

For cattle that have tested positive for TB and are required by OSPRI to be slaughtered under the TBfree programme, monetary compensation is paid to the owners. AsureQuality's TB Tester/Accredited Person have the responsibility on behalf of OSPRI to assess a fair market value for such animals with the owner of the stock, or their nominee. Providing on-farm valuations requires the Accredited Person to keep up to date with the current cattle market pricing, meat schedules and any other factors influencing value.

The market value assessed must always be fair to both the farmer and OSPRI and is also considered the identification of a reactor which will have economic and/or managerial impact on the farmer's operation. The TB Tester/Accredited Person carefully consider the position of the farmer and every effort is made to make the negotiations as amicable as possible whilst working within the set guidelines.

OSPRI receives monthly updates of fair market values for the various classes of stock from PGG Wrightson Ltd in the form of the OSPRI Reactor Monthly Valuation Schedule. These updates are provided to the TB Tester/Accredited Person as the maximum value for categories of both beef and dairy. There are separate beef schedules for North and South Islands with the dairy values being based on national values. Prices reflect age and breed as well as monthly valuation differences.

The beef values are based on per kilogram of live weight and reflect the values on a size and condition basis for all groups of beef cattle, including dairy beef animals. This value must be correct for the individual animal while not exceeding the maximum value in the OSPRI Reactor Monthly Valuation Schedule. These figures are all compiled from the monthly sales and schedule data provided by PGG Wrightson Ltd. The TB Tester/Accredited Person will often seek to establish the value of an animal when the blood is taken.

Careful consideration of the entire herd value is one of the guidelines when determining the value of the animal to be slaughtered. As such, when the herd is infected, this will not have a devaluating effect on a herd value (which can be 20-40% below that of clear herds in the same region.) The valuation is generally based on the animal's place within the herd, so if an animal comes within the top 10% of the herd, it generally qualifies for the maximum compensation. With beef animals, the TB Tester/Accredited Person will work with the owner to determine the estimated live weight of the animal and will use scales or weight bands if available. Valuations often change from month to month, but the valuation is always based on the date that the positive test was deemed to be a TB reactor. Differences in valuation may vary between farms or neighbours, which is usually due to different breeds, classes of stock, ages, and the month of valuation.

From time to time, special cases arise where an animal is considered to be worth more than the maximum allowable, such as animals with contract mating's, or animals that have been purchased for higher values. In these circumstances, the TB Tester/Accredited Person will contact OSPRI to discuss the matter. If a decision is made that a specific animal is outside the TB Reactor Valuation Schedule classifications, OSPRI will confirm the value with the TB Tester/Accredited Person.

Time frames

The TB Tester/Accredited Person will arrange valuation of the animal with the Person in Charge of the herd in accordance with the OSPRI Reactor Valuation Contract (RVC) within two working days of notification from OSPRI to arrange valuation. A completed RVC must be submitted to the OSPRI Contact Centre within five working days of the RVC being requested.

Additional responsibilities of the Owner

The Person in Charge of the herd that under the "Ministry for Primary Industries: New Zealand Food Safety: DPC2: Animal Products (Dairy) Approved Criteria for Farm Dairies – Part 3 Milking Animal Health", any milking animal declared to be a reactor **must be** segregated from the herd immediately and the **milk withdrawn from supply.**

Furthermore, any animals identified as being a reactor must not ever have its tags removed or ever leave a property without a Permit to move.

If you have any enquiries on the points raised in this article, please contact OSPRI/TBfree on: info@ospri.co.nz