

Department acts on swine flu cases



MEC Oupa Khoabane acting to fight African swine flu

By Nthabiseng Lisele

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has confirmed new cases of African swine fever (ASF) outbreak that has emerged in Bloemfontein and Botshabelo.

This follows the outbreak of African swine fever from a farm in Koffiefontein last month. The test samples conducted by veterinary services have come out positive in areas such as Kagisanong, Mangaung, Nelisview and Botshabelo. In these areas not more than 500 pigs have died as a result ASF.

Majority of these farms reported that they bought pigs from auctions held weekly in Bloemfontein.

The province recorded the first case on June 9, emanating from a farm in Koffiefontein. Immediate disease control interventions were deployed and the farm was quarantined to restrict the movement of pigs and on neighbouring farms.

As part of enhancing control measures auction sites were instructed not to auction/sell pigs until further notice to prevent spread of the disease. A report of dead pigs

in the town of Philippolis was received and department said they will be investigated.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is working together with other relevant departments such as Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs who will assist in spotting and shooting live pigs as well as locating any carcasses in the river area.

All pigs sold at the auctions in the last 3 months will be traced and follow up investigations will be made. Feeding of swill as prohibited by the Animal Diseases Act unless it is cooked to kill viruses that may be transmitted to pigs, has also been identified as possible route of infection where pigs were not introduced.

The Department is urging pig owners to be very vigilant, particularly in areas surrounding the affected areas. Contact between wild pigs and domestic pigs should be avoided as the disease transmits between infected pigs.

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EXECUTIVE FUNERALS
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Tel: 057 353 2065 | Cell: 072 432 6866
320 Stataway road | Civic Building | WELKOM | 9460
Email: Imbexecutivefunerals@gmail.com



Some members of LMB Executive Funerals from Ventersburg and LMB Team of Co-ordinators during socio-economic development and advantages of membership to the funeral industry.

LMB Executive Funerals has agreed to establish service office for the community of Mamahabane Ventersburg.