



Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries

Manatū Ahu Matua

Mycoplasma bovis **2022 National Plan**

Ko Tātou This is Us

BIOSECURITY 2025

Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture and Biosecurity

The *Mycoplasma bovis* incursion is one of the biggest challenges the New Zealand farming sector has faced. However, I'm confident that we can eradicate this disease, and protect the productivity and profitability of the dairy and beef sectors.

Only a few hundred of New Zealand's 24,000 farms have been directly affected, but for some of them it has caused major interruption and hardship, and all farmers are sharing the cost. Government, industry, and rural communities need to do everything we can to help these farmers and their families through these challenging times.

We're also working to make sure that changes happen to prevent

a similar outbreak again. Most importantly, we've made changes to improve NAIT. There is no excuse to be moving cattle without recording their movements – this is the single most important thing that farmers can help do to combat *Mycoplasma bovis* and improve our overall biosecurity system.

The next important step for government is to review and overhaul New Zealand's biosecurity

legislation to make sure that it's fit-for-purpose. The review of the Biosecurity Act is going to make sure we have the right tools and rules to keep New Zealand's primary industries safe.

As Minister of Biosecurity and Agriculture I am committed to making sure that this eradication Programme is a success, and that we take care of every affected farmer along the way.

Ray Smith, Director-General, Ministry for Primary Industries

Protecting New Zealand's biosecurity is a unique and vital challenge.

We are free from many of the pests and diseases that cause huge economic losses and environmental damage for other countries, and we need to do everything we can to keep it that way.


The *Mycoplasma bovis* eradication Programme is a world first, and it's not a simple process. This new National Plan has set three very clear goals – eradicate the disease,

reduce the impact of that process on the people and businesses involved, and leave the system stronger than we found it.

I've seen first-hand the challenges and hardship for farmers involved in the eradication Programme, and everyone at the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Biosecurity New Zealand, as well as our sector partners, are committed to reducing

this impact as much as possible.

We know that some of the most important things we can do for farmer welfare is to get their compensation paid, and help them get back to farming. We are committed to doing things better, getting money paid as soon as possible, and supporting farmers to get back to business.



Jim van der Poel, Chair, DairyNZ

Mycoplasma bovis has created challenges for many of our farmers. Not only for those most affected by the disease, but for all farmers that have increased their biosecurity measures on farm.

The alternative to eradicating – to let this disease spread throughout our stock – would have been a serious challenge to the way we farm, and the ongoing costs would have been significantly higher. The latest Technical Advisory Group report reinforces the decision to move to eradication.

We believe that maintaining a collaborative approach to eradication is the best option for all our farmers. By sitting at the table we can ensure that dairy farmers are getting value for money from the eradication Programme and that their views are represented to government.

The free DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand Compensation Assistance Teams (DBCAT) service is a great example of this. It is run independently by DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand, and supported by MPI, to provide farmers with assistance in lodging their compensation claims.

Andrew Morrison, Chair, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Southland farmer

The decision to eradicate was made with the best long-term interests of the wider pastoral sector in mind. We are fortunate that *Mycoplasma bovis* has less direct impact on the beef sector; however, the risks to our friends and neighbours with dairy farms means *Mycoplasma bovis* is a challenge we can't ignore.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand is committed to continuing to be a strong voice for farmers within the Programme. We're continually working to help improve how things work by providing the farmer perspective, through initiatives that we're supporting like DBCAT, as well as technical expertise, to ensure the interests of beef farmers are taken account of in all decision-making.

We will continue to sit at the table with government and DairyNZ to ensure this eradication Programme has the greatest chance of success, and that farmers are represented every step of the way.

GOAL 1 Eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* from New Zealand

What this means

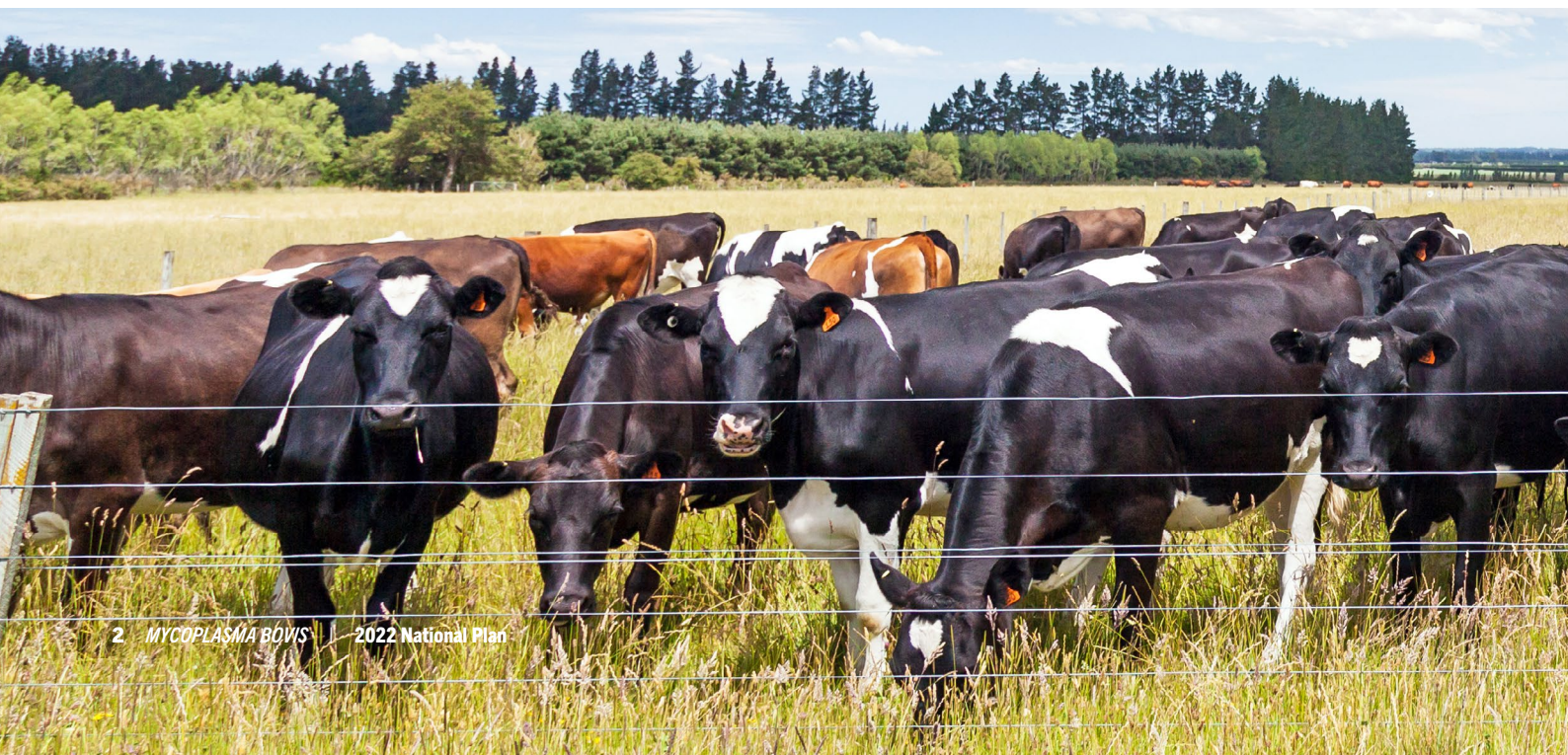
The Government and its industry partners are working to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* so that New Zealand can farm free from this disease.

It's going to be hard work for everyone, but the best science we have tells us that it's achievable. By tracking and controlling animal movements, and extensive sampling and testing, we believe that we will identify and remove all infected herds and achieve eradication in a cost effective way.

How will we know we are achieving this goal?

We will seek independent review and assurance through our Technical Advisory Group, Governance group, and through scientific analysis of the disease status of the entire New Zealand herd.

Our progress will be tracked against the National and Operational Plans and we will continue to seek feedback from farmers, industry and communities.



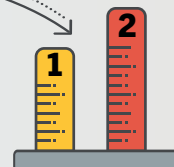


Objectives



- 1 Effective surveillance systems to verify freedom from *Mycoplasma bovis*.
- 2 Stop *Mycoplasma bovis* spread and make informed decisions about depopulation.

Measures



- 1 Number of properties under active restrictions is reducing over time.
- 2 Independent oversight into the Programme shows progress towards eradication.





GOAL 2 Reduce the impact of the disease and the eradication Programme for everyone affected by *Mycoplasma bovis*

What this means

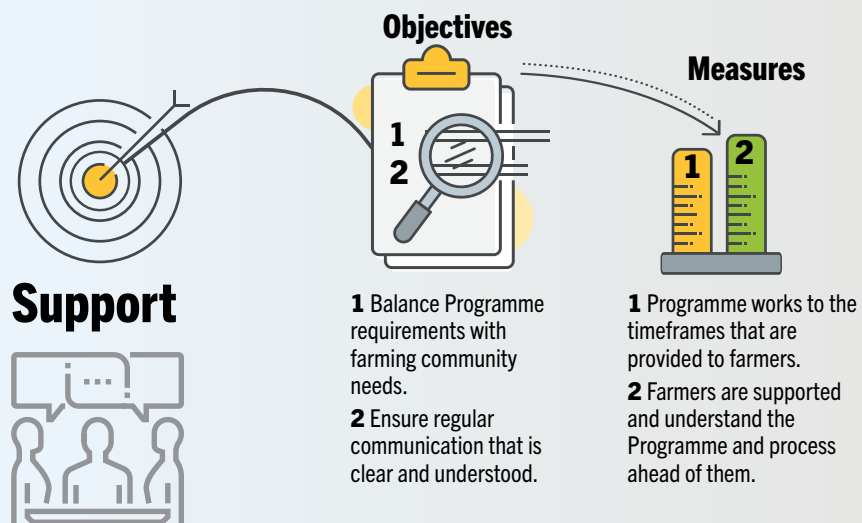
We know that this disease, and the process required to eradicate it, have major impacts on the lives of farmers, their families and communities, and farm productivity. We are committed to doing everything we can to reduce this impact by working with our partners to support farmers every step of the way.

Every farm is different, and every farmer is going to have a different experience of *Mycoplasma bovis*. We will make farm-by-farm decisions to minimise the disruption as much as possible. We will work with farmers throughout their experience, from sampling and testing, through disease management to recovery and compensation, so they can get back to farming.

We will also take care of and support every person that is working in the Programme.

How will we know we are achieving this goal?

We will regularly meet with affected farmers and their communities to understand how the disease and the eradication Programme is impacting them. We will obtain feedback from farmers and staff in the field, industry partners and stakeholders to measure our performance and improve our approach.



GOAL 3 Leave New Zealand's biosecurity system stronger

What this means

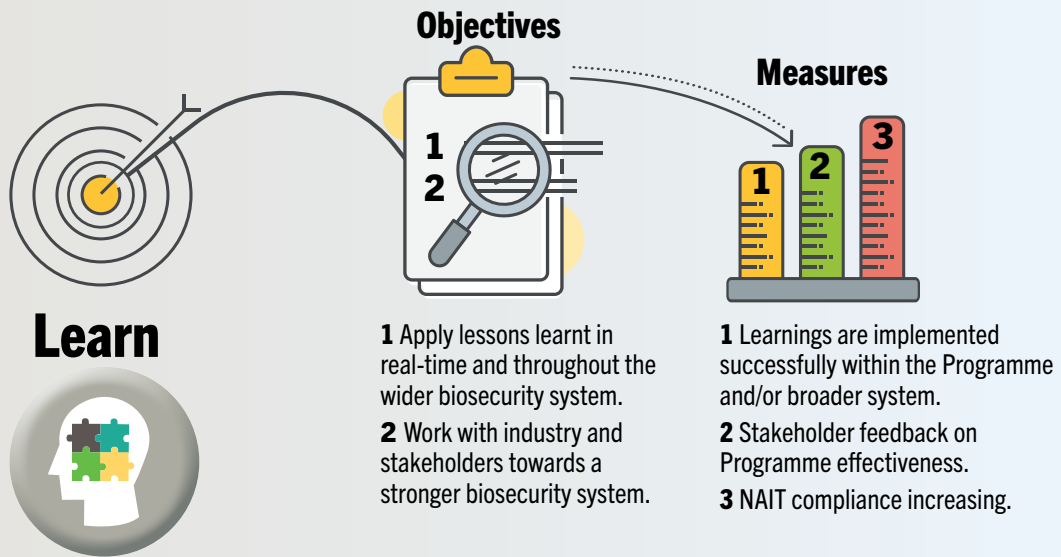
We've learnt a lot since *Mycoplasma bovis* first arrived in New Zealand – about the disease, its impacts, and about best practice biosecurity. It is essential that we take these hard learned lessons, from on the farm, in industry, and at MPI, and apply them to how we protect our vital primary industries.

We will work alongside ongoing initiatives and industry programmes, such as NAIT and Biosecurity 2025, to support the ongoing development of New Zealand's biosecurity system.

How will we know we are achieving this goal?

We will take the lessons that we've learnt and put them at the centre of government, industries' and stakeholder programmes and proposals for improving our national biosecurity system. This will include traceability systems, farm biosecurity, operational capability and underpinning legislation.





Partners



Supporting agencies



More information

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/mycoplasma-bovis/>

<https://beeflambnz.com/>

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/>

For support

MPI: 0800 00 83 33 and MBovis_Liaison@mpi.govt.nz

Rural Support Trust: 0800 78 72 54

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