

M. bovis

Under active surveillance

Information pack
for farmers



Introduction

Your property has been placed under Active Surveillance as part of the Programme to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) from New Zealand. In this pack we will cover steps you can take to reduce the chances of cattle getting *M. bovis* on your property.

What you need to know:

- Your property will require on-farm testing for *M. bovis* to ensure that the infection has not spread. We will contact you to arrange testing.
- Movement restrictions will not be implemented, so you can continue normal farming activities.

What you can do:

- Continue your normal farming activities
- Review your on-farm biosecurity practices
- Use the **Biosecurity Planner** to help manage biosecurity risks on your property:
<https://landcare.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/BiosecurityTemplate3July.docx>.
- Check your NAIT records are current
- Let us know about activities that could increase the risk of infection. For example:
 - you have traded animals with your neighbour
 - stock have crossed the boundary, either from your neighbour's farm to your farm, or vice versa
 - you have fed milk or colostrum to your calves
 - you have used service bulls supplied by your neighbour or supplied service bulls to your neighbour
- Read the sections on support available (page 12) and contact details (page 13).

We hope you find the information provided in this pack helpful.

Your programme contact

One of our OSPRI team will contact you to help guide you through the work under active surveillance. This will be your main point of contact if you have any questions.

Get programme updates

You can get regular general updates on the *M. bovis* programme through our newsletter, OSPRI News. To subscribe, please email: info@ospri.co.nz.

You can also find our latest updates on our website: www.ospri.co.nz

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What farmers of properties under Active Surveillance need to know

What is Active Surveillance?

Active Surveillance is a step in the eradication programme where properties – with a low risk of having been exposed to *M. bovis* – are required to undergo precautionary testing to ensure that there is no infection in their cattle.

Low-risk properties do not need to be placed under movement restrictions, but testing is necessary to ensure that there is no infection within these cattle.

The cattle management groups that might have been exposed to *M. bovis*, will be tested to find their disease status.

Note: A property under Active Surveillance is different to an Active Confirmed Property, which is a property that has been found to be infected with *M. bovis* and is under strict legal controls.

When are properties placed under Active Surveillance?

A property is placed under Active Surveillance if the risk of *M. bovis* infection in cattle is low. For example, the property:

- sent cattle or untreated milk/colostrum to a property that later became infected
- is in proximity of an infected property
- received low risk cattle or risk goods from a property that was later found to be infected.

A very small number of properties placed under Active Surveillance are found to be infected.

Testing carried out under Active Surveillance

Blood samples will be taken from cattle at risk of infection.

All cattle tested must have a NAIT-approved RFID tag.

Testing cattle management groups of more than 40 animals requires one negative round of testing, for the Programme to determine the absence of *M. bovis* infection in those cattle. Testing cattle management groups of up to only 40 cattle, requires two consecutive negative rounds of testing to determine the absence of *M. bovis* infection in those cattle.

If all cattle management groups test negative, then testing and Active Surveillance on your property will end.

Blood samples collected from properties under Active Surveillance are tested using the ELISA test. More information about the tests used to detect *M. bovis* is in the section “Testing for *Mycoplasma bovis*” (page 10).

If your circumstances change (for example, if a new infection risk such as an animal movement is associated with your property) your farm may re-enter the *M. bovis* Eradication Programme and more testing may be done.

What happens if the tests are negative?

The management groups tested are considered free of disease, and testing will be completed.

While testing under Active Surveillance can often be completed in just one round, sometimes a second and even a third round may be necessary.

What happens if tests indicate *M. bovis* may be present?

If testing detects possible *M. bovis* on your property, the property will be placed under a Notice of Direction (see page 8) while further testing is done.

You will be assigned an OSPRI Case Manager to work with you through this process.

How will I find out the results of testing?

Results can take up to three weeks. Our team will contact you with the results of each round of testing and discuss any future action needed.

You will also receive written confirmation of your test results.

Mustering costs

We may be able to help cover the immediate cost of mustering stock for testing if it is going to cause a disruption to business as usual operations on your farm. Please discuss this with your OSPRI contact.

Animal welfare

Remember that you are always responsible for the welfare of animals under your care. If a property is placed under Active Surveillance or movement restrictions, your animal welfare responsibilities do not change.

Directions given under the Biosecurity Act 1993 do not override other legislation, such as the Codes of Welfare or Animal Welfare Act 1999 and its associated regulations (2016 Calf Regulations and 2018 reissue Calf Regulations).

Your vet can provide animal welfare advice.

About *Mycoplasma bovis*

What is *Mycoplasma bovis*?

Mycoplasma bovis (*M. bovis*) is a bacterial disease that can cause serious health conditions in cattle, including mastitis (udder infection), pneumonia, arthritis, and ill-thrift in calves. Less commonly, it can cause progressive neurological disease in calves, conjunctivitis, and reproductive losses.

The infection is difficult to diagnose in an individual animal as the bacteria can hide from the immune system within the body, making it hard for cattle to fight off infection.

How *Mycoplasma bovis* is spread

Infected animals may shed (release) bacteria in milk, colostrum, nasal secretions, or semen, enabling the bacteria to spread to other cattle.

M. bovis typically spreads between cattle when they have close contact, such as:

- cattle mixing together in a paddock, pen, milking shed or calf shed
- cattle walking down a road where nose-to-nose contact is possible with cattle held in paddocks adjacent to the road
- cattle straying across boundaries via break-ins or break outs
- calves fed milk or colostrum from infected cows
- equipment used on infected cows as part of the milking process.

M. bovis most commonly spreads between properties when *M. bovis* infected cattle are introduced into a healthy (previously uninfected) herd.

Cattle can be infected with *M. bovis* without showing any signs of disease.

M. bovis is fragile in the environment only survives for very short times when exposed to heat, drying and UV light. It can survive longer in cool, moist, and dark environments. *M. bovis* is unlikely to survive in grazing paddocks or areas used in baleage and silage production.

The risk of *M. bovis* spreading via organic material such as soil, effluent, or feed types (including baleage and silage), is extremely low.

No food safety risk

M. bovis does not infect humans and is not a food safety risk. Trade-wise it is not considered a disease of relevance by the World Organisation for Animal Health (the OIE) and internationally, there are no regulatory restrictions for meat and dairy products due to *M. bovis*. Infection is common in many food producing nations, and where infected cattle aren't showing signs of infection they are processed for human consumption. In New Zealand, our laws mean any animals that are very sick, severely injured or have medications in their bodies are not processed for human consumption. All animals are also examined after slaughter to ensure the meat is safe and suitable for consumption.

New to New Zealand

M. bovis was detected in New Zealand for the first time in 2017. A law change in 2018 means *M. bovis* is now listed as an Unwanted Organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Clinical signs of *Mycoplasma bovis*

Cattle




Abortions

- Slips, early calves, small calves

Mastitis

- Swollen (rubbery quarters), involves multiple quarters
- Non-responsive to treatment
- Affected quarters will rapidly dry off



Conjunctivitis

- Sticky eyes, white eyes



Pneumonia

- Hacking cough



Lame cows with swollen legs/joints

- Painful and hot



Mycoplasma bovis is an unwanted organism in NZ. It is important for all farmers to contact their veterinarian and/or OSPRI if they see the following unusual signs in their herd.

- *M. bovis* is spread mainly by prolonged close contact between animals and feeding milk from infected calves.
- Equipment used on animals must be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between farms.
- Don't wait if you have animals with suspicious signs, early intervention from a veterinarian is important.
- In some cases, animals can be infected and show no signs of disease.

Calves / young stock



Lame calves with swollen legs/joints

- Painful and hot



Fading calves

- Inflammation of the joints, and sometimes the brain
- Anorexia



Pneumonia

- Hacking cough



Conjunctivitis

- Sticky eyes, white eyes



Ear infections

- Droopy ear
- Ear discharge
- Head tilt
- Droopy eyelid
- Abnormal gait



How the eradication programme works

Programme surveillance

The Programme combines network surveillance and background surveillance to identify infected herds.

Network surveillance

Network surveillance aims to control the spread of *M. bovis* by using tracing tools to follow-up properties linked to the network of Confirmed Properties. All cattle movements onto and off confirmed properties are identified through tracing. Any properties which could be the source of infection, or could have received infected cattle, are investigated.

Properties in proximity to a Confirmed Property, or operated by the same owner/enterprise (owner other), are also determined to be at risk. A risk event is created against a property when it is determined that there is an increased risk of *M. bovis* infection on that property. Risk events require further investigation and may lead to on-farm sampling with or without movement controls.

Cattle on a property determined to be at low risk of infection are sampled under Active Surveillance (no movement controls). Cattle on a property determined to be at high risk are sampled under a movement control Notice of Direction (NOD). This balanced approach means we stop the risk of spread from those properties assessed to be at higher risk of infection, while not impacting the business of those properties which are considered at lower risk.

Background surveillance

Background surveillance includes the Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance and the Beef and Drystock Cattle Surveillance. As we progress towards eradication, we also accumulate data supporting an absence of *M. bovis* infection across New Zealand.

Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance

Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance is a screening tool that is done at least monthly and is used to test each commercial milk supplier. This allows us to identify infected properties faster than we could by tracing cattle movements alone.

If a bulk tank milk sample is reported with a “detect” result, this means that there is an indication that an immune reaction may be present. This is **not** a confirmation of infection.

To resolve a detect result, we need to carry out further on-farm sampling to determine the true infection status of the milking herd.

Beef and Drystock Cattle Surveillance

Beef and Drystock Cattle Surveillance covers a range of farming systems including commercial terminal beef herds, beef breeding herds, dairy heifer grazing properties, and small and non-commercial farming enterprises. Survey properties are not being tested because we think they might be infected. Instead, Beef and Drystock Cattle Surveillance is a type of risk-based surveillance that surveys the beef and drystock sector for infection outside of the confirmed infection network.

Cattle are blood sampled during routine farm management procedures, at meat processing plants, and prior to supply at a feedlot.

So far, the findings indicate that *M. bovis* is not widespread in beef and drystock properties outside of the network of Confirmed Properties.

Programme property categories

Properties directly involved in the Mycoplasma bovis Eradication Programme will fall into one of the following categories:

- under **Active Surveillance**
- under a movement control **Notice of Direction**
- an **Active Confirmed Property**
- a **Cleared Confirmed Property**.

Active Surveillance

Properties are placed under Active Surveillance when the risk of infection is low. Testing is necessary to determine the infection status of the cattle. This will require at least one or possibly more rounds of testing for cattle on your property. No movement controls are placed on your property so you can continue normal farming activities while initial testing is carried out.

Properties under a movement control Notice of Direction

Where the risk of *M. bovis* infection is considered high, the property will be put under a movement control Notice of Direction (NOD) – a legal notice issued under sections 121 or 122 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

This includes properties where:

- there are, or have been, high-risk trace cattle present
- there has been a movement of high-risk goods (infected milk or colostrum)
- a Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance detect result has been produced
- a round of Active Surveillance testing was positive
- a Beef and Drystock Cattle Surveillance screen positive result has been determined.

The movement control NOD prevents cattle, milk, colostrum, and equipment that's at risk of spreading *M. bovis* from being moved off-farm (without a permit), while more testing is carried out.

Permits can be sought from OSPRI for normal farm management culls going directly to the meat works.

In conjunction with the movement control NOD, a Duty to Provide Information notice (section 43 of the Biosecurity Act 1993) will be issued, for the purposes of requesting information or for the maintenance of accurate information.

A census (section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993) of all cattle on-farm may also be required. This is a stocktake and involves scanning the NAIT-approved RFID ear tags of all cattle on the property. It is usually completed at the same time as sampling. The census provides an accurate picture of all cattle present on the property, allowing farmers to update their NAIT records. It also allows the Programme to confirm the absence or presence of any trace cattle or cattle of interest.

Active Confirmed Property

Active Confirmed Properties are properties that have been confirmed to have *M. bovis*. They are under a Restricted Place Notice (RP Notice), which stops animal movement and at-risk goods/equipment being transported on and off the affected part of the property. All cattle subject to the Restricted Place Notice will be culled.

Depending on the type of property, it will go through cleaning and disinfection, and/or a standdown period, before repopulation is allowed. Once this has been completed and movement controls lifted, a property becomes a Cleared Confirmed Property and can be repopulated with replacement cattle.

Cleared Confirmed Property

Cleared Confirmed Properties have had *M. bovis*, and have been depopulated, cleaned and disinfected (and/or stood down), and had legal notices lifted.

Disease eradication phases

The *M. bovis* programme started in 2018 and is estimated to finish in 2028.

We need to pass through 3 phases to provide confidence that *M. bovis* is absent in our cattle herd.

1. **Delimiting** — in this phase, we identify and remove cases of infection.
2. **Provisional absence** — in this phase, we focus on monitoring the cattle population through background surveillance. We need 2 consecutive clear spring and 2 consecutive clear autumn calving periods to build up a good level of confidence that *M. bovis* is no longer present.
3. **Confidence of absence** — in this phase, background surveillance continues until we achieve a very high level of confidence that *M. bovis* is eradicated. This phase is expected to run for 2 years. The confidence of absence phase ends with a statement of absence and *M. bovis* is then considered exotic.

Testing for *Mycoplasma bovis*

M. bovis is difficult to diagnose in an individual animal. Clinical signs are not seen in all infected animals, so diagnostic testing is necessary to identify infected animals and groups of animals.

To detect low levels of infection we test many animals, often multiple times.

The types of tests we use

The tests we use to detect *M. bovis* are the:

- ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test
- PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test.

The number and groups of cattle that have samples collected varies from property to property depending on several factors, such as the:

- number of cattle on-farm
- way in which cattle are organised into groups (management groups and group sizes)
- age of the cattle
- presence of stock classes of interest (beef breeding, breeding bulls and dairy replacements)
- way the property was identified as being at risk of *M. bovis* infection.

About the ELISA test

The ELISA test detects antibodies to *M. bovis* in blood or milk. In other words, it looks for the immune response to the bacteria, rather than the bacteria itself. An individual animal that returns a positive ELISA test result is referred to as a 'reactor'.

ELISA test results are interpreted across the management group of cattle tested, often referred to as herd-level interpretation. If a certain percentage of the cattle tested in a management group are reactors, the herd-level result is positive.

About the PCR test

The PCR test detects the presence of *M. bovis* DNA in a sample from the animal (for example, tissue, milk, colostrum, or swabs from tonsils excluding blood). The PCR test is used routinely to test samples from trace cattle at slaughter.

There are challenges in using PCR to determine the infection status of animals and groups of animals. The bacteria are shed from infected animals intermittently and sometimes at low levels. Samples taken from infected cattle may not contain the bacteria, or enough bacteria to enable detection.

A negative PCR result is referred to as "not detected".

A positive PCR result confirms infection, as the bacteria must be present in the animal for it to be present in the sample and be detected by the test. If any sample from a group of cattle returns a positive PCR result, that management group of cattle is considered infected.

Testing rounds

A 'round' of testing has occurred when the all management groups at risk of infection have been sampled.

It may take up to six weeks to receive the results. Results are initially provided over the phone, and followed up with written confirmation.

Round 1

All management groups at risk of infection will be identified and blood samples taken. All sampled animals must be identified individually with a NAIT approved RFID ear tag.

A nasal swab will be collected from any trace cattle less than a year old.

All trace animals will be raddled with blue stock paint and tagged with a blue ear tag as they will be sent for slaughter sampling after this round of testing. See **Slaughter Sampling**.

Where the ELISA test detects *M. bovis* antibodies present in a group of less than 40 cattle with trace animals present, the group will be sent to slaughter for sampling. See **Slaughter Sampling**.

Round 2

Round 2 testing needs to take place at least three weeks after round 1, and at least two weeks after slaughter sampling, to allow *M. bovis* antibodies to build up.

Properties that require more than one round of testing include those where:

- the ELISA test detects *M. bovis* antibodies present at round 1.
- trace animals were present in the group.
- the group was less than 40 animals (and round 1 was negative).

All management groups that require a 2nd round of testing will be identified and blood samples taken for ELISA testing.

Round 3 +

It is uncommon for properties to require more than two rounds to determine their infection status.

Properties that require 3 + rounds include those:

- that disease status has been unable to be determined
- the Programme have identified additional trace animals through the farm census.

All management groups that require further rounds of testing will be identified and blood samples taken for ELISA testing.

Slaughter sampling

All trace cattle are considered high risk and will be sampled at slaughter (under Section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993).

After round 1 of on-farm sampling, all trace cattle are sent to slaughter and have a blood sample and tonsillar swab collected. This is an essential element of determining the infection status of a property and removes the risk trace cattle present.

Support available

Rural Support Trusts

Rural Support Trusts have local, rural people who know from experience that pressures can mount up. Their networks and training can help with all kinds of situations, and help you get through your current challenges.

Rural Support will be able to help provide advice with:

- Health and wellbeing
- Financial pressure
- Employer support
- Employee support
- Weather events

Call your local trust: **0800 787 254**

Website: www.rural-support.org.nz

Managing stress

When times get tough it's important to get a support team around you. Family, friends and trusted advisors will be able to help you. Sometimes it's helpful to seek support, assistance and expertise from someone objective and not so involved in the process.

A free service you can call or text anytime 1737 provides support from a trained counsellor. You can make a one-off anonymous call or if you consider it might be useful to call back another time then request a case number so that they can try to get the same person to save telling your situation again.

If you do find stress levels are beginning to impact on day-to-day quality of life, for example, you're not sleeping, drinking more alcohol, finding it hard to make decisions or family relationships are affected, then talk with your GP or a trusted health professional. They can help you work on improving coping strategies and keeping yourself well.

Industry support

If you give us permission to pass on your contact details we can arrange direct support from DairyNZ or Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

Other groups you can talk to include:

- DairyNZ: 0800 4 324 7969
- Beef + Lamb New Zealand: 0800 233 352
- Federated Farmers: 0800 327 64
- Rural Women New Zealand: 0800 256 467
- Dairy Women's Network: 0800 396 748

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Managing the media

If you're approached by media to comment, it's entirely your decision whether you wish to speak to them or not.

If you want any advice or support, please feel free to contact the OSPRI media team, who will be happy to help.

- Phone: **0800 222 142**

If media arrive at your property and you don't want them there, here are some suggestions that may be helpful:

- Don't be confrontational or aggressive – try to remain calm and politely ask them to leave the property
- If they press you for an interview or comment, calmly say that you're not able to help and suggest they contact OSPRI – just say "Sorry, I can't help, you'll need to talk to OSPRI"
- Media aren't allowed to remain on private property uninvited, as this would be trespassing. However, they are legally allowed to film in public places, such as the road outside your property. If you feel harassed or unsafe, we recommend calling the Police and letting OSPRI know.

Top tips for farmers directly involved in the *M. bovis* Programme

As a farmer directly affected by *M. bovis*, the following tips will help you minimise the impact of the Programme's activities on your farm. These tips have been developed with input from farmers and industry representatives.

1. Make sure you understand whether what you are being told by Programme staff are suggestions or legal directions. Keep and record the written directions that you are given.

All legal directions will be given to you in writing, and it's important to keep your copy. It can make claiming compensation easier when there is clear evidence that your losses stemmed from a legal direction given as part of the Programme.

2. Read, be confident you understand, and fully comply with directions given by OSPRI.

You are legally obligated to meet the restrictions placed on your farm, and they are essential to stopping any possible further spread of *M. bovis*.

3. Work with the Programme to get trace animals identified, tested, valued and off to slaughter as soon as possible.

Your farm can't progress until the trace animals have been processed, and it is important to determine if there is any risk to other farmers.

4. Keep your own log book of the details of all conversations with Programme staff including names, dates and times.

Your OSPRI Case Manager will keep a record of every action on your farm. Keeping your own records can help with any future discussions about your situation.

5. Update and maintain accurate NAIT records, and give Programme staff all of the information they ask for. The OSPRI call centre can help you with any issues you have with your NAIT account. The Programme needs to know what animals are on your property, and in the worst-case scenario, what animals have left it. Getting your records up to date will make the process go faster.

6. If your farm is placed under active surveillance keep farming as close to business-as-usual, as you can. If in doubt seek clarification from Programme staff.

On the majority of farms tested *M. bovis* is not detected and you are not eligible for compensation as your farm isn't under a direction from OSPRI.

7. If affected by the Programme, use of your professional team (i.e. your vet, bank manager, farm consultant etc.) who will understand the need to treat this information confidentially. The *M. bovis* Programme will not contact any third party organisations about your situation without your consent.

These organisations or people are those that can help you get through some of the challenges you may face.

8. Reach out to friends and family and/or the Rural Support Trust for support.

If your farm is put under restrictions it's normal to find this stressful and uncertain. Nobody is expected to handle this alone. The Rural Support Trusts are up-to-speed on *M. bovis* and the Programme, and are there to walk you through it. They can put you in touch with other sources of information or support, including financial, health, or technical options or farmers who have already come out the other side. Share the load, you are not alone, and farmers can get through this together.

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Contact details

Query	Contact	Phone	Email	Website
<i>M. bovis</i> Programme	OSPRI	0800 482 463	info@OSPRI.co.nz	www.ospri.co.nz
NAIT	NAIT	0800 482 463	info@nait.co.nz	www.ospri.co.nz
Farmer wellbeing	Rural Support Trust	0800 78 72 54		www.rural-support.org.nz
Income Assistance	Work and Income	0800 55 90 09		www.workandincome.govt.nz
Compensation	MPI Compensation Coordinator	0800 008 333	compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz	

Glossary

Here are some terms you may hear as part of the *M. bovis* Programme, and what they mean:

Active Surveillance	Properties with a low risk of exposure to <i>M. bovis</i> undergo precautionary testing to ensure that there is no infection in their cattle.
Backward trace	A low-risk movement of cattle and risk goods (such as milk and colostrum) onto a property before it was infected with <i>M. bovis</i> .
Cattle	Animals of any age in the subfamily Bovinae, including domestic cattle, buffalo, bison, and other breeds.
Cattle of interest (low-risk cattle)	<p>Cattle that are associated with a risk event and require sampling to determine infection status.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cattle from a Confirmed Property that have clear evidence that these cattle did not have close contact with the infected management groups on the property • cattle from a Confirmed Property that have likely had close contact with infected cattle, but have been contributing to the bulk tank milk supply • backward trace cattle that moved onto a property before it was confirmed to be infected with <i>M. bovis</i>.
Census	A legal direction under section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. It involves a stocktake and scanning of the NAIT-approved RFID ear tags of all cattle on the property.
Confirmed Property	A property where <i>M. bovis</i> infection in cattle has been confirmed, after two positive rounds of herd-level serology testing or a PCR-positive sample has been detected.
Duty to Provide Information	A legal direction under section 43 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 that allows an authorised person to request information or request the maintenance of accurate information for the purposes of disease control.
Exotic Disease Investigation Report (EDIR)	An on-farm investigation completed by a vet when a property is likely to become, or becomes, a Confirmed Property. Information is gathered about farm management practices and cattle movements is assessed to determine the risk of infection spread across the property or multiple properties.
Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)	A diagnostic test that detects the presence and concentration of antibodies to a specific organism.

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OSPRI Case Manager	A case manager who works with farmers involved in the Programme to oversee <i>M. bovis</i> -related activities and assist with farm recovery.
Forward trace (low or high risk)	A movement of cattle and risk goods (such as milk and colostrum) from a Confirmed Property during the infection risk period. The cattle or goods are determined to be either low risk or high risk.
In-contact cattle	Cattle that have had close contact with high-risk cattle (trace cattle) or ingested milk that has moved off a Confirmed Property during its infection risk period.
Infection risk period	The period a Confirmed Property is considered to have been infected.
Management group	A group of cattle that presently share the same grazing paddock or pen or are being reared in the same facility. They share the same likelihood of infection from <i>M. bovis</i> .
Management group of interest	A management group of cattle that is associated with a risk event and requires sampling to determine its infection status.
Notice of Direction (NOD)	<p>A legal notice under sections 121 or 122 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 requiring the owner or person in charge of animals (PICA) to complete an activity.</p> <p>A Notice of Direction (NOD) may be served for movement control purposes, to restrict movements of cattle or risk goods off a property, or as a direction to census, isolate, decontaminate, destroy, or sample cattle.</p>
Owner other	Another property or enterprise operated or owned by the same owner or person in charge of animals (PICA) of a Confirmed Property. These properties are determined to be at risk and require further investigation.
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)	A diagnostic test that detects DNA from a target organism.
Programme	A reference to the <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> Eradication Programme.
Property in proximity	A property that neighbours, or is in proximity to, a Confirmed Property that is determined to be at risk.
Reactor	Cattle that have reacted on an ELISA test above the threshold of that test.
Restricted Place Notice (RP Notice)	A legal notice served on the occupier of a place – under section 130 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 – on the belief or suspicion that <i>M. bovis</i> is, or has been, in a place. An RP notice prevents unauthorised movements of cattle or risk goods on or off the property.
Risk event	<p>A risk event is created against a property when it is determined (via network or background surveillance) that there is an increased risk of <i>M. bovis</i> infection on that property.</p> <p>Risk events require further investigation.</p>

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Risk goods	Organisms, organic material, or other things that may harbour or contain <i>M. bovis</i> . Examples include cattle, by-products, milk, colostrum, bedding, troughs, equipment, vehicles, and personal protective equipment.
Trace cattle (high-risk cattle)	<p>Cattle that are at high risk of being infected with <i>M. bovis</i>, having had close contact with the infected cattle on a Confirmed Property during the infection risk period.</p> <p>Trace cattle have never contributed to the bulk tank milk supply. A legal notice to conduct sampling at slaughter is issued for all trace cattle.</p>

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Active Surveillance – Indicative process for Farmers

