

FEBRUARY NEWS 2026

ISSUE: 40



VRYSTAAT LANDBOU
FREE STATE AGRICULTURE



ONGEAG



FSA Challenges State's Vaccine Approach in Court

Dear Member

Free State Agriculture, together with SAAI and Sakeliga, filed an urgent application in the High Court in Pretoria on 2 March 2026 challenging certain government measures against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), particularly those relating to vaccines.

The action forms part of a broader review of the legality and constitutionality of current regulations.

We remain deeply concerned about the continued spread of FMD and its serious impact on livestock farmers, food security and rural economies.

The core of our position is that farmers should not be prevented from protecting their own animals where they have the ability to do so legally and responsibly.

At a time when the state itself recognizes capacity challenges and the disease is already widespread, it is unacceptable that private initiative and resources are effectively blocked.

The current approach, which limits the import and availability of vaccine and prevents farmers from acting in parallel with the state, exacerbates the crisis and increases the risk of further losses. A model in which the state, the private sector and producers act together is essential to effectively manage the pandemic.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and support you in protecting your animals and operations within the framework of the law.

President, Free State Agriculture

FMD learning initiative to Argentina

Free State Agriculture undertook an international learning initiative to Argentina to gain first-hand insight into the management and coordination of the country's national foot-and-mouth disease programme.

Friedl von Maltitz, Vice President of FSA, engaged with key players in FMD control – from vaccine manufacturers to district-level campaign managers. The visit included a tour of the Biogénesis Bagó manufacturing site, where valuable insights were gained on vaccine production, control and eradication strategies, as well as the implementation of large-scale vaccination campaigns.

This initiative forms part of Free State Agriculture's commitment to stronger, more sustainable animal health management in South Africa.

Global FMD insights

Free State Agriculture represented organised agriculture at the International Forum on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Food Safety (TAFS) conference held in Cape Town on 3 & 4 March.

This global gathering brings together international experts, policymakers and industry leaders to address transboundary animal diseases and strengthen food safety systems worldwide.



Friedl von Maltitz and several Argentine role players in FMD

This year's theme, "Strengthening foot-and-mouth disease control capacity and enhancing resilience" focused on improving foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) management and building more resilient animal health systems.

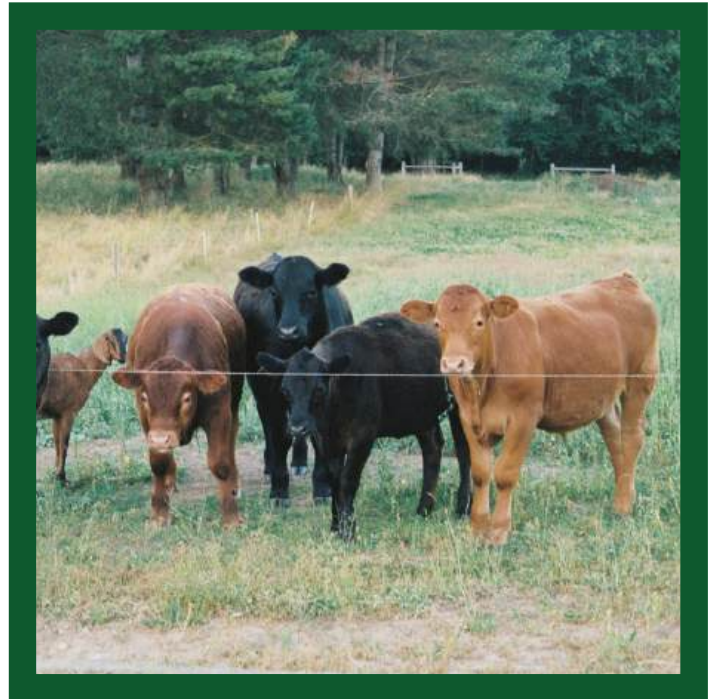
The conference concludes FSA's international learning initiative, which ensures that global insights are not only gained but also shared, thereby strengthening South Africa's collective response to FMD.

Lack of municipal impoundments

FSA makes a serious request to all farmers' associations in the Free State to hand over an official letter to the Municipal Managers of their local municipalities to point out the lack of impoundments which is their constitutional mandate/obligation and request for it.

The MM must also sign the letter which will be forwarded to FSA for further action with all Departments in the Free State as well as at National level.

The letters can be addressed to Jane Buys/Melissa Scheepers at FSA (jane@vslanbou.co.za OR melissa@vslanbou.co.za) before or on 18 March 2026.



RSA/ Lesothogrens

The shortage of municipal and quarantine facilities in the border area, amid the latest FMD outbreak in Lesotho, was seriously discussed during the Border Safety Forum meeting hosted in Ladybrand on 26 February under the leadership of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

In addition to Free State Agriculture, the South African Police Service (SAPS), Border Management Authority (BMA), Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), the Department of Agriculture and municipalities were also present.

The SANDF pointed out, among other things, that livestock worth approximately R5.5 million was confiscated between 9 November 2025 and 25 February 2026. They also seized cattle, worth approximately R850 000 and vehicles worth R790 000. Approximately 280 illegal immigrants were also apprehended.

The finalization of a 'Standard Operating Procedure' for the impounding of livestock was once again requested.

Any questions can be directed to jane@vslanbou.co.za



ESKOM

Discount on excess energy

Eskom recently launched a pilot programme, Dynamic Excess Energy, which offers electricity at a discount to highly flexible, high-energy users. The programme is limited to twelve (12) months.

The application form for the programme can be downloaded [here](#).

Introducing Eskom's Dynamic Excess Energy

What's the programme? A unique pilot programme offering **discounted electricity** to flexible energy users. The programme is limited to twelve (12) months.

How it works:

- ✓ The contract will be for confirmed specified hours
- ✓ The customer increases consumption as per the specified hours
- ✓ Only incremental consumption is incentivised
- ✓ The customer's account is credited in the following month

Benefit / Incentive

- Increased production activity at a lower average operating cost
- Get 50% off energy rates for specified hours

Qualifying criteria

- ✓ Contract for a minimum incremental consumption of 10% above the operational contract (baseline)
- ✓ Free accounts current
- ✓ No bad billing placed
- ✓ No late account participation allowed

Contact us:

Simply email either [Divany Pillay](mailto:Divany Pillay@eskom.co.za) OR [Nikozana Ntsheni](mailto:Nikozana Ntsheni@eskom.co.za) OR visit our [Click here](#) OR Scan the QR Code to download and complete the application form and upload email address

Farmers Indaba

051 444 4609
info@vslandbou.co.za

BOERE INDABA

Vir die toekoms van Landbou

Aangebied deur: VRYSTAAT LANDBOU
FREE STATE AGRICULTURE

Dinsdag
17 Maart 2026

09:00 Registrasie
10:00 tot 13:00

R200
(Ligte ete ingesluit)

Monte Bello Estate,
BLOEMFONTEIN

! Registrasie sluit 10 Maart. Alle boere welkom !

ALL FARMERS are invited to the Farmers Indaba on 17 March 2026 in Bloemfontein.

For too long farmers have been spoken for. It is time for farmers' voices to be heard again.

Differences aside. Agriculture first!

Register before 10 March at info@vslandbou.co.za or contact us at 051 444 4609





LABOUR

Structures by ESTA occupiers

Please see the summary from the Land Court judgment in the case of Joubert and Another v Mkhonza and Another (LanC2025/154050) [2025] ZALCC 55 of 15 December 2025 regarding extensions / erection of structures by ESTA occupiers.

The document (in Afrikaans) can be downloaded [here](#).

Important documents regarding LABOUR:

- [Transportation of workers](#)
- [National Minimum Wage for farm workers](#)

Young Farmer Conference 2026

The Young Farmer Committee will host their annual conference on 16 April 2026.

Topics that will be covered include financing, labour, biosecurity and more.

Enquiries can be directed to melissa@vslandbou.co.za

Service providers

Support our service providers

