



HAWKE'S BAY TB RESPONSE FAQ

13 FEBRUARY 2020

WHAT IS THE TB SITUATION IN HAWKE'S BAY?

Since April 2019 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) has been confirmed in 29 animals in nine cattle herds in Hawke's Bay. One herd has since been cleared. Animals in another 15 herds are currently under investigation, with results due by the end of February 2020. All indications are that the source of infection is from wildlife.

HOW IS OSPRI RESPONDING?

OSPRI, as the agency responsible for the TBfree eradication programme is managing the response. We are committed to ensuring farmers are supported and that the disease is contained and eradicated. Immediate actions include:

- **Movement control:** Expanding the movement control area (MCA) in Hawke's Bay will reduce the movement of infected stock. The MCA introduces compulsory pre-movement TB testing for the area from 1 March 2020, ahead of autumn weaner sales to help prevent potential spread of the disease.
- **TB testing:** TB testing of cattle and deer herds and some targeted TB surveillance of wildlife species is being done to assist with identifying the extent of the affected area.
- **Possum control:** Planned possum control, both ground and aerial, has been brought forward with a number of operations already completed and several more operations underway.
- **Management of infected herds:** Infected animals identified through TB testing are removed from herds.

IS THERE A RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH?

The risk of bovine TB being transmitted to humans through food consumption is minimal because most milk for human consumption is pasteurised, a process which kills harmful bacteria, and meat is inspected at slaughter plants. Cases of humans contracting bovine TB in New Zealand are rare, though risks come from drinking unpasteurised milk or handling an infected animal carcass. Standard safety procedures for working with animals minimise the possibility of exposure. More information about this is available on our website; www.ospri.co.nz

WILL FARMERS BE COMPENSATED FOR ANIMALS SENT TO SLAUGHTER?

OSPRI compensates the owners of stock slaughtered as TB reactors. Compensation is paid to reduce the impact of TB infection on individual farmers. Before TB reactor animals are sent to slaughter, they will be valued by a TB tester

and the of ownership of the animal(s) is transferred to TBfree New Zealand. This frees the farmer from the cost of transport and slaughter, which are paid by TBfree New Zealand. Compensation payments are made after reactors are slaughtered.

CAN FARMERS BRING TB TESTING FORWARD IF THEY ARE CONCERNED?

All TB testing in the affected region has been brought forward to help assess the area of infection risk. Farmers can call the OSPRI Contact Centre (0800 482 463) to adjust the timing of a TB test with AsureQuality. This is recommended for herds that may not have their next herd test scheduled until autumn-winter of 2020. OSPRI is also advancing or conducting additional TB testing on farms to ensure that any further infected animals are identified as quickly as possible.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Current information about the Hawke's Bay TB response can be found on the OSPRI website. This includes information on possum control operations, TB testing and Movement Control Area restrictions, and information for affected farmers and communities. The webpage is at www.ospri.co.nz/hawke's-bay-tb-response

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Central North Island Movement Control Area (MCA) expands on March 1 to encompass the area where TB has been detected or is suspected. This will reduce the risk of disease spread through stock movement. All cattle over three months of age, or deer over eight months of age, must be TB tested within 60 days before moving from your farm.

Stock moving directly to slaughter does not need a pre-movement test.

WHAT IS OSPRI DOING TO SUPPORT FARMERS

OSPRI's case management and extension staff are in touch with all affected farmers. We understand this will be stressful for farmers and farming communities. We're calling on rural communities to support each other, especially affected farmers and those who appear to be finding it hard. If you have any concerns about someone you know, contact the Rural Support Trust or other community support services.

MY NEIGHBOUR GOT A POSITIVE SKIN TEST AND/OR POSITIVE BLOOD TEST, DOES THAT MEAN THEY HAVE TB?

Further testing will be undertaken to determine whether the animal is infected or not. If the tests are positive for TB all direct neighbours will be notified.

CAN I DO MY OWN POSSUM TRAPPING?

There is no problem with doing possum control on your own property.

COULD ANY OTHER VECTORS BE INVOLVED IN THE SPREAD OF TB IN THE HAWKE'S BAY?

Possoms are the primary vector for TB in New Zealand and currently we have no evidence that other vectors are involved in the spread of TB in the Hawkes Bay. Feral pigs and ferrets may get infected if they eat tuberculous carcasses, but they are generally considered not to spread the disease to cattle. Deer can also be infected with TB due to contact with infected possums.

WHAT DO I DO IF I AM NOW WITHIN THE MCA?

For the owners of herds with a Clear status that are located within a MCA who intend to move cattle or deer 3 months of age and older from the herd, apart from movements directly to slaughter, the animals to move must be negative to an approved TB test applied within 60 days prior to the movement.

If this applies to you and you need to organise a test contact OSPRI on 0800 482 463

CAN I MOVE MY ANIMALS TO MY RUNOFF OR GRAZING?

If the animals are moving to your own block that is managed under the same herd number as the home property they will not require testing. If they are moving to a property with another herd they will require pre-movement testing.

Also be aware that if moving animals to another that you own (i.e. runoff, grazing block etc.) that is outside a 10km radius of your home property, a NAIT movement must be completed for the animals that move.

WHAT DO THE CHANGES UNDER THE MCA MEAN FOR PEOPLE UNDER THE CURRENT MCA?

There will be no changes as they are already pre-movement testing.

CAN I COMPLETE A PRE-MOVEMENT TEST AND A WHOLE HERD TEST AT THE SAME TIME? Yes, provided the TB test is done within 60 days prior to the movement.

OSPRI is committed to supporting affected communities while the disease is contained and eradicated. There is also help available from:

- **Rural Support Trust:** [0800 78 72 54](tel:0800787254) (0800 RURAL HELP)
- **MPI:** [0800 00 83 33](tel:0800008333)
- **OSPRI:** 0800 482 463