

East Coast Fever vaccine saves East African farmers cattle

The number of farmers throughout East Africa who are vaccinating their cattle with the East Coast Fever (ECF) vaccination is growing. ECF is a serious disease that can kill between 30-60 percent of cattle in East Africa. It reduces milk production, fertility and growth.

However, once a calf has been vaccinated it is protected against the disease for life. Farmers notice healthier and stronger cattle once they receive the ECF vaccination.

"I encourage everyone to use the vaccine," said Kenyan farmer Stephen Kemoi Maraba in Eldoret as he looked at his top milk cow. "It's safe and effective, and you can vaccinate as early as one month of age.

Whether you've one cow or 1,000, we all face risks in farming and the ECF vaccine will prevent your cow or calf getting sick from ECF or dying from this disease. "This vaccine will need to be given by a trained vaccinator as the vaccine has to be handled very carefully. The vaccinator will give each animal a dewormer and an ECF ear tag to each animal vaccinated. dip and spray against other tick-borne Farmers should also continue todiseases. The ECF vaccine costs from \$6 to \$10 per animal depending on the animal's size. If you are a farmer or herder, you can contact the listed vaccine providers below.

Kenya:

VetAid contact: Dr Mpilei David on 0725330278 and Dr Gabriel Turasha on 0721473926
BMC/Agrihaus: Dr Rawlynce Bett on 0726681441
KDF: Mr David Bett on



Ngayok Legilisho (second from left), a young Elder from Ngoswak village, Longido District, Tanzania whose cattle have received the ECF vaccination.

0725799246

Sidai Africa Ltd: Dr Rezin Odede on 0722628472, 0701225949, 0703491296

Malawi

BVM: Dr Poya Njoka on +265999320530

GSJ: Dr Gilson Njunga on +265888868354

Tanzania

Alpha-Veterinary Services (part of PHARMAVACS Limited): Dr Nderingo Ngowi on +255784918504

Ronheam International: Dr Henry Mbwire on +255222116335

Vet Agro Limited: Dr Lieve Lynen on +255786797071

Uganda

ERAM: Edward Muhigirwa on +256312266283

Scopevet: Ponsiano Kibirige on +256712273791

The Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and its forerunner, the International Laboratory for research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD) played key roles in researching, developing and producing the vaccine.

Multiple actors, including the NGO, GALVmed (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines) are working to make the vaccine accessible and affordable to livestock keepers.

Dr Hameed Nuru, GALVmed's Director for Policy and External Affairs said, "The word 'alliance' in our name is key because everything that we achieve is done so with and through partners. People's entire careers have been devoted to the development of this vital vaccine and their work is now transforming the lives of individuals, families and communities because their cattle are no longer dying from ECF."

GALVmed representatives will be available to answer questions at the African Dairy Conference and Exhibition from 24-26 September in Nairobi and the Kenya Livestock Producers Association Exhibition in Kisii County on the 26th September.