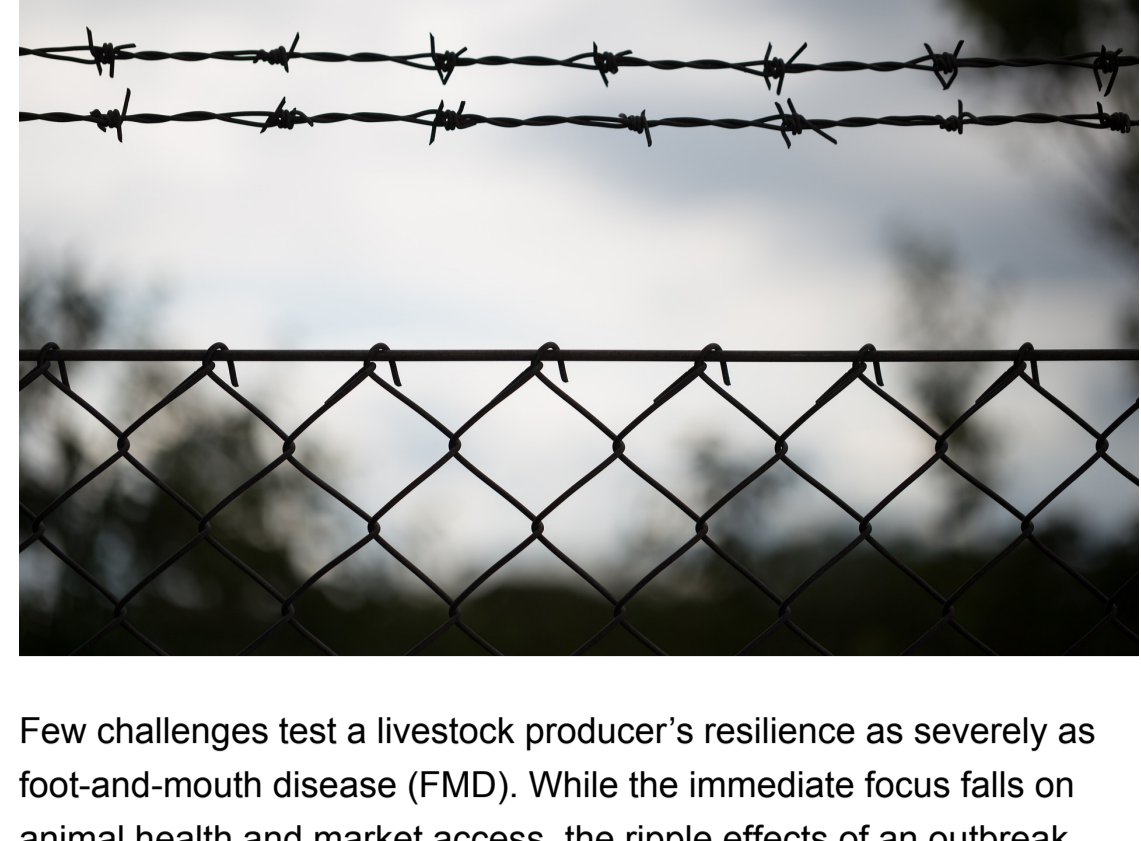




## PLAASLIKE NUUS | LOCAL NEWS

### Safeguarding survival: Predation control under disease restrictions



Few challenges test a livestock producer's resilience as severely as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). While the immediate focus falls on animal health and market access, the ripple effects of an outbreak extend far beyond these concerns. FMD has reshaped day-to-day livestock management in ways that are often underestimated – particularly when it comes to managing stock losses.

FMD affects all cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock and pigs. Due to its highly contagious nature, it requires strict control measures. Disease management areas (DMAs), controlled movement permits, and quarantine regulations are essential tools in containing outbreaks and protecting the livestock economy.

Under normal circumstances, one of the most effective tools in livestock risk management is movement. Farmers usually relocate ewes during lambing, move calves to safer camps, rotate grazing in response to veld conditions, or move animals away from predator hotspots. This usually dynamic system suddenly becomes stationary under designated DMAs where movement is tightly restricted, sometimes even between camps. Introducing guarding animals such as dogs, donkeys or ostriches can become administratively complex. In some cases, producers are forced to leave livestock in higher predation risk areas because legal movement options are limited.

As part of the process, biosecurity demands intensify. New animals must be quarantined, access points controlled, vehicles, footwear, and equipment must be disinfected – including tools used in predation management. These measures require time and financial resources, often reducing capacity for other tasks, such as upgrading predator-proof fencing, improving lambing camps, strengthening night kraals, and active herding and monitoring.

With movement restricted and resources stretched, farmers must rely on existing infrastructure, with greater emphasis placed on boundary fencing. Options that can also be efficient in predator control, are double fencing, temporary or permanent electric wires on current fencing, secure night enclosures, and using portable electric fencing to enclose livestock within larger camps.

Where movement is restricted, producers can make use of temporary, in-camp predator deterrents such as irregularly flashing strobe lights, Bluetooth speakers playing human voices or radio noise, scent markers or scent deterrent collars, reflective tape on ear tags or collars, a rope or wire with strips of coloured fabric that move in the breeze, etc. These methods should be rotated and limited to about six weeks to prevent habituation. In some cases, mixing cattle herds and sheep flocks may reduce losses, as cattle tend to be more assertive toward predators.

Although outbreaks are disruptive, proactive planning can soften their impact. Strengthening internal fencing before restrictions, maintaining accurate records, investing in properly designed quarantine camps, and budgeting for biosecurity and predation management, build resilience. By anticipating management constraints that accompany FMD and investing in adaptable on-farm systems, farmers can reduce vulnerability even when movement is halted and options become limited. – *Dr Beanelri Janecke, Predation Management Centre*

### Predation management training

According to National Wool Growers' Association production advisor, XL Nyamela, farmers from Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape are experiencing predation challenges involving caracal and stray dogs. This made the predation management training course at Sigubudwini shearing shed particularly relevant. Nyamela demonstrated how cage traps can be used to effectively capture caracal and stray dogs.



### Predator management in SA: Research on wildlife economies



Predator management in South Africa remains one of the most persistent conservation dilemmas facing landowners: how to balance ecological integrity with the economic realities of wildlife and livestock production. New research from the Sustainable Wildlife Economies Project (SWEP) offers a fresh look at how private landowners navigate this balance across diverse landscapes, providing critical insights into predator management in South Africa.

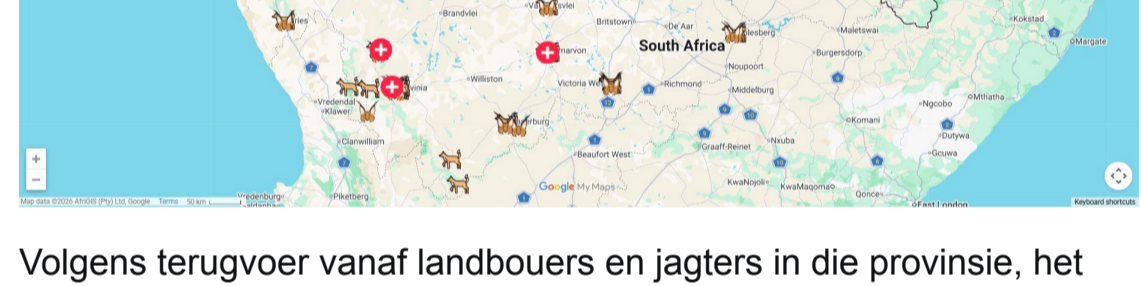
Regional findings on predator presence and Karlin Muller on private land in South Africa were presented by Karlin Muller, African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI) research associate, at the Predation Management South Africa (PMSA) workshop in Bloemfontein. – *Karlin Muller, African Wildlife Economy Institute*

[Read more.](#)

### Aannames verskuif na meetbare realiteite – RPO Noord-Kaap se poging om omvang van predasie te bepaal

Predasie bly een van die mees aanhoudende en emosioneel uitputtende uitdagings vir veeboere in die Noord-Kaap. Doeltreffende predasiebestuur is egter nie 'n oorlog teen die natuur nie, maar 'n noodsaaklike poging om 'n werkbare, simbiotiese verhouding tussen boerdery en roofdiere te handhaaf.

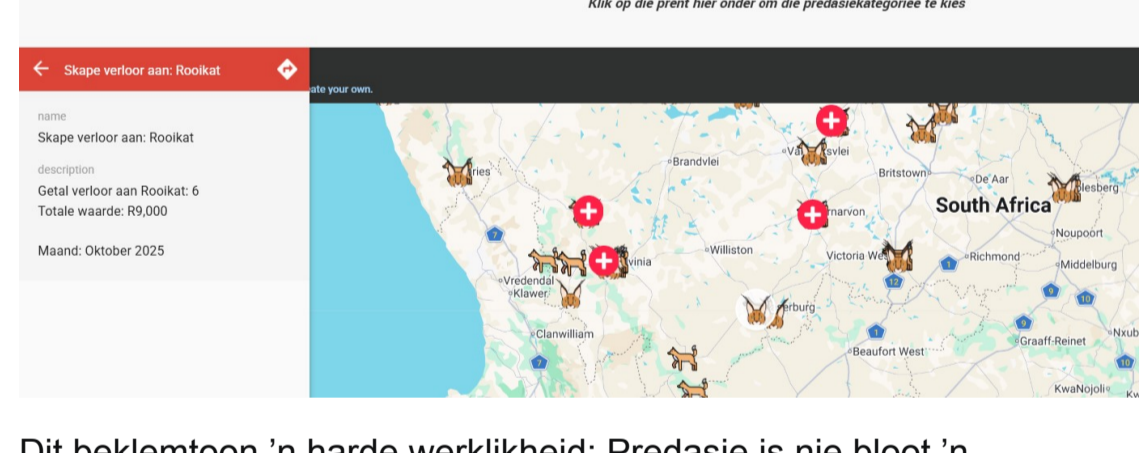
Die Rooivleisprodusente-organisasie (RPO) Noord-Kaap het ooreenkomstig twee jaar gefokusde data ingesamel om 'n duideliker beeld te vorm van die omvang van predasie en die werklike impak daarvan op produksie. Die fokus was nie net op die hoeveelheid predatore wat op 'n etiese wyse bestuur word nie, maar veral om die sterftesyfers van vee wat aan predasie toegeskryf kan word, vas te stel.



Volgens terugvoer vanaf landbouers en jagers in die provinsie, het ongeveer 1 494 vee in 2024 en 2 500 verlede jaar, as gevolg van predatore omgekóm. Die grootste verliese word aan jakkalse en rooikatte toegeskryf. Wanneer hierdie getalle vermenigvuldig word met die vervangingswaarde van 'n skaap – tans algemeen aanvaar as R3 000 vir berekeningsdoeleindes – word die ekonomiese realiteit onmiskenbaar: 'n beraamde verlies van R11 982 000 oor die twee-jaar tydperk.

Hierdie syfers verteenwoordig nie bloot statistiek nie. Dit weerspieël verlore produksie, verminderde inkomste en verhoogde druk op 'n bedryf wat reeds onder kostedruk en klimaatonsekerheid funksioneer.

Die data toon verder dat produsente nie passief teenoor die probleem staan nie. Ongeveer 82% van die plase is met jakkalsdraad of elektriese heiningssels bevestig, terwyl 'n groot persentasie boere addisionele afskrikmiddels soos klank- en ligstelsels gebruik. Ten spyte van hierdie belegging in beskerming, ervaar 77,5% van landbouers 'n beduidende emosionele uitwerking en 70% dui aan dat predasieverliese hul winsgewendheid direk ondermyn.



Dit beklemtoon 'n harde werklikheid: Predasie is nie bloot 'n bestuurskwessie nie – dit raak die volhoubaarheid van boerdery-ondernemings en die welstand van produsente.

Lesers moet egter daarop let dat hierdie inligting nie as wetenskaplike data beskou kan word nie. Slegs 'n klein persentasie produsente het aan die maandelikse vraelyste deelgeneem. Die tendense en patrone wat na vore kom, is egter sterk genoeg om ernstige aandag te regverdig.

Die RPO Noord-Kaap se doel met hierdie inisiatief is duidelik: om die gesprek te skuif van aannames na meetbare realiteite. Deur 'n randwaarde aan verliese te koppel, word die probleem teeskaar en strategies aanspreekbaar.

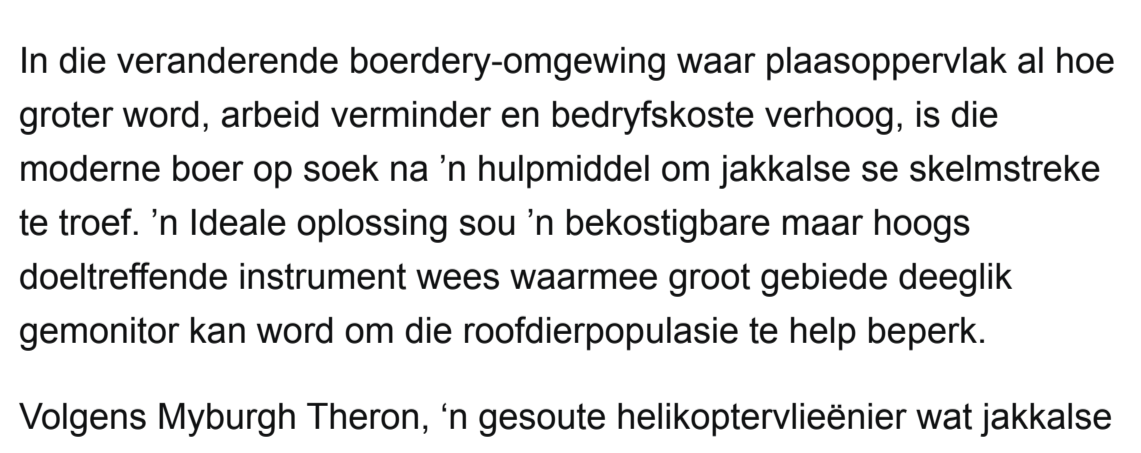
Die organisasie hoop dat hierdie insigte verdere befondsing en wetenskaplike navorsing sal ontsluit. Predasiebestuur moet gegrond wees op feite, tegnologie en etiese praktyke wat beide produsente en biodiversiteit respekteer.

Die Noord-Kaap se veeboere produseer onder van die mees uitdagende toestande in die land. Hul vermoë om volhoubaar voort te boer, vereis praktiese en realistiese ondersteuning sowel as 'n gebalanseerde benadering tot roofdierbestuur.

Predasie gaan nie verdwyn nie, maar beter kennis, beter strategieë en sterker vennootskappe kan die verskil wees tussen verliese bestuur, of verliese verduur.

### Predasie en tegnologie

Daar is heelwat tegnologie wat as afskrikmiddel vir roofdiere ingespan kan word. In die volgende uitgawes sal verskillende toepassings bespreek word. Hierdie maand kyk ons na **hommeltoe**.



In die veranderende boerdery-omgewing waar plaasoppervlak al hoe groter word, arbeid verminder en bedryfskoste verhoog, is die moderne boer op soek na 'n hulpmiddel om jakkalse se skelmstreek te troef. 'n Ideale oplossing sou 'n bekostigbare maar hoogs doeltreffende instrument wees waarmee groot gebiede deeglik gemonitor kan word om die roofdierpopulasie te help beperk.

Volgens Myburgh Theron, 'n gesoute helikoptervlieënier wat jakkalse en wild jag, is jakkalse soms totaal onsigbaar omdat hulle nie wil opstaan nie of iewers wegruip. Daarom het die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou betroubaar 'n bekostigbare maar hoogs doeltreffende instrument wees waarmee groot gebiede deeglik gemonitor kan word om die roofdierpopulasie te help beperk.

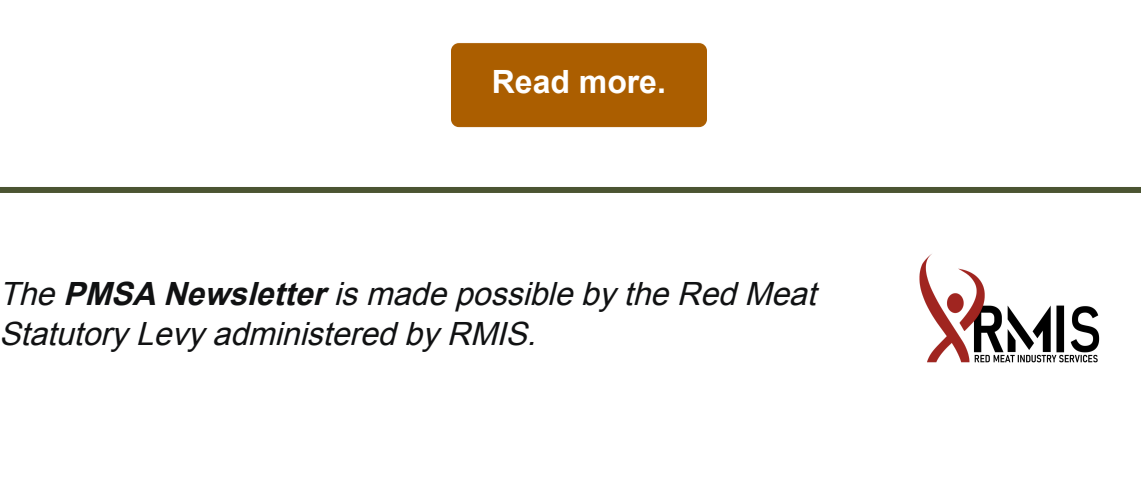
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[Read more.](#)

## INTERNASIONALE NUUS | INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### France allows culling of around 200 wolves to protect livestock



French authorities have authorised the culling of approximately 200 wolves as packs continue to spread in farmlands and even near large cities, agriculture minister Annie Genevard announced on Friday, 20 February.

France's wolf population now exceeds 1 000 animals, and the permitted culling quota has been raised to 21% from an earlier 19%, with the possibility of increasing again to 23%.

"The wolves are causing increasing damage to our livestock farms, leaving farmers under immense stress and even severe emotional strain," she told the French radio station France Inter.

[Read more.](#)

