

VetSouth



Critical Information for Winter Grazing and Graziers

*Down south we have cows to feed, and crops to be eaten. But hungry cows and graziers aren't hooking up as freely as usual with the concerns around sharing the *Mycoplasma bovis* bacteria. Here's the latest from MPI that you need to know:*

'Surveillance testing' (no restrictions) = free to move.

Cattle that have undergone "surveillance testing" are very low risk for spreading the disease. They can be managed on a grazing block just like any other cattle group – separately, with secure fencing, and prevention of mixing with cattle from other sources.

Notice of Direction = restricted movement with permits

NODs are under movement restrictions, but can go to a grazing block under permit. Each ICP manager will help their farmers to do this. The grazing block (or part of it) will become a NOD.

Grazing block NODs

A grazing block that takes cattle from a NOD will become a NOD, but there are options to limit the NOD to parts of a grazing block; and to get back to normal quickly (see below).

Compensation

Any farm under a NOD (or any other restriction) will not be financially disadvantaged by it.

NAIT

For ALL cattle movements, NAIT must be used correctly.

Contact

Everyone wants to get feed to cows in the best way we can under the circumstances. If you are a grazier with feed available and would like to assist, please call 04 894 5656.

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The Finer Details to be Aware of:

Farmers under NODs should contact their ICP manager to arrange the permit. The process will look like this:

- a. Farmer locates grazing that will accept NOD cattle and contacts ICP manager.
- b. MPI visits the location and assesses fence security and the suitability of the property/paddock(s) to contain possible disease.
- c. The permit may be granted within a couple of days if all information is provided quickly and correctly and there are no problems.
- d. The cattle will be moved to the grazing block by permitted transporters; the “NOD” goes with the animals and will apply to all or part of the grazing block depending on the size and the location of the cattle.
- e. The cattle will be unloaded using portable yards if there are multiple herds at the property; MPI will also compensate for double fencing and any equipment needed to manage the NOD animals as a separate group. For example, MPI would look at hiring separate machinery and tractors to be used on the NOD part of a grazing block.
- f. The property or area used for the NOD group will have a minimum 60 day stand down period from the date the NOD cattle leave the property, and MPI will arrange cleaning and disinfection of troughs and equipment used by the NOD herd. During this stand down time crops can be planted, the only restriction is that no cattle can come on to the area during that time.

Farmers should contact their ICP manager or Rural Support Trust to assist them with getting their cows to feed.

If you have general questions please review MPI's page: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/mycoplasma-bovis/>

Dairy NZ also has information about Gypsy Day precautions.

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/mycoplasma-bovis/>

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/5788853/biosecurity-wof-a4-brochure.pdf>