



MYCOPLASMA BOVIS



Animal welfare information for farmers, transporters and Farm Systems Managers

As we continue on the path of eradicating *Mycoplasma bovis* from New Zealand, we are working hard to look after both human and animal welfare. Here are some tips for farmers, transporters and Farm Systems Managers (FSMs) to ensure that animal welfare responsibilities are met:

- Farmers are responsible for the welfare of animals under their care.
- Transporters are responsible for the welfare status of all animals when they are loaded, during transport and when off-loading.
- Should a farm be placed under *Mycoplasma bovis* surveillance or any kind of restriction, these responsibilities do not change. Animal welfare responsibilities must continue to be met.
- Normal farming practices contributing to positive animal welfare outcomes should continue as normal.

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

We understand that the *Mycoplasma bovis* response will cause disruption and we will work closely with everyone involved to minimise this.

If restrictions caused by a NOD or IP/RP are causing or exacerbating animal welfare issues, farmers should contact their Farm Systems Manager immediately to look at solutions.

Veterinarians can help in this process.

We appreciate your support for the *Mycoplasma bovis* response, and your efforts to keep animal welfare at the forefront.

More questions?

Call MPI on 0800 00 83 33
or email: MBovis2017_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz
www.mbovis.govt.nz

Fit for Transport App

Download the **Fit for Transport** app for a quick reference guide.

Available for download at the Apple Store and Google Play.



Further detail

The responsibilities of persons in charge of animals under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 are clearly defined in the Act, regulations and Codes of Welfare.

Directions given by the authority of the Biosecurity Act 1993 do not supersede other legislation including the Animal Welfare Act 1999, regulations and the relevant Codes of Welfare.

MPI understands that the efforts of the eradication will no doubt cause disruptions to farm routines, and we endeavour to work as closely with all parties involved to try and minimise these. As such, if the restrictions caused by a NOD or IP/RP are causing or exacerbating animal welfare issues, farmers should contact their Farm

Systems Manager immediately to look at solutions and mitigations. Additionally, actions taken by the *Mycoplasma bovis* response team should not cause or lead to poorer animal welfare outcomes.

Where animal welfare issues arise, parties, including the FSMs, should contact the farmer's veterinarian. He/she will be able to provide appropriate support and advice on the most appropriate response to dealing with the welfare issue. For more specific advice about compliance with animal welfare standards and proposed mitigation plans, the Verification Services veterinarian at the meatworks your animals are going to can provide advice in their capacity as both veterinarians and inspectors under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.