



For Immediate Release

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**THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL LAUNCHES THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE.**

**Pretoria:** The Agricultural Research Council (ARC), together with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DARLLD), will oversee the launch of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine developed at ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Campus (ARC-OVR), on 04 September 2023 at Kaalplaas, Ondersderpoort.

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a disease of economic importance that affects cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. It is caused by the FMD virus, which naturally occurs in African buffalo populations in southern Africa. Outbreaks of the disease cause devastating losses in economic participation, such as loss of income caused by trade embargoes on affected animals and derived products for both subsistence and commercial farmers.

The disease is controlled, among others, by vaccination of susceptible animals under the management of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development to protect the country's livestock industry. After many years of development, the ARC-OVR has registered the Onderstepoort FMD vaccine (Reg No. G 1944, under Act 36 of 1947), prepared from locally isolated virus strains of the disease.

The use of local strains in the vaccine makes it more suitable for controlling the disease in our country and the entire Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. The collaborative initiative between the ARC-OVR and DALRRD's Directorate for Animal Health aims to launch the use of the vaccine after over 16 years of importing it from other countries.

Look out for all ARC related activities on ARC social media platforms.

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***Issued by:***

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## About the Agricultural Research Council

The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, and agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation, advisory and food processing technology services, and various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za).