



**Biosecurity New Zealand**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

# ACTIVE CONFIRMED PROPERTY

Information pack  
for farmers



Version: January 2020



**This pack will be updated as information changes.  
Please check if this is the latest version**

**For further copies:**

This publication is available on Biosecurity New Zealand's website at  
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**Disclaimer**

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# Introduction

Your farm status is moving to an Active Confirmed Property as testing has determined that there is *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection within your cattle.

This pack explains what it means to be an Active Confirmed Property and what is likely to happen next, as well as information about the wider *M. bovis* Programme.

Further restrictions will be placed on the movement of cattle and other goods both onto and off your property. The risk of infection in all cattle on your farm will be determined and the parts of your farm that contain cattle determined to be infected will be placed under a 'Restricted Place Notice' (RP). All cattle within the boundary of the RP will need to be culled.

It's important to know that compensation is available for verifiable losses you incur as a result of MPI exercising legal powers to eradicate *M. bovis* – you can read more about this in the section: '**Financial compensation and operational costs**'.

We know this situation is likely to be difficult and stressful for you, your family and your staff, and we want you to be fully informed about the process. There is extensive support available to you along the way. Please see the sections '**Support available**' and '**Contact details**'.

## Stay informed

Join the mailing list for weekly updates on the *M. bovis* Programme  
Email [mbovis2017\\_liaison@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:mbovis2017_liaison@mpi.govt.nz) and ask to be signed up.

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# Being an Active Confirmed Property

## What's an Active Confirmed property mean?

An Active Confirmed Property is a farm with management group(s) (mobs) of cattle that have been determined to have *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*).

## When is a Restricted Place Notice issued?

When we've determined that *M. bovis* is present and your property becomes an Active Confirmed property, you will likely be issued with a Transitional-NOD (T-NOD) first. This allows the Programme time to determine which parts of your farm need to be included in the RP area, and which cattle should be placed under a NOD for further testing, aiming to minimise the number of cattle which need to be culled.

The key steps in this process are the EDIR and Census, please see below for more information.

For some farms a T-NOD will not be necessary, and the RP will be issued immediately. Equally, some farms will not progress from T-NOD to RP (if all of the infected cattle are already dead). However, they are still counted as Confirmed Properties.

## What sort of controls apply under a Restricted Place Notice?

The RP Notice applies the highest level of legal control on movements of at risk goods/equipment and cattle. Some of the main controls that apply under the RP Notice include:

- cattle cannot be moved in or out of the RP Notice area without a permit
- all cattle within the RP Notice area will need to be culled (depopulated)
- no at risk goods/equipment or cattle can be moved out of the RP area, except for cattle being transported to slaughter as arranged by the *M. bovis* Programme.

Following depopulation, the RP areas will need to undergo cleaning and disinfection (C&D). The extent of C&D will depend on the type of farm and other risk factors. A 60-day stand down period (with no animals on the property) may also be applied where necessary.

## What parts of the farm are affected?

The areas of your farm where infected animals have been will be subject to the RP Notice, determined by:

- Test results for management group(s) on your property; and
- Information gathered from the census and the 'Exotic Disease Investigation Report' (EDIR) completed for your property.

Your RP Notice will show the boundaries of the area to which the RP applies.

Any parts of your farm outside the RP can continue operating as close to normal as possible, subject to any legal controls that may be in place.

## ICP Manager

You will continue to have an Incident Control Point Manager (ICP), who will act as your primary point of contact.

## Farm Recovery team

The *M. bovis* Programme has a dedicated Recovery Team, made up of industry people with farming expertise. Along with your ICP Manager, a Recovery Adviser will work with you on a Farm Recovery Plan tailored to your operation. They will help you to:

- plan how to farm through to the lifting of your Restricted Place Notice
- reduce the impact of any losses you incur
- Help manage operational costs (costs associated with the restrictions which wouldn't normally be incurred)
- work out a strategy to get you back to business as usual as soon as possible.

We recognise that this is likely to be a stressful and challenging time for you and your family. You don't need to get through this on your own.

We recommend you also reach out for support from friends, family, organisations like the Rural Support Trust and other farmers who have been through the process and offered their support.

We can also put you in touch with support networks.

## Steps towards recovery from *M. bovis*

### 1. Legal Controls/Movement Restrictions

Strict restrictions will be placed on the movement of cattle and other goods both onto and off your property.

#### **Transitional Notice of Direction (T-NOD)**

You will likely receive a Transitional Notice of Direction (T-NOD) while the area of your farm that is to go under a Restricted Place Notice is determined. A 'T-NOD', restricts the movement of cattle both onto and off of your property. The T-NOD will remain in place while a census of cattle on your farm and an Exotic Disease Investigation Report (EDIR) are completed (if not already done). See the section on **Testing for *Mycoplasma bovis*** for more information on conducting a census and completion of an EDIR.

#### **Restricted Place Notice (RP Notice)**

Once information in the census, EDIR and test results have been reviewed by the Programme, the affected areas of your farm will be placed under a 'Restricted Place Notice' (RP). All cattle within the boundary of the RP Notice need to be culled.

## 2. Inform your neighbours and others that need to know

Your neighbours who have cattle or buffalo need to be told that your farm, or part of your farm, has become an Active Confirmed Property and will be going under an RP Notice.

If you're not comfortable doing this yourself, you can ask your ICP Manager to do this with you, or on your behalf.

Informing your neighbours can be done in person or over the phone, but must be done within five days of receiving your RP Notice.

Your neighbours will receive an information pack explaining what it means to border a farm that has *M. bovis*. It will also reassure them that the controls in place mean there's very little risk of the infection spreading to their property.

Once your neighbours have been informed signs like this will be placed at your farm gates to ensure visitors follow the necessary biosecurity procedures when arriving at and leaving your farm.

For more information see:

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/mycoplasma-bovis/advice-on-mycoplasma-bovis/biosecurity-on-your-farm/](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/mycoplasma-bovis/advice-on-mycoplasma-bovis/biosecurity-on-your-farm/)



We also recommend that you inform your vet, farm advisor, employees, and potentially your bank. Ask your ICP manager about who you might need to inform.

## 3. Claiming compensation

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, compensation can be paid when MPI has exercised legal powers under the Act that have caused you a loss as a result of:

- damage to, or destruction of, your property, including cattle
- restrictions imposed on the movement or disposal of goods and cattle.

To be eligible for compensation, you must be able to:

- verify (provide information of) the loss
- show that you took reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) the loss.

### **Free compensation assistance**

Early in the process we recommend that you talk to DBCAT (DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ Compensation Assistance Team) who can help you put your compensation claim together. DBCAT provides a free service supported by MPI and run independently by DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ.

They will help you to:

- understand whether you can get compensation
- clarify what losses you can claim for
- work through the compensation claim forms
- advise you about the compensation claim process.

To find out more about compensation and how it works see the section '**Financial compensation and operational costs**'.

#### 4. Notice of Direction to depopulate

Your ICP Manager will deliver you a Notice of Direction (NOD) to depopulate the parts of your farm within the boundaries of the RP Notice. This NOD will contain details of the cattle to be culled. The NOD to depopulate is often issued at the same time as the RP Notice.

All stock to be depopulated will be valued. This valuation will assist with compensation claims. Three independent valuers are available to do this valuation, or you can choose to get an independent valuation done at your own expense.

#### 5. Develop a depopulation plan

Depopulation is better carried out as soon as it can be managed. In some circumstances it may be possible for you to continue farming for the season (i.e. go through 'phased' depopulation) with the approval of the *M. bovis* Programme if:

- your farming activities can be carried out in isolation from other farms
- continuing to farm helps you mitigate (reduce or avoid) any losses connected with depopulation
- continuing to farm will not result in negative impacts to your welfare, or that of your animals.

Choosing 'phased' depopulation can add a very high level of additional stress, to you, your family and staff, and you should carefully consider if this option is right for you.

You can also discuss a repopulation plan at the time you are making a depopulation plan – see the section on 'Repopulation'.

#### 6. Depopulation

When cattle are ready to leave the farm for processing, you will need to:

- carry out a final check to ensure the animals are fit for transport
- complete the required Animal Status Declaration forms.

All stock will have NAIT tags scanned and be counted as they're loaded onto the truck. They'll then be transported to the meat works where they'll be processed in line with standard processes, including recording the slaughter in NAIT.

It is important to remember that you retain responsibility for the NAIT records for your cattle during the depopulation process.

The meat works will provide a kill sheet, which will be reconciled with the count conducted at load-out to ensure all animals have been culled, and confirm the number for compensation.

Trucks transporting infected cattle are required to undergo cleaning and disinfection after moving cattle from a property subject to a RP, to a meat works.

## 7. Testing on other related properties

Testing is also necessary on other properties that are owned or managed by the owner or manager of an Active Confirmed Property, to ensure that they are not infected.

Cattle on these properties have been found to have an increased risk of *M. bovis* infection due to the potential for unrecorded movements of cattle, milk and/or equipment to or from the Active Confirmed Property, and/or because often cattle on these properties have been sourced from the same or similar places.

Depending on the level of infection risk the farms may be subject to testing under Active Surveillance or subject to movement controls under a Notice of Direction.

Owner-other testing is also required on farms where a RP Notice covers only a portion of the property, as groups of nearby cattle on the property outside the boundaries of the RP Notice require sampling and testing to ensure they are not infected with *M. bovis*.

The information about other properties owned or managed should be documented in the EDIR for your Active Confirmed Property. The Programme will discuss testing requirements for these properties with you.

## 8. Cleaning, disinfection and stand down

After depopulation each area under the RP Notice will need to undergo:

- cleaning and disinfection (C&D); and/or
- a 60-day stand down (during stand down cattle cannot come into contact with areas covered by the RP Notice).

C&D and stand-down requirements are determined by the farm type and level of risk associated with particular areas and items on the farm.

For example, on dairy farms, the milking environment will require both C&D and a 60-day stand down.

For beef and dry stock farms, typically either C&D or a 60-day stand down will be required for most areas and items.

Where both C&D and a 60-day stand down are required, they will be carried out simultaneously – that is, C&D will take place during the stand-down period.

### Cleaning

The aim of cleaning is to remove animal waste, debris, dirt and organic matter from surfaces.

Cleaning removes the majority of *M. bovis* bacteria from the environment and allows disinfectants to make effective contact with any remaining bacteria.

### Disinfection

The aim of disinfection is to destroy any bacteria that may remain after cleaning.

Disinfection is carried out by applying appropriate disinfectants directly onto the surface of an item or area for the recommended contact time to destroy *M. bovis*.

### Stand down

*M. bovis* is very fragile in the environment, so a stand down enables the natural processes of time, dehydration, warmth and sunlight to reduce the number of any surviving *M. bovis* bacteria.

This period may be a good time to take a break, or sit down with your farm advisers to plan your next steps. We can provide people to help, or put you in touch with someone that can. Your ICP and Recovery Adviser will be able to assist you including obtaining additional specialist advice.

## 9. Cleaning and Disinfection sign-off and legal controls lifted

Once the C&D process and/or stand down have been completed, a recommendation from the regional *M. bovis* Programme office will be made to your ICP Manager to lift your RP Notice.

In some instances, parts of a farm may still be subject to a Notice of Direction and Active Surveillance testing after the RP Notice has been lifted.

## 10. Repopulation

Following C&D and stand down you can repopulate your farm with new cattle.

You're free to choose where you get new cattle from. We do recommend you have your replacement cattle tested to provide an added level of assurance that they are not infected with *M. bovis*.

Talk to your ICP Manager or Recovery Adviser if you would like to have this testing (also known as 'repopulation surveillance') carried out. The cost is covered by the *M. bovis* Programme.

It is best practice to have the testing done before you receive the replacement cattle, but it can be done after the cattle arrive at your farm.

The testing will involve taking blood samples for ELISA tests.

All repopulated farms that were formerly Active Confirmed Properties will be included in applicable ongoing national surveillance programmes, such as the:

- National Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance Programme
- National Beef Surveillance

## 11. Professional advice to support recovery

The Programme can contribute up to \$5,000 (excl. GST) per property that's run as a separate business entity, to help you obtain professional business and technical advice to support your recovery following depopulation.

You can decide what type of advice you need and choose a supplier from a pre-approved list.

The types of advice you can get could include:

- strategic planning, including farm business and whole farm plans
- land management and sustainable management techniques
- analysis of farm systems
- risk and recovery management
- business continuity
- modelling farm-change scenarios
- alternate land use options
- technical advice on soil, pastures, animal production or feed budgeting
- financial planning and decision support
- farm accounts analysis.

To find out more, talk to your Recovery Adviser.

## Mustering costs

We can help cover the cost of mustering stock for testing if it is going to cause a disruption to business as usual operations on your farm. Please discuss this with your ICP Manager.

## Animal welfare

Remember that you are always responsible for the welfare of animals under your care. If a farm is placed under Active Surveillance or movement restrictions, your animal welfare responsibilities do not change.

Directions given under the Biosecurity Act 1993 do not override other legislation, such as the Codes of Welfare or Animal Welfare Act 1999 and its associated regulations (2016 Calf Regulations and 2018 reissue Calf Regulations).

Your vet can provide animal welfare advice.

### **Fit for Transport app**

Transporters are also responsible for the welfare of all animals when they are loaded, during transport and when off-loading.

**Download the Fit for Transport app** for a quick reference guide from The Apple Store or Google Play.

## Health and safety

A farm can be a hazardous environment, so we need to make sure that:

- Programme staff visiting your farm can carry out their work safely
- the health and safety of you and your workers is not put at risk by Programme activities.

Your ICP Manager will talk to you, or someone you nominate, about managing health and safety while Programme activities are being carried out on your farm.

### **Our responsibilities**

We will make sure that we build health and safety considerations into the plan for your farm. This includes ensuring that our workers:

- understand their responsibilities to work in a safe manner to protect themselves and other people nearby
- bring and use any personal protective clothing or equipment they need
- cooperate with any reasonable rules, requests and expectations you have
- consult with you or your staff on health and safety matters.

### **Your responsibilities**

To help provide a safe environment for our workers, we ask that you:

- let us know about your rules around safe behaviour, for example, speed limits on the farm (you will be asked to show us your farm health and safety plan and hazard maps)
- advise us of any particular safety hazards such as aggressive animals, offal pits, effluent ponds, hazardous substances (either stored or being used on your farm) and places where children play or go
- ensure that tracks and structures, such as sheds and yards, are safe for us to use
- inform us of any planned activities near our workers that could put them in danger, and if possible coordinate your work with ours so that your workers and ours are kept safe
- explain to us any unique emergency procedures on your farm.

### **Keeping up to date**

If anything changes after the initial health and safety discussion, please contact your ICP Manager or tell the people working on the day.

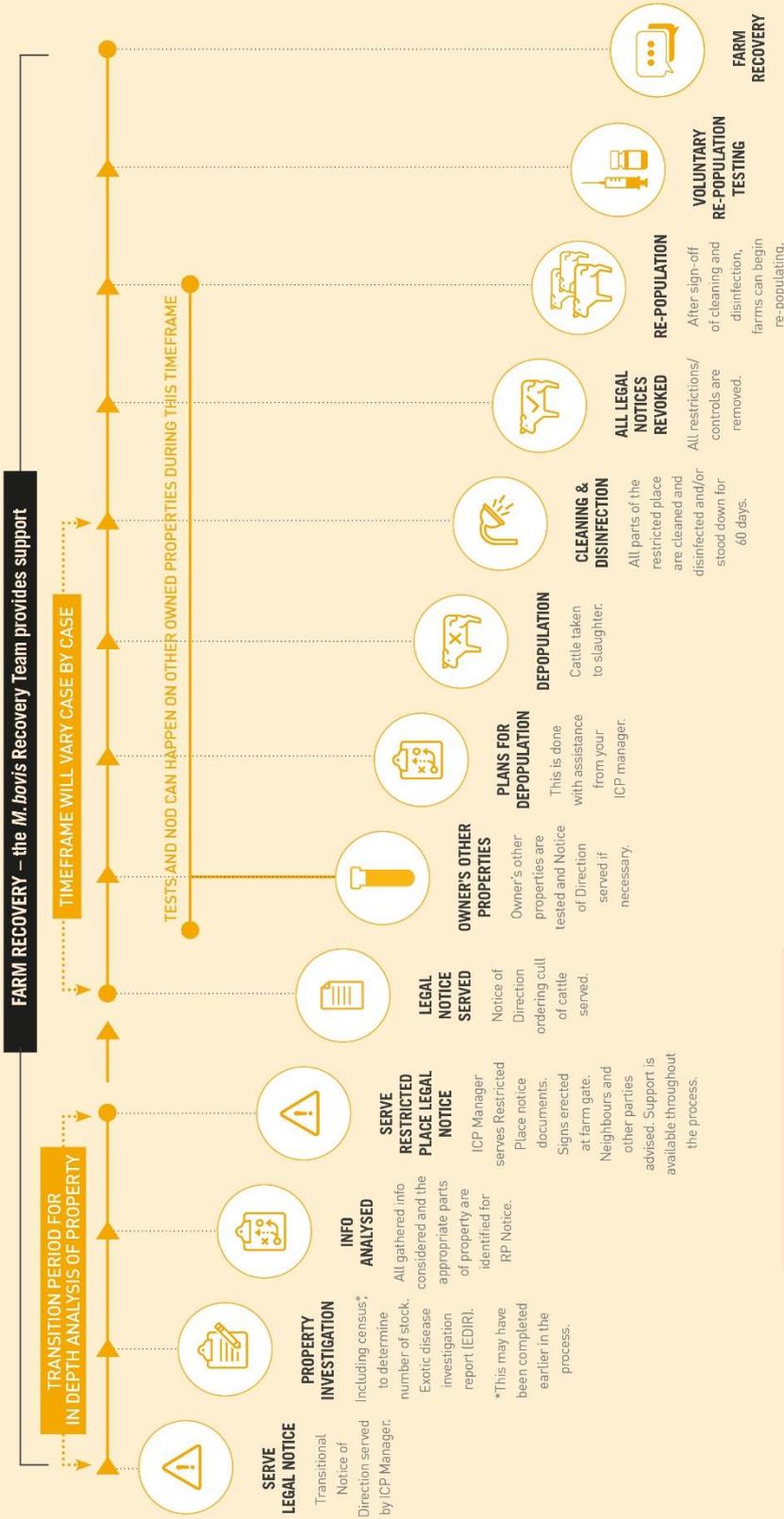
We will also update you on any changes to our planned activities that could affect the health and safety of people on your farm.

# Glossary

Here are some terms you may hear as part of the *M. bovis* Programme, and what they mean:

<b>Active Confirmed Property</b>	A farm with <i>M. bovis</i> that has a Restricted Place Notice and requires depopulation of the infected cattle.
<b>Notice of Direction (NOD)</b>	A legal control issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993. A farm is placed “under Notice of Direction” when there’s a high risk that it has <i>M. bovis</i> , so cattle and other items can’t be moved off the farm (without a permit) while more testing is carried out.
<b>Restricted Place Notice</b>	The highest level of legal controls applied to a property with <i>M. bovis</i> . It restricts the movements of cattle and risk goods (e.g. milk) on and off the farm.
<b>Trace animal</b>	An animal that’s come out of a herd infected with <i>M. bovis</i> during the risk period of likely infection.
<b>Forward trace</b>	A movement of cattle and risk goods (milk) from a farm with <i>M. bovis</i> within the risk period of likely infection.
<b>Backward trace</b>	A movement of cattle and risk goods (milk) onto a farm before it was infected with <i>M. bovis</i> .
<b>Risk period</b>	The time from when a farm is infected with <i>M. bovis</i> to when movement controls are put in place.
<b>Contiguous property</b>	A farm that neighbours a farm with <i>M. bovis</i>
<b>Incident Control Point (ICP) Manager</b>	A case manager who works with farms under movement controls to oversee <i>M. bovis</i> related activities.
<b>In-contact cattle</b>	Cattle that have direct close contact with trace animals, or animals that consumed milk from a farm with <i>M. bovis</i>
<b>Direct close contact</b>	Sharing the same grazing paddock or pen or rearing in the same facility, such as calves in a calf-rearing shed.
<b>Management group</b>	A group of cattle that have direct close contact, referred to by many in the farming community as a ‘mob’. A management group may or may not be composed of cattle that are similar in age or life stage.

# ACTIVE CONFIRMED PROPERTY – INDICATIVE PROCESS FOR FARMERS



**PLEASE NOTE:**  
You may be eligible for compensation for losses as a result of legal notices.

RP notice can be applied to part of a property. If this occurs the rest of the property and other connected properties will be tested and may be placed under a Notice of Direction.  
All Active Confirmed Properties have had positive test results for *Mycoplasma bovis*.

# About *Mycoplasma bovis* and its effects

## What is *Mycoplasma bovis*?

*Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) is a bacteria that can cause serious health conditions in cattle, including mastitis (udder infection), pneumonia, arthritis, and ill-thrift in calves. Less commonly it can cause progressive neurological disease in calves, conjunctivitis, and reproductive losses.

The infection is:

- **difficult to diagnose in an individual animal** as the bacteria can hide from the immune system within the body, making it hard for cattle to fight off infection
- **often untreatable** – in the majority of cases antibiotic treatment is unsuccessful, and symptomatic animals are culled.

## Most likely to reveal itself in times of stress

Cattle can be infected with *M. bovis* without showing any signs of disease. During times of stress such as during calving, early lactation, drying-off, transport or exposure to extreme weather conditions, infected cattle are more likely to show signs of infection.

Infected animals may 'shed' (release) bacteria in milk and/or nasal secretions, enabling the bacteria to spread to other cattle.

## How *M. bovis* is spread

*M. bovis* typically spreads between cattle when they are in close contact for a prolonged period of time (i.e. when they are together in a paddock, pen, or milking shed). Usually, infection spreads between farms when infected cattle are brought into a previously uninfected herd.

*M. bovis* can also be spread to calves that are fed milk from infected cows.

The bacteria may be spread via genetic material containing the bacteria such as semen, but this means of spread is extremely rare compared to spread via the movement of live cattle and milk.

*M. bovis* is fragile in the environment – it only survives for very short times when exposed to heat, drying and UV light, but can survive longer in cool, moist and dark environments.

Equipment used as part of the milking process has been linked to the spread of infection between cattle on individual farms.

*M. bovis* is unlikely to survive in grazing areas and areas used in baleage and silage production. The ensiling process creates an acidic environment (approx. pH 4.5) where *M. bovis* bacteria are unlikely to survive. Silage and baleage pose an extremely low risk of spreading *M. bovis* and may be fed as usual or transferred off the farm for sale.

The risk of *M. bovis* spreading via organic material such as soil, effluent, and other feed types is also extremely low.

## No food safety risk

*M. bovis* does not infect humans and is not a food safety risk.

It's not considered a disease of relevance to trade by the World Organisation for Animal Health (the OIE) and internationally, there are no regulatory restrictions for meat and dairy products due to *M. bovis*. Infection is common in many food producing nations, and where infected cattle aren't showing signs of infection they are processed for human consumption.

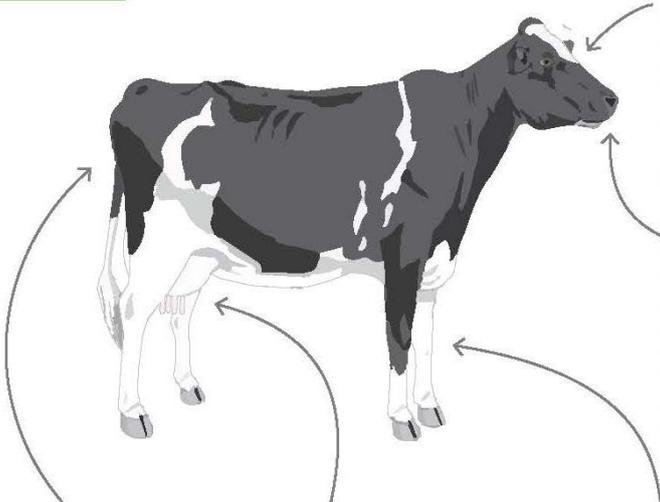
In New Zealand, our laws mean any animals that are very sick, severely injured or have medications in their bodies are not processed for human consumption. All animals are also examined after slaughter to ensure the meat is safe and suitable for consumption.

## New to New Zealand

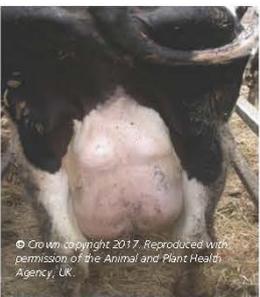
*M. bovis* was detected in New Zealand for the first time in 2017. A law change in 2018 means *M. bovis* is now listed as an Unwanted Organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## Clinical signs of Mycoplasma bovis

### Cattle



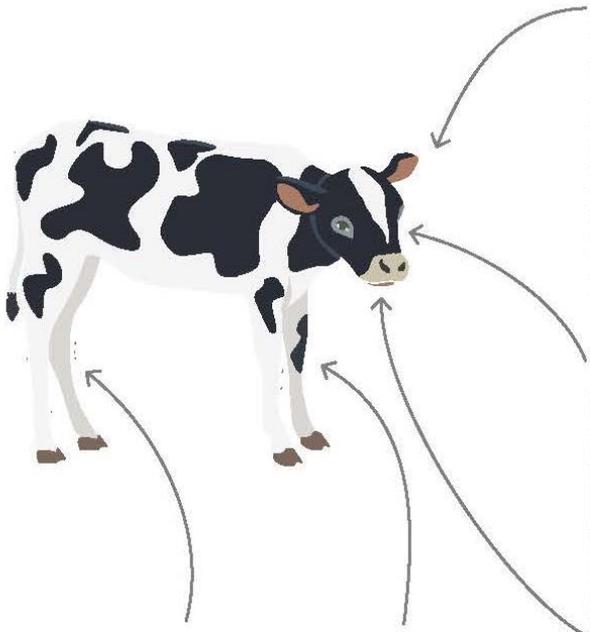
- Conjunctivitis**
  - Sticky eyes, white eyes

© Crown copyright 2017. Reproduced with permission of the Animal and Plant Health Agency, UK.
- Pneumonia**
  - Hacking cough
- Abortions**
  - Slips, early calves, small calves
- Mastitis**
  - Swollen (rubbery quarters), involves multiple quarters
  - Not painful or hot
  - Non responsive to treatment
  - Affected quarters will rapidly dry off

© Crown copyright 2017. Reproduced with permission of the Animal and Plant Health Agency, UK.
- Lame cows with swollen legs/joints**
  - Painful and hot

© Photo courtesy of John House.

**Calves / young stock**



**Ear infections**

- Droopy ear
- Ear discharge
- Head tilt



© Photo courtesy of John House.

**Conjunctivitis**

- Sticky eyes, white eyes



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**Lame calves with swollen legs/joints**

- Painful and hot



**Fading calves**

- Inflammation of the joints, and sometimes the brain



© Photo by Fernanda Casillo-Alcala, 2017

**Pneumonia**

- Hacking cough



You should contact your vet and MPI as soon as possible if:

- clinical signs consistent with *M. bovis* appear at higher than normal rates
- several animals show signs of *M. bovis* infection
- individual animals show several signs of *M. bovis* infection
- affected animals don't respond to treatment
- multiple classes of stock show signs of *M. bovis* infection (e.g. mastitis in cows and arthritis in calves).

# How the eradication programme works

The *M. bovis* Programme is a Government Industry Agreement between MPI, DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand. It is co-funded, governed and operated by these three organisations.

Allowing *M. bovis* to spread would cause an estimated \$1.3 billion in lost productivity over the next ten years. Eradicating it will protect the productivity of the cattle sectors, reduce our reliance on antibiotics and ensure animal welfare.

There has only been one strain of *M. bovis* found in New Zealand, and we are confident that there has been a single incursion in late 2015/16. It is not widespread, and is only transmitted by direct and prolonged contact with infected cattle, or calves drinking infected milk.

The Programme identifies infected herds through on farm testing, and then traces the animals that moved out of that herd before it was put under restrictions. Those animals are culled, and the cattle they have come into contact with are testing to determine if they became infected.

The Programme also uses **Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance** to identify possibly infected dairy farms, which allows us to identify them faster than we could find them by tracing cattle movements.

## Programme farm categories

Farms directly involved in the Programme (i.e. those that are subject to Programme surveillance) will fall into one of the following categories:

- under **Active Surveillance**
- under a **Notice of Direction**
- an **Active Confirmed Property** (under a Restricted Place Notice)
- a **Cleared Confirmed Property**.

### Active Surveillance

Farms are placed under Active Surveillance when the risk of infection is low, but testing is necessary to ensure that there is no infection in the cattle on the farm.

These properties require at least one to two rounds of testing. The farms aren't under any movement restrictions and can operate as usual, while initial testing is carried out.

### Farms under a Notice of Direction (NOD)

Where the risk of *M. bovis* infection is considered high, the property will be put under Notice of Direction (NOD).

This includes farms where:

- there are or have been trace animals that have come from an infected herd
- a bulk tank milk 'detect' result has been produced
- a round of Active Surveillance testing was positive.

The NOD stops cattle, milk and equipment that's at risk of spreading *M. bovis* from being moved off the farm (without a permit) while more testing is carried out.

Permits can be sought for culls that are part of business-as-usual on the farm.

### **Active Confirmed Properties**

Active Confirmed Properties are farms that have been confirmed to have *M. bovis* and are under a 'Restricted Place Notice', which stops animal movement and at-risk goods/equipment on and off the affected part of the farm.

All cattle subject to the Restricted Place Notice will be culled.

Depending on the type of farm, it will go through cleaning and disinfection and/or a stand-down period.

Once this has been completed, and movement controls lifted, a farm becomes a 'Cleared property and can be repopulated with replacement cattle.

Cleared Confirmed Properties have had *M. bovis*, and have been depopulated, cleaned and disinfected, and had restrictions lifted.

# Testing for *Mycoplasma bovis*

*M. bovis* is difficult to diagnose in an individual animal, as clinical signs are not seen in all infected animals, and collecting of samples for diagnostic testing is necessary to identify infected animals and groups of animals.

The tests used within the Programme identify infected groups of cattle. To ensure the testing is accurate we test a large number of animals, often multiple times.

## The types of test we're using

The tests we use to detect *M. bovis* are the:

- ELISA test (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay test)
- PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction test)

The number and groups of cattle that samples for testing are from varies from property to property depending on a number of factors such as the:

- number of cattle on farm
- way in which cattle are organised into groups.
- age of the cattle.
- way the property was identified as being at risk of *M. bovis* infection.

## About the ELISA test

The ELISA test detects antibodies to *M. bovis* in blood or milk. In other words, it looks for the immune response to the bacteria, rather than the bacteria itself. An individual animal that returns a positive ELISA test result is referred to as a 'reactor'.

ELISA test results are interpreted across the group of cattle tested, often referred to as herd-level interpretation. If a certain percentage of the cattle tested in a group are 'reactors' the herd-level result is positive.

## About the PCR test

The PCR test detects the presence of *M. bovis* DNA in a sample from the animal (e.g. tissue, milk or swabs from tonsils. Excludes blood).

The PCR test is used routinely to test samples from trace animals.

There are challenges in using PCR to determine the infection status of animals and groups of animals. The bacteria is shed from infected animals intermittently, and sometimes at low levels. Samples taken from infected cattle may not contain the bacteria, or sufficient numbers of bacteria, to enable detection. This means a significant proportion of infected animals will test negative in a PCR test.

A positive PCR result does confirm infection as the bacteria has to be present in the animal for it to be present in the sample and be detected by the test.

If any sample from a group of cattle returns a positive PCR result, then the group of cattle is considered infected.

## Testing rounds

A 'round' of testing has occurred when the all management groups at risk of infection have been sampled.

It may take up to six weeks to receive the results. Results are initially provided over the phone, and followed up with written confirmation.

### 1st Round

All management groups at risk of infection will be identified and blood samples taken. All sampled animals must be identified individually with a NAIT approved RFID ear tag.

A nasal swab will be collected from any trace cattle less than a year old.

All trace animals will be raddled with blue stock paint and tagged with a blue ear tag as they will be sent for slaughter sampling after this round of testing. See **Slaughter Sampling** further on.

Where the ELISA test detects *M. bovis* antibodies present in a group of less than 40 cattle with trace animals present, the group will be sent to slaughter for sampling. See '**Slaughter Sampling**' below.

### 2nd Round

Round 2 testing needs to take place at least 3 weeks after round 1, and at least two weeks after slaughter sampling, to allow *M. bovis* antibodies to build up.

Properties that require more than one round of testing include those:

- Where the ELISA test detects *M. bovis* antibodies present at round 1.
- Where trace animals were present in the group.
- Where the group was less than 40 animals (and round 1 was negative).

All management groups that require a 2nd round of testing will be identified and blood samples taken for ELISA testing.

### 3 + Rounds

It is uncommon for properties to require more than two rounds to determine their infection status.

Properties that require 3 + rounds include those:

- that disease status has been unable to be determined
- the Programme have identified additional trace animals through the farm census.

All management groups that require further rounds of testing will be identified and blood samples taken for ELISA testing.

### Slaughter sampling

All trace animals are considered high risk and will be sampled at slaughter under Section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

After round 1 of sampling all trace animals are sent to slaughter and have a blood sample and tonsillar swab collected. This is an essential element of determining the infection status of a property and removing the risk trace animals present.

## Conducting a census

The Programme will carry out a 'census' of all cattle on properties under a Notice of Direction. This is a headcount of all cattle on the farm and how they are organised into groups.

The census helps us:

- identify any other trace animals which need to be culled
- get details of each animal's lifetime history
- verify farm records such as MINDA and NAIT.

If you need to muster cattle for the census we can contribute to costs involved. For more information see '**Financial compensation and operational costs**'.

All cattle over the age of 6 months, or that have moved from their property of birth, must be NAIT tagged.

## Exotic Disease Investigation Report (EDIR)

An EDIR is only conducted on properties with confirmed infection.

Containing detailed information about a farm, an EDIR includes stock location and numbers, farm and animal management, animal movements on and off of the farm, and any previous or current animal health issues or disease investigations.

It is completed for all Confirmed Properties – a veterinarian will ask those who own and/or manage the farm a series of questions about the farm and the way that it operates.

An EDIR is used to determine:

- where *M. bovis* is likely to have spread within a farm
- what animals may require further testing
- if there have been any cattle movements on or off the farm not recorded in NAIT, including movements involving straying stock
- if there have been any milk movements on or off the farm
- the parts of the farm that will need to be subject to a Restricted Place Notice.

# Compensation and operational costs

## What's the difference between an operational cost and compensation?

Operational costs are costs that occur because of the restrictions you are under, and are outside of your usual business expenses.

Compensation is for losses you experience as a direct result of MPI's exercise of regulatory powers as part of the *M. bovis* Programme. Compensation is jointly funded by MPI, Dairy NZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand, and the process is administered and paid by MPI through the MPI Compensation Team.

You can be reimbursed for **pre-approved** on-farm operational costs.

You can claim for compensation if you have incurred a financial loss due to MPI's exercise of powers or restrictions under part 6 or 7 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## When is compensation payable?

Compensation can be paid when MPI has exercised legal powers under part 6 or 7 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 which caused you, the owner of the property, a loss as a result of:

- damage to, or destruction of, your property, including cattle; and/or
- restrictions imposed on the movement or disposal of goods, including cattle.

Payment of compensation depends on you meeting certain conditions, including:

- verifying (providing information about) the loss
- showing that you took reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) the loss.

## Verifying a loss

Payment of compensation depends on you meeting certain conditions laid out in the Biosecurity Act. In order for the *M. bovis* Programme to pay compensation, we need to be able to verify your loss. To do this, you will need to provide information that substantiates the type and amount of loss. It's a good idea to keep all documents and records that can support your claim, for example, paid invoices, statements, farmland accounts, milk dockets, pasture records, contracts etc.

The types of losses you can claim compensation for are listed further on.

DBCAT and the Recovery Team can help you, or talk to your farm advisor.

## Mitigating your loss

The Biosecurity Act 1993 requires you to take reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) any loss resulting from the powers exercised by MPI.

You also need to show you considered and took reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) the loss. To do this, explain the steps you considered to mitigate your loss, and what steps you actually took. This may include making changes to farm operations to avoid losses or using alternative ways to generate income.

## When can you make a claim?

You can claim compensation at any time up to a year after the loss is verified. You can combine your losses into one claim, or make separate claims for a number of losses. If you experience further losses after being paid compensation, you can still make another claim.

## How to apply for compensation

Make sure you've provided us with:

- a completed claim form, relevant to the type of loss you have experienced:
  - [Stock destruction loss form](#)
  - [Beef production loss form](#)
  - [Loss of milk production form](#)
  - [Grazing compensation form](#)
  - [Repopulation form](#)
  - [Other loss of income form](#)
- supporting documentation and information
- any additional information that explains your circumstances.

You can download the relevant compensation claim form from the resources section at: [www.mbovis.govt.nz](http://www.mbovis.govt.nz), or ask for a copy to be sent to you by emailing [compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz)

## Assistance with preparing a claim

We encourage you to use DBCAT (DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ Compensation Assistance Team) to help you put any compensation claim together. DBCAT provides a free service supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and run independently by DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ.

They will help you to:

- understand whether you can get compensation
- clarify what losses you can claim for
- work through the compensation claim forms
- advise you about the compensation claim process

## Contact DBCAT

**Phone:** 0800 32 22 81

**Email:** [admin@dbcatt.co.nz](mailto:admin@dbcatt.co.nz)

## The compensation process

Once your completed and signed application and all supporting information has been received, MPI will assess the application and then seek approval for any compensation due, to be paid.

You will be contacted with the outcome as soon as this has been agreed. Each claim is different and more complex claims may take more time.



## Who is compensation paid to?

Compensation can only be paid to the legal owner (or a company director) of the property or goods that were damaged or destroyed or that movement restrictions were applied to.

Talk to the DBCAT team about business arrangements where a person doesn't own the property affected but you have incurred a loss.

## Types of loss that can be compensated

You can claim compensation for loss you have experienced as a direct result of an exercise of powers authorised by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), such as:

- beef production loss
- milk production loss
- grazing compensation
- loss of income
- stock repopulation – higher market prices (in instances when it will cost you more to buy replacement stock than it did to buy the stock that were culled)
- stock destruction.

More information about the different types of compensation is available at: [www.mbovis.govt.nz](http://www.mbovis.govt.nz), or by contacting the DBCAT team.

## Operational costs

You may be able to request reimbursement for some on-farm costs if there is an urgent need, or to meet *M. bovis* Programme requirements.

Your Incident Control Point (ICP) Manager or Recovery Adviser must agree to the costs **before the expenditure is incurred**. Discuss costs with them and have them confirm agreed costs by email, so you have a record in writing.

You can apply for support for the following on-farm operational costs.

- **Equipment hire** – where MPI legal restrictions have meant you need to hire extra farm equipment for animal welfare reasons, or for farming operations to continue.
- **Animal feed** – if required to ensure the welfare of animals under movement restriction or where the animals cannot be moved off the property.
- **Fencing** – where existing fencing is not adequate to contain animals for the protection of neighbouring farms. Costs could include hiring additional casual labour and temporary fencing materials.
- **Cleaning** – costs associated with extra cleaning and disinfection required under a Notice of Direction (NOD) or RP (Restricted Place).
- **Mustering cattle for census or for each testing round** – request a Mustering Payments fact sheet from your ICP manager.
- **Transport** – can include:
  - transporting stock to the meat processors
  - specific *bovis* cleaning and disinfection of the stock truck
  - transporting replacement stock if you were issued a Notice of Direction (NOD) to cull your original stock
- **Processing charges** – *bovis* processing charges from the meat processor (unless already paid by the *M. bovis* Programme)
- **Vet charges** – You may be reimbursed for these. The *M. bovis* Programme may also pay for certifying that your animals are fit for transport.

For more information about operational costs, contact your ICP manager or Regional Recovery Advisor.

Freephone: **0800 00 83 33**

Email: **MBovis2017\_ART@mpi.govt.nz**

# M. bovis compensation



If you need assistance with *M. bovis* compensation, the DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand Compensation Assistance Team can help you.

## THE TEAM CAN HELP WITH



UNDERSTANDING WHETHER YOU  
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION



CLARIFY WHAT LOSSES  
YOU CAN CLAIM FOR



WORKING THROUGH THE  
COMPENSATION CLAIM  
FORMS WITH YOU



SUPPORTING YOU THROUGH THE  
COMPENSATION CLAIM PROCESS

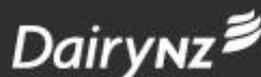


CALL US ON 0800 322 281 AND WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH  
A COMPENSATION ASSISTANT TO HELP STEP YOU THROUGH THE  
PROCESS AND ENSURE YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS YOU NEED.



This is a free service that is supported by MPI, run independently by DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

Email: [admin@dbcac.co.nz](mailto:admin@dbcac.co.nz)



# Support available

## Looking after yourself and your family

The process of being put under restrictions and going through testing and the census can be disruptive for farmers, families and workers.

Support is available so you don't have to go through things alone. Every farm is different and a range of support is available to suit your needs.

### **Rural Support Trusts (RSTs)**

RSTs have trained facilitators who can support you through the issues you're facing.

They can also refer you to experts and services you might need, such as planning and management advice, health information and government agencies.

### **Call 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP)**

**This line is for support for rural people: farmers, families, farm workers.**

For more information see the RST flyer at the back of the pack or visit:

**[www.mbovis.govt.nz](http://www.mbovis.govt.nz)**

### **Managing stress**

When times get tough it's important to get a support team around you. Family, friends and trusted advisors will be able to help you. Sometimes it's helpful if we seek support, assistance and expertise from someone objective and not so involved in the process.

A free service you can call or text anytime 1737 provides support from a trained counsellor. You can make a one-off anonymous call or if you consider it might be useful to call back another time then request a case number so that they can try to get the same person to save telling your situation again.

If you do find stress levels are beginning to impact on day-to-day quality of life, for example, you're not sleeping, drinking more alcohol, finding it hard to make decisions or family relationships are affected, then talk with your GP or a trusted health professional. They can help you work on improving coping strategies and keeping yourself well.



# Rural Support

## *M. bovis* Programme

Your regional Rural Support Trust is on-hand to support farmers being affected by *M. bovis*.

As well as someone to talk to about your concerns, we can also help you navigate through the process, as we have training in and experience with the *M. bovis* programme, and know how it works.

Whatever your experience looks like, we can help in many ways including:

- Trained facilitators who know how the programme works, and the process involved to help you navigate through.
- Listening to your concerns and issues.
- Confidential.
- Phone calls, texts, emails – at a time that suits you.
- Visiting and attending meetings with you.
- One on one support and wrap around support – for you, your family, and your farming team.
- Connecting – if we don't know the answer we will help connect you to people who do.
- Peer support – connecting with other farmers that have been through the process.
- Helping you and your family access counselling services.

Depending on the individual farming operation it can be a lengthy process, involving a number of *M. bovis* Programme teams and RST offers support throughout the process and the ability to help shift things along if they get stuck.

We are rural people, helping rural people – we are farming people who understand the challenges of rural life.

Not sure just call 0800787254, we are here to help. There are Rural Support Trust branches all over the country, by ringing the 0800 number you will be connected to help in your area.

Supporting Our Rural Community



## Industry support

If you give us permission to pass on your contact details we can arrange direct support from DairyNZ or Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

Other groups you can talk to include:

- Federated Farmers 0800 327 646
- Rural Women New Zealand 0800 256 467
- Dairy Women's Network 0800 396 748.

## Inland Revenue

Inland Revenue (IRD) can provide tax flexibility and other measures to help, depending on your situation. Don't wait until things get out of hand - talk to your accountant as early as possible about this.

**Filing and paying** – IRD understands that tax isn't the first thing on your mind during a stressful time. Please contact your tax agent with any concerns or questions about filing returns or paying tax. They will work with IRD on any tax concerns.

## Working for Families Tax Credits

Working for Families Tax Credits (WfFTC) are payments for families with dependent children aged 18 or under. Find out if you're eligible at [www.ird.govt.nz/wff-tax-credits](http://www.ird.govt.nz/wff-tax-credits) or talk to your accountant or RST.

## Work and Income (WINZ) – Ministry of Social Development

There is a range of assistance available for people or families whose incomes have been severely affected. Your RST can talk to you about what sort of help WINZ may be able to provide.

You can also visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

or call Work and Income on **0800 559 009**.

## Managing the media

If you're approached by media to comment, it's entirely your decision whether you wish to speak to them or not.

If you want any advice or support, please feel free to contact MPI's media team, who will be happy to help.

- Phone: (029) 894 0328
- Email: [media@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:media@mpi.govt.nz)

If media arrive at your property and you don't want them there, here are some suggestions that may be helpful:

- Don't be confrontational or aggressive – try to remain calm and politely ask them to leave the property
- If they press you for an interview or comment, calmly say that you're not able to help and suggest they contact MPI – just say "Sorry, I can't help, you'll need to talk to MPI"
- Media aren't allowed to remain on private property uninvited, as this would be trespassing. However, they are legally allowed to film in public places, such as the road outside your property. If you feel harassed or unsafe, we recommend calling the Police and letting MPI know.

For more information about the support available see: [www.mbovis.govt.nz](http://www.mbovis.govt.nz)

**Are you keen to help out?**

Call the RST on **0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP)** if you want to help support affected farming families in your community.

## Top tips for farmers directly involved in the *M. bovis* Programme

As a farmer directly affected by *M. bovis*, the following tips will help you minimise the impact of the Programme's activities on your farm. These tips have been developed with input from farmers and industry representatives.

- 1. Make sure you understand whether what you are being told by Programme staff are suggestions or legal directions. Keep and record the written directions that you are given.**

All legal directions will be given to you in writing, and it's important to keep your copy. It can make claiming compensation easier when there is clear evidence that your losses stemmed from a legal direction given as part of the Programme.

- 2. Read, be confident you understand, and fully comply with directions given by MPI/AQ.**

You are legally obligated to meet the restrictions placed on your farm, and they are essential to stopping any possible further spread of *M. bovis*.

- 3. Work with the Programme to get trace animals identified, tested, valued and off to slaughter as soon as possible.**

Your farm can't progress until the trace animals have been processed, and it is important to determine if there is any risk to other farmers.

- 4. Keep your own log book of the details of all conversations with Programme staff including names, dates and times.**

Your ICP Manager will keep a record of every action on your farm. Keeping your own records can help with any future discussions about your situation.

- 5. Update and maintain accurate NAIT records and give Programme staff all of the information they ask for. The OSPRI call centre can help you with any issues you have with your NAIT account.**

The Programme needs to know what animals are on your property, and in the worst case scenario, what animals have left it. Getting your records up to date will make the process go faster.

- 6. If your farm is placed under active surveillance keep farming as close to business-as-usual, as you can. If in doubt seek clarification from Programme staff.**

On the majority of farms tested *M. bovis* is not detected and you are not eligible for compensation as your farm isn't under a direction from MPI.

- 7. If affected by the Programme, use of your professional team (i.e. your vet, bank manager, farm consultant etc.) who will understand the need to treat this information confidentially. The *M. bovis* Programme will not contact any third party organisations about your situation without your consent.**

These organisations or people are those that can help you get through some of the challenges you may face.

- 8. Reach out to friends and family and/or the Rural Support Trust for support.**

If your farm is put under restrictions it's normal to find this stressful and uncertain. Nobody is expected to handle this alone. The Rural Support Trusts are up-to-speed on *M. bovis* and the Programme, and are there to walk you through it. They can put you in touch with other sources of information or support, including financial, health, or technical options or farmers who have already come out the other side.

Share the load, you are not alone, and farmers can get through this together.

# Contact details

Query	Contact	Phone	Email/Website
<b><i>M. bovis</i> enquiries</b>	Liaison Team	04 831 2197	<b>Mbovis2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz</b>
<b>General MPI enquiries</b>	MPI Contact Centre	0800 00 83 33	<b>info@mpi.govt.nz</b> <b>www.mpi.govt.nz/bovis</b>
<b>Report clinical signs of <i>M. bovis</i></b>	Biosecurity New Zealand Pest & Disease Hotline	0800 80 99 66	<b>info@mpi.govt.nz</b>
<b>NAIT enquiries</b>	NAIT	0800 48 24 63	<b>info@nait.co.nz</b>
<b>Industry group enquiries</b>	DairyNZ Beef + Lamb NZ Federated Farmers	0800 43 24 79 69 0800 23 33 52 0800 32 76 46	<b>www.dairynz.co.nz/mbovis</b> <b>www.beeflambnz.com</b> <b>www.fedfarm.org.nz</b>
<b>Human welfare concerns</b>	Rural Support Trust	0800 78 72 54	<b>www.rural-support.org.nz</b>
<b>Income concerns</b>	Work and Income	0800 55 90 09	<b>www.workandincome.govt.nz</b>
<b>Compensation Assistance</b>	<b>DBCAT</b> (DairyNZ & Beef + Lamb NZ Compensation Assistance Team)	0800 322 281	<b>admin@dbcats.co.nz</b>
<b>Compensation: general enquiries</b>	MPI Compensation Team	0800 00 77 77	<b>CompensationCoordinator@mpi.govt.nz</b>