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'STAMPING-OUT'. -RINDERPEST

Circa 1896

The OIE deeply thanks the Agricultural Research Council, ARC-LNR www.arc.agric.za, Pretoria, South Africa, for granting its communication unit the permission to use this photograph of rinderpest for the Global awareness campaign on the disease.

This photograph is named 'STAMPINGOUT' RINDERPEST, circa 1896. It was possibly taken by Dr Arnold Theiler, veterinarian and founder of Onderstepoort Bacteriological Laboratory. This is the most publicised historical photograph of any animal disease in South Africa, and even in Africa. It is often employed to document the 'ravages of the disease'. In actual fact it documents the 'stamping-out' policy initiated to stop the advances of the disease rinderpest as evidenced by the presence of two armed members of an 'eradication team' (left in photograph).

The dejected figure in the centre is probably the farmer and just behind him, with a foot on a dead animal, stands most probably the government official that had to oversee the operation. It is surmised that this photograph was taken in the Vryburg area of South Africa as evidenced by the plants and from historic documentation.