THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY TEAM IN PAHC IN COMMUNAL FARMER AND OTHER AREAS

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What is a team?

A team is a group of people with a commitment to one another, towards achievement, of a common goal, and to a common vision.
Animal production vs. field crops & horticulture output ranges between 41 – 49% of agricultural output

Nearly 80% of agricultural land in South Africa is mainly suitable for extensive livestock farming

⇒ The livestock industry is the largest contributor to the national agricultural sector’s output, we need to demonstrate that we are capable of unlocking the potential that lies in the emerging sector

⇒ in 2013 Meisner estimated that the small-scale and communal sectors own 41% of the beef cattle, 12% of the sheep and 67% of the goats

⇒ Government farmer development and Support programmes are contributing to the transformation of piggery and poultry sectors
Key Questions to ponder on?

- What are the production indices in the communal livestock sector
- What is it going to take to improve the economic efficiencies and success of the FSP and Land Reform Initiatives
- Who is going to assist the communal farmers to play a meaningful roles in
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Rural economic growth
  - Job creation and reduction of income inequality (National Development Planning Goals)
On the surface, who constitute a Veterinary team?

- Veterinarians
- Animal Health Technicians
- Veterinary Nurses
- Pharmacist
- Veterinary Assistant/General Workers
- Admin Officer / Admin Clerk
Internal organization support structures

- Procurement and Finance
- Transport
- Human Resources Management / Development
- ICT
- Occupational Health Safety
- Facilities Management / Safety and Security
- Corporate Communications / Stakeholder Engagement
- Legal
- AGRICULTURE
- Environment
STAKEHOLDER AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATIONS

• Internal Agriculture
• Internal Rural development
• Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs
• Department of Health
• Municipal representatives
• Private Sector
• Educational Institutions
• Research Institutes
• Farmers and farmer organisations
• Professional Bodies
PETS AND PET CARE

- Vaccination
- Parasite control / treatment
- Basic clinical services
- Pet Sterilization campaigns

LIVESTOCK SUPPORT

- Livestock vaccinations
- Parasite control / treatment
- Ambulatory clinics / Farm call outs
- Herd health Programs
  - Pasture regeneration
  - Animal ID & Traceability
  - Animal Welfare
  - AMR
Services continued – awareness

• Disease Surveillance
• Farmer training
• Public Health Awareness in schools
• Public health awareness in stakeholder meetings
• Farmers’ days
• Basic farming business management
• And more
Benefits of Veterinary Profession from Veterinary teams in PAHC

1. A public veterinary service that is better able to carry out its responsibilities, as prescribed under the Animal Disease Act, Act 35 of 1984 and Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000, under the new dispensation (PAH complements the historical and current role of regulatory services)

2. Engender an environment where you can access passive surveillance information from the farmers

3. A functioning veterinary farmer support system; able to support both developing and commercial sectors, rural and urban communities

4. The necessary resources such as knowledgeable and skilled veterinary extension personnel supplied with the minimum tools and equipment capable of supporting and rendering real value to the farmers (improving productivity)

5. Transitional Role to a developed state – expanding future clientele of the Rural Private Veterinarians
Where are we with our teams?

• Teams are not working as optimal as they could
  ⇒ Introduction of the CCS surfaced fears on the Para-vets and they role in this new envisaged team
  ⇒ Veterinarians are not known to be team players - Solo Operators
  ⇒ Effective change management, was and continues to be a pressing need
  ⇒ old habits die hard – shifting mind set from regulatory to both regulatory and developmental role is a challenge
  ⇒ As managers there is a need to up our game in panting the role of Vet team in communities in order to gather budgetary support from Provincial and National Treasuries, Premiers, Legislatures, MEC, HOD, and CFO
  ⇒ The importance of Participatory Epidemiology/Rural Appraisal as an approached to PAHC needs to be enhanced in the graduate veterinarians
IT’S AN UPHILL
• Trust and Bridge Building is required in order to improve commitment from all team members

• PAHC Veterinary teams can impact positively on Societal Developmental Programs in alleviation of Poverty and in improving the broader economy

• Given a suitable environment, practical experience gained from being a member of veterinary team is invaluable as it demonstrate what a veterinarian can do to develop their own communities

• The future of the Veterinary Profession and Veterinary Services can only be brighter with the contribution the veterinary team makes and will continue to make
The only time our farmers will have freedom is when they no longer depend on the State but contribute towards the advancement of the State.