

Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and surveillance update report

16 May 2022*



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report compiled by:
Directorate: Animal Health

* This report includes all information as available by close of business on the indicated date. All the updates contained in this report may not currently reflect on the OIE WAHIS system due to technical difficulties with the OIE reporting system. This report reflects changes since the previous update report of 30 April 2022.

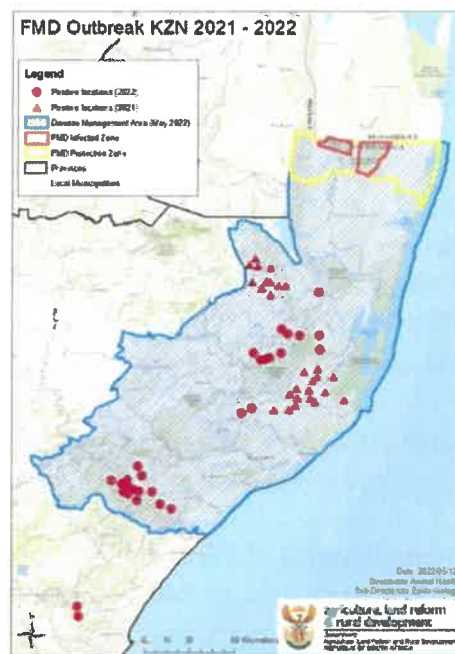
2. Details of open outbreaks

2.1 Outbreak event 1: KwaZulu Natal Province

2.1.1 Affected locations

Since the update report of 30 April 2022, 15 additional cases have been identified on communal grazing land in KZN through ongoing active and passive surveillance efforts. The new cases located within the new KZN Disease Management Area (KZN DMA see below), are as follows, 8 in KwaDukuza district, 2 in Nkandla district and 3 in uMlalazi district. Two new cases fall outside of the new KZN DMA in Ethekewini district. The positive locations outside of the DMA have been placed under quarantine with associated movement restriction.

Map 2: Outbreak event in KwaZulu Natal Province



2.1.2 Increasing the size of the KZN Disease Management Area:

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development declared a Disease Management Area in the KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN DMA) in the Government Gazette No. 44783 on 30 June 2021, which was reduced in size on 7 September 2021, as declared in the Government Gazette No. 45109. Following the spread of the disease beyond the margins of the September 2021 KZN DMA, the KZN DMA was revised to include all areas with positive locations or perceived to be at high risk of infection due to being epidemiologically linked. As a result, the Minister declared an expansion of the KZN DMA in the Government Gazette No. 46350 on 10 May 2022.

2.1.4 Vaccination

The vaccination campaign started on 15 March 2022 and is still ongoing in the areas of the KZN DMA where there appears to be active virus circulation. A risk-based approach is followed, to ensure that the areas at highest risk are vaccinated first. Around 80 000 cattle were vaccinated thus far and the numbers are rising continually.

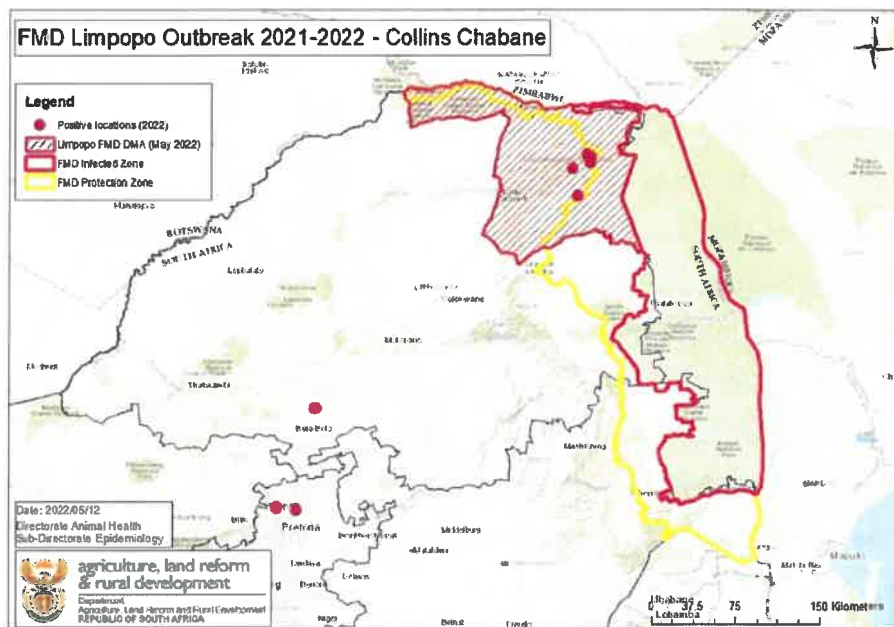
2.2 Outbreak event 2: Limpopo-Gauteng Provinces

2.2.1 Affected locations:

Since the update report of 30 April 2022, intensive surveillance revealed no additional positive locations in the previous free zone of Limpopo Province.

The animals identified in Walmansthal, Gauteng, which were illegally moved from the FMD Protection Zone in Limpopo Province, have been confiscated and were safely removed to a designated abattoir in Limpopo Province for controlled slaughter.

Map 4: Outbreak event in Limpopo and Gauteng Province



2.2.2 Increasing the size of the Limpopo Disease Management Area:

As a result of the new outbreaks in the previous free zone in Limpopo Province, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development by way of Government Gazette No. 46350 on 10 May 2022 increased the size of the Disease Management Area that had been originally introduced 2019 in the Limpopo Province (LP DMA).

2.2.4 Vaccination:

In an effort to curtail the spread of the disease, cattle in the affected Thulamela area of Limpopo Province are being vaccinated to establish a band of resistant animals around the known positive dip tanks. Fourteen locations with a total of 6262 cattle have been vaccinated thus far, and the vaccination campaign continues.

2.3 Outbreak event 3: North West Province-Gauteng-Free State

2.3.1 Affected locations:

The last clinically positive case in the North West Province was confirmed on 7 April 2022. Since the update report of 30 April 2022, one additional infected farm in close proximity to the index farm in North West Province was reported to the OIE. However, this is not a new infection and the delay in reporting to the OIE was due to other factors.

Two positive farms, one in Gauteng Province in the Randfontein municipality and the other in the Free State Province in the Moqhaka municipality, were identified due to epidemiological links to the outbreak in the North West Province. The affected cattle on these two farms were safely removed to a designated abattoir in Limpopo Province for controlled slaughter. The farms will remain under quarantine until 28 days after depopulation and disinfection.

Map 6: Outbreak event North West - Gauteng - Free State

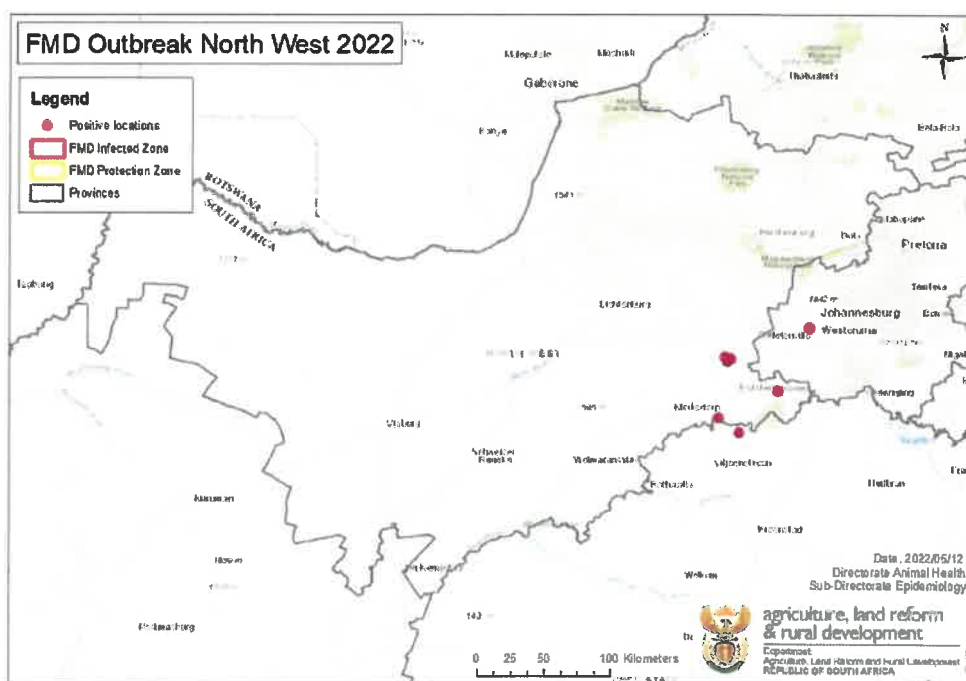


Table 2: Summary of Serological surveillance per province:

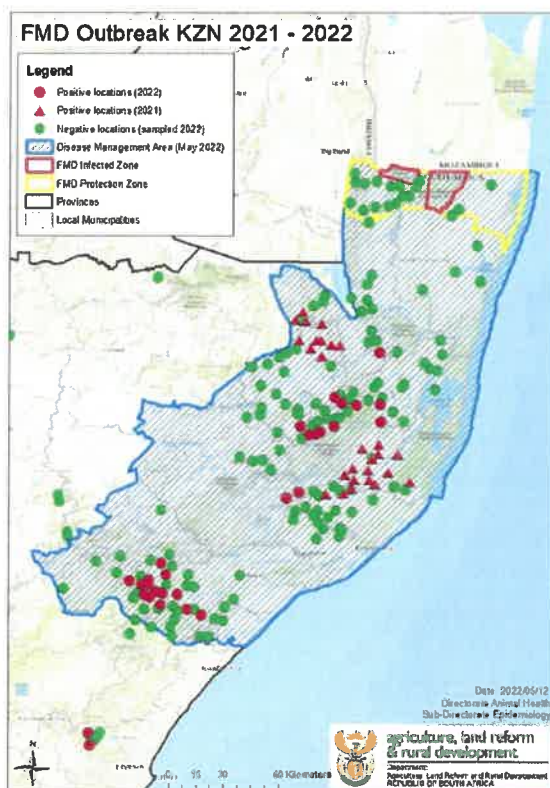
Province	Number negative locations	Number of positive locations	Total number of locations sampled
KwaZulu Natal	169	57	226
Limpopo	15	6	21
North West	43	6	49
Gauteng	19	3	22
Free State	23	1	24
Total	269	73	342

Once animals are found to be positive at a location, the entire location with all in contact animals at the location is regarded as positive. The table above therefore reflects that status of locations and not the individual animals at the locations.

Below are maps of each outbreak event, indicating all locations surveyed, with negative results indicated in green and positive locations in red.

Note that in both the table above, as well as the maps below, the number of locations that tested negative only indicates the number of locations that tested negative during this year (2022) from when the disease was found to be spreading again, whereas the number of positive locations, also includes the locations that were identified as positive last year (2021).

Map 7: Serological surveillance in KwaZulu Natal outbreak event, showing 169 negative and 57 positive locations



5. Awareness and clamp down on illegal movements

The movement of animals remains the greatest contributing factor to the spread of disease. All stakeholders, farmers and livestock owners were again requested to abide by the movement restrictions within all affected provinces and to not to move cloven hoofed animals without proper knowledge of the health status of the farms of origin.

The illegal movement of animals from the FMD protection zone with vaccination to the FMD free zone played a significant role in all of the current outbreaks. The outbreaks in KZN, Limpopo and Gauteng Provinces were directly caused by such proven or suspected illegal movements. Any illegally moved animals found are seized and destroyed and perpetrators are prosecuted for contravention of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1985). The cooperation between veterinary services and industry are working together to prevent this from occurring.

The animals that caused the outbreak in North West Province moved from an area in Limpopo which was not under restriction at the time of the movement. This was thus not an illegal movement, however, at the time of moving, the area of origin in Limpopo was already infected, though yet undetected at the time. This illustrates the real danger of animals moving during the incubation period of the disease.

Livestock owners are continuously reminded to exercise utmost caution when moving cloven-hoofed animals by ascertaining the history of the animals and their contacts and consulting veterinary advice prior to accepting any new stock.


Director Animal Health

Date: 2022-05-18

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