
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 1464

15 NOVEMBER 2019

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984

(ACT No 35 OF 1984)

Call for Public Comment on the “Draft document - Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa” under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 84), the Animal Diseases Regulations (R.2026 of 1986) and the Bovine Brucellosis Scheme (R. 2483 of 9 Dec 1988)

I, Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development hereby

- (a) invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the “Draft document - Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa”, and to do so within 90 days from the date of publication of this Public Consultation Notice to the following address:

The Director
Directorate: Animal Health
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Private Bag X138
PRETORIA
0001

E-mail: PetuniaM@daff.gov.za and AliciaC@daff.gov.za

- (b) inform all that the “Draft document - Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa”, can be accessed on the DAFF website <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy> or obtained from the Director: Animal Health.

MRS. T. DIDIZA

Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE:**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE “DRAFT DOCUMENT - BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL POLICY, SOUTH AFRICA” UNDER THE ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO 35 OF 84), THE ANIMAL DISEASES REGULATIONS (R.2026 OF 1986) AND THE BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS SCHEME (R. 2483 OF 9 DEC 1988)**

Brucellosis is a controlled animal disease under the Animal Disease Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) and the Animal Diseases Regulations (R.2026 of 1986). Bovine brucellosis, caused by *Brucella abortus*, is a chronic herd disease that negatively impacts on cattle production and reproduction by causing abortions, still-born and weak calves, retained placentas, decreased milk yield and reduced fertility in bulls. Brucellosis is zoonotic and can infect humans through consumption of raw milk, through slaughtering infected animals without protection and through handling of aborted fetuses and afterbirths of infected cows. Debilitating disease ensues if humans are infected which may become recurrent or chronic if not treated efficiently in a timely manner. The most effective way of reducing the impacts of the disease on livestock and prevent human infection is to control this disease in the animal population.

Development of a reformulated Bovine Brucellosis Policy has been identified as a key intervention and output of the Veterinary Strategy (2016-2026). In order to promote the buy-in of all stakeholders and role players into a revised Bovine Brucellosis Policy, an all-inclusive approach had been chosen by releasing the “Discussion Document on the Review on Bovine Brucellosis Control” for an initial round of public consultation prior to compiling a draft policy. This discussion paper has been published for public comment in the Government Gazette No. 40827 of 5 May 2017, and inputs were received from stakeholders and role-players. Based on the inputs received, the “Draft document - Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa” has been developed.

The purpose of developing the “Draft document - Bovine Brucellosis Control, South Africa” is to set out and clarify the broad framework of the disease control strategy to be followed for bovine brucellosis control in cattle; and to provide guidelines on roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the policy and to amend legislation where required. The policy objectives need to be agreed upon in principle to allow for further development of more detailed implementation plans on each objective.

The policy outlines a multipronged, stepwise approach of defined activities, with the aim to improve disease control and decrease the prevalence of the disease. It would call for (i) enforced compulsory vaccination of all heifer calves between 4-8 months of age with a registered vaccine, with potential booster vaccination of adult cows with a relevant registered vaccine, and identification of all vaccinated calves and cows; (ii) continued active education and awareness on bovine brucellosis; (iii) legislated compulsory testing of all cattle (herds); (iv) disease control through quarantine and movement control; (v) slaughter of brucellosis positive cattle/herds at an approved/ registered abattoir; (vi) improved reporting of necessary data; and (vii) improved implementation of legislation and policy. The same central policy is to be applied across all 9 Provinces.

This notice serves to invite comment on the “Draft document on Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa” for a period of three (3) calendar months from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the “Draft document on Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa” may be obtained on request from the Director: Animal Health or alternately can be accessed on the DAFF website at <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy>.

Comments on the “Draft document on Bovine Brucellosis Control Policy, South Africa” must be addressed in writing, before the end of the consultation period, to the Director: Animal Health at the above address or preferably via email to PetuniaM@daff.gov.za and AliciaC@daff.gov.za.