

## **Guidelines for farmers for the preparation of a COVID-19 farm contingency plan**

In the unfortunate event that you as a farmer, or if members of your family come down with COVID-19, or are quarantined due to COVID-19 and therefore unable to complete critical farm operations, it is very important to have in place a contingency plan for such a situation. This is especially important if the farm animals are housed in a different location from your place of residence, and therefore cannot attend due under Public Health Quarantine regulations. The following is a non-exhaustive list of guidelines that may assist in the preparation of such a plan:

- The farm contingency plan identifies people who are familiar with the farm to take over operations if you are unable to farm for a while and provides clarity on what needs to be done.
- These people may be relatives, friends, neighbours, members from an NGO or members of farming cooperatives.
- Prepare a list of these people, ideally list people who are familiar with both the layout of the farm and the operation of the farm and its equipment.
- Ensure that there is a stock of feed to last in case you are put under quarantine.
- Have a feeding plan that considers the type of animals, and their stage of production.

- Ensure that the herd book is updated including any medications or treatments that animals may be receiving.
- Ensure that a detailed medical history of animals is available that identifies the animal, the medical history, any medication that was administered and the contact details of your veterinarian.
- Prepare a list of animals that may be due to give birth including the animal identification, service date and expected due date.
- It would also be appropriate to cancel any appointments for events that may not be essential for the health and welfare of the animals, such as insemination, slaughter or movements due to sales.