



Winter feeding update 31 May 2018

Down South we have cows to be moved to feed, and crops to be eaten. But hungry cows and graziers aren't hooking up as freely as usual with the concerns around sharing the *Mycoplasma bovis* bacteria. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Surveillance testing = free to move.**
Cattle that have undergone "surveillance testing" are very low risk for spreading the disease. They can be managed on a grazing block just like any other cattle group – separately, with secure fencing, and prevention of mixing with cattle from other sources. Avoid grazing on adjacent paddocks or use double fencing.
2. **Notice of Direction = restricted movement with permits**
NODs are under movement restrictions, but can go to a grazing block under permit. Each ICP manager will help their farmers to do this.
3. **Grazing block NODs**
A grazing block that takes cattle from a NOD will become a NOD, but there are options to limit the NOD to parts of a grazing block; and to get back to normal quickly.
4. Any farm under a NOD will not be financially disadvantaged by it.
5. For all movements, NAIT must be used correctly.

If you are a grazier with feed available and would like to assist, please contact MPI on 0800 00 83 33 or email MBovis2017.Liaison@mpi.govt.nz

Farmers under NOD who need to graze

Farmers under NODs should contact their ICP manager to arrange the permit. The process is:

- a. Farmer locates grazing that will accept NOD cattle and contacts ICP manager.
- b. MPI visits the location and assesses fence security and the suitability of the property/paddock(s) to contain possible disease.
- c. The permit may be granted within a couple of days if all information is provided quickly and correctly and there are no problems.
- d. The cattle will be moved to the grazing block by permitted transporters. The NOD goes with the animals, and will apply to all or part of the grazing block depending on the size and the location of the cattle.
- e. The cattle will be unloaded using portable yards if there are multiple herds at the property; MPI will also compensate for double fencing and any equipment needed to manage the NOD animals as a separate group.

Farmers should contact their ICP manager or Rural Support Trust lead to assist them with getting their cows to feed.

Beef farmers

While beef farmers want to help dairy farmers, it's important to protect your farm.

Graziers who take on a NOD herd and follow protocol, will know exactly what is going to happen to their property over the next few months.

MPI confirms that if B+L NZ's beef farmers agree to take on NODs and adhere to MPI's rules, they will not find themselves under restrictions after the NOD herd leaves.

Graziers that agree to take on NOD herd(s) and follow MPI's protocols can expect to have the NOD lifted and be back to business as usual after the NOD herd departs.

In the very unlikely event that a NOD herd is elevated to an RP or IP while on the grazier's property, or in the spring after departing, as long as the grazier has complied with all requirements and the NOD cattle have been isolated from the rest of the property, the grazier's remaining property will be unaffected.

However, if the herd status changes to RP or IP then the property or area used for the group will have a 60 day stand down period from the date the cattle leave the property, and MPI will arrange cleaning and disinfection of troughs and equipment used by the herd. During this stand down time crops can be planted; the only restriction is that no cattle can come on to the area during that time.

Dairy NZ and Beef + Lamb NZ have great information about precautions around moving cattle

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/mycoplasma-bovis/>

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/5788853/biosecurity-wof-a4-brochure.pdf>

<https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/mycoplasma-bovis-faqs>

<https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/biosecurity-wof-checklist>

GENERAL CONTACTS

- The MPI M. Bovis website is updated regularly: www.mpi.govt.nz/bovis
- Questions for MPI: 0800 00 83 33 or MBovis2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz
- Farmer Support email: MBovis2017_Welfare@mpi.govt.nz
- Rural Support Trust – 0800 787 254
- Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline – 0800 80 99 66