Report on the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in KwaZulu Natal

27 March 2011

1). History:

On the 1st of February 2011, the KwaZulu-Natal Veterinary Services performed routine sampling for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) within the FMD Protection Zone and just outside the FMD Protection Zone in northern part of the KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN). On the 11th of February 2011, the samples came back positive for SAT-1 and SAT-3 on Liquid-phase blocking ELISA. The non-structural protein (NSP) ELISA tests were all negative and no clinical signs were seen.

A surveillance campaign to test the surrounding diptanks was launched and several other diptanks were found to be positive. On the 2nd of March 2011, the first positive NSP results were received. To date, 53 sampling points around the most northern part of KZN were found to be positive. Close to 117 sampling points from all over KZN were found to be negative.

The two most southern points of the outbreak are just north of the Mfolozi River, east of the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi nature reserve and north of the Mfolozi River, near St. Lucia. The most western positive sampling point is the Gwegwede diptank, north of the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Nature Reserve, close to the town of Hlabisa.

Several suspect sampling points, with single low positive samples, were found. These were all retested and found to be negative.

2). Current status:

To date, no clinical signs have been seen and all attempts to isolate virus have been unsuccessful. Animals have been traced to a feedlot in Gauteng and were found to be positive. All the positive and in-contact animals in this feedlot have been slaughtered under strict veterinary supervision; the meat has been matured and
deboned and the heads and feet rendered. The feedlot has been put under quarantine.

An infected zone and a protection zone in KZN have been declared (as per attached maps). Movement out of the infected area will not be allowed, but animals can be allowed to move within the infected zone. No movement restrictions will be imposed in the protection zone, and this zone will be used as a high sero-surveillance area.
Map 1: FMD sero-positive and sero-negative locations up to 2011 03 24, as well as the proposed infected zone and protection zone in KZN to be declared:
Map 2: RSA map indicating sero-surveillance locations up to 2011 03 24, as well as the proposed infected zone and protection zone in KZN to be declared:
3). **Trade implications**

3.1). **The following bans were imposed by South Africa's trade partners:**

3.1.1). Australia:

   Export of ruminant embryos banned.

3.1.2). Botswana:

   Cloven hoofed animals and unprocessed products, including livestock feeds.

   Exclusions: Heat treated products (UHT milk, pet food, pharmaceuticals, cheese, etc.)

3.1.3). Namibia:

   Cloven hoofed animals and unprocessed products.

   Animal products for own use.

   Exclusions:

   - Products processed to inactivate FMDV: Pasteurized dairy products, Heat treated processed meat, Fully processed trophies (subject to a veterinary import and health certificate), Hides and skins processed to wet blue or beyond, Pharmaceuticals.
   - In-transit consignments that meet all other requirements are allowed through SA provided they were not released into the RSA market. These will be subject to usual import/transit permits as well as non-manipulation permits.

3.1.4). European Union:

   Export of game meat banned.

   Exclusions: Game meat produced prior to 11 February 2011.

3.1.5). Zimbabwe:

   Cloven hoofed animals and unprocessed products

   Exclusions:

   - Products processed to inactivate FMDV: Pasteurized dairy products, Heat treated processed meat, Casings, Trophies,
Wool, hair, bristles, Hides and skins, Pharmaceuticals, Animals feeds and pet food.

- In-transit consignments are allowed through SA provided they have been subject to a process that inactivates the FMDV.

3.2). Export bans imposed by South Africa:

As a result of South Africa having lost its OIE recognised FMD free status, all exports of cloven hoofed animals and their products, which have not been treated to inactivate the FMD virus, have had to be suspended. South Africa will be in a position to negotiate with its trading partners once a nationwide sero-surveillance for FMD has been concluded, indicating that the rest of the country is free of infection.