



Mycoplasma bovis

What we are doing in response
Community meeting – 10 August

Growing and Protecting New Zealand



www.mpi.govt.nz



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

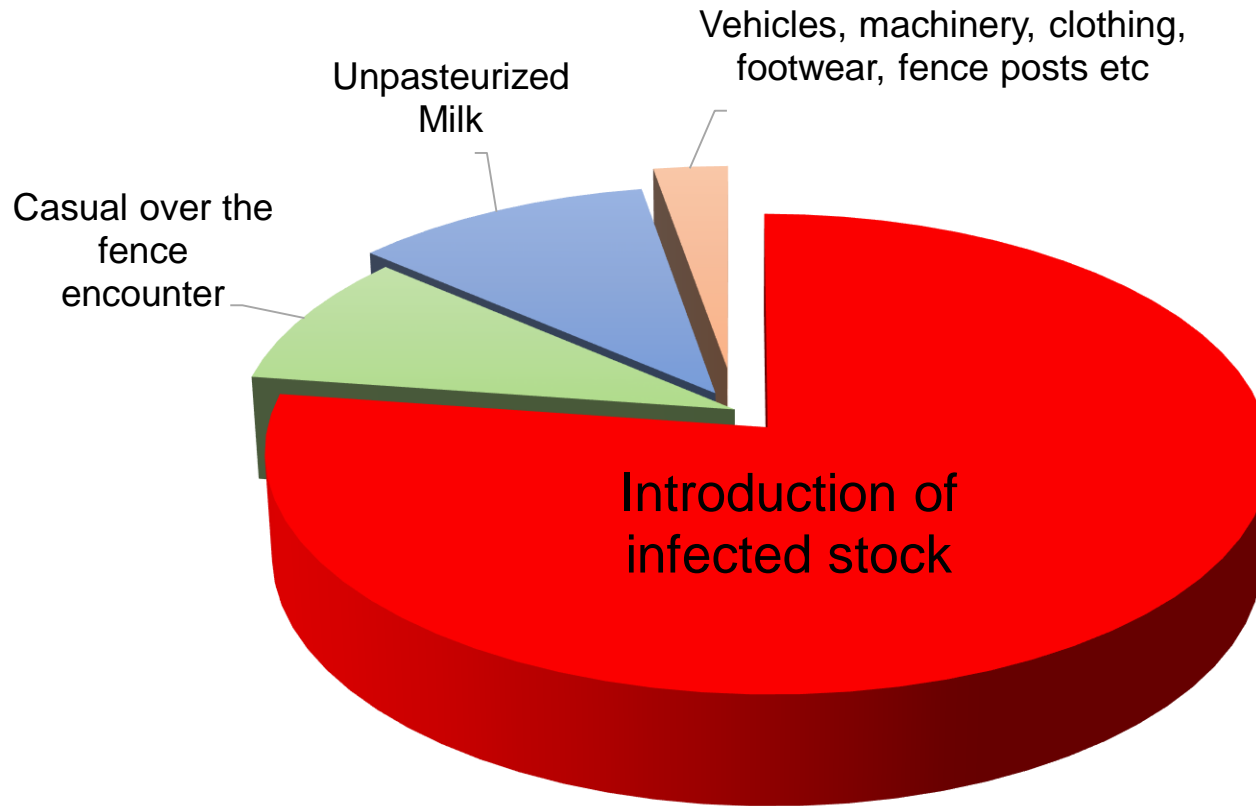
- **Restricted Place Notices on all 16 Van Leeuwen Dairy Group farms.**
- **All trucks and tankers are required to clean and disinfect at processing plants regardless.**
- **All farmers should have a biosecurity plan in place.**



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



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

Surveillance levels	Properties	Samples required
VLDG farms	16	6240
Bordering farms	62	16,864
Traces	30 (to date)	7800
Nationwide testing	120 (At least - final # TBC)	2320
TOTAL		33,224

**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.

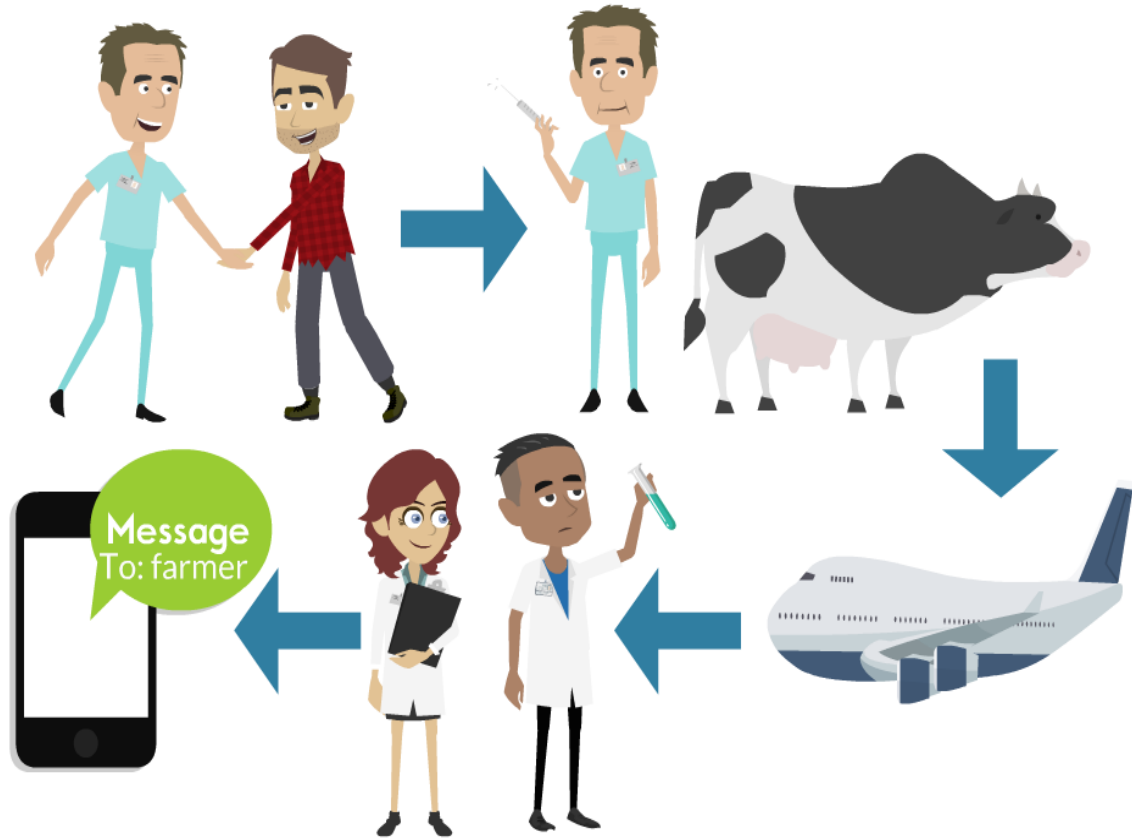
Testing - how does it work?

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.**



Compensation

- **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.
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