

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

The risk of *Mycoplasma bovis* being spread at shows and events is relatively low, but until tracing is completed it is still a potential risk. Animals on known infected farms are under movement control, and cannot be moved without MPI's permission. *Mycoplasma bovis* infection is mainly spread by close animal contact. There are some simple precautions you can take to minimise the risks of *Mycoplasma bovis* being spread.

What can exhibitors do?

- Animals on properties under suspicion of exposure to *Mycoplasma bovis* should not transport animals to livestock shows.
- Animals showing clinical signs of any disease should not be transported to livestock shows, as per normal biosecurity practice.
- Make sure your cattle are tagged and registered with NAIT.
- Keep your NAIT movements up-to-date and accurate and record movements to and from the event. Guidance is available on nait.co.nz
- Practice good on-farm biosecurity and clean and disinfect outer wear, boots and equipment before attending a show. On your return, clean and disinfect again before taking outer wear, boots and equipment back onto your farm. For more information refer to the guidance on mpi.govt.nz

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. Non-compliance should be reported to MPI.
- Ensure stalls are cleaned out before you put cattle in them, and after cattle are removed. Where possible, don't use the same stalls for cattle belonging to different exhibitors.
- Provide hand sanitiser for cattle judges and anyone else likely to be handling the heads of animals from different owners.
- Any milking equipment used at the show should be cleaned and disinfected between use on animals from different exhibitors.
- Provide animals with individual water – do not allow animals to drink from shared troughs.
- 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, using outriggers or other double-barriers where animals must be housed in adjacent pens.
- Minimise the amount of time that animals are held in show pens to reduce stress and nose-to-nose contact.

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