



Minimising the risks from *Mycoplasma bovis* at cattle shows and events

Minimising the risks

The risk from *Mycoplasma bovis* at shows and events is low.

All of the animals on infected farms are under movement control, and cannot be moved without MPI's permission. The infection is spread by direct and prolonged animal contact; despite intensive testing no infection across boundaries has been detected.

What can exhibitors do?

There are some simple actions that can minimise the risks from *Mycoplasma bovis*.

- Exhibitors should ensure only healthy cattle take part in shows. In particular symptoms of *Mycoplasma bovis* to look for include:
 - unusual mastitis in cattle that doesn't respond to treatment
 - arthritis in cows and calves
 - late-term abortion
 - pneumonia in calves.
- Farmers should practice good on-farm biosecurity and clean and disinfect outer wear, boots and equipment before attending a show. On their return they should again clean and disinfect before taking outer wear, boots and equipment back onto the farm. For more information refer to the guidance on the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/mycoplasma-bovis/
- All exhibitors must have tagged and registered their cattle with NAIT.
- All exhibitors must keep their NAIT movements' up-to-date and accurate and record movement to and from the event. Refer to NAIT guidance at www.nait.co.nz/manage-animals/sending/events/recording-event-movements/
- Animals on properties under suspicion of exposure to *M. bovis* should not be permitted to transport animals to livestock shows.
- Animals show clinical signs of any disease should not be transported to livestock shows as per normal biosecurity practice.
- It is best practice to ensure separation of animals of the same species where possible, to prevent the spread of any disease. This can be achieved by:
 - Separating animals with walkways
 - Using empty pens where possible
 - Minimising the amount of time that animals are held in show pens to reduce stress and nose-to-nose contact.

What can show organisers do?

- Ensure that exhibitors are aware of the farm biosecurity and hygiene recommendations and their NAIT obligations.

- Animals without a NAIT tag should be denied entry to the show in accordance with Royal Agricultural Society rules and non-compliance should be reported to MPI.
- Ensure stalls are cleaned out before you put cattle in them. If possible, don't use the same stalls for cattle belonging to different exhibitors.
- Minimise contact between cattle during the show.
- Provide hand sanitiser for cattle judges as they move between animals.
- Any milking equipment used at the show should be cleaned and disinfected between use on animals from different exhibitors.