

b Veterinary brucellosis cases in South Africa—a reminder to be alert for human disease

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) requested that clinicians be alerted to the extent of bovine brucellosis due to *Brucella abortus* across South Africa, especially in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West provinces (Figure 2). Brucellosis may occur in persons who are exposed to infected animals, particularly aborted fetal material of infected cows, and persons who drink unpasteurised milk. After an incubation period of 2–4 weeks (range 5 days to 5 months), persons with brucellosis experience non-specific symptoms including profuse sweating mostly during the night, fever, extreme tiredness, aches in bones and joints, especially the lower back, hip or knee joints. The diagnosis of brucellosis is made through culture,

but rising titres detected through serology may be highly suggestive of the diagnosis.

Brucella melitensis occurs in predominantly in goats, and causes a more severe clinical presentation in humans. However, cases of *B. melitensis* are uncommonly identified, with only one affected herd reported to DAFF from January to June 2017.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases, NICD-NHLS (johnf@nicd.ac.za)

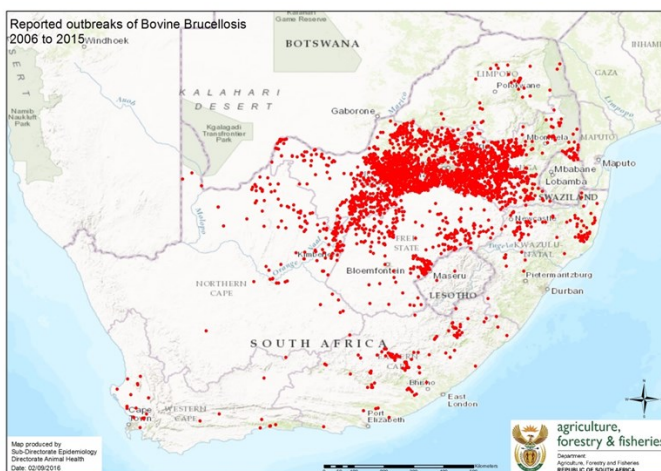


Figure 2 (above). Reported outbreaks of bovine brucellosis (1 dot=1 infected herd) as identified by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) from 2006 to 2015. (Figure courtesy DAFF).