

ENHANCED COLLABORATION

The Directorate continues to enhance its collaboration with stakeholders to enhance service delivery. Notable stakeholders the directorate is collaborating with include

- Other county departments/directorates including administration, gender, cooperatives.
- National government agencies especially provincial administration.
- NGOs

LIVESTOCK DISEASES UPDATES

As a result of reduced cases of Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease, the quarantine imposed in February 2020 was lifted on 12th June 2020. This is expected to allow movement of livestock and products.

However, as a result of COVID-19, markets still remain suspended. Hopefully, a way will be found to facilitate some trade in livestock and livestock products.

The directorate continues disease surveillance and advisory to the farmers.

TALK TO US

The Directorate continues to invite your views, comments and suggestions to enable us to improve veterinary service delivery in the County.

You can visit us at the County Veterinary Offices, Sub-County Veterinary offices or ward Veterinary offices. You can email us on veterinary@makueni.go.ke

You can also call us on the following numbers

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



GOVERNMENT OF MAKUENI COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

VETERINARY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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VETERINARY SERVICES QUARTERLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 4 QUARTER FOUR 2019/20 JULY 2020

Editorial

The Veterinary Directorate produces this bulletin every quarter to inform on the status of animal health matters as well as educate the general populace on topical issues affecting the livestock industry. This is the last bulletin for the year 2019/20.

In this issue, Dr. Mbai discusses New Castle Disease and gives tips on how to control and/or manage the disease. This disease is one of the biggest threats to the poultry industry in the county. The Directorate is doing all that it can to support the farmers to access vaccine.

The bulletin also covers regular areas such as project implementation update, Artificial Insemination and disease control updates among other directorate programmes.

We hope you enjoy reading this final edition of our bulletin for the year. We will continue updating you as we move to the new year 2020/21.

The editorial team encourages feedback on the bulletin including structure and content.

VETERINARY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS 2019/20

Name of Project	Locality	Funding	Status
Livestock disease control	All wards	11,000,000	Completed
Rabies Elimination programme	All wards	2,067,483	Completed
Artificial Insemination programme	All wards	7,861,880	Completed
Support to Veterinary Public Health	All wards	2,500,000	Completed
Completion of Kalawa stock yard	Kalawa	428,937	To be scoped in the new FY
Renovation of Kathonzweni and Kilala stock yards	Kathonzweni & Ukia	3,000,000	Complete and in use
Construction of Kambu stock yard	Mtito Andei	10,000,000	Completed and ready for use
Construction of poultry slaughter house Phase 1	Kitise/ Kithuki	10,000,000	Complete
Rehabilitation and facelift of Kitonyini and Kitundu cattle dips	Kithungo/ Kitundu	1,538,478	Complete and in use
Construction of poultry slaughter house Phase 2	Kitise/ Kithuki	4,000,000	On-going
Construction of poultry aggregation center and slaughter facility	Nguumo	5,000,000	At procurement
Construction of Kayatta, Nguuni & Mbyani	Kasikeu	600,000	Complete and in use
Construction of Kambu poultry aggregation center	Mtito Andei	2,000,000	On-going

NEW CASTLE DISEASE—A CASE FOR VACCINATION

A Case for sustainable control of Newcastle disease (ND) in Makueni County

The poultry industry in Makueni as in the rest of Kenya faces considerable constraints including a range of bacterial and viral diseases, internal and external parasites, poor nutrition and predation. The major constraint to production of village chickens in the county is Newcastle disease (ND). In many areas, circulating strains of ND virus are capable of causing 100% mortality in unprotected flocks.



Figure: Classical signs of ND Nervous signs, paralysis and torticollis

Outbreaks of ND are unpredictable and discourage many households from the due attention to the husbandry and welfare of their chickens. The county public participation fora have occasioned various poultry development programmes. The poultry programmes are meant to increase the output of traditional village chickens in terms of weight gain and number of eggs per hen per year.

The sustainability of the poultry enterprise will require a multifaceted, comprehensive and sustainable Newcastle disease (ND) control program that is adapted to local conditions. The program is working because the key in-county stakeholders (political leadership, Animal health managers, extension personnel, farmers and vaccinators) have recognised ND as a serious constraint to village poultry production. The county department of agriculture and livestock development is spearheading key components for sustainable ND control program integrating good practices:

- i) Establishment and or maintenance of cold chain. We envisage a refrigerator and several vaccine carriers at ward level to assure potency of the vaccine.
- ii) Vaccine quality control for efficacy and safety. An elaborate training information has been developed to develop skills of community vaccinators to avoiding freeze and thaw cycles and administer effective vaccines to healthy chicken.
- iii) Effective extension materials and methodologies that target veterinary and extension staff as well as community vaccinators and farmers;
- iv) Economic sustainability based on appropriate cost recovery procedures for vaccination services targeting informed and enthusiastic farmers and the marketing of surplus chickens and eggs.

What more needs to be done?

- i) Support, coordination and active collaboration with the Departments of Gender, Health, Trade and Cooperatives for the promotion and implementation of poultry programs.
- ii) Response to outbreaks of ND policy, training and equipment supply.
- iii) Simple evaluation and monitoring systems of both technical and socio-economic indicators; Gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation of ND control program – vaccine distribution and sourcing, socioeconomic data and communities' participatory impact assessment.
- iv) Quality assurance activities should be built into vaccination programs to improve cost-efficiency to include post-vaccination serological monitoring on a representative sample of birds.

The implementation of effective ND control programs in village poultry will result in increased poultry numbers, increased household purchasing power, increased home consumption of poultry products and increased decision-making power for women. The use of participatory methodologies and robust attention to quality assurance activities will be critical to the success of the program.

Dr Josephat Mbai is a Field Epidemiologist and Assistant Director of Veterinary Services for animal disease management and surveillance

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION UPDATE

A total of **2,556 inseminations** were done this third quarter, making a total of **8,033 inseminations** done for year 2019/20. At 60% conception rate, this translates to **4,820 calves** to be born by March 2021.

The Service providers continued to join the reporting via the ODK form making data accessibility easy and real time.

Positives

- First generation AI-bred cows are now under production and they are yielding more compared to their mothers.
- There is improved farmer awareness on the program noted.

Challenges

- Low coverage in some areas not well represented..
- In adequate capacity to store substantial amounts of semen and Liquid Nitrogen.

Way forward

- More service providers will be brought on board targeting areas not adequately covered.
- Where there are no service providers available, some will be trained.
- Discussions will be held with cooperatives to form collaborations in providing AI services.
- Collaboration with other stakeholders will be enhanced