FROM THE OFFICE / WNUFF DR KANTOOR

PLAASLIKE NUUS / LOCAL NEWS

Industry part of agriculture's strategy for FMD

The WNUFF welcomes the media statement released on 21 January 2026 by Mr Johannes Van Der Merwe, Chairman of the Wool Producers Forum of the Agricultural Business Chamber (FMD response). The council has been established to ensure that critical in place plan all actions, coordinated risks in supporting the phased rollout of the FMD strategy, including pastoral distribution. Sustainability and releases control interventions.

Dr Kevin Hall (CEO) Dr Gerhard Grobler (Chairman) Mr Ernest Mabuza (Vice-Chairman) Mr Ernest Mabuza (Vice-Chairman) Mr Ernest Mabuza (Vice-Chairman)

MEDIA STATEMENT 21 January 2026

Minister Steenhuisen appoints Industry Coordination Council to strengthen FMD response

Following last week's announcement of South Africa's national strategy to contain and control foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), Minister of Agriculture Mr John Steenhuisen has established the Industry Coordination Council to support the implementation of the strategy.

The council, appointed in terms of section 3 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, is tasked with supporting the phased rollout of the FMD strategy, including vaccine distribution, traceability and disease control interventions.

"I am fully committed to doing whatever it takes to beat FMD. The control of foreign animal diseases is not a government function but a shared responsibility between the state and the industry that keeps our people, livelihoods and economy protected and safe. I have established this council to ensure that we have a clear, practical and coordinated plan to work together. I believe we can defeat FMD but delays in data that do not yield results are unacceptable."

The council will engage regularly with the Agricultural Land Council, the Agricultural Business Chamber and other relevant agricultural policy, implementation and veterinary oversight bodies.

Council Members:

Through their service on the council, they have committed to a collective outcome that prioritises the protection of livelihoods, food security and the sustainability of the industry for the benefit of future generations.

- Johann Kotzé
- Rachel van Zyl
- Tony Scaife*
- Frikkie Maas
- Frans Theunis
- Mathilde Louw
- Bongani Mpenyane
- Francois Maree
- Sewelo Chuse

The representatives underlined that biosecurity can delivery by real-world insights across the industry value chain.

Ongoing Coordination:

The council will meet as ours first meet, with the first known meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 21 January 2026. Focusing on aligning priorities and accomplishing objectives, the council will provide regular updates on its activities and progress, including those concerned with progress. These meetings will strengthen the council's ability to coordinate actions, monitor implementation and maintain transparency.

Scientific Task Team

The council welcomes the industry's commitment and willingness to work closely with the Scientific Task Team to ensure that decisions are grounded in practical reality and that the lessons learned from previous outbreaks are fully incorporated into the response.

The council welcomes the industry's commitment and willingness to work closely with the Scientific Task Team to ensure that decisions are grounded in practical reality and that the lessons learned from previous outbreaks are fully incorporated into the response.

For media enquiries, please contact:
Ms Jeanine van Aken
Chief Director: Communications & Agricultural Information
Email: JeanineVanAken@dffe.gov.za or media@dffe.gov.za
Mobile: 083 555 7188 or 086 000 3300

Issued by: The Minister of Agriculture

Disclaimer: Information provided by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is for informational purposes only. While DAFF strives to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information, it does not guarantee its completeness or suitability for specific purposes. Users should verify information with relevant authorities before making decisions based on it. DAFF shall not be liable for any losses or damages arising from the use of this information.

The Council, Research Agricultural Development Council (ARDC) Agricultural Business Chamber

Light in the FMD tunnel: ICC reports welcome progress

Following its formal appointment earlier this month, the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Industry Coordination Council (ICC) convened for its first meeting on 21 January 2026 under chairperson of Legal provisions. The council, which brings together representatives from all sectors of the sector, discussed the current state of the FMD outbreak, along with threats of legal action against the state. A number of key issues were raised, including the impact on the sector.

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, provided a brief overview of the current situation, including the phased rollout of the FMD vaccination programme, the establishment of the Industry Coordination Council and the ongoing work of the Scientific Task Team. The Minister underlined the importance of a coordinated approach between government and industry to manage the disease effectively and minimise its impact on livelihoods and the broader economy.

The Council expressed concerns about the slow pace of the vaccination programme, the limited availability of vaccines, and the lack of clear information on the rollout. Members also raised concerns about biosecurity breaches, movement restrictions and the impact on farmers' livelihoods and food security. Several members noted that the sector had been caught off guard by the speed and scale of the outbreak, and that the response had not been sufficiently prepared for.

The Council also expressed concerns about the lack of clear information on the rollout, the impact on farmers' livelihoods and food security, and the need for a more coordinated approach between government and industry. The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that the sector is prepared for future outbreaks and that lessons are learned from the current outbreak.

The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that the sector is prepared for future outbreaks and that lessons are learned from the current outbreak. The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that the sector is prepared for future outbreaks and that lessons are learned from the current outbreak.

The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that the sector is prepared for future outbreaks and that lessons are learned from the current outbreak. The Council also noted the importance of ensuring that the sector is prepared for future outbreaks and that lessons are learned from the current outbreak.

Zoetis "Trusted Partner of the WNUFF, Proud sponsor of the WNUFF"

Great leadership at produkte achievers

Great leadership at produkte achievers

Great leadership at produkte achievers