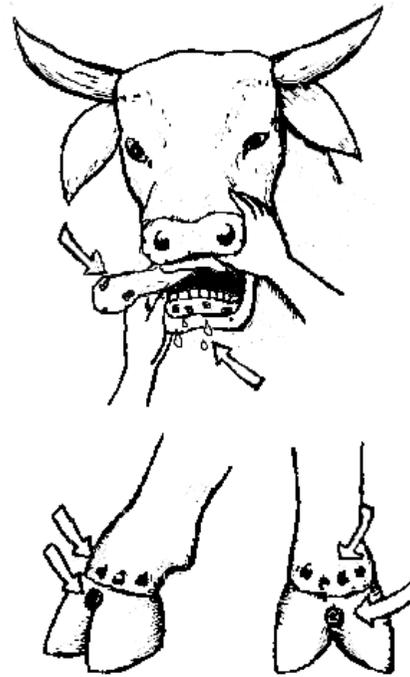


**Foot-and-mouth disease** is a serious disease that spreads easily. It is caused by a virus. The virus is found in all body fluids such as saliva, urine, faeces, milk and in the air that is breathed out by all diseased animals.

- Animals get this disease when eating or breathing in the virus from these body fluids.
- People can also spread the virus by unclean clothing, shoes, hands and car tyres.
- Animals that can get sick are mainly cattle, but pigs, goats, sheep and other cloven-hooved animals, including wildlife, can also get the disease.



### **What are the signs:**

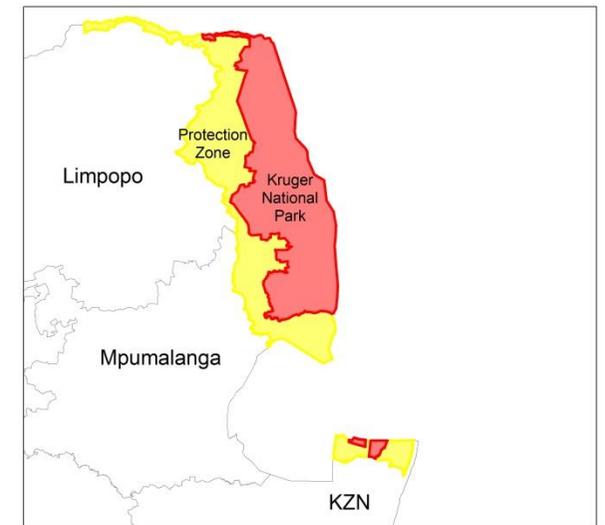
- Blisters and sores in the mouth (gums, lips and tongue), are raw and painful, making it difficult for the animal to eat and often causes drooling.
- Blisters and sores between the toes and where the hooves join the skin, can cause the animals to limp and not want to walk around. Sometimes they may lose their claws or hooves.
- Cows can develop sores on their teats. This results in a sudden drop in milk production.

### **Why is it important:**

- Farmers lose money because sick animals lose weight, do not grow and produce less milk. Young calves may die.
- A large amount of money is used to control the disease, such as building and maintaining fences and testing animals for the disease.
- Countries that do not have the disease will not buy animals, meat or meat products from South Africa when the disease spreads through the country.

### **Where does foot-and-mouth disease occur:**

In South Africa, buffalo in the Kruger National Park have the disease but show no signs. Sometimes cattle around Kruger can get the disease from buffalo that escape from the Park. To stop the disease from spreading, the area around Kruger is fenced off to separate these cattle from the rest of the country. This area is called the Protection Zone. All cattle in this area are inspected and some are vaccinated (by the government) to protect the animals and prevent spread.

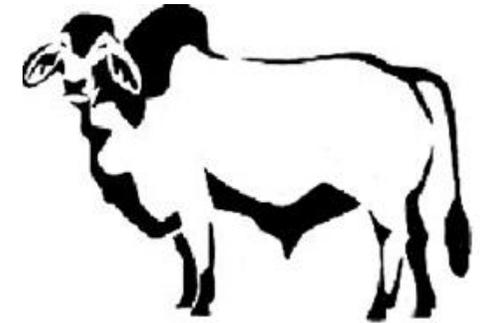


#### **Note:**

**People cannot get sick from foot-and-mouth disease**

### What to do when animals get the disease:

- If you see any signs of Foot-and-mouth Disease in your cattle, **immediately contact your Animal Health Technician or State Veterinarian.**
- If disease is present, your animals (and animal products) will not be allowed to move to other areas without a movement permit from the Provincial Veterinary Office.
- The government may decide to vaccinate the healthy cattle when there is disease in the area.



# Foot-and-mouth disease

