

# Biosecurity plan

## General farm set up

- Tanker tracks to be used as **clean zones**. No stock to be moved across the tanker track or graze the tanker track area. By doing this, any visiting vehicles, including the milk tanker will remain in a clean state.
- Vehicles coming on and off the DTT farms to be confined to the tanker track or main access track. **DTT vehicles only to transport visitors around the farm's.**
- High pressure hose to be available to hose vehicles that have been over the farm
- All boundaries will be permanently double fenced at least 1 meter's part (2 meters apart for provision of shelter)
- Rat traps will be placed in all buildings around the milking shed area & around feed storage areas and checked and replenished regularly. No baited rat raps inside cowshed.
- A Robust possum control program to be in place
- All footwear, protective clothing and equipment that has been in contact with animals on other farms is not to be used on DTT farms or is properly cleaned and disinfected before use.
- Hygiene in milking shed enforced eg no eating, smoking, drinking

## Visitors including field days

- All visitors to sign into the visitors register and must be made aware of the hazards and rules of the farm
- Visitors to arrive clean and disinfect PPE and equipment / footwear before and prior to entering / leaving the farm

## NAIT compliance

- All animal movements will be recorded accurately and promptly into the NAIT system to ensure 100% compliance
- All stock to have EID ear tag and registered with NAIT
- All transported animals will travel with the correct information and paperwork at all times
- Animals arriving at the farms without the correct paperwork will not be accepted off the truck
- All stock deaths recorded immediately and accurately. An autopsy to be done on any non-obvious deaths. Autopsy animals to be disposed of in an offal hole on farm which must be placed away from water ways.

## **Vaccination Protocols**

- All calves will be vaccinated and boosted for the following diseases at 4 months of age and 5 months of age:
  - Lepto
  - Clostridia – 10:1
  - BVD – Hipprobovis
- Heifers will be boosted for lepto at 6 – 8 months of age
- Heifers will be boosted for BVD pre-mating
- Adult cows & hold overs out grazing will receive their annual lepto booster with pregnancy testing
- Cows to be vaccinated with Rotovec 4 weeks pre-calving.

## **Sending Stock out Grazing protocol**

- Grazing property to be within Taranaki, & only have animals grazing that are TB free (Status C10)
- The young stock from individual DTT herds will ideally run as a separate mob while at the graziers
- No beef animals, holdovers or other mob escapees to run with DTT mobs while out grazing
- Bulls will be approved for DTT use after discussion with the grazier and DTT is satisfied with the origin and risk of Mycoplasma bovis in those bulls
- All returning stock to receive combination pour on or injection worm drench & be quarantined for one week after arrival.
- Grazing properties must have a robust possum control program in place

## **Purchasing or Hiring of bulls Protocols**

- Bulls must be tested BVD antigen negative prior to arrival
- Bulls must be BVD and IBR vaccinated prior to arrival on farm
- Only bulls that have spent their entire life in Taranaki will be selected or from farms outside the province which operate a closed farm system (no purchased stock)
- Bulls will receive a Boss injection / pour on worm drench immediately upon arrival.
- All bulls to be quarantined from other stock for one week after arrival

## **Purchasing stock**

- Purchased stock to come from within Taranaki only
- Animals are to come from herds that are: BVD antigen bulk milk negative, TB status C10, at least 3 consecutive bulk milk PCR negative tests for M Bovis
- The Vendor must declare that there has been no clinical or laboratory evidence of the following diseases on their farm or in their herd – Johnes disease, Theileria, Neosproa, Salmonella, M Bovis (untreatable mastitis, arthritis)
- Purchased stock quarantined for 1 week on farm after arrival

## **Calf milk & Calf pens**

- Feeding raw milk from infected cows to calves is known to present a high risk of disease spread. Only feed milk from individual farms to calves on farm and not milk from other farms. **No milk to be fed from cows with mastitis.**
- Before entering & exiting calf pens boots to be cleaned in water and then disinfectant

## **Contractors including all Taratahi vehicles & loan vehicles**

- Contractor & Taratahi vehicles & equipment to arrive clean. If dirty equipment to be hosed down & sprayed with disinfectant before travelling over the farm.
- Equipment to be hosed down & sprayed with disinfectant before departure

## **Weeds & seeds**

- The aim is to have all farms weed free.
- Pasture weeds (Californian thistles, Scotch Thistles, Buttercup, Ragwort, Cape daisy) to be sprayed in the vegetative stage (before flowering) with a herbicide.
- Gorse to be sprayed once / year.
- Any Yellow Bristle grass plants to be pulled immediately once identified. Barley grass if present to be mapped when flowering and sprayed with a herbicide the following winter.
- Note: No excess or repetitive spraying of the same area / weed to avoid spray resistance.
- Farms to use seeds for re grassing / cropping provided by sponsors (Wrighton seed Waimate West and Stratford, Agriseeds Gibson and Kavanagh). Non-certified seed not to be used.

## **Mastitis cows**

- Milk sample to be taken pretreatment. If the treatment doesn't cure the mastitis, milk sample to be taken to the vets for a milk culture bacterial test.

## **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

- Suitable disinfectants are: Vetsan (1 litre/36 sq m) , 1% Virkon (made by mixing 50g standard sachet Virkon with 5 litres water), 0.2% citric acid (made by mixing 1 tsp of citric acid with 1 litre of water), Trigene, or any appropriate disinfectant used to the manufacturer's instructions.
- DTT to provide 2-foot bath's (water and disinfectant) and a scrubbing brush for visitors to clean their boots when they come on and off the property.
- Clean hot water and soap to be available so visitors can effectively clean their hands and any equipment that they need to take off farm (e.g. vet's equipment).

## **ABOUT MYCOPLASMA BOVIS**

Mycoplasma bovis is a bacterium that causes a range of diseases in cattle including mastitis that doesn't respond to treatment, arthritis, pneumonia and late-term abortion. Mycoplasma bovis is mainly spread by direct contact between infected animals and on equipment that has been used on infected animals, e.g. used for milking, artificial insemination, veterinary procedures. It spreads through bodily fluids including mucus and vaginal secretions. It is not thought to be transmitted in urine or faeces. It is not windborne or spread in rivers and streams. It is a relatively slow-moving disease. Until now we have not had Mycoplasma bovis in New Zealand, no tests are commercially available, and it is not routinely

### **SIGNS TO LOOK FOR ARE:**

**In dairy cows:** untreatable mastitis, abortions, swollen joints, and lameness (severe arthritis/synovitis) in all ages of cattle.

**In calves:** severe pneumonia, starting as a hacking cough, ear infections, the first sign typically being one droopy ear, progressing to ear discharges and in some cases a head tilt, conjunctivitis. If you have any concerns about the animals, contact our vet as soon as possible for advice or call MPI on 0800 80 99 66.

Debbie McCallum

Operations Manager

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