



# ***Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) Eradication Programme**

## **Controlled Area Notice (CAN) – FAQs**

### **What does the CAN in Wakanui mean?**

An area within Wakanui, mid-Canterbury has been declared as a controlled area under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Controlled Area Notice (CAN) restricts the movement of cattle into and from this area to stop *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) from circulating within and spreading outside of the area.

The *M. bovis* Programme intends for this CAN to remain in place until approximately mid-March 2023, or until infection is removed from the area. Any affected landowners within the area will be kept up-to-date on when the CAN may be lifted and on any changes to the CAN conditions.

This CAN defines two areas in Wakanui, ‘high-risk’ area (red) and ‘at-risk’ area (orange). The map is available on the [M. bovis website](#).

### **Information for farms located inside the CAN areas**

#### **My farm is in the high-risk area (red), what does this mean for me?**

- Cattle cannot be moved **into** or **out of** the high-risk area (red) without permission from the *M. bovis* Programme

Your dedicated farm systems manager will talk you through how these requirements apply to your farm.

As you may be aware, the *M. bovis* Programme is seeking to have the high-risk area (red) free of cattle from mid-January 2023 to mid-March 2023 to eradicate *M. bovis* from the area. You will be contacted directly to discuss any additional requirements that may apply to your farm while the CAN is in force.

#### **Will my farm require cleaning and disinfection?**

Your farm systems manager from the *M. bovis* Programme will contact you individually if there’s any cleaning and disinfection needed on your farm. Generally, cleaning and disinfection is not required unless cattle on your farm have tested positive for *M. bovis*.

#### **My farm is in the at-risk area (orange), what does this mean for me?**

- Cattle cannot be moved **out of** the at-risk area (orange) without a permit from the *M. bovis* Programme
- There is no restriction of the movement of cattle **into** the at-risk area (orange).

The *M. bovis* Programme will undertake additional testing and surveillance in the at-risk area. You may be contacted directly to discuss the following activities:

- Additional testing of cattle.
- Conducting a census of cattle on your farm (MPI will scan the NAIT tags in all cattle on the property with your assistance).

You can contact your farm systems manager directly using the contact details already provided to you.



### **What does this mean for other farmers and residents in the CAN who don't own or farm cattle?**

Farms within the area that do not have cattle are not impacted by the requirements of the CAN. However, if a farmer chooses to bring cattle into the at-risk area (orange) the CAN conditions will apply.

### **What does the CAN mean for farm staff, contractors, and other visitors in the CAN and local area?**

Farm staff, contractors, and other visitors can carry on duties as normal.

This CAN restricts the movement of cattle and does not restrict the movement of people, goods, and vehicles. Some properties in the area may already be subject to further biosecurity restrictions, such as being a restricted place notice (RP) or subject to a transition-notice of direction (T-NOD). The CAN does not override these requirements.

### **Does the CAN affect any existing Restricted Place (RP) notices and Notice of Directions (NODs) in the area?**

This CAN does not override any requirements imposed under a Biosecurity Act 1993 notice of direction (NOD) or restricted place notices (RP). If there is a conflict between a requirement of the CAN and a requirement of a NOD or RP, the requirement of the NOD or RP takes precedence.

If you are unsure about the application of these legal controls, please talk to your farm systems manager.

## **Farmers and residents outside of the CAN**

### **My farm is outside of the CAN, what does this mean for me?**

Farmers outside of the CAN zone should farm as usual.

You are not able to move cattle into the high-risk area (red) without permission from the *M. bovis* Programme.

## **General FAQs**

### **When will the CAN be lifted?**

The CAN will remain in place until testing requirements on farms in the at-risk area (orange) have been completed, with negative results and *M. bovis* infection has been removed from all farms in the high-risk area (red), including any cleaning, disinfection, stand-down period and subsequent testing is completed.

We are aiming for the CAN to be revoked mid-March 2023.

### **Transport of cattle from the CAN - do trucks require Cleaning & disinfection (C&D)?**

Transport vehicles may be required to be washed if they have transported cattle to or from a property under another notice, such as an RP or NOD property. The notices associated with that property will set out any cleaning and disinfection requirements.

Your farm systems manager will work through this with you, on an individual basis.

### **Why didn't you put these measures on sooner?**

There were already tight controls on all known infected properties. Investigation of the infected properties in the area has revealed that there may be transmissions of disease in a way we don't yet understand.



We're now entering the next phase of eradication and we need to step up our efforts as we intensify our efforts on the last pockets of infection.

### **Will you find additional confirmed properties?**

Although we are at the tail-end of this outbreak, it is possible we may find other infected properties and so we must remain vigilant.

We are four-and-a-half-years into a 10-year eradication programme and in a phase where we expect to work harder to find the remaining pockets of infection.

With our network and background surveillance operating as they should, along with the commitment of farmers, industry and rural communities, we are on track to be the first country in the world to eradicate *M. bovis*.

We continue to work closely with any affected farmers to support them through the process.

### **Why has *M. bovis* been more prevalent in this area than other parts of the country?**

Over the course of the *M. bovis* programme, more than half of the Confirmed Properties have been in Canterbury.

Our work shows us the reason for the large number of Confirmed Properties in Canterbury is a combination of infection circulating in the region early in the incursion and large numbers of animal movements. *M. bovis* is predominantly spread by animal movements – and many were not easily traceable because of poor NAIT records.

Remaining vigilant, maintaining strong biosecurity practices and farm records (including NAIT) is the key to eradicating *M. bovis* in New Zealand.

### **How can you be sure the disease isn't circulating in other parts of the country?**

We have an extensive nationwide surveillance programme, which targets dairy and beef cattle. These surveillance programmes test many animals across the country every month and no infection has been found outside of mid-Canterbury since July 2020.

This background surveillance will continue for some years, to provide assurance and evidence of absence of *Mycoplasma bovis* after the last herd is cleared of infection.

### **How will the CAN be regulated/monitored?**

We will have staff working closely with farmers and we do regular audits of farms under movement controls. This will continue and be extended to all cattle farms under the CAN.

### **What are the consequences if someone doesn't abide by the CAN?**

Breaching the requirements of this notice is an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Pursuant to sections 134(1)(b), 154N(8), and 157(4) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, any person who moves or directs or arranges the movement of any organism, organic material, risk goods, or other goods in in contravention of this notice (unless permitted by an inspector or authorised person) commits an offence and is liable on conviction:



1. In the case of an individual person, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months, a fine not exceeding \$50,000, or both;
2. the case of a corporation, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

## Compensation and support

### Will farmers within the CAN be compensated?

The small number of farmers impacted by the CAN may be eligible for compensation for any financial losses. Normal compensation eligibility and processes apply. Please see our website at for more information:

<https://www.mbovis.govt.nz/mycoplasma-bovis-info-hub/operational-costs-and-compensation/>

### What support do farmers in the CAN have?

We are continuing to work closely with the small number of farmers in the area.

Impacted farmers are in direct contact with a dedicated Farm Systems Manager from the Programme to support them through this process.

The Rural Support Trust is available to help and can be contacted on 0800 78 72 54 or visit: [www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz).

We have compensation support available through DBCAT (DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand Compensation Assistance Team), which provides free assistance to farmers preparing compensation claims and we encourage farmers to use this service. You can access this service by calling 0800 32 22 81 or emailing [admin@dbcats.co.nz](mailto:admin@dbcats.co.nz).

## Five Star Beef

### Is this current infection connected to Five Star Beef?

We have no confirmed evidence of that, however we are concerned about the infection in the area and that's why we've taken these steps.

### Why is Five Star Beef one of the last Confirmed Properties to be cleared of infection?

We have been working closely with ANZCO Foods, the owners of Five Star Beef, introducing processes to reduce the risk of spread since they became an Active Confirmed Property in 2018.

It has always been planned that Five Star Beef would be one of the last Confirmed Properties to be cleared of *M. bovis* infection. This decision was made to minimise the possibility of Five Star Beef becoming reinfected through the purchase of new cattle if depopulation was carried out before the levels of *M. bovis* in the wider NZ cattle population were confirmed as being very low.

We've been planning the complex operation to depopulate Five Star Beef for some time and the phased depopulation is now underway. The operation is required to be free of cattle by 16 January 2023 – although it is expected to be free of cattle sooner. Cleaning, disinfection, and a stand-down period begins in January and is expected to be completed in mid-March 2023.