

# **PROVINCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE**



## **DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM**

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### **CATTLE DIPPING POLICY**

## FOREWORD

The cattle dipping policy is guided by the National as well as Provincial priorities which recognizes the uniqueness of the province as reflected on the political priorities and the understanding that South Africa is a developmental state. Our government policies emphasize the need to support small scale farmers and the rural development policy enjoins us in these efforts. It is therefore without doubt that to ensure the good health and productivity of the provincial herd, cattle dipping is paramount. The history has, through the control of diseases like Rinderpest and East Coast Fever, taught us that the cattle dipping is one of the key elements to successful cattle farming.

The policy take into cognizance that large number of cattle resides in the hands of resource poor communities whose rural livelihoods are interwoven with animal husbandry as they are used for draught power and income generation. We cannot underestimate the importance of cattle in the social welfare of our communities as they are used in various traditional purposes (ukunqula izinyanya, ubulawu nokwendiselana). Cattle dipping shall enhance reproductive potential and productivity, thus contributing to economic wellbeing of the rural communities.

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## DEFINITIONS

**Acaracide** – is a chemical or a drug used to control ticks in a dipping facility.

**Animal Health Technician (AHT)** – is an officer registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) mainly responsible for animal health related duties under the Animal Diseases Act, Act35 of 1984, as well as provision of Primary Animal Healthcare (PAHC).

**Cattle dipping facility** – is a facility constructed for the dipping of animals to control ticks and tick-borne diseases. It can either be a plunge dip, a spray race or a handling facility for the use of pour-on acaracides.

**Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW)** – is an officer employed by the Department to look after the dipping facility and the dipping of animals.

**Screw worm** – is a maggot form from a parasitic fly known for eating living tissues of warm-blooded animals.

**State Veterinarian** – is any person who is employed by the State and is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of Veterinary and Para-veterinary Act, 19 of 1982 to practise in the veterinary profession.

**Tick-borne diseases** {Redwater (Umanzabomvu), Heartwater (isifo somkhondo), Gallsickness (Inyongo)} – is a group of diseases affecting domestic as well as game animals, transmitted through tick-bite and has a potential to kill the animal or cause production losses.

**The Department** – refers to the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

An outbreak of East Coast fever, a disease caused by the parasite *Theileria parva*, transmitted by the brown ear tick, *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus*, was experienced in South Africa in 1914 resulting in massive cattle deaths. In an effort to control the disease, a Government order was issued making weekly cattle dipping compulsory at the owner's costs. By this method **East Coast Fever was eradicated in 1954.**

The Animal Diseases and Parasites Act (Act 13 of 1956) provided for the State to supply the necessary facilities and the relevant dips for the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases and to prevent the re-emergence of East Coast Fever. To this day, dipping of livestock has continued with the sole purpose of controlling and reducing less severe forms of tick-borne diseases such as red water (*Babesia spp.*), gallsickness (*Anaplasma spp.*), and heartwater (*Ehrlichia {Cowdria} ruminantium*) and minimizing tick damage to animals which may result in screwworm infestation (*Chrysomya spp.*), as supported by Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984.

The regular dipping of cattle has benefits for Veterinary Services in the country in that Veterinary personnel are able to monitor the general health of the communal herds, record figures for census purposes and carry out surveillance on trade sensitive diseases such as Anthrax, Rift Valley Fever, Chronic Bovine Pleuropneumonia, etc. which may trigger suspension of exports of livestock and livestock products and those that have public human health implications such as tuberculosis and brucellosis.

To this end, the State persisted with the service to promote livestock disease stability, animal production and promote enshrined government priorities. In an effort to ensure that dipping of cattle is carried out in a manner beneficial to the rural communities, and encourage social cohesion and stability, it is essential that dipping be carried out at regular intervals especially during the times of a heavy tick challenge.

### 1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish accepted guiding principles on cattle dipping in the Eastern Cape Province to meet the dipping needs of all the agro-ecological zones of the province. This policy will be used as a framework for the control of ticks and prevent tick-borne disease in a sustainable manner in order to

promote the health and condition of cattle. This will lead to improved rural livelihoods of cattle farmers by promoting and ensuring rural economic development through cattle farming.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the dipping policy is to achieve the following:

- 2.1. Ensure that the provincial herd in the hands of the resource poor communities is protected from tick borne diseases and tick associated physical damage.
- 2.2. Regulate cattle dipping to ensure that proper dipping regimen is followed.
- 2.3. Ensure record keeping of stock numbers (birth, death) which will also contribute to the traceability of the livestock.
- 2.4. Standardize cattle movement to ensure that disease spread is minimized.

## **3. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1. Agricultural Development Act, Act 8 of 1999
- 3.2. Animal Diseases Act, 35 of 1984
- 3.3. Government Priorities, 2014-2019
- 3.4. Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000
- 3.5. National Environmental Management act, Act 107 of 1998
- 3.6. Strategic Plan for the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, 2014–2019
- 3.7. Veterinary and Para-veterinary professions Act, 19 of 1982.

## **4. PRINCIPLES, VALUES & PHILOSOPHY**

### **4.1. Principles:**

- 4.1.1. The dipping policy is based on internationally and locally accepted norms of livestock farming with full compliance of all laws and regulations which regulate and encourage judicious use of natural resource. These include the implementation of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998.
- 4.1.2. Acknowledgement and respect of traditional, indigenous knowledge and values associated with livestock farming.
- 4.1.3. The underlying principle of the policy is a harmonious, sustainable communal livestock production system with the resource poor farmers being at the centre stage and driving the dipping process.

## **4.2. Values & Principles**

### **4.2.1 Innovation:**

Committed to keep abreast of new developments in the field of veterinary science and be innovative in carrying out the mandate of the department to encourage food security and promote rural economy.

### **4.2.2 Bambisanani:**

The policy will promote joint efforts as enshrined in the Government priorities by forming Public Private Partnerships with communities where the cattle dipping facilities are situated.

**4.2.3** Monitoring and evaluation of cattle dipping will be done by a State Veterinarian or Animal Health technician.

**4.2.4** The department must conduct training for Dipping Committees and other people who handle the dipping acaricides as they contain harmful material or substance.

**4.2.5** The staff that will be conducting the service will include State Veterinarian, Animal Health Technicians and Community Animal Health Workers in partnership with the dipping committees representing cattle farmers.

## **5. SCOPE OF APPLICABILITY**

**5.1.** The communal/subsistence and emerging livestock owners of the Eastern Cape Province will benefit from this policy. These include all smallholder livestock owners and / individual farmer from rural farming areas of the Eastern Cape Province.

**5.2.** The veterinary services directorate is responsible for the application of the dipping service guided by the Animal Disease Act, Act 35 of 1984 as well as the Veterinary and Para- Veterinary Professions Act, Act 19 of 1982.

## **6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES**

The premise of this policy relies on the following procedures:-

**6.1.** Availability of a functional dipping facility which will be determined by livestock numbers (**400 upwards**) to be dipped, and distance (**4-5 km radius**) to be travelled by the animals to reach the dipping facility.

- 6.2.** The facility could be a plunge dip tank, spray race or handling facility. Dipping facilities /infrastructure will be provided based on the application made by the affected community/farmer in consultation with Veterinary and Extension services Directorates (see attached application form). In case of a Plunge dip tank, it should include a proper handling facility, a neck clamp and loading rack.
- 6.3.** Facility specifications should be discussed and agreed upon between Engineering services, Veterinary Services Directorates and affected farming community or a farmer.
- 6.4.** Dipping facility shall be officially handed over to the community or traditional council /entity/association/farmer or any other establishment agreed upon by the livestock owners.
- 6.5.** A Service Level Agreement (SLA) must be signed committing the community/Traditional Council/entity/association/farmer to look after the facility.
- 6.6.** In every dipping site, there must be a dipping committee established to partner with the department to execute the dipping functions.
- 6.7.** Dipping committees shall be composed of livestock owners and elected every two years or as determined by the community. The Chief and Councillor should be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 6.8.** All villages of a dipping area should be represented on the dipping committee.
- 6.9.** A Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) shall be employed and deployed, on behalf of the department, servicing a minimum of two dipping sites to ensure proper dipping programme.
- 6.10.** The provision and supply of acaricides to the communal and emerging livestock farmers will be done by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR).
- 6.11.** The provincial budget for acaricides shall be ring-fenced and allocated per each district to address their peculiar needs.
- 6.12.** All farmers are expected to bring all their cattle to the dipping site on the scheduled day.
- 6.13.** Farmers, through dipping committees must replenish the dip tank with fresh water and the drainage of used water from the dip tank.
- 6.14.** The department, the dipping committees and local municipalities must develop a plan for effective maintenance and repairs of the dipping tanks.
- 6.15.** Livestock permits shall be issued by the department in consultation with the respective community leaders for any movement of livestock from one dipping area to another and beyond to minimise disease spread within the province and country (see annexure A).



## **7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **7.1. Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform shall:**

- 7.1.1. Employ the State Veterinarians, the Animal Health Technicians and Community Animal Health Workers to assist in running of the dipping service to the communities.
- 7.1.2. Select, procure and provide acaricides
- 7.1.3. Provide training to Dipping Committees
- 7.1.4. Facilitate and approve applications of new dipping structures
- 7.1.5. Provide for the construction of new approved dipping structures in consultation with participating communities.
- 7.1.6. Provide training to the traditional leadership and relevant community members (dipping committees) on the management of dipping tanks and use of acaricides.

### **7.2. Local Municipality:**

- 7.2.1. Assist in the renovation and maintenance of dipping infrastructure in consultation with the community.
- 7.2.2. The local municipalities are encouraged to incorporate animal husbandry infrastructure repairs and requirements in their Integrated Development Plans (IDP's) as part of the local economic development plan.

### **7.3. Traditional Leadership/Local authority**

- 7.3.1. Formulate community by-laws to enforce dipping within their communities
- 7.3.2. Encourage their communities to brand their livestock.
- 7.3.3. Store the dipping material in agreement and on behalf of the community.

### **7.4. State Veterinarian:**

- 7.4.1. Check and monitor tick resistance to the acaricide used and undertake necessary scientific action in partnership with the relevant stake holders to manage any resistance identified.
- 7.4.2. Undertake research for alternative means of tick control, incorporating indigenous knowledge systems.
- 7.4.3. To oversee the overall function of cattle dipping that resides with the Animal Health Technicians.

## **7.5. Animal Health Technician:**

- 7.5.1. Visit the cattle dipping facility every two months to ensure proper dipping management.
- 7.5.2. Issue dipping acaricides to the community.
- 7.5.3. Monitor stock register at each visit and sign
- 7.5.4. Issue and receive permits of livestock moving out of the community and those coming into the community.

## **7.6. Community Animal Health Worker:**

- 7.6.1. Ensure that each dipping facility receives the dipping material.
- 7.6.2. Ensure proper mixing at every dipping session.
- 7.6.3. Responsible for the keeping of dipping material in a safe place.
- 7.6.4. Count and record all animals dipped at each dipping session.
- 7.6.5. Register new born calves, animals introduced and cattle deaths at each dipping.
- 7.6.6. Keep the dipping register.
- 7.6.7. Reports the animals dipped to the AHT every month.
- 7.6.8. Issue and receive permits of livestock moving out of the community and those coming into the community.

## **7.7. Dipping Committee:**

- 7.7.1. Ensure that dipping programme is followed as scheduled and all cattle are dipped.
- 7.7.2. Store and safe keep the acaricides under supervision by CAHW/AHT.
- 7.7.3. Coordinate replenishment and filling of water into the dipping facility.
- 7.7.4. Mix the dipping acaricides according to stipulated measures.
- 7.7.5. Assist in record-keeping.
- 7.7.6. Report to the CAHW/AHT any (tick borne) disease incidences / outbreaks and any other animal disease.
- 7.7.7. Report stray livestock in the community.

## **7.8. Cattle Owners:**

- 7.8.1. Bring all cattle and the stock cards at each dipping, including stray animals (imiduka).
- 7.8.2. Safe keeping of their stock cards.
- 7.8.3. Cattle owners must be at the centre of maintaining dipping facilities and assist dipping committee

- 7.8.4. Maintain dipping facility.
- 7.8.5. Must brand their livestock to minimize stock theft.
- 7.8.6. Formulate community by-laws to enforce dipping through local authorities/ traditional leaders.
- 7.8.7. Be part of the monitoring committee before, during and after construction process.
- 7.8.8. Organize themselves into livestock associations

**8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. Procurement of acaricides and construction of dipping facilities shall be budgeted for by DRDAR.
- 8.2. The Department shall remain responsible for employment of personnel associated with the dipping function.

**9. MONITORING & EVALUATION**

Veterinary Services is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy across the province.

**10. POLICY REVIEW**

This policy shall be reviewed in 5 years from its effective date to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness or when a need arises.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS & APPROVALS**

Recommended / ~~Not Recommended~~ .

Comments:

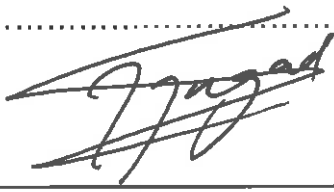
*I am satisfied that the adjusted age in line with the approach that DRDAR has w.r.t. cattle dipping*

*[Signature]*  
 DDG-AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
 DATE: *26/3/2018*

APPROVED / ~~NOT APPROVED~~:

COMMENTS:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. J. J.', is written over a solid horizontal line.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE: 26/03/2018