

*M. bovis*

# Under notice of direction

Information pack  
for farmers



## Introduction

Your property has been placed under a Notice of Direction as part of the Programme currently underway to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) from New Zealand.

This pack explains what it means to be under a Notice of Direction (a NOD), and what is likely to happen next, as well as information about the wider *M. bovis* Programme.

Being issued a NOD does not mean that your cattle are infected – the majority of farms issued a NOD are found to be free of infection and return back to farming with minimal disruption.

While under a NOD no cattle or other goods that could spread *M. bovis* can be moved off your property without a permit, and testing is conducted to determine if there is any infection in your stock. It is important to try to continue your business as usual as much as you can within these restrictions.

It's also important to know that compensation is available for certain verifiable losses you may have incurred as a result of OSPRI exercising legal powers to control and eradicate *M. bovis* – you can read more about this in the section: [Financial compensation and operational costs](#).

We know this situation may be difficult and stressful for you and your family and your staff, and we want you to be fully informed about the process that will be occurring. There is a wide range of support available. Please see the sections [Support available](#) and [Contact details](#).

## Your Case Manager

When your farm is placed under a Notice of Direction, you will be assigned an OSPRI Case Manager.

This is an Authorised Person under the Biosecurity Act, who will oversee all activities relating to the legal notices in place on your farm.

They will be your main point of contact and can answer or find the answer to any questions you might have.

They will also help you manage the impacts of being under restrictions.

## Get *M. bovis* programme updates

You can get regular general updates on the programme through our newsletter, OSPRI News. To subscribe, please email: [info@ospri.co.nz](mailto:info@ospri.co.nz).

You can also find our latest updates on our website: [www.ospri.co.nz](http://www.ospri.co.nz).

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# Under a Notice of Direction

## What does it mean to be under a Notice of Direction?

A farm is placed under Notice of Direction (NOD) if there's a risk that cattle on the farm might be infected with *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*).

The movement of cattle and other high-risk items needs to be stopped while testing is done to determine if any cattle are infected.

While restrictions are in place the following cannot be moved off the farm without a permit (issued by OSPRI):

- cattle
- milk not being sent to a commercial processor
- equipment that's been used in the milking environment or has been in direct contact with cattle.

While you are under a NOD you need to continue to meet all of your usual obligations, for example, your animal welfare responsibilities. It is also important to maintain business as usual for your farm as much as you can within the controls placed on your property.

## Why it's important to comply with your Notice

If you are issued with a legal notice, such as a Notice of Direction, by law, you're required to comply with the terms of the Notice. It is a legal control under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## When are farms placed under a Notice of Direction?

There are five common reasons that a farm is placed under a Notice of Direction.

1. There are 'trace animals' on the farm or that have been on the farm – trace animals are cattle that have moved off a property confirmed with *M. bovis* during the risk period of likely infection.
2. A dairy farm has had a 'detect' result as part of the Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance programme.
3. A beef farm has had a 'detect' result as part of routine Beef Surveillance.
4. A farm has had a positive round of testing while under Active Surveillance.
5. A farm is closely associated with an infected farm i.e., they share the same owner or manager.

## Testing carried out under a Notice of Direction

On farm testing needs to take place as soon as possible to determine if *M. bovis* has spread to the farm, and if there is any risk to other farms from cattle movements. Having testing completed will allow for restrictions to be lifted as soon as possible.

The testing protocols are specific to each farm, the size of the management groups, and the nature of the risk. The testing required on your farm will be specific to your situation, and will be communicated to you.

The following is a general summary of how the testing works, but note that it may not be exactly what occurs on your farm:

### If there are trace animals on farm

The first round of testing must take place while the trace animals are alive and on farm, so that we can ensure that we get samples from all of these animals.

After the first round of samples for testing are taken, the trace animals must be sent to slaughter, where further samples will be taken.

At least three weeks after the first round, and at least two weeks after any slaughter sampling, a second round of testing of the remaining **in-contact** (see Glossary) animals will be done. The two weeks is to allow for the animals to develop an immune response if they have been infected.

If all of those results are negative we will determine that there is no *M. bovis* infection in those management groups.

### If there are no trace animals on the farm

The number of rounds of testing required will be determined by the size of the management groups.

For more information about testing, see the section [Testing for \*Mycoplasma bovis\*](#).

## What happens if the tests are negative?

The Notice of Direction will be lifted once tests have shown no evidence of *M. bovis* in your cattle, and if required, a census has been completed to ensure there are no other trace animals on the farm, see the section [Conducting a census](#).

A number of rounds of testing may be necessary for us to determine if *M. bovis* is present. The Notice of Direction will stay in place until the testing has provided a clear determination.

Testing may be carried out again if circumstances change, for example, if more trace animals come on to the farm in the future.

## What happens if testing indicates *M. bovis* is present?

If testing detects *M. bovis* in your cattle, the following steps will happen:

- Initially a **Transitional Notice of Direction (T-NOD)** will likely be issued. This type of Notice prevents the movement of cattle and high risk goods/equipment – both on and off the property. The T-NOD allows time for an 'Exotic Disease Investigation Report' (EDIR) to be completed for your property. This will clearly identify which animals are infected, and which areas of the farm have been exposed.

- After the parts of your farm to be restricted have been identified, a **Restricted Place Notice** will be issued for the affected areas, and your property will be designated an 'Active Confirmed Property'. See [Active Confirmed Properties](#) in the Glossary. If there are parts of your farm with cattle that are not included in the Restricted Place, they will remain under a NOD while being tested.

Your OSPRI Case Manager will work with you to determine:

- when and how the cull of infected animals will be organised
- how and when to conduct any necessary cleaning and disinfection
- how and when to get your farm repopulated.

## How will I find out the results of testing?

Results can take up to six weeks in some circumstances. Your OSPRI Case Manager 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.

## Conducting a census

The Programme will carry out a 'census' of all cattle on most properties under a Notice of Direction. This is a headcount of all cattle on the farm and how they are organised into groups.

The census will help us:

- identify any other trace animals which need to be culled
- get details of each animal's lifetime history
- verify farm records such as MINDA and NAIT.

The census should take place within six weeks of the date your farm is placed under Notice of Direction. Your OSPRI Case Manager will work through this with you.

If you need to muster cattle for the census we can contribute to costs involved. For more information see [Financial compensation and operational costs](#).

All cattle over the age of 6 months, or that have moved from their property of birth, must be NAIT tagged.

## Animal welfare

Remember that you are always responsible for the welfare of animals under your care. If a farm 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.

## Health and safety

A farm can be a hazardous environment, so we need to make sure that:

- Programme staff visiting your farm can carry out their work safely
- the health and safety of you and your workers is not put at risk by Programme activities.

Your OSPRI Case Manager will talk to you, or someone you nominate, about managing health and safety while Programme activities are being carried out on your farm.

## Our responsibilities

We will make sure that we build health and safety considerations into the plan for your farm. This includes ensuring that our workers:

- understand their responsibilities to work in a safe manner to protect themselves and other people nearby
- bring and use any personal protective clothing or equipment they need •
- cooperate with any reasonable rules, requests and expectations you have
- consult with you or your staff on health and safety matters.

## Your responsibilities

To help provide a safe environment for our workers, we ask that you:

- let us know about your rules around safe behaviour, for example, speed limits on the farm (you will be asked to show us your farm health and safety plan and hazard maps)
- advise us of any particular safety hazards such as aggressive animals, offal pits, effluent ponds, hazardous substances (either stored or being used on your farm) and places where children play or go
- ensure that tracks and structures, such as sheds and yards, are safe for us to use
- inform us of any planned activities near our workers that could put them in danger, and if possible coordinate your work with ours so that your workers and ours are kept safe
- explain to us any unique emergency procedures on your farm.

## Keeping up to date

If anything changes after the initial health and safety discussion, please contact your OSPRI Case Manager or tell the people working on the day.

We will also update you on any changes to our planned activities that could affect the health and safety of people on your farm.

# About *Mycoplasma bovis* and its effects

## What is *Mycoplasma bovis*?

*Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) is a bacteria 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
- **often untreatable** – in the majority of cases antibiotic treatment is unsuccessful, and symptomatic animals are culled.

## Most likely to reveal itself in times of stress

Cattle can be infected with *M. bovis* without showing any signs of disease. During times of stress such as during calving, early lactation, drying-off, transport or exposure to extreme weather conditions, infected cattle are more likely to show signs of infection.

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

## How *M. bovis* is spread

*M. bovis* typically spreads between cattle when they are in close contact for a prolonged period of time (i.e. when they are together in a paddock, pen, or milking shed). Usually, infection spreads between farms when infected cattle are brought into a previously uninfected herd.

*M. bovis* can also be spread to calves that are fed milk from infected cows.

The bacteria may be spread via genetic material containing the bacteria such as semen, but this means of spread is extremely rare compared to spread via the movement of live cattle and milk.

*M. bovis* is fragile in the environment – it only survives for very short times when exposed to heat, drying and UV light, but can survive longer in cool, moist and dark environments. Equipment used as part of the milking process has been linked to the spread of infection between cattle on individual farms. *M. bovis* is unlikely to survive in grazing areas and areas used in baleage and silage production. The ensiling process creates an acidic environment (approx. pH 4.5) where *M. bovis* bacteria are unlikely to survive. Silage and baleage pose an extremely low risk of spreading *M. bovis* and may be fed as usual or transferred off the farm for sale. The risk of *M. bovis* spreading via organic material such as soil, effluent, and other feed types is also 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*

*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.

### Cattle



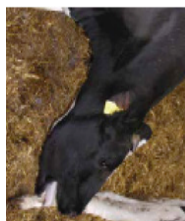
#### Conjunctivitis

- Sticky eyes, white eyes



#### Pneumonia

- Hacking cough

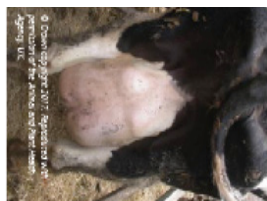


#### Abortions

- Slips, early calves, small calves

#### Mastitis

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



#### Lame cows with swollen legs/joints

- Painful and hot



### Calves / young stock



#### Ear infections

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



#### Conjunctivitis

- Sticky eyes, white eyes



#### Pneumonia

- Hacking cough



#### Lame calves with swollen legs/joints

- Painful and hot



#### Fading calves

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



- *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.

## How the eradication programme works

The Programme identifies infected herds through on-farm testing, and then traces the animals that moved out of that herd before it was put under restrictions. Those animals are culled, and the cattle they have come into contact with are tested to determine if they became infected.

The Programme also uses:

- **Bulk Tank Milk Surveillance** to identify possible infected dairy farms, which allows us to identify them faster than we could find them by tracing cattle movements.
- **National Beef Surveillance** to assess the extent of the *Mycoplasma bovis* infection in the beef sector.

### Programme farm categories

Farms directly involved in the Programme (i.e., those that are subject to Programme surveillance) will fall into one of the following categories:

- **Active Surveillance**
- **Notice of Direction**
- **Active Confirmed Property** (under a Restricted Place Notice)
- **Cleared Confirmed Property**

#### Active Surveillance

Farms are placed under Active Surveillance when the risk of infection is low, but testing is necessary to ensure that there is no infection in the cattle on the farm.

These properties require at least one to two rounds of testing. The farms aren't under any movement restrictions and can operate as usual, while testing is carried out.

#### Properties under a Notice of Direction (NOD)

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 Properties

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 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 Properties

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, as clinical signs are not seen in all infected animals, and collecting of samples for diagnostic testing is necessary to identify infected animals and groups of animals.

The tests used within the Programme identify infected groups of cattle. To ensure the testing is accurate we test a large number of animals, often multiple times.

### The types of tests we're using

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

- ELISA test (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay test)
- PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction test)

The number and groups of cattle that samples for testing are taken from varies from property to property depending on a number of factors such as the:

- number of cattle on farm
- way in which cattle are organised into groups
- age of the cattle
- 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 group of cattle tested, often referred to as herd-level interpretation. If a certain percentage of the cattle tested in a 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.

### 1st Round

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](#) further on.

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](#)' below.

### 2nd Round

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.

### 3 + Rounds

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 animals are considered high risk and will be sampled at slaughter under Section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

After round 1 of sampling all trace animals 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 removing the risk trace animals present.

## Exotic Disease Investigation Report (EDIR)

An EDIR is conducted on properties with confirmed infection.

Containing detailed information about a farm, an EDIR includes stock location and numbers, farm and animal management, animal movements on and off of the farm, and any previous or current animal health issues or disease investigations.

It is completed for all Active Confirmed Properties. In some cases, it may be conducted at an earlier stage of the process (i.e. before being confirmed infected).

A veterinarian will ask those who own and/or manage the farm a series of questions about the farm and the way that it operates.

An EDIR is used to determine:

- where *M. bovis* is likely to have spread within a farm
- what animals may require further testing
- if there have been any cattle movements on or off the farm not recorded in NAIT, including movements involving straying stock
- if there have been any milk movements on or off the farm
- the parts of the farm that will need to be subject to a Restricted Place Notice.

# Compensation

## When is compensation payable?

Compensation can be paid when OSPRI has exercised legal powers under part 6 or 7 the Biosecurity Act 1993 which caused you, the owner of the property, a loss as a result of:

- damage to, or destruction of, your property, including cattle; and/or
- restrictions imposed on the movement or disposal of goods, including cattle.

Payment of compensation depends on you meeting certain conditions, including:

- verifying (providing information about) the loss
- showing that you took reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) the loss.

## Verifying a loss

Payment of compensation depends on you meeting certain conditions laid out in the Biosecurity Act. In order for the *M. bovis* Programme to pay compensation, we need to be able to verify your loss. To do this, you will need to provide information that substantiates the type and amount of loss. It's a good idea to keep all documents and records that can support your claim, for example, paid invoices, statements, farmland accounts, milk dockets, pasture records, contracts etc.

The types of losses you can claim compensation for are listed on page 17.

## Mitigating your loss

The Biosecurity Act 1993 requires you to take reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) any loss resulting from the powers exercised by OSPRI.

You also need to show you considered and took reasonable steps to mitigate (reduce or avoid) the loss. To do this, explain the steps you considered to mitigate your loss, and what steps you actually took. This may include making changes to farm operations to avoid losses or using alternative ways to generate income.

## When can you make a claim?

You can claim compensation for 1 year from the date of the loss. If you experience more losses after receiving compensation, you can submit new claims.

## How to apply for compensation

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) processes claims. To find out more, you can talk to your case manager or contact the MPI Compensation Coordinator:

- Phone: **0800 008 333**
- Email: [compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz)
- Post: Attn: Compensation Coordinator, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.

## The compensation process

Once your completed and signed application and all supporting information has been received, MPI will assess the application and provide a recommendation to OSPRI. OSPRI will review this recommendation and make the approval for any compensation due, to be paid.

You will be contacted with the outcome as soon as this has been agreed. Each claim is different and more complex claims may take more time.



## Who is compensation paid to?

Compensation can only be paid to the legal owner (or a company director) of the property or goods that were damaged or destroyed or that movement restrictions were applied to. Talk to the MPI compensation coordinator about business arrangements where a person doesn't own the property affected but you have incurred a loss.

## Types of loss that can be compensated

Compensation can be claimed for verifiable loss suffered as a direct result of activities carried out by OSPRI to manage *M. bovis* such as:

- beef production loss
- milk production loss
- grazing compensation
- loss of income
- stock repopulation – higher market prices (in instances when it will cost you more to buy replacement stock than it did to buy the stock that were culled)
- stock destruction.

You can find out more information about the different types of compensation by contacting the MPI compensation coordinator.

## Operational costs

You may be able to request reimbursement for some on-farm costs if there is an urgent need, or to meet *M. bovis* Programme requirements.

Your OSPRI Case Manager must agree to the costs **before the expenditure is incurred**. Discuss costs with them and have them confirm agreed costs by email, so you have a record in writing.

Examples of operational costs include:

- additional transport costs
- mustering
- feed supplies.

For more information about operational costs, talk to your OSPRI Case Manager.

## Support available

The process of being put under restrictions and going through testing and the census can be disruptive for farmers, families and workers.

Support is available so you don't have to go through things alone. Every farm is different and a range of support is available to suit your needs.

### Rural Support Trusts (RSTs)

RSTs have trained facilitators who can support you through the issues you're facing.

They can also refer you to experts and services you might need, such as planning and management advice, health information and government agencies.

### **Call 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP)**

This line is for support for rural people: farmers, families, farm workers. They will be able to provide advice including health and wellbeing, financial pressure, and employer and employee support.

Talk to them also if you'd like to help support affected farming families in your community.

### 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

- 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

## Inland Revenue

Inland Revenue (IRD) can provide tax flexibility and other measures to help, depending on your situation. Don't wait until things get out of hand - talk to your accountant/tax agent as early as possible about this.

**Filing and paying** – IRD understands that tax isn't the first thing on your mind during a stressful time. Please contact your accountant/tax agent with any concerns or questions about filing returns or paying tax. They will work with IRD on any tax concerns.

## Working for Families Tax Credits

Working for Families Tax Credits (WfFTC) are payments for families with dependent children aged 18 or under. Find out if you're eligible at [www.ird.govt.nz/wff-tax-credits](http://www.ird.govt.nz/wff-tax-credits) or talk to your accountant or RST.

## Work and Income (WINZ) – Ministry of Social Development

There is a range of assistance available for people or families whose incomes have been severely affected. Your RST can talk to you about what sort of help WINZ may be able to provide.

You can also visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz) or

call Work and Income on **0800 559 009**.

## 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.

## Under notice of direction

Information pack  
for farmers

### 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	<a href="mailto:info@OSPRI.co.nz">info@OSPRI.co.nz</a>	<a href="http://www.ospri.co.nz">www.ospri.co.nz</a>
NAIT	NAIT	0800 482 463	<a href="mailto:info@nait.co.nz">info@nait.co.nz</a>	<a href="http://www.ospri.co.nz">www.ospri.co.nz</a>
Farmer wellbeing	Rural Support Trust	0800 78 72 54		<a href="http://www.rural-support.org.nz">www.rural-support.org.nz</a>
Income Assistance	Work and Income	0800 55 90 09		<a href="http://www.workandincome.govt.nz">www.workandincome.govt.nz</a>
Compensation	MPI Compensation Coordinator	0800 008 333	<a href="mailto:compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz">compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz</a>	

## Glossary

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

<b>Active Confirmed Property</b>	A farm with <i>M. bovis</i> that has a Restricted Place Notice and requires depopulation of the infected cattle.
<b>Notice of Direction (NOD)</b>	A legal control issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993. A farm is placed “under Notice of Direction” when there’s a high risk that it has <i>M. bovis</i> , so cattle and other items can’t be moved off the farm (without a permit) while more testing is carried out.
<b>Restricted Place Notice</b>	The highest level of legal controls applied to a property with <i>M. bovis</i> . It restricts the movements of cattle and risk goods (e.g. milk) on and off the farm.
<b>Trace animal</b>	An animal that’s come out of a herd infected with <i>M. bovis</i> during the risk period of likely infection.
<b>Forward trace</b>	A movement of cattle and risk goods (e.g. milk) from a farm with <i>M. bovis</i> within the risk period of likely infection.
<b>Backward trace</b>	A movement of cattle and risk goods (e.g. milk) onto a farm before it was infected with <i>M. bovis</i> .
<b>Risk period</b>	The time from when a farm is infected with <i>M. bovis</i> to when movement controls are put in place.
<b>Contiguous property</b>	A farm that neighbours a Active Confirmed property (infected with <i>M. bovis</i> )
<b>OSPRI Case Manager</b>	A case manager who works with farms under movement controls to oversee <i>M. bovis</i> related activities and assists with farm recovery.
<b>In-contact cattle</b>	Cattle that have been in direct close contact with trace animals, or animals that consumed milk from a farm with <i>M. bovis</i> .
<b>Direct close contact</b>	Sharing the same grazing paddock or pen, milking shed, or rearing in the same facility, such as calves in a calf-rearing shed.
<b>Management group</b>	A group of cattle that have direct close contact, referred to by many in the farming community as a ‘mob’. A management group may or may not be composed of cattle that are similar in age or life stage.

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## Notice of Direction – Indicative process for Farmers

