

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR AREA?

TB FREE UPDATE

LIVESTOCK UPDATE:

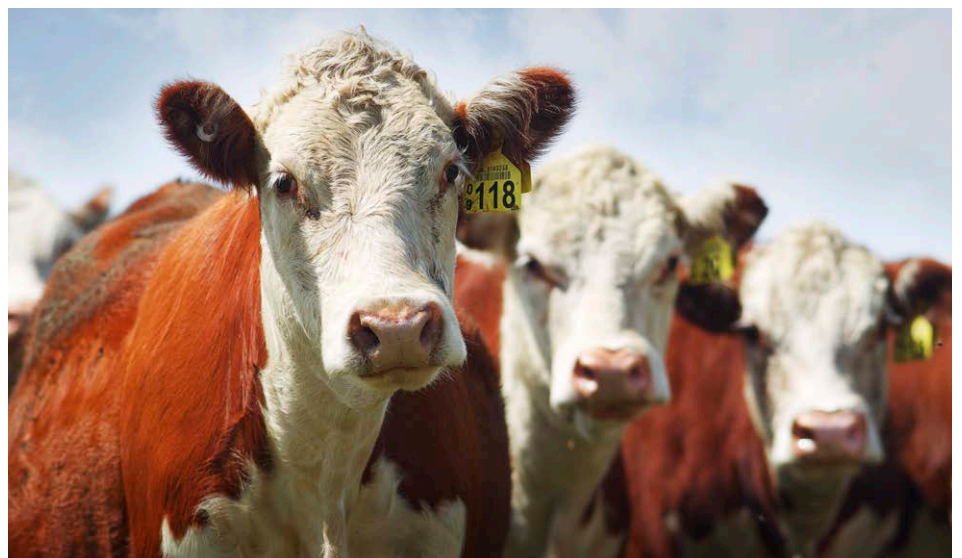
There are currently three infected herds in Hawke's Bay – two of which are in the Waitara Valley and the other in the Tutira Area. DNA typing of the TB organism indicates that the infections have come from wildlife source.

These herds are currently being managed closely by our Disease Management Team, TB testing and the slaughter of TB infected animals is underway to remove the disease from the herd.

WILDLIFE UPDATE:

In response to the infection, possum control and wildlife surveys will begin in 2019. The possum control will help reduce the risk of the disease spreading to other herds and ultimately remove the disease from wildlife, while the wildlife surveys will help assess the extent of the wildlife infection. The possum control work will use a mix of bait stations and trapping and will be completed by local contractors. The wildlife surveys will focus on wild pigs across the area and smaller possum surveys in some areas. More information on possum control methods and how controlling possums helps in the fight against TB is available on OSPRI's website.

Please refer to the operations map at the back on this notice.



If your property is in the area of a control operation, you will receive a letter and information from OSPRI's Operations Team or the TB management area contractor.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- If you capture a sick possum or ferret on your property, triple bag and freeze it, and contact OSPRI for further assistance. Locating TB-infected wildlife in this way adds to our knowledge of where disease is present.
- If an OSPRI wildlife survey or possum control operation is planned in your area, discuss with the contractor undertaking the work about areas where you are aware of possum or

ferret populations, or areas which hold wild pigs.

- You will be contacted if you are neighbouring an infected herd – to minimise the risk of contact between your animals and any neighbouring infected herd. Consider setting up an electric outrigger on the boundary fence or work with your neighbour to ensure stock is not grazed in adjacent paddocks. If animals do jump a fence to or from an infected property, isolate the stock and contact OSPRI as soon as possible so the situation can be managed.
- Make hunters aware of TB risk – make sure anyone hunting on your land doesn't release or relocate wild animals such as pigs. This is illegal and a possible way TB can be spread into the other areas.

WHAT IS BOVINE TB?

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. It can affect a wide range of animals, including humans. In New Zealand, cattle and deer (both wild and farmed), possums, ferrets and pigs are the most significant species infected with the disease.

HOW IS BOVINE TB CONTRACTED?

In farmed cattle and deer herds, animals are commonly infected with TB initially in the following ways:

- An animal or group of animals in the herd comes into contact with TB-infected wildlife - usually a possum.
- An infected animal or group of animals is unknowingly purchased and brought into a herd.

WHATS NEXT?

There will be a community meeting for you to come along and talk about your concerns with company representatives. Details of this meeting will follow.

If your property is identified as a possible area where wildlife control is required, you will be sent a letter and notice from the operations team.

