



MYCOPLASMA BOVIS



Minimising the risks at shows and events

Mycoplasma bovis is a bacterial disease that only affects cattle. The main way *Mycoplasma bovis* spreads is through close and prolonged contact between cattle; and calves drinking milk from infected cows.

The risk of *Mycoplasma bovis* spreading at A&P shows, calf days, rodeo and other events where cattle are present is quite low, but there is still a risk wherever cattle may mingle.

Event organisers need to take these risks into account and manage mitigations when deciding if to hold their event while *Mycoplasma bovis* is being eradicated in New Zealand.

Animals on known infected farms are under movement control, and cannot be moved without MPI's permission. However, through efforts to eradicate this disease we are still tracing movements of animals, and we expect there are some infected animals we haven't reached and tested. So, it's important you take extra precautions to reduce your chances of spreading *Mycoplasma bovis*.

What can exhibitors do?

- Animals on properties under any suspicion of exposure to *Mycoplasma bovis* should not be transported to shows and events.
- Animals showing clinical signs of **ANY** disease should not be transported to shows, as per normal biosecurity practice.
- Make sure your cattle are tagged and registered with NAIT.
- Keep your NAIT movements up-to-date and accurate and record movements to and from the event. Guidance is available on nait.co.nz
- Practice good on-farm biosecurity and clean and disinfect outerwear, boots and equipment before attending a show or event. On your return, clean and disinfect again before taking outerwear, boots and equipment back onto your farm. For more information refer to the guidance on mpi.govt.nz/bovis

What can show and event organisers do?

- Ensure that exhibitors and participants are aware of your biosecurity and hygiene recommendations and their NAIT obligations.
- Animals without a NAIT tag should be denied entry and non-compliance reported to MPI.
- Ensure stalls are cleaned out before you put cattle in them, and after cattle are removed. Avoid using the same stalls for cattle belonging to different exhibitors.
- Provide hand sanitiser for anyone handling animals to be used before and straight after contact.
- Any milking equipment used at the show should be cleaned and disinfected between uses on animals from different exhibitors. Any common agricultural disinfectant will be effective. Be sure to remove all organic matter before disinfecting.
- Give animals individual water – do not allow animals to drink from shared troughs. Thoroughly clean and disinfect troughs in between uses.
- Best practice is to separate animals of the same species, to prevent the spread of any disease. This can be by separating animals with walkways, using empty pens, and using outriggers or double barriers where animals are in adjacent pens.
- Don't keep animals in show pens for long, to reduce stress and nose-to-nose contact.
- Keep animals from different herds separate and avoid their nose-to-nose contact.
- Ensure pens are secure, and that when animals are out they are tethered or being securely managed by somebody who is strong and skilled enough (this could mean supervising children with calves).
- At rodeos when cattle are using the chute, disinfect all surfaces between each use with approved agricultural disinfectant, mixed as per manufacturer instructions.
- It's an opportunity to teach people about on-farm biosecurity. There's more on www.mpi.govt.nz/bovis

