

# Veterinary Services Western Cape: Animal Health

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Annual Report

**April 2010 - March 2011**



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## A. OVERVIEW

The reporting period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 delivered its fair share of novel as well as new animal disease outbreaks. The outbreak of **African horse sickness** in the Mamre area of Malmesbury district dealt a severe blow not only to the horse export industry, but also to the owners that lost numerous horses. As it stands currently our exports have been suspended for 3 years, but moves are afoot to regain our export status before that.

**Rift Valley fever (RVF)** caused tremendous losses to small stock especially in the Karoo, with a reasonable number of cattle also affected. Even Alpacas in the Stellenbosch district became infected. A number of farmers and some of our personnel contracted Rift Valley fever. Luckily none of our officials suffered any permanent damage. During testing of humans for RVF, evidence of infection with other mosquito transmitted diseases was also found, eg. West Nile virus and Sindbis virus infection.

Testing for **bovine tuberculosis** was severely hampered by the unavailability of tuberculin. This resulted due to the fact that a private pharmaceutical company has the sole rights to import the DAFF approved tuberculin from a facility in Germany which due to technical reasons could not produce enough.

**Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome** and **European swine fever** testing also returned no positives, further supporting the notion that we have successfully eradicated these diseases from the Western Cape Province at least.

Sporadic flare ups of **Newcastle disease** in chickens interfered with the export of ostrich and poultry meat. **Avian influenza** testing of ostriches proceeded with positive serology detected on various farms in the Heidelberg area of the Southern Cape. No virus could however be found on repeated retesting, and this consequently did not negatively impact the export of ostrich meat to the European Union.

A new fish disease, **epizootic ulcerative syndrome** (EUS) was detected for the first time in South Africa in trout on the Palmiet River system near Grabouw. This disease is caused by a fungus and has devastated fisheries and fish populations in Sub-Saharan Africa. How it was introduced and how far it has spread is still unknown.

The staff of the SV Boland office were under severe pressure since January to cope with the **certification of exports** of animal products, a function largely previously performed by DAFF officials. Staff had to work in the evenings and weekends to cope with the demand. They have performed admirably with a very high standard of inspection and certification.

During January 2011 we welcomed **3 newly-qualified veterinarians** (Drs Fox, Pypers and Van Helden) into the ranks of Animal Health. As most of them had worked with us during their vacations they immediately fitted in.

**B. CONTROLLED ANIMAL DISEASES****AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS)****Table 1: AHS Control statistics**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>2010</b>
Vaccination permissions issued	2132
Pre-notifications received	2394
Registers updated	57
Properties registered	550
Horse shows attended	15
Horses sent home	15
Horses bled	382
Quarantines served	2
Passports issued	20
International delegations received	3
Meetings attended	5
Hours worked overtime	33
Health certificates issued	154
Microchips inserted	0
Horses vaccinated against AHS	781
Horses vaccinated against other diseases	5

During the third quarter of 2010 a case of African horse sickness was diagnosed on RT PCR in the Murraysburg area. It was also West Nile virus positive on ELISA testing.

Due to the African horse sickness outbreaks in the rest of the country many horses used Beaufort West as a three week stand-over. However the stand-over was stopped after AHS was confirmed in Beaufort West town, many farms in the Koups area as well as on top of the Nieuveld Mountains. Many horse deaths were reported, especially north of Leeu Gamka and up to Merweville. 49 PCR samples were tested by Prof Alan Guthrie (Equine Research Centre) for horses moving into the protection zone. A few weak positive cases were retested with negative results.

Aid was given to a young man-and-wife team who were riding around the borders of South Africa on horseback to create awareness for African horse sickness. They were put in touch with people with horses that could be used to ride along the coast in the AHS Surveillance Area and others where they could stable their horses. Their horses were vet checked at Melkbosstrand in the Malmesbury district before they rode into the AHS Free Zone.

The African Horse Sickness Trust sponsored the vaccination of horses within the Mamre area of the Malmesbury district during October and November of 2010. They first received permission from state vet Boland before vaccination commenced. 149 Horses were vaccinated by the inspector of the Darling SPCA. This vaccination probably prevented more horses from dying in the outbreak that occurred later during February 2011.

The State Veterinarian Swellendam attended the Worcester, Robertson and Swellendam shows. Few problems were encountered with the passports of the horses. State veterinarian Boland and State Veterinarian Worcester authorized the movement of 19 consignments of zebra over the year. Animal Health Technician Durbanville assisted with sampling zebra for African horse sickness prior to their movement to a different farm.

An outbreak of African horse sickness occurred in the Malmesbury state veterinary area in February 2011. Reports were received toward the end of February that horses were dying in the Mamre area of the Malmesbury district. Initial investigation revealed a recovering colic and a biliary case. However a post mortem examination done on a horse three days later was highly suspicious for African horse sickness. Samples were taken from another dead horse seen nearby. Both were diagnosed positive for African horse sickness by means of PCR and African horse sickness serotype 1 was cultured.

The Malmesbury magisterial district was placed under quarantine and a census on horses initiated. Over 400 horses, donkeys and mules are kept in the previously disadvantaged areas of the greater Mamre area, Pella, Atlantis, Chatsworth and Riverlands. These animals are used for recreational purposes and transport as well as for working. Census was difficult as most of the horses are free roaming and owners were unknown, one owner may keep horses at different sites, many horses had the same name and there were many bays or chestnuts without any distinguishing features.



**Figure 1: A dead horse that tested positive for AHS**

Prof Alan Guthrie and Dr Camilla Weyer of the Equine Research Centre of the University of Pretoria flew down to Cape Town to start sampling horses in the area. As this was a naive population of horses, they started dying in large numbers. What made it worse was that the horses are primarily kept along water courses flowing to the Modder and Groen Rivers, an ideal breeding area for the *Culicoides spp.* midges that transmit the disease. Racing South Africa and the Cape Breeders Association both donated R10 000 for the removal of carcasses to the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. The Downing's of the Acorn Group of companies donated R65 000 worth of *Tabard* to smear on horses before sunset to repel the midges. Thoroughbred breeders donated unused surrogate milk powder for those foals left orphaned by their dam's death. Disaster Management of the Cape Town Metropole was approached and they set aside R200 000 for the removal of carcasses and their burial at the Vissershok Disposal site.

As the Malmesbury magisterial district had been placed under quarantine, all movements of horses into, out of or through the Malmesbury district were permitted on merit but under cover of a red-cross permit issued by State Veterinarian Malmesbury office, and only after a veterinary check and a blood sample in EDTA was taken. A meeting was held with private veterinarians involved in the equine industry to inform them of the outbreak and control measures implemented, as well as to give them blanket approval for the vaccination of horses in the Malmesbury district in response to the outbreak.

A meeting was held in Mamre with horse owners of the area where the disease was explained to them, the need for control measures implemented and also to allow them to ask questions. In total 403 equids were vaccinated against African horse sickness, 144 blood samples taken, 53 red-cross permits issued and 25 dead horses sent for burial. This is not the total number of horse that died as some were too decomposed for transport and were buried *in situ*. Horses were removed from the area because of the human health risk as well as contamination of surface water and the aquifer under the area. State Veterinarian Epidemiology did sterling work with his data base, the situation

reports and graphs and maps produced. The source of this outbreak of African horse sickness could not be traced.

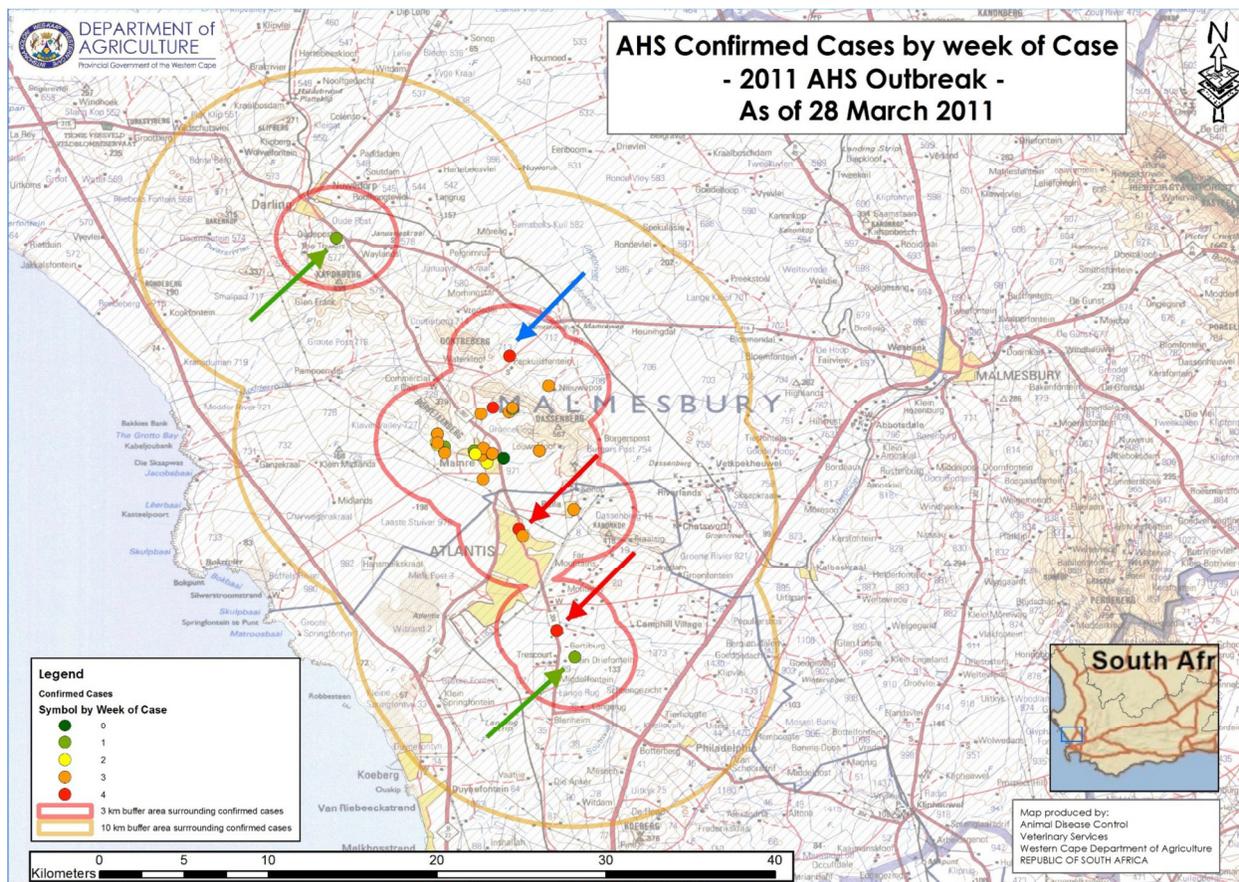


Figure 2: The African horse sickness outbreak as of the end of the reported year

### AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

No cases were reported in the province.

### ANTHRAX

The department provides free vaccinations to developing farmers. More than 4000 animals were vaccinated in the Western Cape by state officials this year.

### AUJESKY'S DISEASE

No cases were reported in the province.

## **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

Six-monthly sero-surveillance of registered ostrich farms, commercial poultry farms and backyard poultry continued this year in the province. Registered ostrich farms are also tested 28 days before birds are slaughtered or moved.

One ostrich farm near Swellendam, nine in the Heidelberg district, two in the Boland area, two near Mossel Bay and two surrounding Oudtshoorn tested positive on serology for H5 avian influenza. On subsequent investigation and follow-up testing, no virus could be detected using RT-PCR from the ostriches themselves or from wild water-birds in the area.

## **BACTERIAL KIDNEY DISEASE**

No cases in fish were reported in the province.

## **BOVINE CONTAGIOUS PLEURO-PNEUMONIA**

No cases were reported in the province.

## **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (MAD COW DISEASE)**

No cases were reported in the province.

## **BOVINE MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER (SNOTSIEKTE)**

No cases were reported in the province.

## **BRUCELLOSIS**

### **BOVINE:**

Most testing of commercial herds is currently being done by private practice veterinarians, with the state officials testing the herds of developing farmers. 1400 cattle belonging to developing farmers were vaccinated by state officials in the province. Approximately 650 cattle herds consisting of 80 000 individual animals were tested for brucellosis in the year. Almost all of these herds consist of dairy cattle, as beef farmers are not motivated to test for Brucellosis. This poses an unfortunate threat to the dairy industry.

Three farms in the Paarl area were placed under quarantine after positive *Brucella* test results were received.

One farm on the border between the Vredendal and Malmesbury state veterinary areas tested positive after a private practice veterinarian was called in by the farmer after cows had aborted. The entire herd was sampled by officials from the Vredendal office and 47 of the 89 cattle tested positive. The farmer was advised regarding the problem and cattle were C-branded (as being infected). Follow-up sampling and testing indicated an active disease problem. Due to the fact that the farm is on the border between the two areas and the translocation of Animal Health Technician Clanwilliam to Ermelo, State Veterinarian Malmesbury offered to take over the case and handle it henceforth.

Beef cattle from two farms in the Piketberg district, belonging to the same owner were tested by means of serology with negative results.

The diagnosis of bovine brucellosis proved difficult in two large dairy herds in the Malmesbury district. During serological testing one of two cows tested positive on Complement Fixation Test (CFT). When re-sampled the CFT titres had dropped. Milk samples initially cultured for *B. abortus* Strain 19 (vaccine strain), but later the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute typed them by means of PCR as *B. abortus* biovar 1 (field strain). More quarter samples were taken and the OVI then cultured *B. abortus* biovar 1. Samples from the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (PVL) were sent to Weybridge in the United Kingdom for culture to try and resolve this dilemma. Unfortunately all the cows died so no further follow up work could be done. However, cows that calved down at the same time as these reactors were tested for brucellosis by means of serology with negative results.

Several buffalo were tested negative for brucellosis prior to movement in or out of the province.

#### **OVINE:**

The State Veterinarian Swellendam palpated 40 Dorper rams at a Worcester auction. One breeder presented a ram with a lesion hoping it would not be detected.

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, an annual survey was done on all the new farms and three of the 15 farms had *B. ovis* on their farms. Two other commercial farms also tested positive for the first time. On another farm, *B. ovis* was diagnosed in a Merino herd after introduction of Afrikaner and Afrino rams. More than 40% of all rams were positive on serology. No REV1 vaccinations were done.

An interesting case also occurred in the Beaufort West area on a farm where *B. ovis* was previously diagnosed in three out of 11 Meatmaster rams on serology. They were culled and the rest of the rams retested. Another two were subsequently culled on positive serology results. One of the remaining rams died and of the other five rams, four tested positive on the next retest. About two months later it was decided to retest these rams because no lesions had been found. All rams tested negative. It would be valuable to

research if any studies have been done on the ability of rams to seroconvert and then to recover from *B. ovis*.

#### **MELLITENSIS:**

One herd of four milk goats in the George area was tested for *B. mellitensis* with negative results.

#### **CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS**

State Veterinarian Swellendam visited two properties for the purpose of registering a pregnant mare quarantine facility. Both these facilities have been granted ZA registrations. Two horses kept at one of the stations tested negative after foaling and were released.

One new quarantine facility was registered in the Beaufort West state veterinary area.

#### **CONTAGIOUS HAEMATOPOETIC NECROSIS**

No cases were reported in fish in the province.

#### **CONTAGIOUS PANCREATIC NECROSIS**

No cases were reported in fish in the province.

#### **CORRIDOR DISEASE**

Several buffalo were tested negative for corridor disease prior to movement in or out of the province.

#### **DOURINE**

In the George state veterinary area, 120 horses were tested. In one case a gelding tested positive and one stallion tested suspicious. Both tested negative on repeated tests.

#### **EAST COAST FEVER**

No cases were reported in the province.

#### **EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA**

No cases were reported in the province.

#### **EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS**

No cases were reported in the province.

#### **EQUINE INFLUENZA**

No cases were reported in the province.

#### **EUROPEAN SWINE FEVER**

In the Malmesbury area blood from 1992 pigs were taken for testing of European swine fever. False positive reactions are sometimes found because of the cross reactions to bovine viral diarrhoea (and other Pestiviruses).

A boar in the Malmesbury district, bought by a commercial farmer from a resource-poor farmer, tested suspicious for European swine fever. As the farmer was already keeping the boar in isolation, blood in EDTA was taken for PCR testing and results were negative.

#### **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in Northern Kwazulu Natal in February 2011 caused a dramatic decrease in the amount of export certifications required from the state officials due to the trade restrictions placed on products from cloven-hoofed animals.

Several buffalo were tested negative for foot and mouth disease prior to movement in or out of the province.

#### **GLANDERS**

No cases were reported in horses in the province.

#### **HAEMORHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA**

No cases were reported in fish in the province.

## **JOHNE'S DISEASE**

In the George and Swellendam state veterinary areas, 185 prescriptions for 88300 doses of *Gudair* vaccine were issued. The vaccine appears to be having immensely positive effects as enquiries about and stock losses from Johne's disease have decreased to barely noticeable levels.

A farmer in the Malmesbury district bought in 277 sheep from a total dispersal sale in Bredasdorp, Southern Cape. The sheep started losing weight and after six died, two emaciated sheep were slaughtered. The diagnosis of Johne's disease was made on serology. The farmer had fortunately not mixed the new flock with his own sheep and slaughtered out all the remaining bought-in sheep. He agreed to burn the wheat rests and add agricultural lime before planting wheat and not graze sheep on those lands for at least two years as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of disease to his own flock.

Johne's disease was diagnosed by means of histopathology in a Merino herd in the Moorreesburg district. The farmer noticed signs of emaciation and bottle jaw on his ewes about two years ago. He submitted an ewe for post mortem examination during this report year when Johne's disease was diagnosed.

Animal Health Technician Stellenbosch encountered problems with Johne's disease at an auction. There is still no official legislation surrounding this disease and therefore officials are unable to take action against members of the public who do not follow the correct protocols.

## **NAGANA**

No cases were reported in the province.

## **NEWCASTLE DISEASE**

Routine sampling continued on ostrich and poultry farms in the province. Several thousand birds were also vaccinated by state officials.

Several outbreaks of Newcastle disease occurred in the Malmesbury state veterinary area. Velogenic Newcastle disease was confirmed in backyard chickens in the Darling area of the Malmesbury district. Four ostrich export farms lie within a 10 km radius of the farm involved, one a large ostrich farm. The manager ordered vaccine and started vaccinating all birds he could get his hands on: chickens, geese, ducks and doves on his neighbouring farms. State Veterinarian Malmesbury vaccinated the positive farm

whilst Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury vaccinated the surrounding farms and poultry in the village of Darling. Two sets of 60 cloacal swabs were taken before the outbreak could be declared over and the state veterinarian could begin the three month countdown before ostriches could be sent for slaughter for export purposes.

A commercial broiler farm in the Malmesbury district experienced an outbreak of velogenic Newcastle disease in the week before slaughter when broilers were 32 days of age. Only one of the 22 houses on the farm containing approximately 32 000 broilers was infected.

Another flare up in velogenic Newcastle disease was seen on a commercial laying farm in the Malmesbury district. This farm was placed under quarantine for Newcastle disease in 2006. It is difficult to eradicate the disease from this farm because it is a multi-aged site, it has free-range layers and it raises its own pullets. They have employed a local poultry veterinary consultant to try and eradicate the disease from this farm. There is unfortunately a registered ostrich export farm within the 10 km radius, and this farm has been unable to produce ostriches for export since 2006.

Yet another outbreak of velogenic Newcastle disease was diagnosed in backyard hens in the Riebeeck West area of the Malmesbury district. The farmer initially thought that the mortalities in the hens had resulted from the farmer's dogs which had chased the free-range hens. Samples were taken by the private veterinarian because of the suspicious clinical signs and Newcastle disease was confirmed.

In the George state veterinary area there were two Newcastle disease outbreaks originating from a property in Pacaltsdorp, and another related property in Ruitersbos. 40 Out of 80 chickens died on the two smallholdings. The surviving chickens and other poultry in the area (829 chickens) were all vaccinated and export restrictions placed on ostrich farms within the 10km radius.

One sample during routine surveillance was positive for a farm in the Oudtshoorn area. After activation of the Newcastle disease contingency plan, many samples were taken and a final diagnosis of avirulent Newcastle disease was made.

A private citizen of Worcester reported deaths of laughing doves near her home. A dove sent to PVL Stellenbosch tested positive for Newcastle disease on hemi-nested RT-PCR.

## **PSITTACOSIS**

Psittacosis was diagnosed using serological testing in a clinically affected pet Senegal parrot in the Boland state veterinary area. The parrot was a new introduction into the home and an Eclectus parrot was also consequently infected. Both birds responded well to antibiotic treatment while the owners of the parrots also went on prophylactic treatment as advised by their medical doctor.

## RABIES

Canine rabies remains absent in the Western Cape, with sporadic cases of rabies in wildlife species being detected. Ten confirmed cases of rabies occurred this year: in bat-eared foxes in the Beaufort-West, Malmesbury and Vredendal state veterinary areas, one in a large grey mongoose near Piketberg, one in a grey duiker in the Malmesbury area and one in a cat in Gouritsmond. Rabies campaigns are held in areas surrounding confirmed cases, and routine vaccinations occur at every opportunity on farms and in urban areas.

<b>RABIES VACCINATIONS</b>	
<b>State Vet Area</b>	<b>2010</b>
Beaufort West	4 669
Boland	36 795
George	29 066
Malmesbury	9 164
Swellendam	6 837
Vredendal	1 266
<b>Total for Province</b>	<b>87 797</b>



Figure 3: Children bring their pets to be vaccinated at rabies campaigns

## RINDERPEST

No cases of rinderpest were reported in the province, or indeed the world, as this disease has been declared eradicated by the OIE.

## SALMONELLA ENTERIDITIS

*S. enteritidis* was diagnosed in one house on a broiler farm in the Malmesbury state veterinary area after gauze swabs that are routinely taken during the production cycle returned positive culture results. All the broilers had already been slaughtered out on the farm when results were received.

## SCRAPIE

No cases were reported in the province.

## SHEEP SCAB

Sheep scab outbreaks occurred in all state veterinary areas of the Western Cape, excepting Beaufort West. Mainly sheep were affected, but the only outbreak to occur in the Swellendam area was in a milk goat herd near Napier where 17 percent of the goats were affected. A herd of Alpacas in the Boland area was also affected. Strangely, the Alpacas shared a farm with a flock of sheep that was unaffected.

Sheep Scab Control (Ovine)					
SV Area	Infected properties		In-contact properties		
	No.	Animals treated	No.	Total small stock	Treated
Beaufort West	0	0	0	0	0
Boland	0	0	0	0	0
George	6	10 983	22	14 830	25 813
Malmesbury	5	11 060	3	683	1 161
Swellendam	0	0	0	0	0
Vredendal	2	29 213			
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>51 256</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15 513</b>	<b>26 974</b>
<b>Total treated</b>	<b>78 230</b>				

## SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE

No cases were reported in the province.

## BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

In most of the state veterinary areas, commercial herds are tested by private vets, with the state providing the service for communal farmers. Several buffalo were also tested using the intradermal test before movement in and out of the province. All tested negative.

**Table 2: Bovine Tuberculosis Tests Performed in 2010**

SV Area	Tested	Program						Totals		
		Accreditation		Maintenance		Infected		Officials	Priv. Vet	Grand Total
		Officials	Priv. Vet	Officials	Priv. Vet	Officials	Priv. Vet	Officials	Priv. Vet	Grand Total
Beaufort West	Herds	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Cattle	0	0	102	0	0	0	102	0	102
Boland	Herds	0	0	49	19	0	0	49	19	68
	Cattle	0	0	1,242	826	0	0	1,242	826	2,068
George	Herds	0	0	104	133	0	0	104	133	237
	Cattle	0	0	8,806	23,801	0	0	8,806	23,801	32,607
Malmesbury	Herds	0	0	30	58	0	0	30	58	88
	Cattle	0	0	877	17,772	0	0	877	17,772	18,649
Swellendam	Herds	0	0	16	110	0	0	16	110	126
	Cattle	0	0	754	22,095	0	0	754	22,095	22,849
Vredendal	Herds	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Cattle	0	0	69	0	0	0	69	0	69
Combined	Herds		0		521		0			
	Cattle		0		76,344		0			
<b>Total Province</b>	<b>Herds</b>	0	0	201	320	0	0	<b>201</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>521</b>
	<b>Cattle</b>	0	0	11,850	64,494	0	0	<b>11,850</b>	<b>64,494</b>	<b>76,344</b>

A cow slaughtered at the abattoir in Ceres was condemned because of lesions on the pleura, abdominal serosa and uterus. Samples taken for histopathology revealed Ziehl Neelsen positive rods. Samples submitted to the Medical Research Council laboratory at Tygerberg cultured positive for *Mycobacterium bovis*. Cows slaughtered on this day originated from State vet Swellendam and George areas.

In the Piketberg area, *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) was initially cultured from swabs submitted from rams with pizzle rot. Rams were resampled after they had been treated and the lesions had almost healed. *Mycobacterium moriokaense* was cultured in the second swab and was considered to be an insignificant finding. It is not known what the significance of the original *M. bovis* finding was as the sample had been transferred

between laboratories for typing. According to literature searches, *M. bovis* is a rare finding in sheep.

## **C. NOTIFIABLE ANIMAL DISEASES**

### **BLUE TONGUE**

All cases of bluetongue reported to the state in the Western Cape occurred in the Beaufort West and Vredendal state veterinary areas, with an isolated case in the George area. No cases were reported in the Malmesbury area, but the disease is present, though the incidence is low, according to private practice veterinarians in the area. Most affected farms had not vaccinated their animals against bluetongue.

The first few months of 2011 saw many new cases in the Beaufort west state vet area. Blue tongue started up in the new year with a few cases diagnosed on serology. It was then reported from all over the area. Farms in Merweville reported severe losses. Deaths of 250 to 300 ewes were not uncommon. More cases were confirmed on serology. Swollen heads and lips, sometimes with serous nasal discharge and painful feet were seen. Bluetongue was also diagnosed on several Boergoat farms. Most animals treated with anti-inflammatories early in the disease managed to survive.

### **LUMPY SKIN DISEASE**

Isolated cases of lumpy skin disease in cattle occurred in most areas of the province, but the disease is usually not confirmed and often not reported. The feeling of state officials in the province seems to be that most farmers vaccinate annually.

One outbreak was confirmed on a dairy farm close to Rheenendal (Knysna). The adult animals were vaccinated but three of the younger, unvaccinated cattle developed classical lesions. One animal died.

### **RIFT VALLEY FEVER**

The first reported case of Rift Valley fever came in from Beaufort West on 26 March 2010. Up to August 2010, 41 farms reported losses of livestock with most of these having had RVF confirmed as present on the farm using either the RT-PCR(OVI) or the Immunoperoxidase (IMP) staining technique (University of Pretoria). Almost all of the initial cases occurred in Beaufort West and Murraysburg, but then the infection spread to the seemingly random areas of Oudtshoorn, Paarl, Simondium, Bonnievale, Worcester, Heidelberg and Noordhoek. The latter areas didn't seem to create a nidus for further spread, with the possible exceptions of Oudtshoorn and Bonnievale, where a number of events occurred, albeit few in the greater scheme of the outbreak. Mostly sheep were affected and this can be attributed to the initial cases in Beaufort West and Murraysburg, which are major sheep-farming areas. Almost exclusively, mutton sheep farms were affected. We believe this is due to lack of reporting from wool and mohair farms owing to the trade restrictions enforced by China on these products from

infected properties. The bovine population that was affected was from mainly the 'sporadic spread' affected farms and occurred in almost exclusively dairy cattle. Other species affected included goats, Kudu, Alpacas, Fallow Deer and Bontebok.

At the Beaufort West office, the state vet, Animal Health Technician Murraysburg, the administration clerk and the assistant who did most of the post mortems developed high fevers, muscle pains and sensitive eyes during this outbreak. Tests proved negative for Rift Valley Fever but positive for Sindbis virus in two cases and West Nile Virus in another case.

Prior to the outbreak beginning in the Western Cape the Department did attempt to create a buffer zone in the north-easterly part of the Province. As news of the disease spread so did the reactive vaccination of stock. Unfortunately in most cases this remained reactive, making this vaccination ineffective in controlling individual disease events. As a result of a lack of inactivated vaccine many farmers vaccinated using the modified live vaccine, including in their pregnant animals, even though this creates a risk for vaccination-induced abortions. Although no specific cases of abortion could be attributed to vaccination with the modified live virus, this practice muddied the investigative waters when abortions occurred, particularly in the affected dairy herds

After seemingly dying down in August 2010, Rift Valley fever cases began occurring again from the end of December 2010, gradually increasing in number to reach a peak in March 2011. The Beaufort West area was the location of most of the outbreaks, with sporadic cases occurring near Wellington and at Groot Brak River. The cleaner at the Beaufort West office tested positive for RVF after cutting himself accidentally while assisting with a post-mortem.

In the year, a total of 51 outbreaks of Rift Valley fever occurred in the Western Cape, affecting at least 238 animals and causing at least 181 deaths. 71 760 Doses of vaccine were administered to susceptible stock by state officials.

### **SWINE ERYSIPELAS**

One case was presented by a farmer from the Beaufort West area who only keeps a few pigs on his farm. The pig died with typical diamond skin lesions. No other deaths were seen and vaccination was advised. Another case occurred in a single pig from an agricultural school in the George area. Diagnosis was on post-mortem.

### **PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME**

Active surveillance took place as usual. No cases were reported in the province.

## D. NON-CONTROLLED ANIMAL DISEASES

### DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF HORSES

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

##### 1.1.1. Babesiosis

Babesiosis was diagnosed and confirmed in a foal in the Mamre area of the Malmesbury district during the initial investigation into African horse sickness. More cases were suspected in horses with very pale mucous membranes.

##### 1.1.2. *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *zooepidemicus*

This bacterium was isolated in the Beaufort West state veterinary area from swollen and painful infections of both hock joints in a Thoroughbred mare that injured herself during transport on a horse carrier.

Routine uterine swabs on a racehorse farm cultured three cases of the bacteria. Uterine swabs and smears were examined in 41 barren mares. *S. equi zooepidemicus* was cultured in four mares and they were successfully treated with penicillin/streptomycin.

One mare with a discharge was treated with *amoxicillin* after a swab cultured *S. equi zooepidemicus* from the uterus.

##### 1.1.3. West Nile and Middelburg Virus (Alphavirus)

In Leeu Gamka both viruses were confirmed on PCR tests of brain and spinal cord samples done on a horse with severe posterior paralysis. The West Nile was identified as Lineage 2.

Two more cases in Murraysburg and Beaufort West tested positive for West Nile Virus on ELISA tests. In Murraysburg a few farmers themselves contracted the disease and were seriously ill.

An eight-year-old pregnant mare on a stud farm in the Ceres district showed hind quarter incoordination which worsened and she became recumbent. The day before she died she aborted and brain samples of the mare and foetus were submitted to the University of Pretoria where West Nile virus was diagnosed on both the mare and foal's brain samples by means of PCR.

## TOXICOSES

### 1.1.4. Botulism

In Beaufort West one of the donkeys used for tourists' donkey cart rides around town became ill around Christmas time and died a day or two later. A week later another donkey was ill with severe salivation. They were kept on a property where pigs are fed swill from the supermarket. All swill is thrown into drums. While attending to the sick donkey, two other donkeys also became ill with severe salivation and muscle tremors. There are also horses running with the donkeys, but none of them became ill as the donkeys are smaller and could get to the swill of the pigs. The swill was very rotten and it is believed that they picked up the botulism there. All the affected donkeys died and the rest were vaccinated. No other animals died, and the pigs flourish on their rotten swill.

## OTHER CONDITIONS

### 1.1.5. Colic

State Veterinarian Vredendal and animal health technicians attended to and treated three horses with clinical signs of colic. State Veterinarian Beaufort West also attended to two horses with colic at the Beaufort West show in March 2011.

### 1.1.6. Fetlock injury

State Veterinarian and Animal Health Technician Vredendal were contacted by a local horse owner regarding her horse. The animal had been kicked by another horse on the property. The left hind limb was severely swollen around the fetlock and the animal struggled to put weight on it. Conservative treatment was instituted, but the prognosis for full recovery was given as guarded to poor. The horse was sold with the new owner's intention to use it for out-rides. Apparently, the horse was later euthanized as it had not shown any improvement in condition.

### 1.1.7. Neglect

A severely emaciated and abused horse was confiscated from a local farmer in the Vredendal state veterinary area. The Thoroughbred died as result of complications about a week later. The court case is still pending.

## DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF SHEEP

### INFECTIOUS

### 1.1.8. *Chorioptes bovis* in Alpacas

After the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory diagnosed sheep scab in Alpacas from Ceres, samples were submitted to the ARC at Irene for identification, as

the sheep scab had not spread from the Alpacas to the sheep in contact with them. *Chorioptes bovis* was identified, a pedal mite that normally does not cause lesions and that looks very similar to the sheep scab mite.



**Figure 4: Affected alpacas, showing interdigital lesions.**

### 1.1.9. Clostridial Diseases

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, many cases with almost all possible *Clostridium spp.* were confirmed. Many diagnoses were made from suspicious Rift Valley fever post mortems.

Pulpy kidney was diagnosed in a few cases only on post mortem lesions in the Beaufort West area, but in the Vredendal state vet area pulpy kidney was seen quite often. Farmers in the area neglecting to follow a vaccination schedule of twice a year pulpy kidney vaccination often experience stock losses when animals are moved onto greener pastures or just after deworming. A quick look at the history of these sudden deaths generally always indicates the lack of proper vaccination and most probably identifies pulpy kidney as the culprit. One farmer lost almost 60% of his one flock as a result of neglecting to plan for vaccination.

Other cases of clostridial diseases from the Beaufort West area were diagnosed on Fluorescent Antibody smears sent to Onderstepoort: *Cl. sordelli* was found as the cause of death in a sheep at the local abattoir as well as the cause of deaths in Merino ewes from Victoria West. *Cl. perfringens* was also cultured from another sheep death at the abattoir. In two other cases *Cl. novyi*, *septicum* and *sordelli* were demonstrated. Post mortems were done on a few sheep that died acutely. Subcutaneous haemorrhages around the neck area were commonly seen. Sometimes pulpy kidney-like clinical signs with nephrosis, gas in the intestines and blood foam from the nostrils were observed

One of the main complaints late in the season was the very high percentage of perinatal lamb losses on several farms. Some farmers reported abortion/early lamb losses of 50 to 80%. Due to the very high grass and scavengers removing the carcasses, it was impossible to find or determine the true percentage of abortions. Most early lamb deaths were proven to be due to Rift Valley fever. Even in proper vaccinated flocks very high lamb losses occurred.

Post mortems were done on some Merino ewes. 20 out of 90 ewes died acutely. They were vaccinated against pulpy kidney. Severe subcutaneous haemorrhages in the neck areas were found. Multi-clostridial vaccination stopped the deaths.

Another farmer was losing two ewes a month and pulpy kidney vaccinations were up to date. Post mortems also showed severe oedema and haemorrhages around the subcutaneous neck area. *Clostridium novyi* was demonstrated on impression smears from fresh carcasses.

Three neighbouring farms, where several sheep were lost, were visited. Post mortem findings showed severe haemoperitonium, severe haemorrhages and oedema of subcutaneous areas around the neck and thorax. Livers were severely swollen, yellow and brittle. Gall bladders were four times normal size. IMP tested negative for Wesselsbron disease. Plant poisoning was suspected but no plants with hepatotoxins could be found. Several camps were affected. Carcasses also decomposed very quickly. A diagnosis of clostridial diseases was made and multi-clostridial vaccinations were advised.

One Dorper ram that died acutely with severe haemorrhages in the subcutaneous neck area was also diagnosed with clostridial disease complex.

#### **1.1.10. E coli**

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area pure *E. coli* was cultured from the testicle of a ram after surgical removal. *E. coli* was also cultured from all organs of hand-reared lambs that died before three weeks of age on two separate farms.

#### **1.1.11. Enzootic abortion**

Abortions attributed to enzootic abortion are regularly reported in the Beaufort West state veterinary area, but the new vaccine released by OPB will hopefully improve the situation.

#### **1.1.12. Footrot**

Approximately four weeks after Malmesbury district had rain in January, farmers in the Riebeeck Valley started complaining of foot rot amongst their sheep. Exceptionally bad cases were seen where the hoof wall was detached from the underlying tissue. *Arcanobacter (Corynebacterium) pyogenes* was cultured from sheep that had been culled. Liver samples from these sheep were sent for mineral analyses – zinc, manganese, magnesium and calcium deficiencies were noted.

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, because of the wet conditions and tick abundance during the summer months, many farms reported a very high incidence of “sweerklou”.

### 1.1.13. Internal Parasites

#### Coccidia

Hanslammers in Beaufort West that died of *E.coli* also had very high *Coccidia spp.* counts. Treatment was advised.

#### Roundworms

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, more than 40 ewes died over a few weeks despite regular deworming on one farm. Severe serous atrophy of all body fat and extreme cachexia was seen. A mixed roundworm infestation was found.

Wireworm was seen in a post mortem from a small farmer sheep.

Wireworm, longneck-bankrupt worm and tapeworm were identified on a few post mortems. Animals were totally cachectic and severe atrophy of all internal fat was seen.

#### Tapeworm

Severe tapeworm infestation was found in four month-old Dorper lambs that were treated with a *benzimidazole*. Treatment with a *praziquantel* resulted in the expulsion of thousands of tape worms. Severe tapeworm infestation was also found in post mortems of several Angora kids.

90 Faecal egg counts were done by state officials in the year.

### 1.1.14. Jaagsiekte

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area more than 40 ewes died over a few weeks despite regular deworming on one farm. Severe serous atrophy of all body fat and extreme cachexia was seen. A mixed roundworm infestation was found. On histopathology, jaagsiekte (pulmonary adenomatosis) was diagnosed on the lung samples.

### 1.1.15. Necrotic balanoposthitis (“peestersiekte”)

This condition seems to be quite a big concern in some areas of the Vredendal state veterinary area, with large numbers of rams in certain flocks being affected. All rams involved in the ram testing season are examined for “peestersiekte as well as rams presented at the Vredendal Dorper ram auction.

### 1.1.16. Pasteurellosis

The Vredendal state veterinary office is regularly contacted about sheep showing signs of dyspnoea, lagging behind the rest of the flock, nasal discharge, coughing, sudden death after handling and various other clinical descriptions of respiratory problems. Vaccination against Pasteurellosis is not common practice in this area. Advice regarding treatment and future vaccination was given.

In the Beaufort West area, outbreaks of Pasteurellosis were seen during the Rift Valley fever outbreaks, with many deaths due to poor health, feeding systems and daily kraaling of animals. Deaths stopped after vaccination.

#### **1.1.17. Red lice**

Red lice remain a problem in sheep in the Malmesbury state veterinary area. It is often found during inspection at the Gouda auctions. Feedback is given to the farmers involved.

### **TOXICOSES**

#### **1.1.18. Acute liver toxicity**

An unknown plant caused the death of many Angora goat kids in the Beaufort West state veterinary area. Seven of 320 year-old kapers died overnight with severe hepatomegaly, overfilled gallbladders and severe haemorrhagic enteritis. Kids were vaccinated with a multi-clostridial vaccine twice a week apart, following which the animals were moved and no further investigation was carried out.

#### **1.1.19. Botulism**

In Beaufort West, two lambs of a small farmer died with typical botulism signs. Lambs are kept in a kraal while the ewes go out to graze during the day. The kraals were cleaned of foreign material and bones.

More than 20 Kudu, Nyala, Duiker and Bushbuck from a game farm near Willowmore died within 300m around a water hole. The water hole in a river was stagnant due to the drought. Sick animals showed ataxia and died with their heads on their sides. A small Duiker was brought in for examination and a post mortem was done, with negative results. Although no toxins could be found in the rumen contents a diagnosis of botulism was made from the history. All deaths stopped after the hole was closed and new water was brought in from a safe source.

#### **1.1.20. Cardiac glycosides**

Cardiac glycosides were believed to be the cause of one suspected Rift Valley fever case and krimpsiekte the cause of deaths in another case in the Laingsburg area.

Krimpsiekte is a common problem in the Vredendal state veterinary area for which officials are regularly asked for advice in times of poor veld condition.

#### **1.1.21. *Galenia africana***

A farmer in the Piketberg district lost sheep from kraalbos toxicity again this year. Sheep will feed on kraalbos if there is no other food available.

### **1.1.22. Organophosphate toxicity**

A communal farmer on the Beaufort West commonage lost ten of his 15 goats per acutely. Typical organophosphate clinical signs were seen: salivation, severe tremors and convulsions. Post mortems on the animals that the owner had already slaughtered were negative. All the sick animals recovered within 24 hours after atropine treatment. Every animal owner has his own kraal where his animals sleep at night. Although there are many animal owners, only animals from one kraal died. No poison was detected on rumen samples and histology was also negative. Although the owner said he didn't dip his animals some of the people around said they had seen him dipping his goats

### **1.1.23. Secondary photosensitivity**

After a sudden bout of rain followed by very high daily temperatures, a sudden rise in the cases of "geeldikkop" was experienced in especially the more northern parts of the Vredendal state veterinary area.

### **1.1.24. *Thesium lineatum***

*Thesium lineatum* (witstorm) was the cause of many reported deaths, especially during droughts. Most cases are reported telephonically and only three cases were examined in the Nelspoort area where one cow died and six out of a total of 15 cattle were sick. Five Angora goats from a commercial farmer and a few sheep from small farmers in Nelspoort died from witstorm. One emerging farmer stopped his witstorm deaths by taking out all the *Thesium* plants in his camps. This seems to be the only solution during the dry times.

## **OTHER CONDITIONS**

### **1.1.25. Cerebro Cortical Necrosis**

A farmer from Prince Albert brought in two sick sheep that were almost dead and lying on their sides for a few days, severely grinding on their teeth. Post mortems were negative but Vit B1 deficiency was diagnosed on histopathology.

### **1.1.26. Copper deficiency**

An emerging farmer from a Farmer Support and Development (FSD) poultry project in the Atlantis area of the Malmesbury district complained that his sheep and goats were not doing well. Five Sheep and five goats' blood was taken to determine copper levels. Only two sheep registered copper levels, the other three sheep and five goats' copper levels were so low that they could not be measured by the instruments at the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. This area is well known for its copper deficiency.

### 1.1.27. Hypocalcaemia

With the large number of sheep flocks in the Vredendal state veterinary area, the occurrence of hypocalcaemia amongst ewes is not uncommon. Treatment to reverse the condition is given.

### 1.1.28. Drought-related conditions

Although scanty rains were reported for the winter months the whole Beaufort West state veterinary area was still gripped in a terrible drought. Post mortems were done and diagnoses of poisonous plants, energy deficiencies, protein deficiencies and low levels of internal parasites were seen.

Many reports of omasum impactions were received, mostly because of the drought. Animals are forced to digest unpalatable and dry grass. If no protein licks are provided, outbreaks of omasum impactions are found. In Prince Albert two cattle and ten sheep were confirmed to have died of these impactions.

Many lamb deaths were investigated in the Beaufort West state veterinary area and some carcasses were sent to Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. Most of the deaths were due to starvation. Due to the drought the ewes just didn't have enough milk for the lambs despite the fact that many farmers supply protein or energy licks.

In one case *Manheimia haemolitica* was cultured from all organs of a lamb that died soon after birth. Starvation was diagnosed as the cause of death, whether the *Manheimia* had an influence is still uncertain.

A few Rift Valley fever suspicious lambs were examined and found to have died due to starvation. Again the ewes did not have enough milk because of the drought in certain areas around Merweville.

### 1.1.29. Malnutrition

The Vanrhynsdorp Communal farmers' Union contacted Animal Health Technician Vanrhynsdorp after suffering sheep losses. A closer investigation revealed the deaths were as a result of protein energy malnutrition (lack of food) and most of the animals were in a terrible state. Correct nutrition and deworming was advised and the local animal welfare organisation contacted to keep an eye on their progress.

### 1.1.30. Rumen acidosis

State Veterinarian and Animal Health Technician Vanrhynsdorp visited a farm just outside of Vanrhynsdorp after the animal health technician received a call from the farmer after sheep had consumed a large amount of concentrates. The sheep were examined and treatment given (antacid and antibiotic treatment for secondary complications).

Rumen acidosis was also the cause of a small number of deaths in the Beaufort West state veterinary area.

## DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF GOATS

### Infectious conditions

#### 1.1.31. *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*

A resource poor farmer on a Land Affairs project in the Wolseley area of the Tulbagh district bought in 20 goats from a farmer in the Redelinghuys area of the Piketberg district. All of these does were old, with poor udders and many had abscesses on their udders and bodies. The farmer was instructed to isolate these goats and shown how to drain the abscesses correctly so as not to contaminate his farm. After due investigation regarding the purchase of these goats, the farmer was advised to feed the goats and sell them at the Gouda auction for slaughter purposes, and use this money to buy fewer but younger and healthier does.

#### 1.1.32. *E. coli*

Several cases of *E. coli* infection occurred in the Beaufort West state veterinary area: Two cases were confirmed in young Boergoat kids. The antibiogram of one case showed a strain very resistant to all of our usual antibiotics: penicillin and oxytetracyclines. In Angora kids with diarrhoea, *E. coli* was identified. Boergoat ewes that died within two to three days of lambing with severe stinking metritis, were diagnosed negative for *Clostridial* toxæmia. *E. coli* was cultured from samples of the pus. The ewes had lambed in small paddocks. In another case, where 15 out of 80 boer goat kids died with nervous signs, a severe fibrino-purulent meningo-encephalitis was diagnosed. Only *E. coli* could be cultured from the organs

#### 1.1.33. Internal Parasites

##### **Coccidiosis:**

Very high egg counts were seen in the faeces of an Angora kid in the Beaufort West state veterinary area. Peyer's patches in the small intestine were very swollen. The farmer reported that 40 out of 200 kids had already died with diarrhoea. There was no response to tetracycline treatment.

##### **Roundworms:**

Regular faecal egg counts are done in Murraysburg and at the Beaufort West lab. One case where Angora kids deaths continued despite several different de-worming mixtures being used, high egg counts were still found. It is likely that resistance is a big problem on the lands where the kids are kept.

Several mixed internal parasite infections were seen in Angora goats that had regularly been de-wormed with different groups. Wireworm resistance is definitely the main reason.

**1.1.34. Pneumonia**

Pneumonia was found in a Boergoat kid of one of the communal farmers in Beaufort West.

**1.1.35. Wesselsbron disease**

One case was confirmed on a farm in the Beaufort West state veterinary area that regularly vaccinates for Wesselsbron and Rift Valley fever. Ten out of 400 Angora kids died about six weeks after vaccination.

One case was confirmed in Boergoats.

Three cases were diagnosed in Angora goats in Leeu Gamka, Rietbron and Murraysburg.

**Other conditions****1.1.36. Severe copper deficiency**

Blood samples taken from five goats belonging to an emerging farmer in the Atlantis area of the Malmesbury district, showed such a severe copper shortage that their copper levels could not be determined by the Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (see above: diseases and conditions of sheep).

## DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF BOVINES

### Infectious conditions

#### 1.1.37. Anaplasmosis

A large dairy farmer in the Malmesbury district with approximately 4 000 Friesland cattle experienced an outbreak of anaplasmosis during the festive season. 25 Out of 150 of the affected animals died.

#### 1.1.38. Clostridia

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, *Cl. sordelli* was found in a buffalo that died shortly after being treated for severe and watery diarrhoea.

A few calves died and the post mortem of one calf showed severe enteritis. *Clostridium* could be the cause of the diseases but no samples were sent away.

### Other conditions

#### 1.1.39. Adenocarcinoma

At an abattoir in Albertinia, a cow was found after slaughter with a severe case of adenocarcinoma. This was originally suspected to be tuberculosis.

#### 1.1.40. Amaurosis

Dairy cows on a dairy farm in the Malmesbury district went blind 8 – 10 days after calving. The private veterinarian suspected that the change in feed had an effect on the rumen bacteria causing a breakdown in thiamine. Cows were treated with Vitamin B1 by IM over three days and dosed with Megamilk, a probiotic, containing lactobacilli which break down lactic acid to prevent acidosis. In total eight cows were treated and made a full recovery.

#### 1.1.41. Dystocia

The State Veterinarian Vredendal and animal health technicians attended to five separate cases of dystocia. In all cases the foetus was already dead and traction was successful, although extremely tiring.

#### 1.1.42. Magnesium deficiency (suspected)

A farmer in the Porterville area of Piketberg lost four cows showing nervous signs over a two day period. The cows had calves of approximately four months of age at foot and were grazing on lush green oat pastures with wheat straw. A magnesium deficiency was suspected but never proved. Deaths stopped after the farmer started supplementing his cattle with Magnesium.

### **1.1.43. Retained placenta**

Six cases of retained placentas were attended to by State Veterinarian Vredendal and animal health technicians.

## **DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF OSTRICHES**

### **Other conditions**

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, a few ostriches were examined on post mortems and found to have died of haemorrhagic enteritis. A few ostriches also died of stomach impactions.

## **DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF CHICKENS**

### **Infectious conditions**

### **1.1.44. Salmonella typhimurium**

*S. typhimurium* was diagnosed on culture from egg debris from one of the hen houses on a multi-aged laying site in the Malmesbury district. Treatment with quinolones was started and the eggs from the treated house buried on site.

## **DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF PIGS**

### **Infectious conditions**

### **1.1.45. Clostridia**

*Cl. novyi* and *sordelli* were found in a pig in the Beaufort West state veterinary area with haemorrhagic enteritis.

### **1.1.46. E coli**

Two communal farmers in Beaufort West reported deaths. Post mortems showed mild enteritis and lab diagnosis of *E. coli* was made.

### **1.1.47. Mange**

Vredendal animal health technicians were very actively involved in the various emerging farmers' pig projects scattered throughout the area. Mange amongst these pigs has been a general occurrence, with effective treatment given by animal health technicians.

## **Toxicoses**

### **1.1.48. Carbamate poisoning**

At Uitkyk Farm in George there was a case of malicious poisoning with Aldicarb in the feed of 43 pigs.

### **1.1.49. Suspected carbon monoxide poisoning**

A resource poor farmer in the Mamre area of the Malmesbury district lost three piglets after he started heating his pig sties using a generator to generate electricity. The piglets had been lying near the exhaust pipe to experience the heat. Once the generator was moved two depressed piglets from the same litter recovered.

## **AQUACULTURE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS**

### **Infectious conditions**

### **1.1.50. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)**

In December 2010, small wild fish gathering around the cages of a trout farm in the Western Cape were observed with growths resembling cotton wool on their bodies. The fish were collected and histopathology was performed, which revealed fungal hyphae that penetrated deep into the fishes' tissues, even as far as the midline, and showed characteristic spores for *Aphanomyces invadans*, the causative agent of EUS, a disease previously never recorded in South Africa.

## **DISEASES AND CONDITIONS OF DOGS**

### **Infectious conditions**

### **1.1.51. Distemper**

In Beaufort West, this disease is still active and cases are being seen almost on a daily base.

In the Vredendal area, an area where there is very limited veterinary support and a severe lack of pet-owner education, distemper as well as parvo-virus have been causing large numbers of diseased and dying animals. Veterinary Services staff members were often approached by members of the public seeking advice regarding their sick pets. With assistance from the Vredendal office, a local animal welfare organisation acquired 5-in-1 vaccine and over 100 dogs were vaccinated.

### **1.1.52. Acute haemorrhagic gastritis/enteritis**

Post mortems were done on four large-breed dogs in Beaufort West after they died acutely and the owners suspected malicious poisoning. The dogs were from different

areas and were properly vaccinated. Most of them died within six hours from onset of clinical signs. Signs seen by owners included bloody vomiting and diarrhoea. On post mortem, severe haemorrhagic enteritis with very severe autolysis of the liver and spleen were seen. Although malicious poisoning with *Temik* (Aldicarb) was seen in a few other dogs in town, these four could not be confirmed.

#### **1.1.53. Infectious Canine Hepatitis**

In Beaufort West, many cases were seen with very different clinical signs: some with severe icterus, some with ascites, others with conjunctivitis and many with combinations of these signs. In the later stages of this disease recovery is unlikely. However, some dogs showed lack of appetite without fever and not always with diarrhoea, vomiting, polydipsia or colic. These animals are part of the WNEN (wil nie eet nie) syndrome and mostly recover well after symptomatic treatment.

#### **1.1.54. Sarcoptic mange**

Every Monday, the Beaufort West Animal Health offices provide free dipping for the many *Sarcoptes* cases in the community. This is very popular and well supported, about 30 dogs are dipped every week. There are many good recoveries but we still see new cases every week. Animal Health Technician Laingsburg also dipped 208 dogs.

**E. IMPORT / EXPORT CONTROL****IMPORT CONTROL**

State Veterinarian Malmesbury was informed of a consignment of sheep that were to arrive on a farm in the Malmesbury district late at night. Permission was granted to allow the sheep to be offloaded for humane reasons and kept in isolation pending inspection the following morning. On inspection it was found that the sheep were infected with red lice and were also intended for a farm in the Beaufort West area. Agri-Inspect were notified via the RPO (Red Meat Producers Organisation).

The State Veterinarian Swellendam visited Dageraad and Main Chance for the purpose of registering a Pregnant Mare Quarantine facility. Both these facilities have been granted ZA registrations. Two horses were kept at Dageraad, tested negative after foaling and then released. At present there is one horse under quarantine in the facility at Main Chance.

**EXPORT CONTROL**

Animal health officials carried out duties of inspection and approval of export-registered facilities as well as issuing of veterinary health certificates for export of pets, livestock and animal products. Average figures for numbers of exports certified by each of the state veterinary offices are provided in the table below.

**Table 3: Export certificate statistics**

<b>Number of export certificates issued per office in 2010</b>	
Vredendal	41
Malmesbury	110
Boland	1 200
Swellendam	260
George	2 172
Beaufort West	36

In January 2011, due to the unforeseen withdrawal of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) from veterinary export certification in the Cape Town area, this function became the responsibility of Veterinary Services, Western Cape. All officials from the Boland state veterinary office, as well as animal technicians from the entire province and veterinarians from Animal Health and Export Control have contributed to the provision of this vital service; from animal health technicians performing inspection and sealing services to Control Animal Health Technician Boland co-ordinating the requests for inspections, veterinarians signing the export permits and veterinary health certificates and especially the administration clerks fielding the numerous phone calls and e-mails surrounding the changeover. The number of export certifications required from the Boland state veterinary office has therefore increased dramatically. From an average of 1000 permits a year, the office was burdened with almost 1000 permits per

month. This has unfortunately severely impacted on the available time of staff to perform the animal health functions required of them.

State Veterinarian Swellendam visited the following establishments for export registration purposes: Ladismith Cheese Factory, Ladismith Parmalat, Parmalat Bonnievale, La Montanara, Mooi Valley and Klein River Cheese. The rendering plant and farms of Rainbow Chickens were also visited by State Veterinarian Swellendam for export registration purposes.

## F. EPIDEMIOLOGY

2010/2011 has been a busy year for the Epidemiology section of Animal Health. They were involved with a number of major disease outbreaks while at the same time attempting to remain up to date with routine work. A number of individual and more specific investigations/tasks have also been undertaken by the section. These are listed below.

**Table 4: Epidemiology tasks undertaken**

Detail	Area	Requester	Date
Rift Valley fever outbreak	Province	State	Throughout year for 2010 and 2011 outbreaks
Avian Influenza – Heidelberg Outbreak	Heidelberg	State Veterinarian George	Winter 2010
Avian Influenza – Oudtshoorn (Nooitgedacht)	Oudtshoorn	State Veterinarian George	Dec 2010-Jan 2011
Avian Influenza – Boland	Klapmuts	State Veterinarian Boland	June 2010
Newcastle disease – Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn	State Veterinarian George	Oct 2010
Avian Influenza ELISA verification	Country	DAFF	Throughout Year
Rabies Data Report	Province	ITCA	April 2010
Avian Influenza-Boland 2	Klipheuwel	State Veterinarian Boland	Dec 2010

In terms of training within the section, State Veterinarian Epidemiology completed a GIS training course in June 2010 in association with the University of Pretoria's continuing education program.

The OIE-listed-diseases web portal was modified during 2010 and ran through 2010/2011 very successfully. A presentation at the SASVEPM Congress in Pretoria was made by State Veterinarian Epidemiology in August 2010 regarding this system. He also co-ordinated a spatial mapping workshop at this congress using country wide Rift Valley fever data.

The ostrich database was converted into an online application and has been running successfully from Jan 2011. Other presentations which were made include:

- Rift Valley fever presentation at the Environmental Health Practitioners congress in Knysna during Sept 2010.
- Co-author on a Rift Valley fever presentation made by Dr Gers at an American congress for pathologists

The following totals give an indication of the number of events entered onto our various databases for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

**Classical swine fever data**

498 Sampling events captured

**PRRS data**

483 Sampling events captured

**Avian influenza ostrich data**

2 635 Sampling events (multiple samples can be taken per event), including Newcastle disease, residue and serum samples

- 2 585 serum sampling events, totaling 82 823 samples
- 390 Newcastle disease sampling events, totaling 9 524 samples
- 286 residue Serum sampling events, totaling 597 samples
- 38 tracheal swab sampling events, totaling 2 648 samples
- 39 cloacal swab sampling events, totaling 5 708 samples

**Avian influenza backyard chickens data**

209 Sampling Events captured

**Avian influenza commercial chickens data**

235 Sampling Events captured

Twelve epidemiology reports were distributed and published monthly on our website to keep veterinary services staff, as well as our colleagues in the private sector, informed with regards to the current situation of controlled diseases.

The Epidemiology section's staff was increased with the addition of Dr Lesley van Helden who joined the Department in Jan 2011 as State Veterinarian: Disease Control after graduating from University of Pretoria in November 2010. Her assistance and inputs has been very positive thus far.

## **G. PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTH CARE AND PROJECTS**

### **RESOURCE POOR FARMERS PROJECTS**

Lutzville, Ebenaeser, Vanrhynsdorp, Elands Bay and Nuwerus all have running projects aimed at upliftment of the locals as well as having a food-security component. Although the farmers involved have received training in the management and every day running of such an enterprise, limited amounts of the information seem to have stuck and regular input by the Veterinary Services and Farmer Support and Development is needed. Weekly visits were made to some of these projects where advice was given, questions answered, treatment instituted and even marketing and transport of the pigs was arranged by departmental officials. It can only be hoped that these individuals gain the necessary confidence and pride to make these projects their own, because before they take personal ownership, no advances can be made.

Animal Health Technician Worcester continued to play a pivotal role in the Masakhane project in De Doorns until the end of the third quarter, after which his involvement was reduced to an advisory role. Disease control and sampling will continue to be done as is the case with all these projects.

In the George state veterinary area, officials are assisting at a few identified animal projects.

The Beaufort West office is still involved in the management and animal health project with FSD and the Nelson Mandela University.

The new pig pens in Murraysburg were officially handed over. State Veterinarian Beaufort West gave a talk on the responsibilities of pig farmers and outlined the services our department can deliver.

### **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

The entire area from Piketberg in the south to the borders (and even further) of the Northern Cape Province, is serviced by a single private practice veterinarian. This very unfortunate fact has left a major gap in veterinary support in the district. The open-door policy strongly adhered to by Vredendal Veterinary Services has gone a long way to ensure that the much needed veterinary assistance is available to most. Assistance is given in the form of information, knowledge sharing, treatment and advice on treatment and assisting/training with regards disease and treatment methods. Officially, around 150 primary animal health care sessions were clocked with 3 858 animals attended to during those sessions.

In the Swellendam state veterinary area, 594 primary health care session were held, attending to 15 941 animals.

In the Malmesbury district, 250 Sheep and 999 goats were vaccinated against pulpy kidney prior to their treatment with *Multimin* and copper. 196 Sheep, 799 goats and 16

cattle belonging to 56 owners were treated with *Multimin* and copper to address the copper shortage found in animals along the West Coast. Ten goats were bled to determine their copper levels after repeated copper supplementation with *Multimin* and copper. Results varied but most fell within the lower range of normal.

Animal Health Technician Piketberg gave advice to resource poor farmers in Elands Bay that had lost 45 piglets since December 2010 either at birth or two to three days after birth. Unfortunately the individual sties are very large and the building stands on top of the hill and is exposed to cold night winds and hot days. Shade cloth was used to try and reduce the sunburn encountered during the day and dampen the winds at night.

Resource poor farmers in the Malmesbury state veterinary area were helped to treat pigs and cattle with injectable endectocides against external parasites, helped with the treatment of conjunctivitis in cattle, the draining of abscesses, the treatment of minor wounds, the dosing for internal parasites and treatment of dogs against mange. Farmers were also helped to acquire their registrations in accordance with the Animal Identification Act.

In the George state veterinary area, officials are assisting with primary health care in animals specifically in the Uniondale area. A total of 765 cases attended are reported.

The Beaufort West state veterinary area has a similar problem to the Vredendal area, with almost no private practice veterinarians to service the communities. During the year primary animal health care sessions were held on 465 occasions and 2 991 animals were either treated, inspected, vaccinated or other advice or practical support given to their owners.

Several meetings were held with all the communal farmers to discuss the vaccination of pulpy Kidney, pasteurella and Rift Valley fever.

A mini campaign was held in Murraysburg where all the cattle of the commonage were tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis. Heifers were vaccinated with RB51, all cattle de-wormed and treated for external parasites.



**Figure 5: Livestock of the commonages line up to be vaccinated**

The sheep and goats on the commonages of Murraysburg, Prince Albert, Laingsburg, Leeu Gamka, Klaarstroom, Merweville and Beaufort West were vaccinated against pulpy kidney and pasteurella, followed by a booster a month later. They were also dewormed and given a shot of vitamin A

A sterilisation clinic, where more than 220 dogs were sterilised, was assisted by Animal Health Technician Prince Albert. Several veterinarians were sponsored by an animal welfare institution.

Animal Health Technician Prince Albert attended the Jamboree at Leeu Gamka, Animal Health Technician Beaufort West attended the Mafisa Roadshow and many visits were made by Animal Health Technicians to small and upcoming farmers where primary animal health and training were done.

15 emerging farms were visited with the NMMU agricultural department and the new data was compared to the data obtained the previous two years. Rams were tested, dung samples examined for parasites and a detailed questionnaire, including veterinary aspects, was completed. A proper condition score of the ewes was done on all the farms. The annual survey in Beaufort West shows very little improvement in the financial situation of the small farmers. Only the Angora goat farmers showed a positive bank balance. No real vaccination or breeding programs are maintained.

The survey of extensive new farmers in the central Karoo was finalised and discussed with the farmers. A worrying factor was that many of the farms showed no sign of improvement. Three farms were positive for *B. ovis*, despite the tests and advice given last year. The only farms with positive financial growth were the fibre farms, mohair and wool. The drought, predators and poisonous plants were the main causes.

All the pigs on the commonages of Beaufort West, Murraysburg and Prince Albert were treated against mange with *Dectomax*. The SPCA confiscated all the pigs from one farmer on the commonage. After the housing, feeding and watering systems for the pigs were corrected and the pigs were in a better condition, they were released.

## **OUTREACH AT SCHOOLS**

As part of a Land Care project nine lectures on zoonoses were presented by Control Animal Health Technician Swellendam and Animal Health Technicians Swellendam to 187 pupils from six different schools.

State veterinarian Malmesbury did a post mortem examination demonstration during the annual Sheep Study Group farmers day in Malmesbury. Learners from Swartland High school and Boland Agricultural High school attended.

2 477 Children at seven schools in the Malmesbury state veterinary area were given talks on rabies by Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury, Animal Health Technician Piketberg and Animal Health Technician Moorreesburg. Six of the seven lectures were given prior to rabies campaigns.

Talks were given at several schools in the George state veterinary area.

Animal Health Technician Murraysburg gave a talk at a school on pet care

In Beaufort West talks and videos were shown at five schools to promote the rabies vaccination campaign.

## **LIAISON AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES**

In the Vredendal state veterinary area, a good relationship with the local communities and their respective leaders has made it possible to extend services to areas where previous veterinary involvement was minimal or even absent. Working with other officials in the department, such as Farmer Support and Development, has definitely improved the ability to successfully reach and help these communities. Becoming involved with and supporting the local welfare organisation, Matzikamma Dierebeskerming (MDB), has opened yet another opportunity in assisting and supporting the local community, the animals and their owners. Over 500 animals were put to sleep in co-operation with the MDB.

During the rabies campaign held in the Vredenburg district, the SPCA was invited to come and dip dogs for mange.

Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury visited the Cape Town Metropole's regional offices to determine the reason why they cut municipal water to the Silwerstroom area of the Malmesbury district, and explained the animal welfare issues that arose after this is done.

The private veterinarian in Ceres and State Veterinarian Malmesbury visited a farm in the Wolseley area of Tulbagh trying to determine the cause of sporadic deaths in cattle kept on the property.

George officials had five meetings with Farmer Support and Development, a sister directorate within the department.

An urgent query from the provincial minister regarding the pounding of animals by the Beaufort West municipality was resolved. The main problem remains overgrazing and poor veld management of communal areas.

### **EXTENSION AND FARMERS DAYS**

Farmers days were organised for resource poor farmers at Porterville (Piketberg district) on general farming, two in Atlantis (Malmesbury district) on pig and poultry farming and in the Hopefield area on general farming.



**Figure 6: Dr Gers from Stellenbosch Provincial Veterinary Laboratory demonstrates a post-mortem at a farmers' day**

Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury represented Animal Health at the ICOP stand in the Atlantis area of Malmesbury. The Department of Agriculture's stand was unfortunately poorly attended. He also lectured to 22 farm workers at the Malmesbury Sheep Study Group farmers day on zoonoses

Officials from the George office attended 11 farmer days/ extension days/shows/etc.

The State Veterinarian Swellendam spoke at a small scale farmer day held at Elim. The subject was Rift Valley fever.

The agricultural shows of Beaufort West, Prince Albert, Murraysburg and Victoria West were visited and horse movements and passports checked.

Animal Health Technician Laingsburg introduced herself at the local farmers' association.

All the farmer associations in the Beaufort West state veterinary area were regularly visited. Most of the talks were about the Rift Valley fever outbreak and precautionary measures. A post mortem was demonstrated at the Fraserburg Merino Club.

Animal Health Technician Beaufort West gave a talk on *Brucella ovis* and State Veterinarian Beaufort West gave a talk about animal health management systems to the new farmers in Beaufort West.

Regular talks on Radio Gamka about different topics were given by State Veterinarian Beaufort West.

### **MEETINGS / VISITS / TRAINING**

State Veterinarian Swellendam held talks with role players at Koorlands regarding the pig project.

State veterinarian Swellendam attended a lecture on small scale farming (the way forward) at the AgriMegaweek in Bredasdorp.

Two training sessions were organized by State Veterinarian George. This was a ram breeding soundness training session in Beaufort-West. This course was attended by most of the officials from the office. An ostrich Veterinary Procedural Notice workshop was held in Oudtshoorn where all officials from the George office attended.

A practical course for agricultural students of Saasveld (NMMU) on AI and ram testing was given.

Animal Health Technician Beaufort West attended the annual Animal Health Technician congress where he received the second prize for his talk on primary animal health care.

Animal Health Technician Paarl attended a meeting in July 2010 with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Sappi, Nampo, Drakenstein municipality and the small farmers where the way forward were discussed.

A meeting was held with the Chairman of the Developing Poultry Farmers Association in Malmesbury attended by the Chairman, state veterinarian and control animal health technician Malmesbury and the technical manager for the Western Cape.

Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury attended the Developing Poultry Farmers Association meeting in Stellenbosch.

## **H. FARMS/HOLDING INSPECTIONS, CENSUS AND CADIS**

### **INSPECTIONS**

Animal health technicians from the Boland office perform the important task of attending the monthly auctions in the area to ensure that the farmers are moving their animals with the correct permits and that all the animals are identified as is necessary by law. 72 Auctions were attended by animal health technicians during the year. They make use of these visits to meet up with the farmers in their areas, give out information, assess disease control and monitor compliance with current animal health legislation.

In the George state veterinary area, technicians did over 1 200 farm visits during 2010-2011.

In the Malmesbury state veterinary area, all the registered ostrich export farms were visited at least twice during the report year. One farm was deregistered due to serious non-compliances. Two other farms were also deregistered, one on request and one because the farmer was still deciding whether to continue with ostriches, but there had been no ostriches on the farm for longer than a year. Nine commercial chicken farms were inspected for compliance with the VPN on compartmentalisation. None were registered as all had shortcomings. All farms in the supply chain must be registered.

### **CENSUS**

Annual census tasks are a very important way for the department to stay up to date on the number of animals in the province. This information is useful for planning disease control strategies, evaluating food security, protecting public health and maintaining good international relations through the ability to accurately report on the animal health situation in the country. Each animal health technician is tasked with conducting a census throughout the year of the animals present in his/her area.

### **CADIS**

Animal Health Technician Khayelitsha identified a problem in getting some farms in her area onto the CADIS system as there is a lack of title deeds in this area.

In the Beaufort West state veterinary area, 575 new censuses were entered into the CADIS program.

George officials did 960 CADIS reports during the reporting year.

In the Malmesbury state veterinary area, 613 farms were visited and CADIS forms completed during the report year.

## **I. TRAINING PROVIDED, CLINICAL SERVICES AND LIAISON (STATE VETERINARIAN: TRAINING AND STATE HERDS)**

Apart from the animal health subjects and bovine artificial insemination course presented to the second- and third- year B. Agric students of the Cape Institute for Agricultural Training (CIAT) at Elsenburg, a very valuable Animal Health curriculum workshop was held with state veterinary lecturing staff from Grootfontein Agricultural College during October 2010. Major revision and updating of the course notes were implemented.

Continued professional development (CPD) seminars for veterinarians included the "One health Rift Valley fever" seminar in conjunction with the Health Sciences Faculty of the University of Stellenbosch in April 2010, an "Acute renal failure" seminar in May 2010 and "Gastric dilatation and volvulus" seminar in February 2011.

As President of the Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine (SASVEPM), the official (Dr Annelie Cloete) was responsible for the very successful 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress on Zoonoses, held in Pretoria during August 2010. This concluded the Presidency period and the official was re-elected onto the Executive Committee, taking up the portfolio as secretary of the SASVEPM for a final term of two years.

The official also served as nationally elected member of the Federal Council (FEDCO) of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) until July 2010, continuing as FEDCO member in the portfolio as Chairperson of the Education Committee of the SAVA, and is a member of the Organising Committee of the 30<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress, which is due in October 2011 in Cape Town.

Professional development of veterinarians is further encouraged by communication in the form of a monthly veterinary newsletter, which are electronically posted to all veterinarians in the province.

A presentation on "Emergencies on the farm yard" was delivered during the Tygerhoek Farmers day in July 2010. Two radio interviews aimed at the previously disadvantaged communities regarding the Boland rabies campaigns have been conducted during October and November 2010.

### **Clinical activities**

During the winter to spring period of 2010 several viral pneumonia cases and bloat (related to feed formulation problems) and unusual incidences of anaplasmosis were handled during the summer months at the Western Cape Bull-Testing Centre at Elsenburg.

The laboratory analysis for a pilot trial to study the effect of pain relief during hot-iron branding, conducted in January 2010 at the Bull Testing Centre, was delayed due to financial year-end closure procedures and the outbreak of avian influenza in Oudtshoorn, having an impact on capacity to follow it up.

Apart from continued vaccination of young stock against Johne's disease and Rift Valley fever, no other controlled disease action has taken place in sheep herds at Elsenburg. A few cases of jaundice with photosensitivity, which included a highly suspect case of Stellenbosch photosensitivity, and footrot, as well as verminoses, isolated thiamine- or copper deficiency cases and orchitis (aetiology not established) in a bough-in ram, constituted the major health problems during this year.

Continued ethically responsible research on animals is promoted by both the Departmental- and Medicine Control Council Ethics Committees on which the official serves. The Departmental Ethics Committee for Research on Animals (DECRA) approved five research and two training protocols during this period of report.

## **J. TECHNICAL COMPONENT**

The technical staff of Animal Health have been involved in a diversity of activities during the reporting period of which the highlights were the following:

Animal health technicians were tasked to participate actively in the War on Poverty-jamborees across the province through exhibitions and extension services in collaboration with other programmes within the Department

Primary animal health care interventions in the emerging sector were prioritised through vaccinations against controlled diseases like rabies, anthrax, African horse sickness, Newcastle disease in poultry and brucellosis in cattle. Talks and demonstrations on food safety and primary animal health care were presented at primary schools to improve basic skills and knowledge of pupils in this field. Technicians in collaboration with staff from the Farmer Support and Development programme participated in practical demonstrations and skills development of emerging livestock smallholder farmers.

Since January 2011 the Boland office was instructed to perform all export certification for animals and animal products previously done by the local DAFF office in Cape Town and the animal health technicians therefore had to assist veterinarians with the inspections during the loading of produce at all the different establishments in the Cape Metropole. This was a tremendous challenge to technical staff to receive training and to ensure that all protocol is met during the export of animal product in order for the veterinarian to certify all relevant documentation.

The outbreak of sheep scab, African horse sickness, Newcastle disease in poultry and sporadic cases of rabies burdened the normal daily activities of all animal health technicians and required good planning and adjustment of working schedules to cope with the additional workload and to accomplish the annual performance plan objectives.

Regarding the establishment of the technical component, only one out of 32 production posts on level 8 was vacant by 31 March 2011.

## **K. OVERSEAS VISITS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND TRAINING ATTENDED**

State Veterinarian Beaufort West attended the Large Animal Health and Production Group Congress at Gariep dam and also the Ceva Small Stock Symposium in Graaff Reinet.

All four animal health technicians in the Beaufort West state veterinary area attended a very well presented Dorper Junior Course. They all passed the practical and theoretical exams with flying colours.

State Veterinarians Beaufort West, Swellendam and Malmesbury attended the annual SASVEPM Congress in Pretoria.

Animal Health Technician Beaufort West attended a course in Zoonotic Diseases in Onderstepoort

At the Beaufort West office, four veterinary students completed their two weeks state veterinary practicals.

Animal Health Technician Stellenbosch, Animal Health Technician Durbanville and Animal Health Technician Paarl attended a Nguni Information Day (26 August 2010) at Droërug Farm.

In April 2010 Animal Health Technician Paarl and Animal Health Technician Durbanville attended an informal training session at the Kenilworth Quarantine Station on the export procedures and functioning of the Station.

The Boland State Veterinary office had a stand at the 2011 Cape Premier Yearling Sale. This was due to the Department of Agriculture having funded a portion of the Groom's Cooperative initiative. The event took place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre and representatives from Veterinary Services including State Veterinarian Boland (Dr G Buhrmann), State Veterinarian Boland (Dr AR Pypers), State Veterinarian Worcester and Animal Health Technician Durbanville used the opportunity to do some public relations about the important role Veterinary Services plays in the maintenance of the Western Cape's export status.

State Veterinarian Malmesbury attended a most informative CPD sponsored by Industry in Stellenbosch on large animal conditions and diseases.

Various farmer union meetings were attended by field staff. Talks were given on Rift valley fever at the Vredenburg, Velddrif, Hopefield and Moorreesburg meetings.

State Veterinarian Malmesbury attended a certification course at Kromme Rhee presented by a state veterinarian from DAFF.

Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury and Animal Health Technicians Moorreesburg, Clanwilliam and Vredendal attended the Animal Health Technician Congress in Pretoria September 2010.



**Figure 7: Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury delivers a presentation at the 9th Animal Health Congress in Pretoria**

State Veterinarian Malmesbury attended a short symposium given by the dairy industry on mastitis in Malmesbury.

State Veterinarian Malmesbury attended the Stock Theft Unit meetings as well as the RPO meetings in Paarl.

After the outbreak of African horse sickness in the Malmesbury district, meetings were held with private practitioners, horse owners in Mamre and the City of Cape Town disaster management unit in Goodwood.

State Veterinarian Malmesbury attended the NWGA (National Wool Growers Association) annual general meeting in Malmesbury

All Malmesbury field staff attended a feedlot information day which was both practical and informative.

State Veterinarians Malmesbury and Swellendam attended a lecture on Rift Valley fever at Tygerberg hospital as part of the "One Health, One Medicine" initiative between the medical and veterinary professions.

Animal Health Technician Ceres attended lectures on calf raising sponsored by Industry in Ceres.

Animal Health Technician Piketberg attended lectures on pig farming sponsored by Industry in Piketberg.

State Veterinarian Swellendam attended a certification training course at Kromme Rhee and a farmer's day at Roodebloem Caledon. State Veterinarian Swellendam also attended the Agri Congress held at Robertson,.

State Veterinarian Vredendal attended a South African Veterinary Association congress in Kwazulu-Natal during August 2010.

Officials from the George office were trained in ram testing.

## **L. PERSONNEL AND ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

Animal Health Technician Laingsburg transferred away and Nita Vosloo, student animal health technician, started in Laingsburg during September 2010.

Ms Liezel Newman, an administration clerk, has joined the Boland team full time and has already proved herself indispensable in the functioning of the office .

The state vet Malmesbury area has its full complement of staff for the first time in many years. Animal Health Technician Ceres graduated from UNISA with her Diploma in Animal Health at a ceremony held in Bellville during December 2010.

When Animal Health Technician Malmesbury was promoted to Control Animal Health Technician Malmesbury, his position became vacant and was filled nine months later by a newly qualified animal health technician who had served a year of internship within the office. The vacant animal health technician post in Ceres was filled by a newly qualified animal health technician who had done two years of contract work in the post, so both appointees were familiar with the scope of work and their areas.

The Technician for the year 2010 was Magrietha van Wyk (Animal Health Technician Robertson).

The animal health technician post at Caledon was filled during June 2010, but became vacant again at the end of October 2010. This post was filled again in January 2011.

Animal Health Technician Bredasdorp left the service at the end of July 2010.

The second technician at Swellendam working the Barrydale area was transferred to Bredasdorp. A second technician for Swellendam was again appointed in January 2011. Swellendam areas' technicians were deployed away from their own areas (153 days in total) during the past year to ensure that all export farms were sampled and inspected as required. Work was done by means of mini campaigns.

2010 saw the retirement of Mrs Susan Kotze after years of service at the Vredendal office. Mrs Deidre Daniels joined the ranks as Administration Clerk in November 2010.

Mrs Anne-Marie du Plessis transferred to Ermelo to be closer to her fiancée and family.

Three newly-qualified veterinarians joined Animal Health at the beginning of 2011: Dr Aileen Pypers as State Veterinarian Boland, Dr Cathy Fox as State Veterinarian George and Dr Lesley van Helden as State Veterinarian Disease Control.

## **M. BUDGET, FINANCES, PROCUREMENT AND STOCK**

Animal health technicians need to report on the work they carry out in the field. It would be of definite benefit to the Veterinary Services Programme if each animal health technician had a camera with which to record their activities. More effective work could be accomplished through bringing field situations into the offices of the major role-players within the Department and Government as a whole.

Animal Health Technician Khayelitsha experienced unsafe working conditions when assisting emerging farmers who construct their crushes out of the incorrect materials. A potential project would be a crush building course as well as the procurement of the correct materials for these farmers.

Animal Health Technician Paarl sourced a jack for lifting the Bundu generators onto a vehicle, as they weigh 400 kilograms per unit.

In February 2011 the mobile crush pen was sent to the workshop by Animal Health Technician Paarl for maintenance and repair work.

Because of the frequent disruption experienced to the internet availability by Malmesbury office a new transmitter was installed at a better place in Malmesbury. This has improved reception dramatically. If the internet is down it is now easier to trace where the problem lies, and trips up to the top of the silo have decreased.

A second petrol tank was added to animal health technician Ceres' Toyota LDV to enable her to visit farms in the far reaches of the Ceres Karoo without fear of running out of petrol. The downside to the extra tank is that it has reduced the clearance of her vehicle. She also received a second spare tyre for the treacherous shale roads in the area.