted the livestock sector and triggered export bans from several international markets.

In provinces such as North West, authorities reported 138 confirmed cases by February 2026, including 135 cases in cattle, with 16 of the province's 18 municipalities affected.

Understanding the symptoms of FMD is therefore critical for farmers to detect infections early and prevent rapid spread.

Incubation Period and Infection Dynamics

After infection, the incubation

period in cattle typically ranges from 2 to 14 days, depending on virus strain, exposure level, and animal immunity.

Research has shown that infected cattle may transmit the virus at least 24 hours before clinical signs appear, which contributes significantly to the rapid spread of outbreaks within herds and between farms.

In susceptible livestock populations, morbidity rates can reach up to 100%, meaning nearly all animals in a herd may become infected if control measures are not implemented quickly.

However, mortality in adult cattle is relatively low (1–5%), while young calves may experience mortality rates exceeding 20%, often due to heart complications associated with the infection.

Early Clinical Symptoms in Cattle

The first visible sign of FMD in cattle is usually fever, which can reach 40–41 °C and typically lasts two to six days.

During this early stage, infected cattle may display several behavioural and physiological changes, including:

- Depression and lethargy
- Reduced appetite (anorexia)
- Reduced milk production in dairy cows
- Stiff movement or reluctance to walk

These early symptoms occur before the characteristic lesions develop and may be mistaken for other illnesses if farmers are not vigilant.

Characteristic Lesions and Visible Signs

The most distinctive feature of FMD is the development of fluid-filled blisters (vesicles) in several parts of the body. These blisters rapidly rupture and form painful sores or erosions.

Typical lesion locations include:

1. Mouth and muzzle

- Blisters on the tongue, gums, lips, and inside the cheeks
- Excessive drooling or foamy saliva
- Difficulty eating or chewing

2. Feet and hooves

- Blisters between the hooves or along the coronary band
- Severe lameness and reluctance to stand
- Animals lying down for extended periods

3. Teats and udder

- Vesicles on teats or the udder
- Pain during milking

These lesions cause severe discomfort, which explains why infected cattle often stop eating and moving normally.

Additional Production and Health Impacts

FMD causes significant economic losses due to reduced productivity

and long-term health effects. Infected cattle frequently experience:

- Sharp drops in milk production
- Weight loss lasting several months
- Reduced fertility in breeding animals
- Abortions in pregnant cows due to high fever

Even after recovery, some animals may remain carriers of the virus for weeks or months, continuing to pose a risk to other livestock.

Quarantine and Vaccination Measures

FMD is classified as a state-controlled disease in South Africa, meaning suspected cases must be reported to veterinary authorities immediately. Control strategies include quarantine zones, livestock movement bans, vaccination campaigns, and surveillance.

The South African government has launched a national vaccination strategy targeting 80% of the national cattle herd by the end of 2026, focusing on high-risk provinces.

North West and other affected regions have begun targeted vaccination programs and traceability monitoring through livestock identification systems

to track infected and vaccinated animals.

Conclusion

Foot-and-mouth disease remains one of the most serious threats to livestock production due to its extremely high infection rate and rapid transmission between animals. With morbidity potentially reaching 100% in susceptible herds, early detection is essential to limiting the spread. The key warning signs farmers should watch for include fever, drooling, mouth blisters, lameness, and sudden drops in milk production.

Given the scale of the ongoing outbreak in South Africa, strict biosecurity, vaccination, and rapid reporting of symptoms remain the most effective strategies to protect herds and limit economic losses across the livestock sector.

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3. South African Government – Department of Agriculture
4. SA News / North West Department of Agriculture
5. Farmers Weekly
6. AP News
7. Texas A&M Veterinary Medicine
8. Nature Scientific Reports (FMD transmission research)

Source: FARMhere

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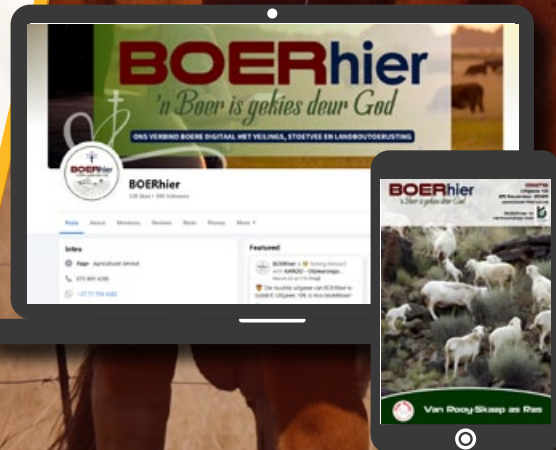
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Winter Licks and Nutritional Supplements for Cattle on Dry Grazing

As autumn begins in Southern Africa, natural grazing quality declines rapidly. Mature veld grasses lose digestibility and protein as plants dry and become fibrous. This reduces rumen microbial activity, lowers feed intake, and can lead to weight loss if cattle are not supplemented with appropriate nutrients. Strategic lick supplementation is therefore widely used by cattle producers to maintain body condition during winter grazing.

Nutritional Challenges of Winter Grazing

Green pasture typically provides sufficient nutrients during the growing season, but once grasses mature and dry, their nutritional value declines significantly. As pasture ages, its fibre content increases while crude protein levels decline, making it harder for cattle to digest and extract nutrients.

When the protein content of veld falls below approximately 6%, rumen microbes struggle to function effectively. At this stage, cattle cannot efficiently digest roughage, resulting in reduced appetite and lower feed intake.



Without supplementation, this reduction in rumen activity can lead to a cycle of declining feed intake and progressive weight loss, particularly during prolonged dry seasons.

Role of Protein and Urea in Winter Licks

The primary objective of winter supplementation is to provide rumen degradable protein (RDP) or non-protein nitrogen (NPN) sources such as urea. These nutrients feed rumen microbes, allowing them to break down dry grass more efficiently.

Urea is widely used because of its high nitrogen concentration. With a nitrogen content of approximately 46%, urea has a crude protein equivalent of about 287%, making it an extremely concentrated nitrogen source for rumen microbes.

Because rumen microbes rely on nitrogen to multiply, small amounts of urea supplementation can significantly improve digestion of low-quality forage. Proper

supplementation can increase appetite for dry grazing by 20–30%, improving feed utilisation during winter.

When to Introduce a Winter Lick

Nutrition specialists generally recommend introducing winter licks early in the dry season or during the autumn transition, before cattle begin losing weight.

In many Southern African grazing systems, supplementation typically begins around March, when pasture protein levels decline below the critical threshold for rumen microbes.

Starting supplementation early also allows cattle to adapt gradually to urea-based supplements, reducing the risk of toxicity or digestive disturbances.

Types of Winter Licks

Three main types of nutritional supplements are commonly used in cattle production systems.

1. Maintenance Protein Licks

Maintenance licks provide protein, minerals, and trace elements to maintain body condition during winter grazing. These supplements stimulate rumen microbes to digest dry forage more effectively.

Typical maintenance lick intake is approximately 375–500 g per cow per day.

These licks usually contain high levels of crude protein derived from urea or other nitrogen sources, sometimes exceeding 400 g/kg crude protein depending on formulation.

2. Energy or Production Licks

Production licks are used when cattle require additional energy for growth, lactation, or body condition improvement. These supplements often include starch sources such as maize or molasses in addition to protein.

Typical intake levels range from 600 g to 1 kg per large livestock unit per day, depending on animal size and production requirements.

These supplements can improve body condition and milk production in cows raising calves during winter.

3. Mineral and Trace Element Licks

Mineral supplementation is also

important during winter grazing. Nutrients such as phosphorus, calcium, sulphur, copper, zinc, and manganese support metabolic function and rumen microbial activity.

Phosphorus supplementation is particularly important in areas where natural veld is deficient in this mineral, as deficiencies can negatively affect fertility and skeletal development.

Recommended Intake Levels

Most winter licks are formulated to ensure controlled intake, preventing excessive consumption of urea while still delivering adequate nutrients. Typical recommended intake levels include:

- 200–300 g/day for low-intake protein supplements.
- 375–500 g/day for standard maintenance licks.
- 500–800 g/day for larger cows or higher production requirements.
- Up to 1 kg/day for energy-rich production supplements.

These intake levels allow cattle to maintain rumen function while grazing low-quality winter pasture.

Conclusion

Winter nutrition strategies for cattle

are largely based on maintaining rumen microbial activity when grazing quality declines. When veld protein levels fall below about 6%, supplementation with protein or urea-based licks becomes necessary to sustain digestion and feed intake. Properly formulated winter licks provide rumen degradable protein, minerals, and trace elements that enable cattle to utilise dry grazing efficiently.

Typical supplementation levels range from 200 g to 1 kg per animal per day, depending on the type of lick and the production stage of the animal. By introducing supplements early in the dry season, farmers can prevent weight loss, maintain herd productivity, and ensure cattle enter the next breeding season in optimal condition.

Sources

1. FutureBeef – Protein and urea supplementation in cattle
2. FarmSpace – Optimising winter feeding strategies
3. De Heus Animal Nutrition
4. Sernick Feeds livestock nutrition guidelines
5. Molatek cattle lick product specifications
6. KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture livestock nutrition guidelines
7. ProAgri Media livestock supplementation research

Source: FARMhere



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References: [1] Callender, S.P., Mathews, J.A., Kobayak, K. & Wetzig, S.D. 2017. Microemulsion utility in pharmaceuticals: Implications for multi-drug delivery. International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 526: 429-442. [2] Hersh, T.H. & Hoff, B. 2011. The use of blood analysis to evaluate trace mineral status in ruminant livestock. Veterinary Clinics of North America Food Animal Practice, 27:25-28. [3] Lopez-Alonso, M. 2012. Trace Minerals: Not too much not too little. International Scholarly Research Network Veterinary Science. doi: 10.5402/2012.704825. [4] Wahlberg, M.J. & Greher, S.P. 2006. Minerals & Vitamins for Sheep - Extension Article. available online at: <http://www.sheep101.info/201/mineralsandvitamins.html>.

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A comparative efficacy study in cattle to determine the therapeutic efficacy of 2 oral formulations against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*).

Study objectives

The objective of the study was to compare the efficacy of the test product against the reference product, when used against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*)*.

Study design

A controlled, uncentre study using two treatment groups, and one untreated control group of cattle.

	Day	Group*
Infestation with giant liver fluke	0	1,2,3
Treatment	+21	1,2
Slaughter	+93	1,2,3

*Group 1: Test product group (n = 6); Group 2: Reference product group (n = 6); Group 3: Untreated control group (n = 6).

Trial animals

18 Nguni cross males, 10 months old, 130 - 229 kg. Identified by means of ear tags.

Test products

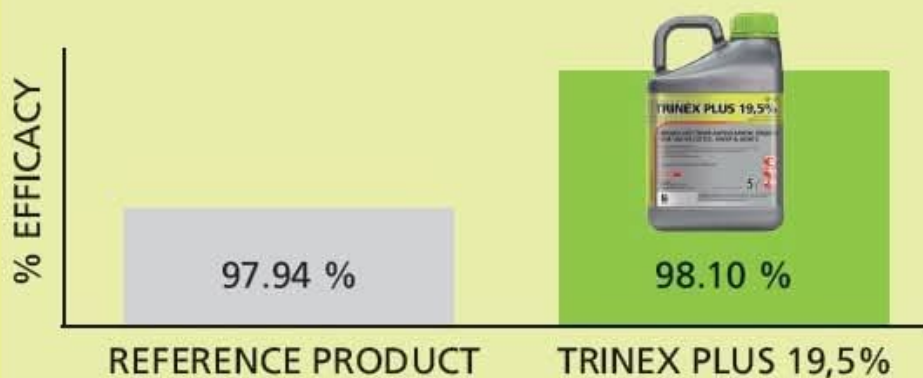
Test Product: An oral formulation (Trinex Plus 19.5 %) containing 12 % triclabendazole and 7.5 % levamisole Batch number 406010. Expiry date: 7/2016.

Reference product: Oral formulation containing 12 % triclabendazole and 4.53 % oxfendazole. Batch number and expiry date withheld.

Dosage

For both products, administration was done orally at a rate of 1 ml / 10 kg, yielding a dose of 12 mg / kg triclabendazole and 7.5 mg / kg levamisole (Trinex Plus 19.5 %) and 12 mg / kg triclabendazole and 4.53 mg / kg oxfendazole (Reference product).

EFFICACY BASED ON GEOMEAN FLUKE NUMBERS



* The South African regulatory authorities accept efficacy against 3 week old giant liver fluke (*F gigantica*) as being equivalent to efficacy against 2 week-old liver fluke (*F hepatica*). This is in evidence on the efficacy table on the label of the reference product. *F gigantica* was used in this study because *F hepatica* was not available at the time.

Reference: Kyron Animal Health enlisted the services of an independent contractor to conduct the study: Bosvet Clinical Development, Postnet Suite 8396, Kempton Park 1620.

1. Dowling A, Lawrence, K.E., Howe L, Scott I, Pomroy WE. 2024. Assessment of accuracy of liver fluke diagnostic tests using the gold standard of total worm counts. *Veterinary Parasitology: Regional Studies and Reports*, 54. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vprsr.2024.101102>
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Conclusion

Slaughter studies are accepted as **gold standard**^{1,2} for efficacy testing against internal parasites. This slaughter study shows that the test and reference products are equally effective against 3 week old giant liver fluke, and thus also 2 week old liver fluke.



†② Benzimidazole †③ Imidothiazole

Product name: Trinex Plus 195% Registration number: 63814 Act 36/1947 (South Africa). Each 1 ml contains: Levamisole 7,5 % m/v, Triclabendazole 12,0 % m/v. Registration holder: Kyron Animal Health (Pty) Ltd, Co. Reg. No. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa. Export countries: Botswana - BV210048/A [VPS]; Namibia - V14/18.1.8/1244 [NSD]



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Current Beef Cattle Prices in March 2026

Fluctuations in Weaner Calf Prices Due to Herd Rebuilding and Rising Feed Costs



The South African beef cattle market in early 2026 is characterised by fluctuating prices, particularly in the weaner calf market, as producers respond to herd rebuilding after drought cycles while feed costs remain elevated. Current price trends show moderate volatility but generally stronger weaner calf values compared with the previous year.

Current Beef and Weaner Prices

As of February–March 2026, the national average beef carcass price (A2/A3 grade) was approximately R62–R65 per kilogram, with B-grade beef trading near R55–R57/kg and C-grade beef around R53–R55/kg.

Weaner calves, typically sold at 200–250 kg live weight, are currently trading at roughly R39–R42 per kilogram, depending on weight, breed, and region.

Auction data from early 2026 shows:

- Weaner calves (200–250 kg): ± R40/kg
- Weaner calves >250 kg: ± R41–R42/kg

- Light weaners <200 kg: around R39/kg

At these levels, a typical 220 kg weaner calf could sell for approximately R8,500–R9,200, depending on genetics, frame size, and condition.

Year-on-Year Price Trends

Despite recent volatility, weaner calf prices remain stronger than a year ago. According to market reports from the Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO), the weaner calf price in early 2026 was about 11.4% higher than the same period in the previous year, although short-term weekly movements remain common.

Earlier reports from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture showed the average weaner calf price reached R38.29/kg in October 2025, continuing a gradual upward trend through late 2025 and early 2026.

Some internet and regional auctions during January 2026

recorded prices ranging between R38/kg and R43.80/kg, depending on weight class and breed composition.

These figures indicate that the market has maintained relatively strong support levels despite economic pressures in the livestock sector.

Herd Rebuilding Influencing Demand

One of the main drivers behind current weaner prices is herd rebuilding. After several years of drought and forced destocking in parts of South Africa, many commercial cattle producers have been gradually expanding breeding herds again.

When producers rebuild herds, the demand for replacement heifers and quality weaner calves increases. Feedlots also compete for weaner calves to maintain throughput, further supporting prices.

Industry analysts note that strong demand from feedlots has kept

weaner prices relatively resilient compared with other livestock markets that have recently softened.

Rising Feed Costs Pressuring Feedlots

However, feedlot operators face pressure from high feed prices, particularly maize and soybean meal.

In early 2026, the approximate grain prices in South Africa were:

- White maize: about R3,500 per ton
- Yellow maize: about R3,390 per ton
- Soybeans: about R6,798 per ton

These commodities form the foundation of feedlot rations. Higher feed costs reduce feedlot profit margins and can limit the prices they are willing to pay for weaner calves.

This dynamic creates volatility in the market. When feed costs rise faster than beef prices, feedlots

may reduce buying activity, placing downward pressure on calf prices.

Seasonal Supply Factors

Seasonality also influences the current market. In South Africa, the majority of calves are weaned and sold between March and May, which increases supply on auctions during autumn.

As more calves enter the market, short-term price corrections often occur. Nevertheless, strong feedlot demand and herd rebuilding typically prevent major price collapses.

Outlook for the 2026 Beef Market

Market analysts expect moderate fluctuations in weaner prices during the remainder of 2026. Several factors will influence the market:

1. Feed grain prices and input costs
2. Consumer beef demand
3. Herd rebuilding trends among commercial producers

4. Weather conditions affecting grazing and feed availability

If feed costs stabilise and beef demand remains strong, weaner calf prices could remain around R38–R45/kg during much of the year. However, sustained increases in feed costs or reduced consumer demand could lead to short-term price corrections.

Overall, the South African beef sector remains resilient, with steady demand from feedlots and ongoing herd rebuilding supporting the value of weaner calves in early 2026.

Sources

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2. AMT / Agri Market Trends Livestock Market Data
3. Western Cape Department of Agriculture Livestock Reports
4. African Farming Market Reports
5. Molatek Meat Price Indicators
6. Vleisprys South Africa Market Data

Source: FARMhere



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Practical Anti-Stock-Theft Measures Farmers Are Using in South Africa in 2026

Stock theft remains one of the most serious rural crimes affecting livestock producers in South Africa. Research indicates that livestock theft occurs daily across the country, with an estimated 27 000 cases reported annually, which equals roughly 74 incidents per day.

The economic impact on the agricultural sector is significant. Over the past five years, livestock theft has cost South African farmers more than R7 billion, with annual losses exceeding R1.2 billion in several recent years.

In response, farmers across the country are increasingly implementing practical security strategies that combine traditional livestock management practices with modern technology. These methods aim to reduce theft, improve traceability, and increase the chances of recovering stolen animals.

Livestock Identification and Branding

One of the most widely used and legally required measures is livestock identification through branding or marking. South African law requires animals to be clearly marked with a registered brand or identification mark, which allows authorities to trace ownership and detect stolen animals.



Branding remains one of the simplest and most effective deterrents because it reduces the ability of criminals to resell stolen livestock. Industry organisations such as Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) emphasise livestock identification as a key component of national stock-theft prevention programmes.

In many regions, farmers are now combining branding with electronic ear tags and digital record-keeping

systems to improve traceability throughout the livestock value chain.

GPS Tracking and Smart Collars

A rapidly growing anti-theft measure in South Africa is the use of GPS-enabled livestock tracking devices. These systems allow farmers to monitor the location and movement of animals in real time using smartphones or computers.

Modern livestock security collars can send automatic alerts when unusual activity occurs, such as animals moving outside designated grazing areas or travelling at abnormal speeds. These alerts allow farmers to respond immediately when theft is suspected.

Tracking technology is particularly useful in extensive grazing systems where animals may roam over large areas and are not monitored constantly. Studies indicate that GPS tracking can significantly

improve livestock management and reduce the time required to locate animals that wander or are stolen.

Drone Surveillance

Another technology increasingly adopted by farmers is the use of drones for monitoring grazing camps and remote areas. Drones allow farmers to conduct aerial inspections of large farms quickly and identify suspicious activity or missing animals.

High-resolution aerial imaging enables farmers to track livestock movements and detect footprints, vehicles, or groups of animals that have been moved illegally. This form of surveillance is particularly valuable in mountainous or remote regions where regular patrols are difficult.

Research conducted in rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal has shown that drones can play an important role in supporting rural crime prevention strategies when combined with traditional farm security methods.

Improved Record-Keeping and Traceability Systems

Farmers are also strengthening livestock traceability systems to combat theft. Traceability platforms developed within the red-meat industry aim to track animals through identification numbers, tagging systems, and digital databases.

These systems improve transparency and allow authorities to verify livestock ownership during transport, auctions, or



slaughter. Industry programmes are working to establish standardised traceability data and unified identification numbers across the sector.

Improved traceability not only helps prevent theft but also strengthens disease control and export market access for South African livestock producers.

Cooperation Between Farmers and Law Enforcement

Collaboration between farmers, neighbours, and law-enforcement agencies remains one of the most important anti-theft strategies. Rural safety initiatives encourage farmers to report suspicious activity immediately and to work closely with the South African Police Service Stock Theft Units.

Rapid reporting increases the chances of recovering stolen animals and allows authorities to identify organised theft syndicates operating in rural areas.

Many farming communities have also formed local stock-theft

prevention forums that share information, coordinate patrols, and monitor livestock movement within grazing areas.

Combining Traditional and Modern Security Measures

Experts emphasise that no single solution can eliminate stock theft. Instead, the most effective approach is a combination of methods, including branding, tracking technology, surveillance, record-keeping, and community cooperation.

Research shows that livestock theft has been a persistent challenge in South Africa for decades and continues to affect both commercial and smallholder farmers across all provinces.

However, the increasing adoption of technology and coordinated prevention strategies is helping farmers strengthen rural security and protect one of the country's most valuable agricultural assets.

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2. Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS)
3. Farmers Weekly
4. Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
5. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
6. South African Journal of Agricultural Extension
7. MyBroadband Rural Crime Technology Report
8. Arrive Alive Rural Safety Programme

Source: FARMhere

Product name: Babex Registration number: G4109 Act 36/1947 (South Africa), Each 1 ml contains: Imidacarb dipropionate 12 % w/v, Product name: Rednil Registration number: G3911 Act 36/1947 (South Africa), Composition: Diminazene 70 mg/ml, Phenazone 375 mg/ml Export countries: Namibia - V13/17, A, 2/1187 Act 13/2003 Registration holder: Kyron Animal Health (Pty) Ltd, Co. Reg. No. 2004/021847/07, Unit 45C, 45 Parkview Street, Highway Business Park, Rooihuiskraal Ext. 31, Centurion, 0157, South Africa.

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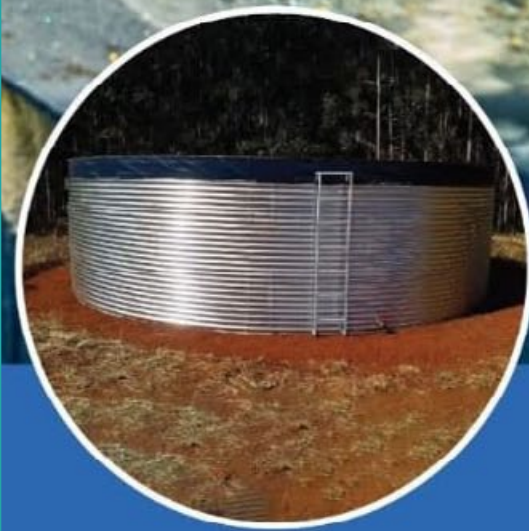
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Best Breeding Practices for High-Performing Offspring in Sheep and Cattle



Genetic improvement through structured breeding programs is one of the most effective ways to increase productivity in sheep and cattle. Scientific studies show that traits such as growth rate, fertility, feed efficiency, and carcass quality can be improved significantly through systematic selection and breeding strategies. Modern livestock breeding combines traditional selection methods with genomic technologies, performance recording, and crossbreeding systems to produce high-performing offspring.

1. Selection Based on Heritable Traits

One of the most important principles in livestock breeding is selecting animals with traits that have moderate to high heritability. Heritability measures how much of the variation in a trait is due to genetics rather than environment.

Research shows that growth traits in sheep and cattle typically have heritability values between 0.15 and 0.26, meaning 15–26% of variation in these traits is genetically inherited and can respond effectively to selection. In contrast, reproductive traits such as fertility have much lower heritability, often 0.06–0.08, indicating slower genetic progress through selection alone.

Because of this difference, breeding programs often prioritize traits like:

- Weaning weight
- Growth rate
- Feed efficiency
- Carcass quality

These traits respond more rapidly to genetic improvement through selective breeding.

2. Performance Recording and Data-Driven Selection

Accurate performance records are essential for identifying superior breeding animals. Performance testing measures traits such as weight gain, milk yield, fertility rates, and survival under real production conditions.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), performance testing is most effective for traits that are easily measurable and expressed in both sexes, such as growth rate and body weight.

Recording systems commonly include:

- Birth weight and weaning weight
- Average daily gain
- Calving or lambing intervals
- Mortality rates
- Feed conversion efficiency

These records allow producers to calculate estimated breeding values (EBVs) or selection indexes that rank animals based on genetic merit.

3. Progeny Testing to Confirm Genetic Value

For traits that cannot be measured directly in breeding males—such as milk production or carcass quality—progeny testing is widely used.

Progeny testing evaluates the genetic value of a bull or ram by measuring the performance of its offspring across different environments and seasons. This method helps remove environmental bias and provides a more accurate estimate of genetic potential.

For example, a bull used in artificial insemination programs may produce hundreds of calves, allowing researchers to determine whether his genetics consistently improve growth, fertility, or carcass traits.

4. Crossbreeding and Hybrid Vigour

Crossbreeding is widely used to improve productivity through heterosis (hybrid vigour). This occurs when offspring from genetically different breeds outperform their parents in traits such as fertility, survival, and growth.

An example is the development of Charbray cattle by crossing Charolais and Brahman breeds. This combination improved growth rate while maintaining heat tolerance and adaptability in tropical environments.

Crossbreeding programs can increase:

- Fertility and conception rates
- Calf survival
- Growth performance
- Adaptation to climate and disease

These improvements are particularly valuable in challenging production environments such as drought-prone regions.



5. Genomic Selection and Modern Genetic Technologies

Recent advances in genomic technologies are transforming livestock breeding programs. Genomic selection uses DNA markers across the genome to predict an animal's breeding value at a young age.

Studies show genomic selection can increase genetic gain by 50–100% for production traits, while improvements for traits with low heritability may increase three to four times faster compared with conventional breeding methods.

Precision breeding systems also integrate large datasets from sensors, imaging systems, and performance records to improve selection accuracy and speed up genetic progress.

6. Maintaining Adaptation and Genetic Diversity

In many regions, locally adapted breeds remain crucial to sustainable livestock production. Studies indicate that indigenous and composite breeds represent approximately 40% of beef and sheep populations in some production systems, offering valuable traits such as disease resistance, heat tolerance, and ability to survive on low-quality forage.

Breeding programs therefore often combine high-performance genetics with locally adapted breeds to maintain resilience in harsh environments.

Conclusion

Effective breeding practices for high-performing sheep and cattle rely on several scientifically proven strategies. Selecting animals based on heritable traits, maintaining detailed performance records, using progeny testing, and implementing crossbreeding programs all contribute to genetic improvement. Modern genomic technologies are further accelerating progress by increasing the accuracy and speed of selection.

When these practices are combined with good management and environmental adaptation, livestock producers can steadily improve productivity, fertility, and resilience in their herds and flocks.

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3. Springer Nature – Genomic selection in livestock breeding
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Source: FARMhere

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Latest Sheep and Wool Price Trends in 2026

Market Outlook for Small Stock

The sheep and wool sector in South Africa entered 2026 with mixed signals. While wool prices have shown steady strength during the current marketing season, sheep meat markets have experienced more volatility due to supply pressures and shifting consumer demand. The combination of international textile demand, exchange rate movements, and domestic livestock supply is shaping the outlook for small-stock producers in 2026.



performed slightly better, with prices reaching around R243.47/kg in the same period.

Earlier in the season, the market also recorded prices of R238.43/kg for the all-Merino indicator, while certified wool traded near R247.23/kg, demonstrating steady demand for higher-quality fibre.

Fine micron wool continues to command premium prices. In one auction during 2026, a bale of 16.5-micron merino fleece achieved R309.05/kg (clean), highlighting the value of ultra-fine fibre in international textile markets.

Industry reports also indicate strong clearance rates at wool auctions. Some auctions have achieved sales clearance levels above 98%, indicating robust buyer participation despite global economic uncertainty.

The current price environment represents a significant improvement compared with the previous season. During the 2024/2025 marketing season, the

wool market recorded a season high of about R189.65/kg (clean) for the all-wool indicator.

This comparison suggests that wool prices have strengthened by roughly 20–25% compared with some levels recorded in the previous season, providing improved revenue potential for wool producers.

Factors Driving Wool Prices

Several key factors are influencing wool price trends in 2026.

One of the most significant drivers is international demand. China remains the largest buyer of South African wool, accounting for the majority of exports. Demand from Chinese textile mills has supported stable prices, particularly for fine and certified merino wool.

Exchange rates also play a critical role. A weaker South African rand against the US dollar generally improves export competitiveness and can push wool prices higher in rand terms. Some 2026 auctions

Wool Market Performance in 2026

South Africa remains one of the world's leading producers of fine merino wool, with most of the clip exported to international textile manufacturers, particularly in China and Europe. In the 2025/2026 wool marketing season, prices have remained relatively strong compared with previous years.

According to industry data from Cape Wools SA, the South African all-Merino indicator reached approximately R237.57/kg (clean price) during early 2026 auctions, reflecting a 1.7% increase from the previous sale. Certified wool

achieved record rand values partly due to favourable currency movements.

Global supply constraints have also supported prices. Industry leaders have warned of declining wool stocks globally, particularly in Australia, which remains the world's largest wool producer. Reduced supply of raw fibre increases competition among buyers.

Another growing trend is the premium paid for certified or sustainably produced wool. In some recent auctions, over 50% of merino wool offered was sustainability-certified, and these clips typically receive higher prices due to growing consumer demand for traceable fibres.

Sheep Meat Market Trends

While the wool sector has been relatively strong, sheep meat markets have shown more pressure during early 2026.

Market reports indicate that sheep and mutton prices have experienced downward pressure, particularly in certain categories such as "supers" and "chop" lambs.

Analysts attribute this to increased livestock supply and changing market sentiment.

Despite this pressure, the long-term outlook for lamb remains stable due to strong domestic demand for red meat in South Africa. Lamb and mutton remain key protein sources, and consumption typically rises during seasonal demand periods such as religious festivals and winter months.

Production costs, however, remain a challenge for sheep producers. Feed prices, fuel costs, and veterinary expenses have increased over the past two years, reducing margins even when market prices remain relatively favourable.

Outlook for the Small-Stock Sector

The outlook for sheep and wool markets in 2026 remains cautiously positive.

The wool industry continues to benefit from strong international demand, limited global supply, and growing interest in sustainable natural fibres. As long as these factors remain supportive, wool prices are expected to stay

relatively firm throughout the season.

However, the sheep meat market may remain more volatile due to supply fluctuations and economic pressures on consumers.

For small-stock farmers, profitability in 2026 will depend on improving flock productivity, maintaining wool quality, and managing production costs effectively. Producers focusing on fine micron wool, certified clips, and improved genetics are likely to capture the strongest market premiums.

Overall, despite short-term market fluctuations, the South African sheep and wool industry remains a resilient sector with strong export demand and continued opportunities for well-managed producers.

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3. OVK Wool Market Report (2026)
4. African Farming – Merino Wool Market Analysis
5. AMT Livestock Market Overview
6. WoolNews Market Reports

Source: FARMhere

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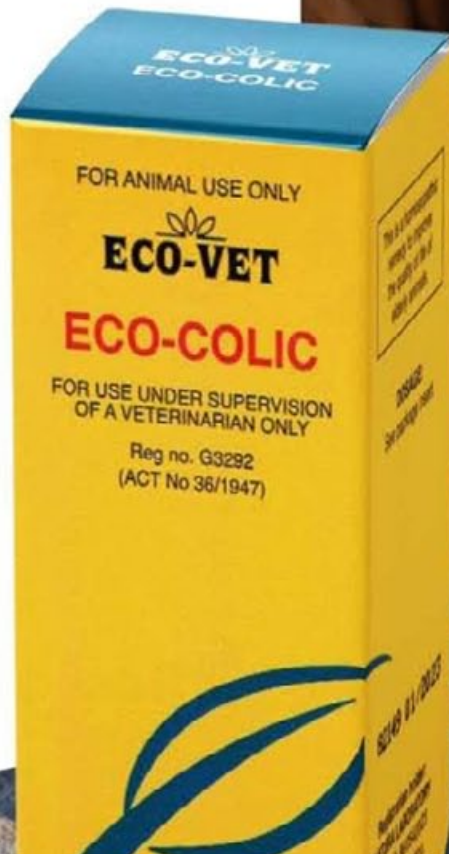
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How Farmers Access the Vaccine

Farmers generally cannot purchase the emergency FMD vaccine directly from private suppliers during the national outbreak response. Instead, vaccines are distributed through government-coordinated veterinary services.



Vaccination access typically follows these steps:

1. Registration with Provincial Veterinary Services

Farmers must register livestock and contact their provincial state veterinarian or local Department of Agriculture office. Provincial veterinary services coordinate vaccine distribution and scheduling.

2. Identification of High-Risk Areas

Vaccines are prioritised for “hotspot” zones identified through national disease heat maps. These areas include farms near confirmed outbreaks or movement control zones.

3. Government-Led Vaccination Teams

In many provinces, trained veterinary teams conduct vaccination campaigns directly on farms. This ensures the vaccine is administered correctly and that disease surveillance data is collected.

4. Quarantine and Movement Controls

Farms located in infected zones may be required to quarantine livestock before vaccination. Movement permits are also controlled to prevent further spread of the virus.

Provincial Vaccine Allocations

During the first phase of the rollout, vaccine doses were allocated to provinces based on outbreak severity and livestock numbers. For example:

- KwaZulu-Natal: 200 000 doses
- Free State: 200 000 doses
- Eastern Cape: 150 000 doses
- North West: 100 000 doses
- Mpumalanga: 100 000 doses
- Limpopo: 100 000 doses

These allocations are expected to increase as additional vaccine shipments arrive in the country.

Some provinces have launched their own targeted programmes. The Western Cape, for example,

received 100 000 doses in March 2026, with additional supplies planned as part of efforts to protect a livestock industry valued at R13.5 billion.

Cost of the Vaccine

One key factor for farmers is the cost. According to the Minister of Agriculture, the South African government will cover the full cost of vaccinating livestock during the national outbreak response, meaning farmers do not pay for vaccines administered through the official programme.

However, farmers must cooperate with government veterinary teams and follow all biosecurity regulations to qualify for the programme.

Priority Species for Vaccination

The first phase of vaccination prioritises cattle and pigs, which are highly susceptible to the FMD virus and play a major role in disease transmission.

The programme focuses on stabilising the cattle sector

because of its importance to the national economy and food supply.

Conclusion

Access to the new FMD vaccine in South Africa is coordinated through provincial veterinary services as part of a national emergency vaccination campaign. With more than 14 million cattle at risk, the government has imported millions of vaccine doses and launched a targeted rollout prioritising outbreak hotspots. The programme

is funded by the state, meaning farmers receive vaccination at no direct cost.

Farmers who want their livestock vaccinated should contact their local state veterinarian or provincial Department of Agriculture office, register their herds, and comply with quarantine and movement regulations. These measures are essential to contain the disease, protect the livestock industry, and restore South Africa's international trade status.

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4. Engineering News
5. SA News
6. eNCA
7. Reuters
8. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
9. Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS)

Source: FARMhere



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2. Health declaration form properly completed and signed by owner and veterinarians (not older than 48 hours). / Gesondheidsverklaring behoorlik ingevul en onderteken deur eienaar en veearts (nie ouer as 48uur).
3. Document of Identification, Art. 6 (removal certificate). / Dokumente van Identifikasie, Art 6 (verwyderingsertifikaat).
4. Copy of animal Identification mark. / Afskrif van diere se Identifikasiemerk.
5. Copy of ID or company registration document, or whichever correlates with the info on the identification mark. / Afskrif van ID of meatskappy-registrasiedokument, of wat ookal ooreenstem met identifikasiemerk (brandmerk).

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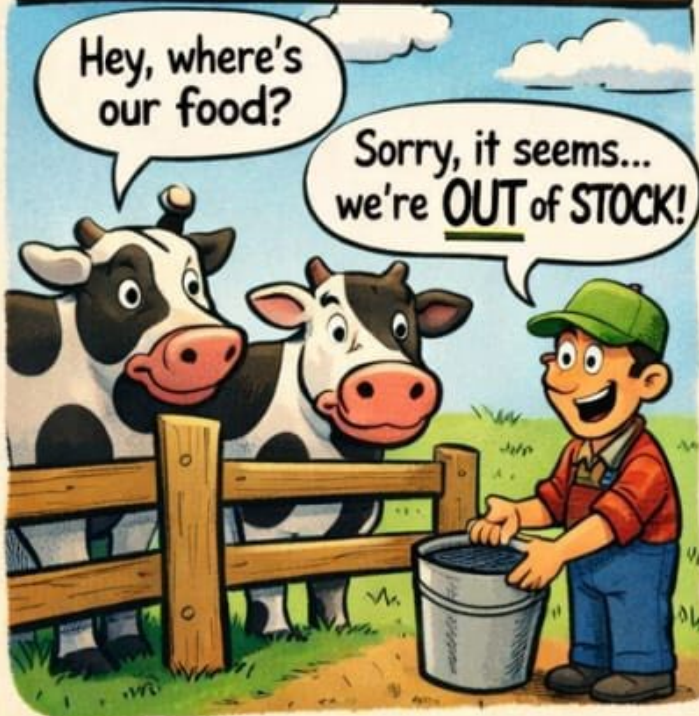
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Misperception ❌

Closing all livestock markets will stop the spread of FMD.

Truth ✅

Disease control relies on biosecurity, traceability, and regulated movement. Blanket closures without viable alternatives may drive livestock owners toward informal or illegal movements, which can actually increase the risk of FMD.

Misperception ❌

FMD outbreaks occur because livestock owners are negligent.

Truth ✅

FMD is highly contagious and can occur despite good farming practices. Early reporting and transparency are essential for effective control.

Misperception ❌

All cattle movements are prohibited during FMD outbreaks.

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**Pork Market update
2 – 8 March 2026**



Pork market update

**Week 10
2 - 8 March 2026**

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE



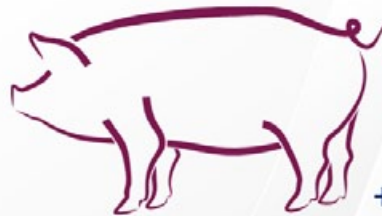
+ 2,1%
+ R68,80/t

YELLOW MAIZE PRICE *

R3 304 per tonne

*** JSE EDM SPOT PRICE:**

The spot price refers to the closing price of the current contract month for the yellow maize instrument, as traded on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) Equity Derivatives Market (EDM). Data sourced from Agribase.



+ 0,2%
+ R0,10/kg

PRODUCER PRICE #

R40,51 per kg

#ABATTOIR PURCHASE PRICE (EXCL. SOWS)

The abattoir purchase price refers to the price paid to producers, per kg. Prices are based on the chilled carcass mass, including the fifth quarter. Prices exclude value added tax (VAT), transportation, and commission. Data sourced from the Red Meat Abattoir Association.

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Increased producer prices and decreased yellow maize prices during week 10

During week 10 of 2026, the pork producer price averaged R40,51/kg, 0,2% higher than the previous week. The yellow maize price averaged R3 304/t, 2,1% higher than the previous week. Producer prices in relation to yellow maize prices averaged 12,3, 1,6% lower than the previous week.

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How Farmers Can Trade Livestock Safely During Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreaks

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks significantly disrupt livestock markets because the disease spreads rapidly through animal movement, contaminated equipment, and human contact. In South Africa, outbreaks intensified between 2025 and 2026, affecting hundreds of thousands of animals and forcing stricter movement controls, vaccination campaigns, and biosecurity enforcement.

Statistics from the national outbreak response show that more than 297,000 cattle were affected during the recent wave of infections, while over 120,000 animals were culled to contain the disease. The outbreak has also affected thousands of farms, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and surrounding provinces, severely disrupting livestock trade.

Despite these restrictions, livestock trading can continue under controlled conditions when farmers follow strict biosecurity, movement permits, and traceability rules.



Movement Permits and Legal Trade Requirements

During an FMD outbreak, the movement of cloven-hoofed animals—including cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs—is strictly regulated. South African regulations require farmers to obtain official veterinary movement permits and health certificates before transporting livestock between farms, auctions, feedlots, or abattoirs.

Illegal movement of animals is a criminal offence under the Animal Diseases Act, and farmers moving livestock without permits may face fines of up to R8,000 or

imprisonment of up to two years.

Authorities stress that movement restrictions are essential because uncontrolled animal transport is one of the primary drivers of disease spread between farms and provinces.

To trade legally during outbreaks, farmers must typically comply with the following documented requirements:

- Veterinary health certificate confirming animals show no symptoms
- Official movement permit issued by provincial veterinary authorities

- Traceability documentation and identification of animals
- Compliance with quarantine zone regulations

Failure to comply with these rules risks spreading infection and triggering additional trade bans.

Biosecurity Measures Required for Livestock Trading

Strict on-farm biosecurity is critical to enable safe trading during FMD outbreaks. Veterinary authorities recommend implementing multiple disease-prevention barriers to reduce the risk of infection entering or leaving a farm.

- Key biosecurity measures include:
 - Disinfecting vehicles, footwear, and equipment entering livestock areas
 - Restricting visitors and maintaining farm access control
 - Maintaining visitor logbooks for traceability
 - Isolating newly purchased animals for 28–30 days before mixing with the main herd

These measures help prevent the virus from being transported on tyres, boots, or equipment contaminated with infected saliva, manure, or soil.

Quarantine of newly purchased animals is particularly important because animals may carry the virus without visible symptoms during early infection stages.

Risks Associated With Physical Auctions

Livestock auctions present specific disease risks during FMD outbreaks because animals from multiple farms are transported to a central location and mixed before being redistributed to new farms.

Research shows that auction

markets handle animals from numerous premises on a single sale day, increasing the potential for disease transmission if biosecurity is inadequate.

For this reason, veterinary authorities often recommend:

- Avoiding informal or unregulated livestock sales
- Only purchasing animals with verified veterinary documentation
- Ensuring auction facilities enforce strict disinfection and animal health checks

Where outbreaks are severe, physical auctions may be temporarily restricted to limit disease spread.

Digital Livestock Trading Platforms

One emerging strategy during disease outbreaks is the use of online livestock trading platforms, which allow buyers and sellers to transact without physically gathering animals at auction yards.

Digital platforms enable:

- Remote bidding on livestock
- Pre-verified health and traceability documentation
- Direct farm-to-farm transactions
- Reduced transport and animal mixing risks

While animals still require transport permits and veterinary inspection before movement, digital trading reduces the biosecurity risk associated with large physical gatherings of animals.

Vaccination and Disease Control Programs

Government disease-control programs are another factor enabling safer livestock trading. South Africa has initiated large-scale vaccination campaigns targeting millions of cattle.

Authorities estimate the country has around 12 million cattle, and vaccination plans aim to cover approximately 80% of the national herd to slow virus transmission.

Initial vaccine deliveries included one million imported doses, with local production beginning at the Agricultural Research Council's Onderstepoort facility.

Vaccination, combined with movement control and surveillance, is intended to stabilize livestock markets and restore trade continuity.

Economic Impact on Livestock Markets

Movement restrictions during FMD outbreaks significantly affect farm income and market timing. Producer organizations report that many farmers experience:

- Delayed livestock sales
- Increased biosecurity costs
- Limited access to auction markets
- Disruptions to supply chains

These challenges create financial pressure across the livestock industry, affecting producers, feedlots, processors, and exporters.

However, controlled trading systems, vaccination campaigns, and digital livestock marketplaces are increasingly being used to allow limited livestock movement while minimizing disease risk.

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Source: FARMhere



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During March 2026, several provinces in South Africa reported the number of cattle vaccinated against Foot-and-Mouth Disease as part of the national vaccination campaign. The exact total for the whole country is still changing because vaccinations are ongoing, but reported figures include:

Reported vaccinations in March 2026

- **Eastern Cape:** more than 94,000 cattle vaccinated, plus 973 additional animals on specific farms in early March.
- **KwaZulu-Natal (Ugu District):** about 55,000 cattle vaccinated during the rollout.
- **North West Province:** 53,110 cattle vaccinated from the first batch of vaccines received in late February.
- **Western Cape:** about 47,700 animals vaccinated as part of the provincial response.

Approximate total from these reported provinces

Adding the confirmed numbers reported publicly in March:

94,000

973

55,000

53,110

47,700

≈ 250,000+ cattle vaccinated

Important context

The national campaign started in March 2026 with imported vaccine consignments (over 1 million doses initially).

The government plans to vaccinate millions of cattle and aims to cover a large portion of the national herd.

Vaccinations are ongoing, so the total number is increasing weekly.

Summary:

By mid-March 2026, at least about 250,000 cattle had been vaccinated against FMD in South Africa based on publicly reported provincial figures, with many more expected as the campaign continues.

Current Slaughter and Store Lamb Prices in South Africa (Early 2026)

South Africa's sheep market in early 2026 has been characterised by high price volatility, with slaughter lamb prices declining slightly while store lamb prices show signs of recovery. Market data from livestock price services and red-meat industry reports indicate that carcass prices remain relatively high historically, but weekly movements reflect fluctuating supply, rainfall patterns, and feed costs.



Slaughter Lamb Prices

Slaughter lamb prices in South Africa are generally quoted as cold carcass weight per kilogram and vary according to carcass classification grades such as A2/3, AB2/3, B2/3 and C2/3. The A-grade categories represent younger animals and typically command the highest prices.

As of 6 March 2026, national market indicators show the following approximate carcass prices:

- A2/3 lamb carcasses: about R93.60/kg
- AB2/3 lamb carcasses: about R81.80/kg

- B2/3 lamb carcasses: about R76.40/kg
- C2/3 lamb carcasses: about R73.40/kg

These prices represent a slight week-on-week decline compared with previous weeks. For example, A2/3 carcass prices dropped from roughly R95.20/kg to R93.60/kg, reflecting a decrease of about 1.7% over the reporting period.

Industry market intelligence platforms also show similar ranges. Average slaughter sheep prices reported during February 2026 included:

- A2/3 slaughter sheep:

approximately R102.86/kg carcass equivalent

- AB2/3 carcasses: around R83.75/kg
- B2/3 carcasses: around R77.75/kg

Carcass prices are influenced by carcass classification, fat score, and market demand. Abattoirs typically base payments on cold carcass weight, meaning a producer receives the quoted price per kilogram of the slaughtered carcass.

Historically, A-grade lamb carcass prices averaged R75–R80/kg during 2025, reflecting a recovery



phase in the sheep market before the stronger prices seen in early 2026.

Store Lamb Prices

Store lambs (also referred to as feeder lambs) are sold live to feedlots or finishing operations and are therefore priced per kilogram live weight rather than carcass weight.

Current data indicates that feeder lamb prices in early March 2026 average approximately R47.37/kg live weight.

Earlier market intelligence reports from early 2026 showed similar values, with feeder lamb prices around R50.40/kg nationally, with regional variations between R50.57/kg in the Western Cape and R51.67/kg in the Free State.

Market forecasts also suggest that typical seasonal store lamb prices for February are close to R51/kg,

based on historical modelling using more than 17 years of market data.

Live weight categories for lambs sold through auction markets show additional variation depending on size:

- Under 30 kg lambs: about R53.14/kg live weight
- 30–40 kg lambs: about R52.99/kg live weight
- Above 40 kg lambs: about R37.37/kg live weight

These figures illustrate the typical premium for lighter feeder lambs, which are more suitable for feedlot finishing.

Market Drivers Behind Current Price Movements

Several measurable factors explain the divergence between slaughter and store lamb prices in early 2026.

Supply fluctuations are a primary driver. Weekly livestock market reports indicate that lamb prices came under pressure due to higher short-term slaughter supply, which temporarily softened carcass prices.

Feed costs also influence the store lamb market. When feed prices increase, feedlots tend to bid lower for feeder lambs to maintain profit margins. Conversely, when grazing conditions improve, store lamb demand increases as producers look to finish lambs on pasture.

Seasonal rainfall also plays a role. Improved rainfall increases grazing availability, allowing producers to retain lambs longer, which reduces short-term supply to abattoirs and

can support prices.

Retail Lamb Price Context

Retail lamb prices remain significantly higher than producer prices due to processing, distribution and retail margins. In South Africa, retail lamb prices averaged about R191.70/kg in January 2026, representing a 4.6% increase compared with December 2025.

This retail-to-producer price gap reflects the additional costs associated with slaughtering, cutting, packaging, transport and retail overheads.

Price Outlook

Market data suggests that lamb prices may remain volatile through 2026. Short-term movements are expected to depend on:

- seasonal slaughter supply,
- feed grain prices,
- rainfall patterns affecting grazing,
- and consumer demand for red meat.

Despite recent declines in slaughter lamb prices, the recovery in store lamb prices indicates continued demand from feedlots and finishing operations, suggesting the market remains fundamentally supported.

Source

Molatek Meat Price Dashboard; AMT/ Digikraal Livestock Market Intelligence; Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO); AgriOrbit red-meat price reports; National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC); AMT Weekly Livestock Market Overview.

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Veiling*



19 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFRIDOME - PARYS, VRYSTAAT

Auction results

Bosveld Boerbokklub

AUCTION

14 MARCH 2026

11:00



BOSVELD BOERBOKKLUB VEILING RESULTATE

ITEMNAME	TURNVR	QTY	MAX_AMT	AVG_AMT	MIN_AMT
BOERBOK OOI KUDDE	R 25,500.00	4	R 9,000.00	R 6,375.00	R 4,000.00
BOERBOK OOI KUDDE DRAGTIG	R 72,500.00	11	R 8,000.00	R 6,590.91	R 4,000.00
BOERBOK OOI STOET DRAGTIG	R 66,500.00	6	R 16,000.00	R 11,083.33	R 6,500.00
BOERBOK OOI STOET & LAM	R 13,000.00	1	R 13,000.00	R 13,000.00	R 13,000.00
BOERBOK RAM KUDDE	R 21,000.00	2	R 11,000.00	R 10,500.00	R 10,000.00
BOERBOK RAM STOET	R 21,000.00	1	R 21,000.00	R 21,000.00	R 21,000.00
KALAHARI RED OOI KUDDE	R 16,000.00	2	R 8,000.00	R 8,000.00	R 8,000.00
KALAHARI RED OOI KUDDE DRAGTIG	R 16,500.00	2	R 8,500.00	R 8,250.00	R 8,000.00
KALAHARI RED OOI STOET DRAGTIG	R 11,000.00	1	R 11,000.00	R 11,000.00	R 11,000.00
KALAHARI RED RAM KUDDE	R 8,000.00	1	R 8,000.00	R 8,000.00	R 8,000.00
KALAHARI RED RAM STOET	R 37,000.00	2	R 27,000.00	R 18,500.00	R 10,000.00
TOTAAL:	R 308,000.00	33	AANGEBIED:	70	
VLOER:	R 159,500.00	52%			
AANLYN:	R 148,500.00	48%			
REGISTRASIES:	51				
VLOER:	13				
AANLYN:	38				

FLOOR & ONLINE BIDDING

Corné du Plessis | 076 101 9996
Marlise | 065 716 4689 (Online)

PW van Heerden | 083 627 4133 (Marketing & Transport)
Jim Makgae | 073 735 9195 (Marketing)

cdpauctions.co.za

ONLINE CONDITIONS:

- 1) Fica documentation at registration
 - 2) 1% Online auction commission payable
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Hulp vir boere in nood.
Droeë tye?
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Geen inkomste?
Gemeenskappe in nood?



Staan TLU SA by deur
'n bydrae te lewer.

Ons bied (soos moontlik):

Berading ná trauma

Hulp ná plaasaanvalle

Droogtehulp en
voedselondersteuning

Opleiding en opheffing

Noodleniging vir gesinne
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KAY/PM122/2024/2

RECIPE

Sticky BBQ Steak Pasta Skillet With A Honey Glaze



Ingredients:

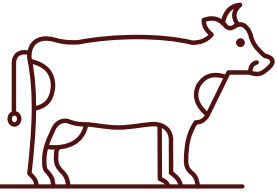
- 1 lb steak, sliced
- 2 cups pasta
- 1 cup BBQ sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 bell pepper, sliced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Cook pasta according to package instructions, drain, and set aside.
2. In a skillet, cook steak until browned. Add in bell pepper, onion, and garlic.
3. Stir in BBQ sauce, honey, salt, and pepper. Let simmer for 5 minutes.
4. Add cooked pasta to the skillet and mix well.
5. Serve hot and enjoy the deliciousness!

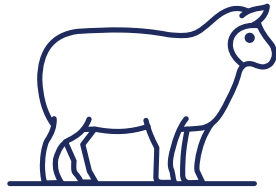
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What's happening in Markets



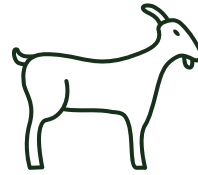
BEEF

A2/3 =	R 61.63
B2/3 =	R 55.33
C2/3 =	R 54.43
Weaners =	R 41.71



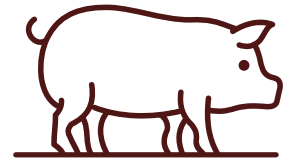
SHEEP

A2/3 =	R 94.33
B2/3 =	R 76.50
C2/3 =	R 74.44
Feeder Lamb =	R 46.41



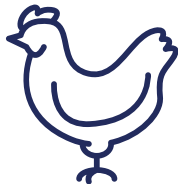
GOATS

Ewes =	R 44.84
Kids <30kg =	R 52.05
Kids 30-40kg =	R 52.05
Kids > 40kg =	R 44.84



PIGS

Porkers =	R 41.33
Baconers =	R 40.81



CHICKEN

Frozen =	R 35.51
Fresh =	R 39.85
IQF =	R 35.50



SAFEX

Maize =	R 3296 /t
Soybeans =	R 6990 /t
Sunflower =	R 9290 /t
Wheat =	R 6019 /t



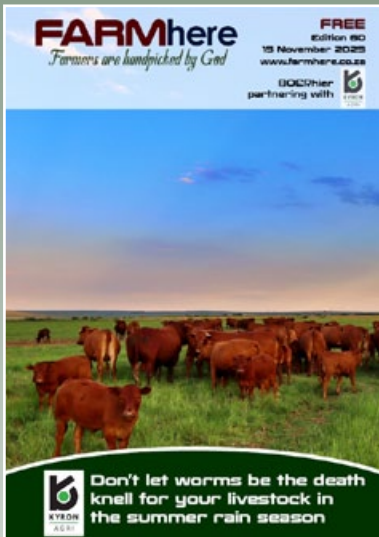
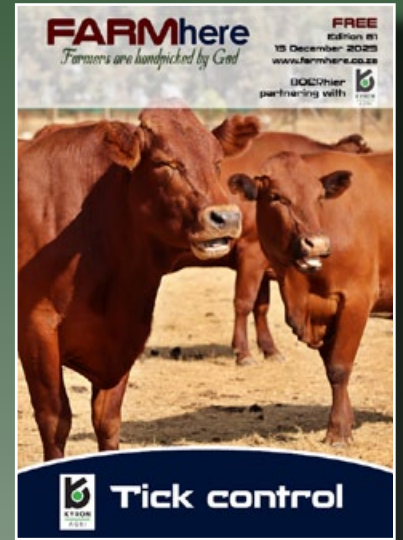
EXCHANGE RATE

R / \$ =	R 16.76
R / £ =	R 22.27
R / € =	R 19.24

As at 17 March 2025

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FARMhere

Farmers are handpicked by God



Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble hearts, asking that You teach us the right way to pray. Your Word reminds us in Luke that Your Son, Jesus Christ taught His disciples how to pray, saying, "Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come." Help us, Lord, to approach You with reverence, faith, and sincere hearts.

Teach us to pray not only for our own needs but also for the needs of others. We especially lift up farmers before You today. Lord, You know the hard work of those who plant seeds in the soil, who rise early and labor under the sun. Remind them that just as they depend on rain, fertile soil, and the changing seasons, they can depend on You for every blessing.

Guide farmers to pray with patience and trust. When the rains delay, when crops struggle, or when the harvest seems uncertain, strengthen their faith so they will not lose hope. Let their prayers be filled with gratitude for the land, wisdom for their work, and trust in Your provision.

Father, teach all of us to pray with humility, honesty, and persistence. Help us to seek Your will above our own and to believe that You hear every sincere prayer. Just as farmers faithfully sow seeds and wait for the harvest, teach us to sow prayers with faith and wait patiently for Your perfect answer.

We trust You, Lord, because You are our Provider, our Teacher, and our faithful God.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Thank you for reading our magazine! Forward this inspirational magazine to your friends and family via WhatsApp so that they also can be part of our agri family.