

NEWS RELEASE

UP and RMIS join hands to empower communal and emerging farmers



Personnel from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at a farm in Mathibestad

PRETORIA – A recent Farmer’s Day organised by the University of Pretoria’s (UP) Faculty of Veterinary Science and Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) resulted in the successful identifying, aging and vaccination of 176 cattle.

The event, which took place in Mathibestad in the Bojanala District of the North West province towards the end of 2024, formed part of a programme that aims to empower communal and emerging farmers.

RMIS’s Mobile Processing Unit (MPU) provided tagging, aging and vaccination services. The MPU, which has a body crush, neck clamp, tag scanner and electronic scale, among other features, represents a breakthrough in livestock management. Designed to provide farmers with essential on-site livestock services, the MPU is a fully equipped mobile facility that supports tagging, branding, dehorning and vaccinating livestock, all while adhering to the required standards for biosecurity and animal welfare.

UP’s Faculty of Veterinary Science provided the vaccines and medication needed. Each animal was vaccinated against lumpy skin disease and received Supavax, a combination vaccine against anthrax and botulism, along with ivermectin for parasite control.

The event was deemed a resounding success because the number of cattle seen and treated (176) was above the target of 150.

Dr Andy Hentzen, line manager in the Production Animal Clinic (PAC) of the faculty's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH), which is a patron of the Farmer's Day event, commended the collaboration between the faculty and RMIS. "It was a pleasure to work with a very efficient and helpful RMIS team," he said.

The university team consisted of faculty members Dr Aishwarya Nair and Sindisiwe Mashinini, and students Rachelle Warren, Ndumiso Sikhakhane, Kreshalia Ephraim, Nikyle Singh, Bokang Kekana, Marli Swart, Hannah Jhavary and Rachel Welsh.

RMIS was represented by livestock technical advisors Khomotso Mashiloane and Mlungisi Ntombela. Community leader William Matjebe worked with local herders to reach the target of 150 cattle. Matjebe said his agriculture learnership students were of great help in herding the cattle.

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See a video from the Farmer's Day event [here](#).

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2025 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Accounting and Finance; Architecture; Electrical and Electronic Engineering; Law; Sport Science; and Veterinary Science. UP's Faculty of Law has been ranked as the top law school in Africa for a remarkable eighth consecutive year.

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their 2024 World University Rankings (WUR). UP was the only South African university featured in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za