



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


ANIMAL VACCINATION POLICY

REF: 9/1/1/8P

2015 Edition

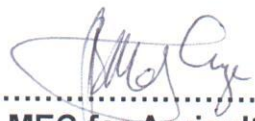
Date of approval: 10 July 2015

Recommended by:


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Head of Department
(Maisela, RJ)

2015-06-21
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Date

Approved by:


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Hon MEC for Agriculture
(Matshoge, BAJ)

10/7/2015
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Date

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1. Acronyms and abbreviations

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HOD	Head of Department
LDA	Limpopo Department of Agriculture
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MFD	Mouth and Foot disease

2. Executive summary

By controlling animal diseases, the Department is not only addressing food security but also matters such as food safety, human health and trade facilitation.

This policy describes the complete sphere of different diseases including anthrax, rabies, foot and mouth disease, etc. It also addresses the matters of implementation and costs attached to the work and stipules the complete scope of the policy.

3. Introduction

Limpopo Province is a mainly rural Province with Agriculture, Mining and Tourism as the main economic activities. In some areas, Agriculture is the only economic activity of significance. The contribution of Agriculture to the Provincial GDP is however only minimal, implying that a lot of Agricultural activities going on is for subsistence purposes only. Animals and Animal Products account for the major part of the provincial agricultural GDP.

Use of livestock by communal farmers is mainly for food security (own consumption), family income (selling locally) and for prestige.

To improve the quality of life of the population, we must encourage more productivity per animal.

Productivity of the livestock is however limited by a number of factors including nutrition, genetics and diseases. Diseases account for the major part of the losses. There are diseases which can be controlled by individual owner efforts, and those that need government intervention. For this purpose, the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 differentiates between controlled diseases and non-controlled diseases. The Government takes responsibility for Controlled diseases whilst encouraging owners to take care of non-controlled diseases.

4. Purpose and objectives of the policy

The purpose of the policy is:

- a) To provide guidelines for the vaccination of livestock and pets.
- b) Management and implementation of a livestock vaccination programme aiming at higher levels of immunity during periods of supposed greater risks.
- c) Management of human resources to ensure maximal utilisation thereof.
- d) Management of equipment including vehicles to ensure best return on investment.
- e) Management of the finances to ensure sustainability.

5. Authority of the policy

This policy functions under the custodianship of the Hon MEC as Executive Authority and HoD as Accounting Officer of Agriculture and applies to all target animals in the province. It has been developed by Veterinary Services.

6. Legal Framework

This policy derives its mandate from the following:

- Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984),
- Constitution of RSA, 1996 (Act 103 of 1996) and
- Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000)

7. Scope of application

The policy will apply in the whole of Limpopo Province to:

- a) Animals on communal land
- b) Animals on private land
- c) Animals on land reform projects

8. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following are all referring to *controlled* animal diseases:

- a) Rabies
- b) Anthrax
- c) Foot and Mouth Disease
- d) Brucellosis
- e) Newcastle disease

9. Policy pronouncements

9.1 Vaccination policy

This policy addresses the following diseases and accompanying matters:

- a) **Anthrax**

All cattle must be vaccinated against Anthrax.

All communal cattle being vaccinated against Anthrax must also be vaccinated against Black Quarter, as a way of encouraging attendance (combination vaccine used).

Farmers on private land and on land reform projects should be encouraged to also vaccinate their cattle against Black Quarter.

The state will fund vaccination for cattle on communal land.

Farmers on private land must vaccinate their cattle and have proof to that effect.

b) Brucellosis

All heifer calves should be vaccinated against Brucellosis using Brucella S19 vaccine when they are between four and eight months old.

Strain RB51 vaccine should be considered as an alternative when Bovine Brucellosis is to be eradicated from infected herds.

The State will supply the vaccine for use on communal cattle and other categories of animals where the state deems it necessary to do so, and where farmers specifically request assistance.

c) Rabies

All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against Rabies at intervals as specified by the manufacturers of the vaccine, and should have proof to that effect. The state will provide vaccine for cats and dogs as a way to also protect humans.

Vaccination of any other species other than dogs and cats is for the owner's account.

d) Newcastle disease

All poultry should be vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

Backyard chicken farmers will wherever possible be assisted with the vaccine which will be applied in campaigns.

Commercial Poultry farmers must vaccinate at own cost and have proof to that effect.

e) Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

All commercial and communal cattle in FMD areas prescribed in the latest and valid Foot and Mouth Disease movement protocol will be routinely vaccinated according to the frequency prescribed in the aforementioned protocol, with the vaccine provided by the State. This vaccine may not be given or handed out to farmers; it remains state property.

f) **Other epizootic disease outbreaks**

In other epizootic disease outbreaks the State, subject to approval by the Senior Manager: Veterinary Services and available budget, may procure and provide vaccine for the vaccination of the relevant animal population(s) at risk in order to control or eradicate the disease.

9.2 Management and Implementation of vaccination

All Municipalities will indicate their vaccine requirements, which will be based on animal (livestock, etc) census. The vaccine will be acquired in bulk, taking account of the seasonal application of certain vaccinations and distributed according to the verification done by veterinary management. All municipalities should report on a monthly basis on their vaccine stocks including projections on shortfalls or surpluses so that re-distribution can be done to areas of need.

Vaccine must be handled according to manufacturer's recommendations and there should not be any breakage in the "cold chain".

Vaccination should be done using appropriate equipment and ensuring that bio-security is not compromised (sterile equipment, etc.)

The vaccine expiry date and its effect on the distribution of the vaccine should be managed in such a manner that no vaccine should be discarded due to expiry. Liaison with other state veterinarian offices should be done at least 2-3 months prior to expiry in order to relocate and utilize the vaccine where it is needed, thus preventing wasteful expenditure.

Procurement of the above vaccines is subject to availability of funds.

9.3 Recovery of costs

The provision of vaccine to the clients will be according to the above policy.

Animal health officials can assist farmers with physical vaccination at government cost, concentrating more on training so that wherever possible, farmers can be able to vaccinate their animals on their own.

10 Default

Since this policy operates within a legal framework, it is an offence to deviate from the policy. Should any deviation be necessary, a written motivation need to be submitted and approved by the HOD.

11. Inception date

The date of inception is the date of approval.

12. Termination and review conditions

This policy shall be reviewed every 24 months but may be terminated and or reviewed as and when needed.

13. Enquiries

All enquiries regarding this policy can be directed towards:

Veterinary Services
Limpopo Department of Agriculture
Private Bag X 9487
POLOKWANE
0700
Tel: 015 294 3000

Recommended:




2015-06-24

Head of Department

Date

(Maisela, RJ)



20/7/2015

Hon MEC for Agriculture

Date

(Matshoge, BAJ)