

Biosecurity New Zealand

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

Mycoplasma bovis Update

May 2018

Agenda

- The big picture –facts and figures
- Surveillance
- Testing
- Compensation
- Biosecurity – protect yourself
- Support
- Next steps

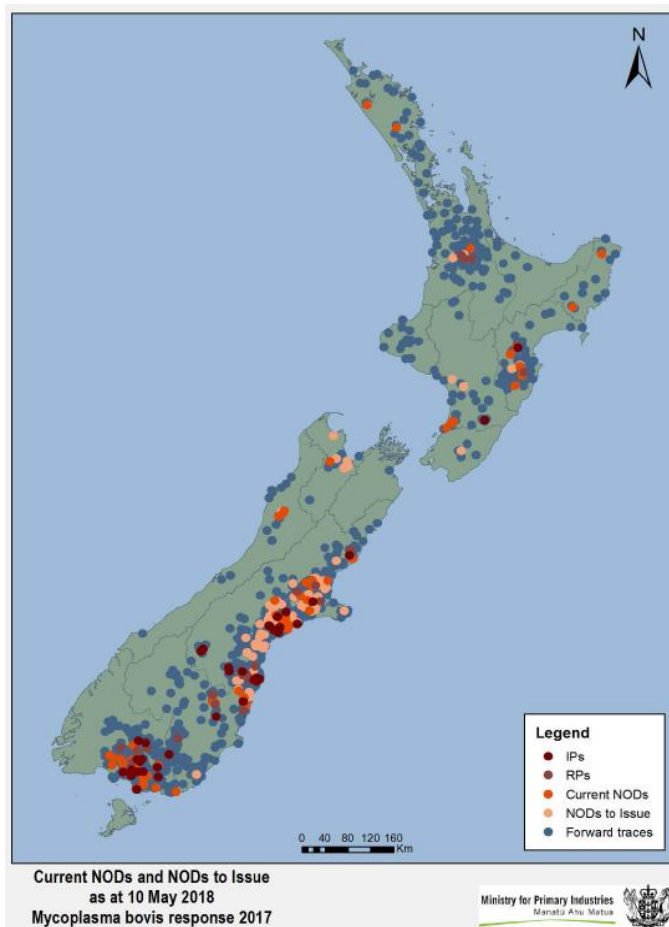


What is *Mycoplasma bovis*?

- *Mycoplasma bovis* is a bacterium that causes illness in cattle including mastitis, abortion, pneumonia, and arthritis.
- It does not infect humans and is not a food safety risk.
- It occurs commonly in most cattle farming countries around the world.
- *Mycoplasma bovis* is not a 'listed disease' with the OIE.
- There are no trade impacts.
- Difficult disease to test for and detect – it hides.
- Cows can be silent spreaders – cows can be infected but not ill.
- Hugely challenging to track.



Where is it?



Response by the numbers

As at 17 May 2018

- **39** infected properties around New Zealand – one about to be lifted.
- Approx. **300** properties under biosecurity lockdown.
- **23,000** animals being culled from infected farms.
- **130,000 tests** completed – blood, milk and swabs.
- **3,000** farms that we've traced high risk animal movements to.
- **1,700** risk events – that could have spread the disease – e.g. cattle movement, milk movements, fence line breaches, shared yards.
- **858** properties under active surveillance.



By the numbers continued...

- **10 months** since the disease was first found (21 July 2017).
- Jan 2016 is the earliest introduction date for disease.
- **\$100M** budgeted for response costs and compensation to date.
- **250 MPI staff** involved and many others from sector groups

Information to public:

- **60** public meetings attended by more than **15,000** farmers
- **32** media releases to date
- Regular update emails to over 1,000 subscribers
- Ads, social media, industry communications and websites.



Big picture – what we're doing

- Containing disease while gathering information to decide how to manage in the future.
- Tracing all cattle movements onto and off infected farms to determine how widespread the disease is.
- Massive effort involved. Huge numbers of animal movements and poor record keeping.
- Testing animals on the farms we find through tracing.
- Putting infected farms under lockdown.
- Culling cattle on infected farms to help control the disease.



Surveillance and testing

We can't decide how to deal with this until we know how widespread it is and how it's affecting animals.

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

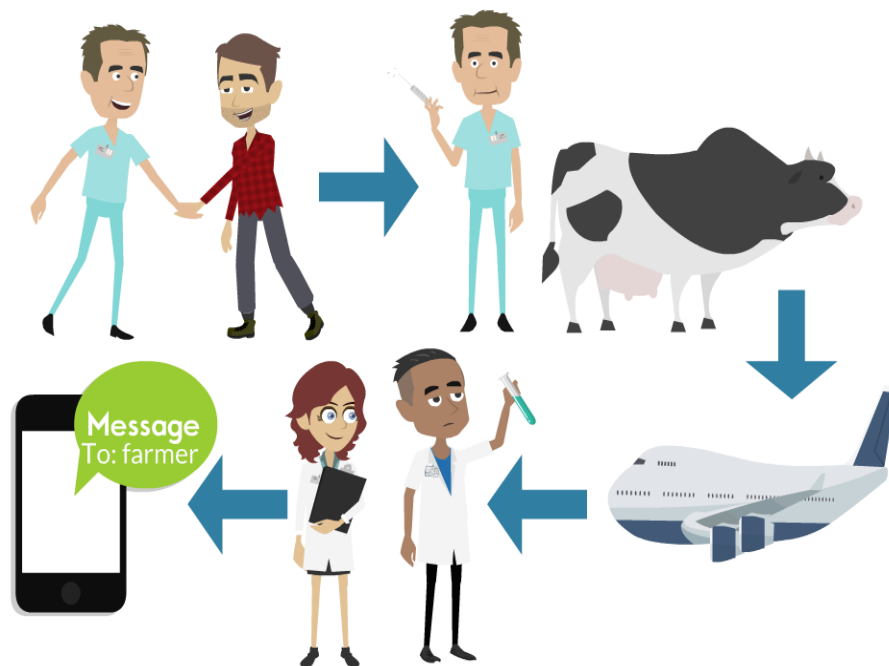
- Infected farms
- Stock traced from those farms
- Neighbours
- Nationwide – bulk milk and ‘discard’ milk
- Nationwide – research by Massey Epicentre and vets



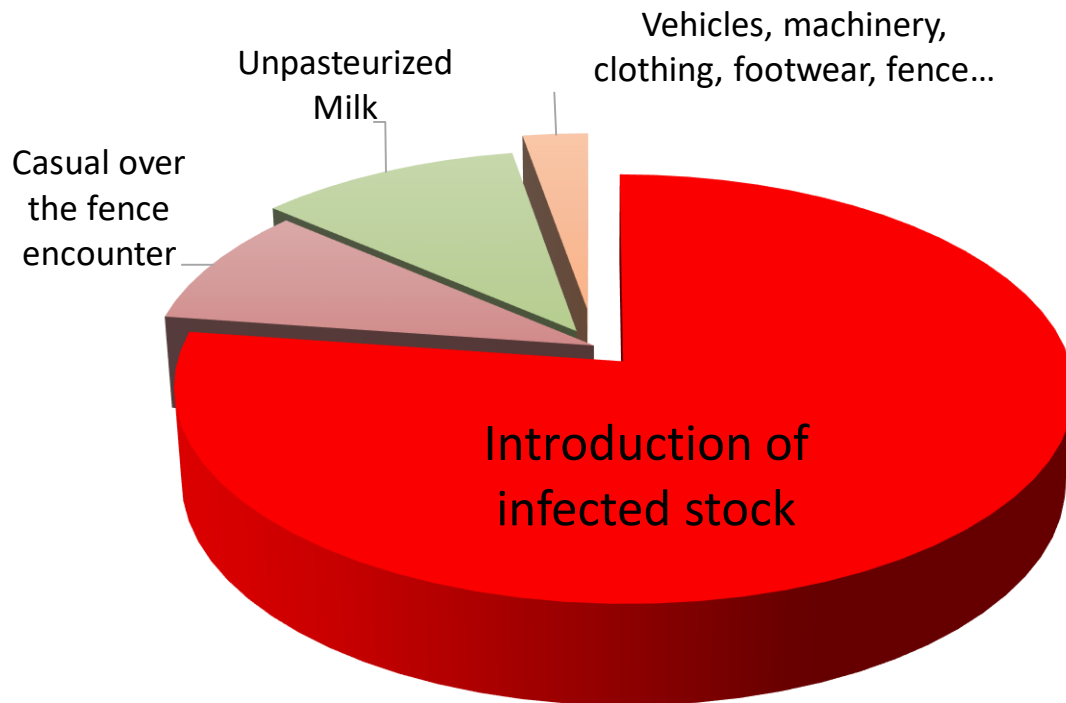
Looking for *Mycoplasma bovis* – our tests

We test:

- for the actual bacteria
- the cow's immune system for a response to the bacteria
- up to 130 animals in a herd.
- *Mycoplasma bovis* can hide in infected cows, showing up weeks to months later.
- We need to do several rounds of tests to confirm it. It takes time.



Where the risk of infection really comes from



Current containment controls

- All infected farms and those with suspect results are in 'quarantine lock-down' via Restricted Place Notices or Notices of Direction.
- No movements of animals or risk goods.
- Any movement of cattle and other risk goods off farm requires a permit from MPI.
- All vehicles must follow a cleaning and disinfection process when they leave farm.
- MPI is ensuring that cleaning, disinfecting, and permit requirements are complied with.

RESTRICTED PLACE

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993

**Please report to the
farm manager/operator
on entry**



Compensation

- Committed to efficient *Mycoplasma bovis* compensation payouts.
- Payments are made in relation to MPIs exercise of powers under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- We're processing partial payments for farmers who have culled their stock.
- Farmers whose animals are being culled will receive an initial payment for the value of culled stock within two weeks of a completed claim being lodged.
- We have recruited extra staff into the compensation team to cope with demand.
- DairyNZ has staff to help farmers prepare M. bovis compensation claims.
- Good, fulsome claims with complete documentation make processing claims quicker.



Biosecurity

Guidelines for farmers

BIOSECURITY



Moving Day

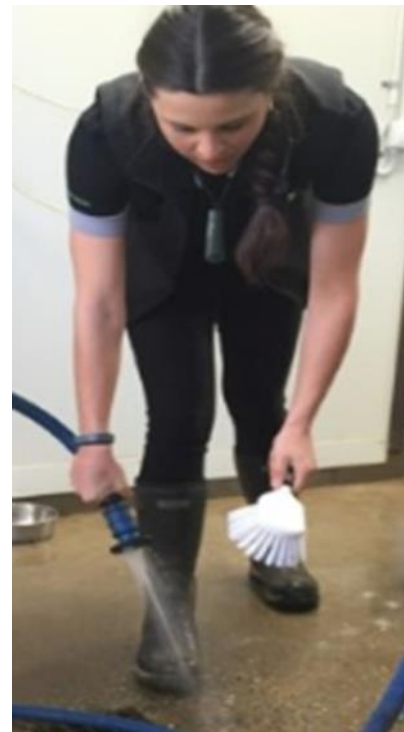


- Unless you are under MPI controls, you can move animals
- Check health status of herd prior to purchase and moving
- Complete NAIT records
- Keep new animals separate from others on farm for 7 days after arrival
- Transport - *Clean truck, don't mix animals from separate farms on truck.*
- Good information on MPI and sector websites



Access to the farm

- Signs to remind visitors of biosecurity
- A place to clean and disinfect footwear, PPE etc
- Supply PPE for visitors and farm staff
- PPE should stay on site and not go to other farms
- Ensure machinery / equipment coming onto farm is clean
- equipment used on animals should be disinfected as well
- Provide a farm vehicle to transport visitors/ contractors around the farm



Farm layout

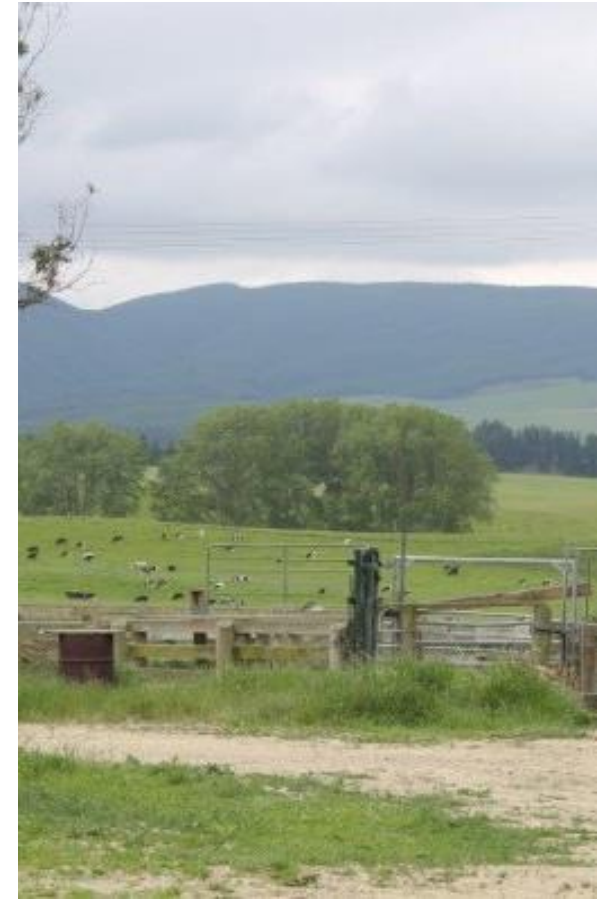
Have one main entry point.

Identified biosecurity risk areas - *Mark these on a farm map – green, amber/blue, red zones.*

Dedicated area for sick animals.

Boundary fences - *Secure to prevent mixing / no nose-to-nose contact.*

Consider risks - *Roadside grazing, road crossings, effluent management, raw milk.*



Biosecurity awareness

- Ensure staff know and understand your biosecurity requirements.
- Work through the farm biosecurity plan with your veterinarian and develop an action plan to address any risks.

If you have any concerns about the health of your animals call your veterinarian or MPI 0800 80 99 66



Support available

To keep up to date, sign up to MPI updates: Mbovis2017_liaison@mpi.govt.nz

If you have information about animal movements from infected farms:
0800 80 99 66 or info@mpi.govt.nz

Rural Support Trust

Contact your local Rural Support Trust representatives for assistance.
We can pass on your details or you can visit:
www.rural-support.org.nz



Next steps

- We will have a decision on the way forward within the next couple of weeks.
- Two options under serious consideration – eradication (getting rid of it from New Zealand) or longer term management (how we can all manage the disease, protect farms and slow any spread of it).
- Decision expected by end of month. Will be well communicated.
- Meantime, testing, tracing and surveillance continues.
- Controls on Infected Properties and suspect farms remain in place.



Working with industry

- We're working closely with sector partners – your representatives - on the way forward.
- The decision on the future management will be made jointly with sector groups.
- It's not an easy decision. We want to get it right.
- All options carry significant financial costs to both taxpayers and farmers, as well as impacts on both farmer and animal welfare.
- Rest assured that whatever decision is made, the views of farmers have been strongly represented.



Biosecurity New Zealand

Tiakitanga Pūtaiao Aotearoa

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

