



Foot & Mouth Disease Adapting to the “New Normal”

Presented By Dewald Olivier | Chief Executive Officer

www.rmis.co.za

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The “new normal” is not coming: it is already here

- FMD is no longer a short-term crisis.
- South Africa has lost its FMD-free status
- Every sector of the beef industry has faced repeated outbreaks

SHIFT MINDSET From emergency response to
living with and managing FMD
responsibly

We cannot wait for it to disappear. We have to keep producing and trading with it in the landscape



1902

Confirmed FMD outbreaks
with 855 more suspected

All 9 Provinces

Provinces reported outbreaks



Adapting means changing the goal: from keeping FMD out to managing it down

THE OLD NORMAL

- Freedom without vaccination
- Quarantine, then wait it out
- Movement bans as the main tool
- Trade stops until we are “clean”
- Hope each outbreak is the last

THE NEW NORMAL

- Freedom WITH vaccination as a goal
- Vaccinate, biosecure and trace
- Risk managed, not just excluded
- Biosecure compartments keep trading
- A planned route back to FMD-free

This is the FAO/WOAH Progressive Control Pathway — the same road South America has already travelled.

01

We don't have to invent the answer. South America already wrote it.

Argentina and Brazil turned mass vaccination
into recovered export markets.

In April 2026 a delegation went to see exactly
how they did it.



What the April 2026 mission saw first-hand

- A ministerial delegation led by Minister John Steenhuisen: with organised industry, including RMIS, in the official party.
- A visit to a leading Argentine FMD vaccine manufacturer with more than 30 years' experience.
- High-potency vaccine doses secured for South Africa's campaign.
- Technology-transfer talks opened for local production through OBP and the ARC.
- SENASA's model studies: vaccine regulation, mass-campaign management and FMD-free zoning.



The vaccine is what makes “living with FMD” actually work

The high-potency, oil-based FMD vaccine used across South America has decades of proven use behind it — high potency and broad serotype coverage.

Its qualities are what turn vaccination from chasing outbreaks into preventing them:

12 months

of immunity from the oil-based vaccine
versus short-lived gel-based cover

Up to 30°C

tolerated by the imported oil-based vaccine — a resilient field cold chain

3 PD₅₀

concentration, bottled fit-for-purpose for feedlot use

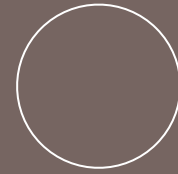
Long-lasting, potent, robust vaccine is the difference between reacting to outbreaks and preventing them.

Vaccination alone is not the model: four things together are



Quality vaccine at scale

A potent, long-immunity vaccine, forecast and supplied reliably — not scrambled for during an outbreak.



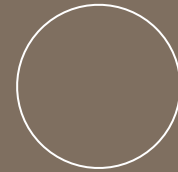
Private sector co-manages & funds

Industry runs and helps pay for vaccination alongside the State - the Latin-American norm.



Regulatory alignment & zoning

Fast import permits, clear schemes, and defined disease zones give the programme certainty.

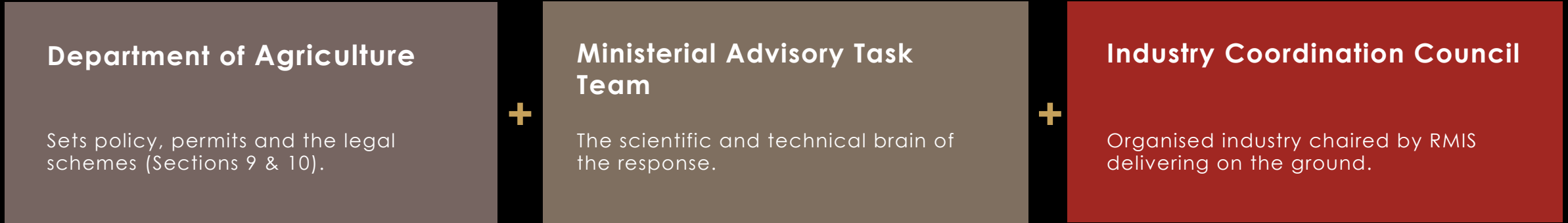


Surveillance & traceability

Early warning and animal-level traceability underpin movement control and the road back to trade.

***Argentina's success came from all four working together
— and South Africa is now building each one.***

South Africa is already standing this model up



The “triangular partnership.”

RMIS chairs the FMD Industry Coordination Council and co-chairs the Joint Working Group with the Department’s Director-General.

The Minister’s stated ambition: restore South Africa’s FMD-free status in under ten years.

The Section 10 scheme (published 4 May 2026) enables voluntary vaccination under state-vet oversight — and now lets feedlots buy vaccine directly.

The rollout is real - and accelerating

6.0m

doses received in country

5.36m

distributed to provinces

2.94m

cattle vaccinated

23.5%

first-dose herd coverage

Provincial first-dose coverage (%)

~19.6m

more doses needed for full two-dose protection.

20

Animal Health Technicians funded directly by RMIS to speed the rollout.

02

For feedlots, the model already has a name:

“Vaccinate to Kill”

VPN 50/2025 - the SAFA Standard Operating Procedure that applies the Argentinian preventative approach directly to your operations.



Vaccinated feedlots become Biosecure Compartments

THE PROTOCOL

- 1st vaccination at first processing, in quarantine — enrolled on an electronic register via animal ID.
- 2nd (booster) vaccination at feedlot enrolment — for full immunity and to cover any errors.
- The feedlot is listed as a Biosecure Compartment producing negligible-risk cattle for slaughter.

WHAT YOU GAIN

- No obligatory empty periods
- No quarantine at the feedlot; no Red Cross permit and documents per load
- No 10 km surveillance-circle implications
- Export approval for markets that don't discriminate against vaccinated cattle — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Malaysia, Vietnam
- No carcass condemnation on account of a vaccinated history

You can now run this yourself - with RMIS coordinating

1

Buy direct Feedlots can now purchase FMD vaccine directly
The Department has released this.

2

Coordinate The RMIS FMD unit manages forecasting, supply and cold chain; you commit monthly doses on a service-level agreement.

3

Fund & store Each feedlot funds its own vaccine and at least vaccine in cold storage.

4

Oversee & audit An authorised private vet oversees it; an independent external evaluator audits it.

5

Reconcile The FMD vaccination register is reconciled against slaughter data
— fully auditable and transparent.

Feedlots that opt out remain in the State's reactive, outbreak-driven programme — with all its movement controls.

This is the road back to trade



- **Traceability is the precondition:** the RMIS Data Exchange Platform, the Code of Practice, and RFID tagging.
- **The Section 10** route allows voluntary vaccination only where animals are individually traceable and digitally recorded, so tagging is critical.
- **Argentina and Brazil proved the payoff:** effective FMD control is what underpins their global beef-export strength.



Adapting means managing the hard parts honestly

Supply dependency

We still import most vaccine
— batches can be delayed by strain testing and permit processes.

Uneven coverage

Gauteng is past 56% while the Northern Cape sits at 6.3%
— the national map is still patchy.

Diagnostic backlogs

Laboratory results can take up to 8 months, prolonging quarantine and uncertainty.

Regulatory speed

Permit and approval turnaround must keep pace with the rollout to avoid stalling supply.

***The new normal is not risk-free: it is risk-managed.
That is exactly why feedlots and RMIS must run it together.***

What I'm asking of the SA Feedlot Association

- 1 **Enrol:** Enrol your feedlots in the “Vaccinate to Kill” programme.
- 2 **List:** List your operations as Biosecure Compartments.
- 3 **Trace:** Put animal traceability in place now — it is the precondition for trade.
- 4 **Partner:** Run it with us, through RMIS's coordinating structures.

“We cannot wait for the old normal to return. The new normal rewards those who vaccinate, trace and trade — let's build it together.”



THANK YOU

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