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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Agriculture Confirms Presence of Anaplasmosis in El Pilar Area, Cayo District

Belmopan, February 18, 2026.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFS-NGI), in collaboration with the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), has confirmed the presence of Anaplasmosis (commonly known as Tick Fever) in cattle within the El Pilar Area of the Cayo District.

Officers have responded, on numerous occasions, to reports of cattle health abnormalities and mortalities from local farmers in the El Pilar area of the Cayo District. Farm investigations were carried out on January 12, 2026, and the investigations revealed that the clinical signs were consistent with anemia, raising suspicion of a tick-borne disease. Blood samples were collected and confirmed to be positive for Anaplasmosis.

On February 4, 2026, blood samples were collected from another registered cattle farmer in the El Pilar Area. Laboratory results from BAHA confirmed that all samples tested positive for Anaplasmosis. At the time of reporting, no mortalities had occurred within this second herd.

The findings indicate active infection within the El Pilar Area and suggest a localized outbreak of tick-borne disease affecting cattle.

The Ministry of Agriculture and BAHA strongly advise cattle farmers in the Cayo District and surrounding areas to:

- Immediately implement a comprehensive tick management program.

- Consult Extension Officers or BAHA veterinarians for appropriate treatment using approved medications.
- Monitor herds closely for early clinical signs such as anemia, weakness, weight loss, and reduced productivity.
- Follow all guidance provided by the Extension Service and BAHA.

Farmers experiencing unusual cattle illness or mortality are encouraged to contact the MAFS-NGI at any of their locations or BAHA offices countrywide for assistance.

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