Mycoplasma bovis

What we are doing in response

Community meeting – 10 August
Context: What we know

- *Mycoplasma bovis* causes illness in cattle including mastitis, abortion, pneumonia, and arthritis.

- There can be silent spreaders – animals infected but not ill

- It does not infect humans and is not a food safety risk.

- It occurs commonly in cattle producing countries around the world.

- Australia, UK, Canada, most of Europe have the disease and manage it.

- We have worked with Australian experts to build a picture of what it may mean for New Zealand.
Current containment controls

- Restricted Place Notices on all 16 Van Leeuwen Dairy Group farms.
- All trucks and tankers are required to clean and disinfect at processing plants regardless.
- All farmers should have a biosecurity plan in place.
Federated Farmers

- Industry groups are working closely with MPI
- Scale of response effort is massive
- Help and cooperate with the response team
- Keep an eye out, report any suspicious symptoms
Let’s get real: Where the risk of infection really comes from

- Introduction of infected stock
- Casual over the fence encounter
- Unpasteurized Milk
- Vehicles, machinery, clothing, footwear, fence posts etc
Cleaning and disinfecting

- **Separate**
  - Does it need to come on farm? If not – keep it off

- **Clean**
  - Things have to be clean before they can be disinfected

- **Disinfect to destroy or inactivate the ‘bugs’**
  - Citric acid (0.2% mix rate),
  - 1% Virkon (50g sachet with 5L water)
  - Trigene
  - Other appropriate disinfectants used to the label directions
Surveillance and testing

Before we can make decisions about how to deal with *Mycoplasma bovis*, we need to find out how far it has spread.

We are taking a multi-layered approach to testing to find this out:

- Van Leeuwen Dairy Group (VLDG)
- Bordering farms
- Stock movement traces
- Districtwide
- Nationwide
Testing required to confirm disease spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveillance levels</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Samples required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLDG farms</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bordering farms</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>16,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traces</td>
<td>30 (to date)</td>
<td>7800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide testing</td>
<td>120 (At least - final # TBC)</td>
<td>2320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>33,224</td>
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From next week, our lab will be processing 2,700 tests per week. This means, based on these figures, testing will take 12-13 weeks to complete.

Please note: All figures are estimates based on what we know at this point in time.


Mycoplasma bovis can hide in infected cows, showing up weeks to months later.

We need to test 3 or more times over 3-4 months before we have a definite result for each farm.

We test:
- for the actual bacteria
- the cow’s immune system for a response to the bacteria
- Up to 140 animals in a herd
Pathway analysis: Where did it come from?

As part of the response we are looking into possible means of introduction to New Zealand:

Pathways being considered include:
- Live animals
- Contact surfaces and equipment
- Semen and embryos
- Other identified pathways

- With best efforts, we may never know for sure.
We have a compensation scheme in place for those affected by Restricted Place notices.

Compensation is available for:
- Damage or destruction of property
- Restrictions imposed under the Biosecurity Act on the movement or disposal of a person’s goods

Record keeping is essential.

Further information: compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz
Rural support

Do not hesitate to contact your local Rural Support Trust representatives. Visit:

www.rural-support.org.nz
phone 0800 787 254
Keep in touch

To keep up to date, sign up to our daily updates.
email:
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