

## NZ Dairy Event (NZDE) 2018 Media Release



### Re Mycoplasma Bovis

In light of Mycoplasma Bovis being confirmed in New Zealand the NZ Dairy Event Committee contacted the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) re NZDE 2018 and asked what measures could be put in place to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading. The NZ Dairy Event website has had MPI updates posted as news items since late last year to ensure exhibitors are aware of the disease and what measures they can take to minimise the risk, not just to them but our dairy industry as a whole.

On 16 January 2018, based on information received from MPI, the NZDE Committee advised that there would be no exclusions from the event unless they were identified as or under movement control and providing all normal bio-security measures were complied with. At this time NZDE was told that NZDE was considered low risk for spreading infection.

Unfortunately, late on 18 January 2018, NZDE Chair received a letter from Dairy NZ (DNZ) Chief Executive, Dr Tim Mackle advising that although NZDE was perceived to be low risk in light of the fact that not all links with infected farms have yet been completed DNZ's advice was to avoid co-mingling of cattle between islands. Additionally, the Deputy Chair of NZDE received a call from MPI, advising that in discussion with DNZ, MPI supported the advice.

Consequently, the NZDE Committee has made the decision to request South Island exhibitors withdraw their show and sale entries from attending NZDE 2018. This is a huge disappointment for NZ's premier dairy show and those who volunteer their time for it to take place. Furthermore, the disappointment comes when NZDE will be celebrating 10 years of the event 31 January to 2 February. The NZDE Committee has taken on board DNZ and MPI advice and has made contact with exhibitors and ask that all those affected by this decision ask you to remember that we need to continue to work together to reduce the risk of infection until other measures are found to eradicate the disease.

NZDE 2018 will go ahead for North Island exhibitors. Updates will continue to be provided to exhibitors as they come to hand.

Lawrence Satherley and Johanna Wood

NZDE Chair

NZDE Deputy Chair