

Foot, mouth disease hits Kiryandongo

KIRYANDONGO

By Saidi Engola

Authorities in the cattle corridor district of Kiryandongo have announced a quarantine on the slaughter, sale and movement of cattle in the districts following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

Cattle markets in Kiryandongo have also been indefinitely closed to avert the spread of the viral disease.

Veterinary officials said the disease was detected in Kawiti village, Mutunda sub-county this month.

The district veterinary officer, Dr Christopher Owiny, confirmed in an interview on Saturday that one case had been detected. He said the animal was found with symptoms of dripping saliva and ruptured blisters in the mouth and on the feet.

"We have registered one case of foot and mouth disease in Mutunda sub-county after a farmer reported the case. The cow is being treated and we hope for the best," Dr Owiny said.



The disease outbreak is attributed to pastoralists who move from district to district

He, however, said although it is the only case that has been registered so far, if the situation is not arrested early, more than 8,000 head of cattle in the affected sub-county and the entire district could be infected in a short period of time.

Dr Owiny said a travel ban in the affected areas has been

issued to stop the spread of the disease to neighbouring villages.

He cautioned livestock farmers to immediately isolate animals showing signs of the disease before informing veterinary officers and desist from consuming meat of animals that die mysteriously.

"The situation is not alarming.

However, we are set to carry out vaccination of animals in the area at the weekend with the intervention of the agricultural ministry as a preventive measure," Dr Owiny said.

He attributed the outbreak to pastoralists who move from district to district in northern Uganda.