

Govt in fresh drive to eliminate ticks

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KAMPALA. Thousands of cattle from seven districts in western Uganda will be sprayed against ticks in the ongoing exercise aimed at ridding the country of the deadly parasites that have led to death of thousands of animals.

Since the tick outbreak was reported in Kiruhura District about six years ago, more than 1.6 million cattle have died, while more than 3,000 have been killed in the last eight months.

Ms Joy Kabatsi, the State minister for Animal Industry,

said now that government has imported a new acaricide, they will begin with the most affected districts.

"I have six districts where we started spraying and Kiruhura is the seventh. Other districts are Nakaseke, Sembabule and Lyantonde, among others, that are badly affected," she said.

New pesticides

However, Ms Kabatsi could not reveal the amount of money spent on importing the drug and how many animals will be sprayed but said the figures would be released after the exercise.

She said ticks had developed

resistance to the pesticides that have been used in the country, forcing them to import new types from France and South Africa.

The two types secured are vectorol from France and Bantik from South Africa.

Ms Kabatsi said so far the new acaricides have been effective and that they will con-

tinue to spray the animals until the ticks are completely wiped out.

Resistance

The acaricides were imported by government with clearance by the National Drug Authority (NDA) after it was discovered that the current drugs on the market could no longer kill the ticks.

NDA had said while the drugs were not killing ticks in western Uganda, they were effectively working in northern and eastern regions, a case they attributed to longer usage of the same drugs on the ticks, hence developing resistance.

6,000

The drug. NDA authorised the importation of 6,000 litres of vectorol and 600 litres of Bantik.