

# MANAGING TB IN YOUR COMMUNITY

What you need to know when a herd in your community has bovine TB

## HOW DO HERDS GET INFECTED?

In most cases the farmer is not to blame when a herd gets infected with TB. Having a TB infected herd can cause significant financial and emotional stress for a farmer, so it's important for everyone to be supportive.

**There are two ways a herd can initially become infected:**



Animals in the herd have contact with infected wildlife – usually possums.



Animals not known to be infected move into the herd.



“One of the worst things that can happen is having to deal with an outbreak... it's a really emotional time”

## HOW IS THE SPREAD CONTROLLED?

We restrict the movement of animals out of the infected herd. Stock can only move off the property if they are going directly

to slaughter. Sometimes an authorised person from OSPRI will allow animals to move off the property if they are TB tested first. These animals will have special white movement control tags.

The farmer will need to make sure their boundary fences are intact at all times, so their stock can't come into contact with other herds.

OSPRI uses information gathered through its NAIT programme to trace animals which may have moved off the infected property. This identifies other herds which may be impacted. Identified animals are tested to ensure the disease does not continue to spread.



## THE RISK TO YOUR HERD IS LOW

There is a very small risk of neighbouring herds becoming infected, as close contact between the animals is required. TB is spread through contact with respiratory fluids, and under New Zealand conditions, the disease does not survive long outside the animal.

To make sure there is no contact between your animals and neighbouring infected animals, you could consider setting up an electric outrigger.

If animals do jump the fence in to or out of an infected property, please isolate the stock and call us on 0800 482 463 so we can manage the situation.

### TB testing may change

Your herd's next TB test may be brought forward if they

haven't recently completed a test. Your herd may also be put under annual testing for a period of time if it is suspected the infection started through contact with infected possums.

### Protecting your herd

- Ensure you are registered with OSPRI's NAIT and TBfree programmes.
- Ensure your stock are NAIT tagged and registered, and their movements are recorded in the NAIT system.
- Make sure you only buy or lease bulls that have been tested recently. This is free under the TBfree programme's service bull testing scheme.
- When purchasing animals, check the herd status and last TB test date on the animal status declaration (ASD) form.

## SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY

This is a stressful time for the owner of the infected herd and your community. Having an infected herd can cause significant financial and emotional impacts for the farmer. There's often a stigma attached to TB, especially in areas where it's not commonly found. It's important that everyone is supportive and do what they can to stop the disease spreading.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information visit [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz).

If you have questions or need a hand call OSPRI on

**0800 482 463**

OSPRI manages the NAIT and TBfree programmes and can help you meet your responsibilities for each.

**GUMBOOTS AND  
VEHICLE TYRES  
DO NOT SPREAD  
TB BETWEEN  
PROPERTIES.**

