



**CULL TRADERS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2026
(2Q2026)**

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. FARMER AND TRADER REGISTRATION	3
3. LIVE BIRD SALES OFF FARMS.....	6
4. LIVE BIRD DISTRIBUTION.....	6
5. CHALLENGES.....	8
6. REQUIRED ACTIONS.....	8

TABLES

Table 1: Registered live bird traders and poultry producers.....	4
Table 2: Summary of culls sold off farms	6
Table 3: Reconciliation of trader statistics	6
Table 4: Movement of culls between boundaries	6
Table 5: Suspected causes of death.....	7

FIGURES

Figure 1: Distribution of cull depots per local municipality	5
Figure 2: Distribution of cull traders per local municipality.....	5
Figure 3: Provincial purchases of cull birds from farms.....	7
Figure 4: Provincial sales of cull birds by traders.....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

The transportation of live animals off farms creates opportunities for the spread of pathogens across South Africa, putting the health of livestock in disease-free areas at risk. With cases of HPAI confirmed in Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape in the last half of 2025, the country is on high alert, and producers should be implementing strict biosecurity measures, including limited movement of birds.

The negative impacts of HPAI disease outbreaks are on local production, pricing, consumption, trade and livelihoods. Robust biosecurity measures continue to be made by experts and various organisations, for the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector. Currently one integrated producer has been granted permission to vaccinate, and has implemented this, and SAPA is negotiating the biosecurity protocols to allow more producers the opportunity to vaccinate. This will prevent huge losses to the disease due to mortality and enforced culling, which have previously been devastating for South Africa, and should reduce the viral load in the country, benefiting smaller producers who do not meet the criteria for vaccination. However, vaccination necessitates the need for surveillance to observe the effectiveness of vaccination and enable trade.

Regulations to control the movement of live birds were introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) in 2017 in response to the HPAI H5N8 outbreaks, and it is important that these protocols are observed.

Protocol

The prescribed protocol requires farmers to submit a health permit signed by a veterinarian or animal health technician before live birds may be removed off any poultry farm. The permit is valid for five days and once that has elapsed a new one is required to be issued.

A summary of conditions that apply to the granting of removal permits are as follows:

- Farmers wanting to depopulate a flock must contact a registered veterinarian or animal health technician or other delegated authority.
- Flocks must be removed from the farm within five days of the date of the permit.
- The permit does not constitute a movement permit across provincial or international boundaries.
- If any unusual mortality is experienced after removal, the live bird buyer is obliged to stop selling these birds and consult the nearest state veterinary authorities without delay.
- Live birds and eggs on farms within a surveillance zone may not be moved without the express permission of the state veterinarian or other delegated authority.
- DALRRD allows all SAVC-registered veterinarians and animal health technicians to sign the health declarations.

2. FARMER AND TRADER REGISTRATION

The online portal is accessible on the website address <http://www.poultrydiseases.co.za>. Cull traders are required to register on the database and to upload transactional data on a monthly basis. Alternatively, completed sales reconciliation forms can be emailed to Silverpath Consulting (admin@silverpath.co.za). Producers are encouraged to assist traders with online registrations if needed. Producers are requested to email completed removal permits to Silverpath Consulting.

During 2H2017, in the midst of the catastrophic outbreak of HPAI H5N8, a total of 284 poultry companies registered on the PDMA database. These included egg producers, pullet rearers, broiler producers, layer and broiler breeder operations, hatcheries, co-ops, poultry projects and research units. In addition, a total of 8 210 active cull bird traders were listed on the database. These numbers have changed over the years.

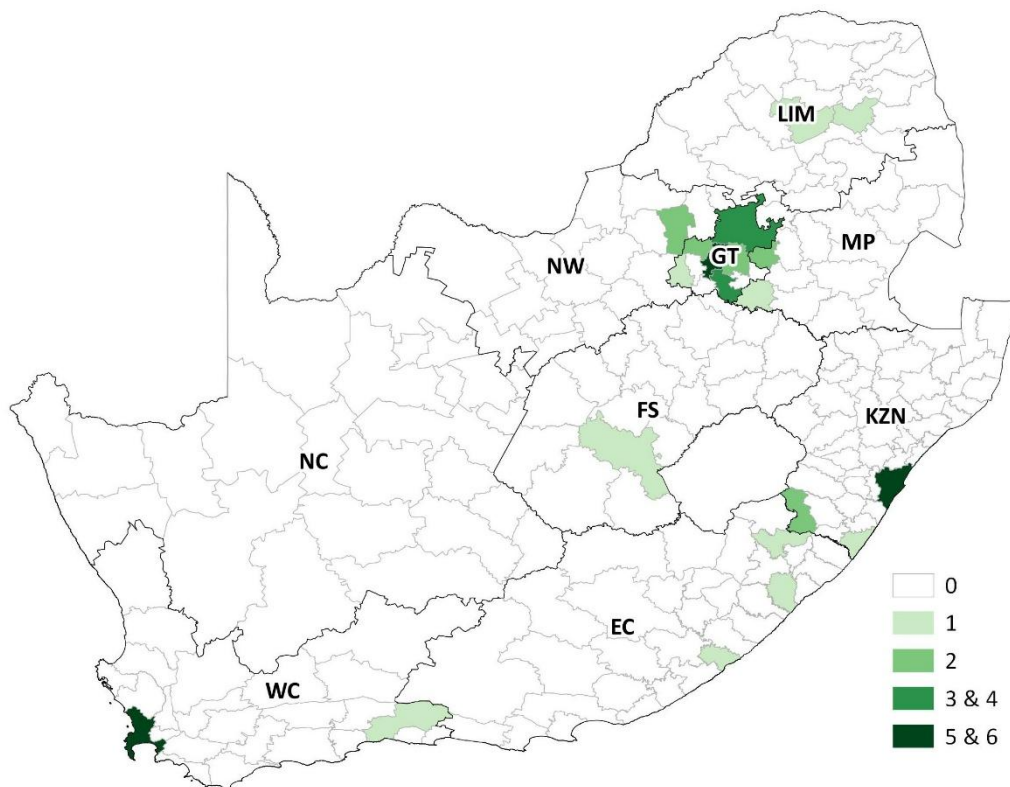
Table 1 provides a breakdown of the registered traders and producers in each province for the previous and current reporting periods. The total number of registrations decreased by 552 (-17.4%) during the quarter. Of the 1684 traders on the database, only 154 (9.1%) submitted data in 2Q2026. Similarly, of the 928 producers on the database 52 (5.6%) were involved in transactions reported during 2Q2026.

Table 1: Registered live bird traders and poultry producers

Traders	1Q2026	2Q2026	Change	% change
Eastern Cape	87	82	-5	-5.7
Free State	54	51	-3	-5.6
Gauteng	436	401	-35	-8.0
KwaZulu-Natal	77	58	-19	-24.7
Limpopo	912	705	-207	-22.7
Mpumalanga	94	85	-9	-9.6
North West	200	188	-12	-6.0
Northern Cape	5	5	0	0.0
Western Cape	120	109	-11	-9.2
Total traders	1 985	1 684	-301	-15.2
Producers				
Eastern Cape	64	54	-10	-15.6
Free State	108	89	-19	-17.6
Gauteng	200	126	-74	-37.0
KwaZulu-Natal	167	137	-30	-18.0
Limpopo	72	55	-17	-23.6
Mpumalanga	167	128	-39	-23.4
North West	211	189	-22	-10.4
Northern Cape	8	7	-1	-12.5
Western Cape	182	143	-39	-21.4
Total producers	1 179	928	-251	-21.3
Total registration	3 164	2 612	-552	-17.4

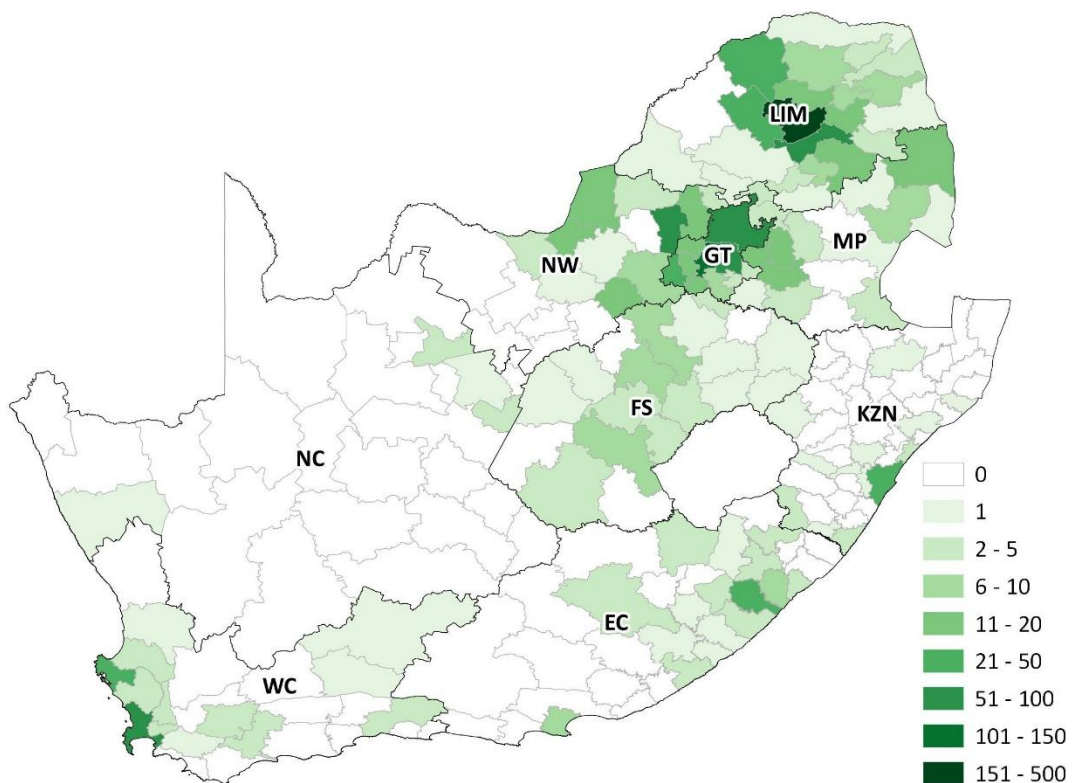
The distribution of registered cull depots per local municipality is shown in Figure 1. The depots are concentrated in eThekweni (6), City of Cape Town (5), City of Johannesburg (5), City of Tshwane (4) and Midvaal (3). In total 43 cull depots were registered on the database in 2Q2026. Thirty two of the 43 registered cull depots (74.4%) were active participants during the quarter under review.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of cull traders per local municipality. The greatest numbers of traders are to be found in Polokwane (483), City of Johannesburg (145), Rustenburg (98), Ekurhuleni (95) and City of Tshwane (81).



Source: SAPA

Figure 1: Distribution of cull depots per local municipality



Source: SAPA

Figure 2: Distribution of cull traders per local municipality

3. LIVE BIRD SALES OFF FARMS

Table 2 shows the number of cull birds that were sold by poultry producers during 2Q2026. This information is obtained from the removal permits issued by the veterinarians and animal health technicians. These figures exclude point-of-lay pullets and broiler breeders transferred from rearing to laying farms.

Table 2: Summary of culls sold off farms

Month	Layers		Broiler breeders		Total
	Number	Age (weeks)	Number	Age (weeks)	
Apr 26	31 991	0.0	13 391	62.8	45 382
May 26	42 000	79.0	18 181	65.0	60 181
Jun 26	0	0.0	32 602	67.0	32 602
TOTAL	73 991	79.0	64 174	65.6	138 165

4. LIVE BIRD DISTRIBUTION

Table 3 summarises the trader statistics for the quarter. The data in Table 4 indicates the amount of movement of cull birds across provincial and municipal boundaries. The reported causes of death are given in Table 5.

Table 3: Reconciliation of trader statistics

Province	Chickens at start	Chickens bought	Chickens sold	Chickens remaining	Number of deaths
Eastern Cape	7 568	165 925	171 525	0	1 968
Free State	0	2 451	2 433	0	18
Gauteng	5 039	425 908	428 527	60	2 360
KwaZulu-Natal	0	365 160	364 330	0	830
Limpopo	0	31 717	31 469	60	188
Mpumalanga	0	24 090	23 685	3	402
North West	0	71 878	71 530	0	348
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	0	43 346	42 115	1 068	163
Total	12 607	1 130 475	1 135 614	1 191	6 277

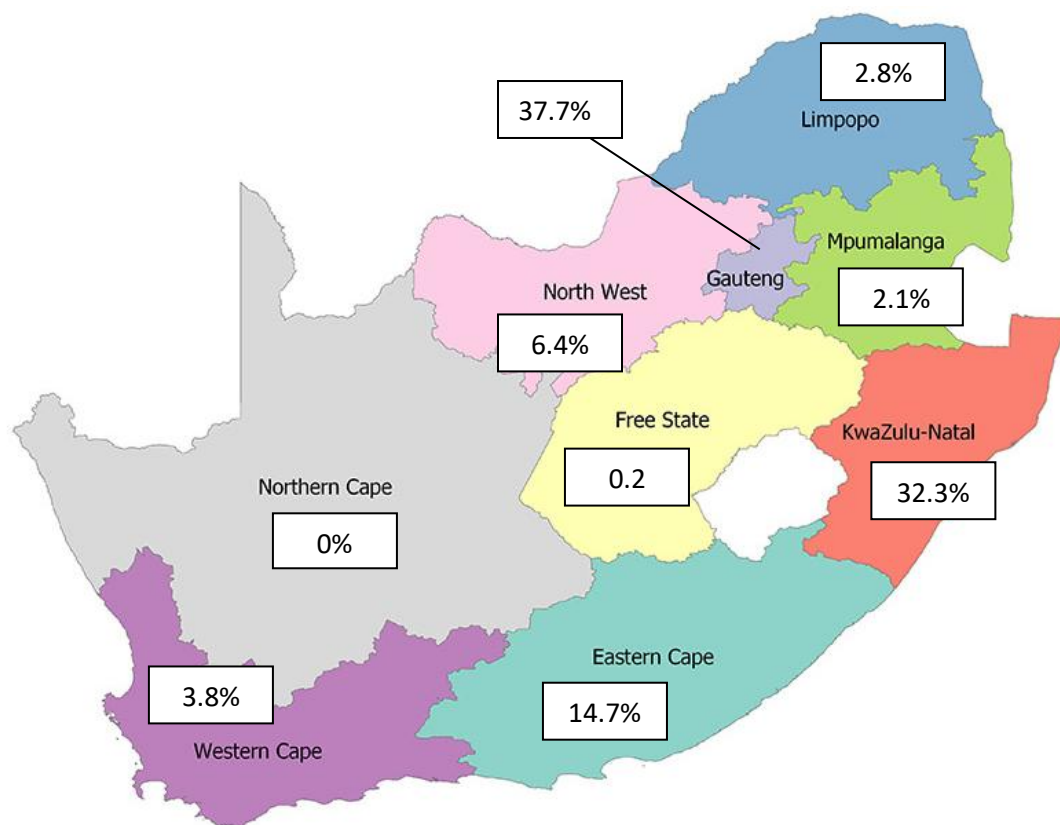
Table 4: Movement of culls between boundaries

Sales channel	Within province (%)	Outside province (%)	Total (%)	Within municipality (%)	Outside municipality (%)	Total (%)
Farms to traders	38.9	61.1	100.0	1.3	98.7	100.0
Traders to consumers	84.3	15.7	100.0	66.2	33.8	100.0
Farms to depots	24.1	75.9	100.0	2.8	97.2	100.0
Depots to consumers	59.1	40.9	100.0	58.5	41.5	100.0

Table 5: Suspected causes of death

Cause	Number of birds	%
Avian influenza	0	0.0
Distance travelled	421	6.7
Hot weather	61	1.0
No sign of illness	916	14.6
Prolapse	28	0.4
Slaughtered	88	1.4
Stress	18	0.3
Trampling	0	0.0
Undiagnosed disease	517	8.2
Other	4 228	67.4
Total	6 277	100.0

Figure 3 illustrates the provincial distribution of purchases of cull birds from farms during the quarter. Figure 4 shows the provincial distribution of sales of live birds by cull traders to their customers.

**Figure 3: Provincial purchases of cull birds from farms**

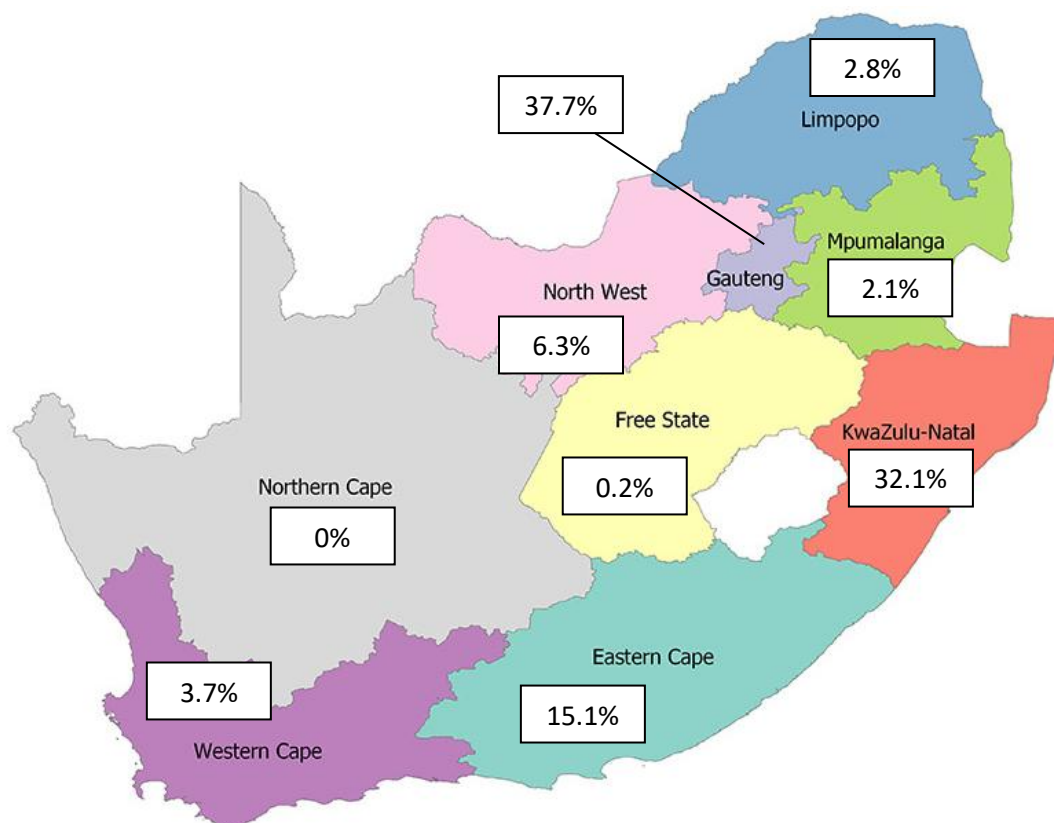


Figure 4: Provincial sales of cull birds by traders

5. CHALLENGES

It remains a challenge to increase participation in the cull trader monitoring system and to improve the flow of information to SAPA. Silverpath Consulting continues to engage with traders and depots in efforts to expand and improve the database.

6. REQUIRED ACTIONS

SAPA encourages all poultry producers and cull traders to comply with the protocols regulating the movement of live birds.

Persons needing assistance may contact Cynthia Ncube (cynthia@silverpath.co.za) or Louisa Nel (reception@sapoultry.co.za). The data is processed by Ireen Lekabe, who may be contacted on 011 794 1842 or 067 198 3557.

The following link contains information regarding regulations for transporting poultry:

<https://www.sapoultry.co.za/pdf-docs/code-practice-poultry-transportation.pdf>

*Data collated by Silverpath Consulting
Report compiled by Leading Edge Poultry Software cc*

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