

Swine flu hits Free State

By The Mail Reporter

Bloemfontein – The Free State Department of Agriculture has confirmed new cases of swine flu in the province.

This follows the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) on a farm in Koffiefontein last month.

“Test samples conducted by veterinary services have come out positive in areas such as Kagisanong, Mangaung, Nelisview and Botshabelo,” said Zama Leputla, Department of Agriculture’s senior manager for strategic communication.

“In these areas not more than 500 pigs have died as a result ASF,” she explained.

“Majority of farmers have reported that they have bought pigs from auctions that are being held weekly in Bloemfontein,” she added.

Leputla further said that the first case of African Swine Fever in the province was recorded on 9 June 2016, emanating from a farm in Koffiefontein.

“The disease control interventions were deployed immediately,” she said.

As part of enhancing control measures, she said, auction sites were instructed not to auction or sell pigs until further notice to prevent spread of disease.

“A report of dead pigs in Philippolis town was received and will also be investigated.” Leputla concluded.