

Mycoplasma bovis Update for Vetlife Clients.

Recent media news this week has portrayed a greater NZ issue with *Mycoplasma bovis* than previously thought, with *Mycoplasma bovis* being present in two other parts of NZ (Southland and Hawkes Bay).

While this news is a disappointment and is unfortunate, it does reflect the value of the NZ wide surveillance programme that MPI has put into place.

How does this affect us in Canterbury and South Canterbury?

Biosecurity of your individual properties has become even more important. Each farming unit needs to carefully consider the necessity of stock movements onto and off the farm, the movement of equipment and service personnel. The entry of new stock to your farm is the greatest risk factor for contracting *Mycoplasma bovis*.

We would re-iterate the need for a personalized biosecurity policy for each farming unit. This should encompass other pathogens pertinent to the dairy industry, but *Mycoplasma bovis* should be a focus at this time. Your Vetlife vet is in an ideal position to work through this with you.

The arrival on farm of mating bulls for follow up to AI is past us for this season, so that should not be an issue until next year.

What is Vetlife doing about the issue?

We are actively making ourselves available to create biosecurity plans for clients that request our help.

We are also continuing the policy of using separate dedicated vehicles and equipment for servicing affected clients.

Where any client has adopted further biosecurity measures, we will strictly adhere to those.

Closing comments.

At this stage, the only testing available outside of MPI's program is a bull screening programme – it is not a blood test and is a group or herd predictor, not an individual animal test.

However, we expect that over the next while, testing protocols will be created to give buyers and sellers some added information at herd or group level. We will update you further as any information comes to hand.

MPI continues to put out useful reading and management material that should be read. All farming clients should be email subscribers to the MPI email update – enrol if you are not currently. As always, contact your Vetlife veterinarian to discuss any concerns. We are here to support you.

The below contacts are the MPI recommended contacts:

[MPI Mycoplasma bovis](#) website - keep checking for updates

Questions for MPI - 0800 00 83 33 or Email: MBovis2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz

Farmer Support Line - 027 444 9380 or Email: MBovis2017_Welfare@mpi.govt.nz

Rural Support Trust - 0800 787 254

Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline - 0800 80 99 66

Kind regards,

Adrian Campbell

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