

On Farm Biosecurity and Disinfection



Currently there are only two farms in the area (4/8/17) with a confirmed Mycoplasma diagnosis. We therefore need to need to mitigate the risks of further infections entering your farm while further testing continues.

The areas of **Highest Risk** of introduction are probably also the easiest ones to place control measures:

- Don't introduce animals from outside your own herd.
 - If you had slipped cows/empty cows milked on another farm over the winter, talk to MPI before bringing them back.
- Don't bring in used milking equipment from other farms that has not been thoroughly sterilized. e.g. test buckets, milking gloves, herd testing equipment etc.
- Avoid importation of milk from other farms for feeding calves (especially from higher risk areas)
- Don't allow cattle to have 'Nose to Nose' contact over boundary fences
 - If you want you can place your own boundary fencing – 2 m from a perimeter. The Restricted Place farms already have these in place.
 - Talk to your neighbours if you plan to walk stock down your road or back from your run-off, so they can place their own animals out of the way.

The **Lower Risk** for introduction scenarios:

- Equipment and clothing used on other properties which has been in contact with animals
- Vehicles which have driven on other farms paddocks and laneways
- Vehicles which have been used for the transportation of stock

Although the risk of transfer of mycoplasma in faeces or dried body fluids is lower than direct cow to cow contact, we should ignore it at our peril. Mycoplasma is a fragile bacterium, which does not withstand heat, UV rays and drying. It is killed by most disinfectants. Below is listed some biosecurity best practice that everyone can implement on their farms.

Biosecurity and Disinfection

The recommendations mentioned below are just good practice biosecurity and may become the new normal.....

1. **Tanker tracks must remain a clean zone** – this means:
 - No animals allowed on those tracks.
 - No manure on tanker tracks.
2. If practical, **transport** all tradespeople and contractors across your farm and cow lanes **using farm vehicles** – i.e. leave visitor vehicles on the tanker track.
3. Have **foot baths filled with disinfectant** and scrubbing brushes available for visitors/contractors to use when they come on and off your property. A dry cow bin would suffice for this purpose.
4. Consider having **staff leaving their protective clothing on farm** at the end of day.

5. Set up a **Disinfection Point** on your Farm. Ideally this would be situated on the tanker pad. If you did not get a 'disinfection point' sign at today's meeting, these can be ordered through Bracken's Print – Oamaru.

MPI recommends the following for a vehicle/equipment disinfection station

- Approved disinfectant
- Wash cloths
- Scrubbing brushes
- Rubbish bags/bins
- Protective clothing / gloves
- Water blaster and/or high-pressure hose
- Backpack type sprayer unit

Recommended Disinfectants (suitable for vehicle paint-work):

- 1% Virkon S
- 0.2% Citric acid. Very cheap. This is available at the Vet Centre – Oamaru and Waimate. The mixing rate to get a 0.2% solution is just 1 teaspoon per litre of water.

Important – Do not use alkali and acid disinfectants in a similar area – e.g. lime and citric acid as they will neutralise each other.

6. **Cleaning and disinfection is a two-part process.**

- Get rid of the dirt and faeces and other organic matter from vehicles and equipment that have been in contact with animals with a high pressure hose first. Ideally do this on the tanker pad so debris can be flushed away. This will remove the 90% of contamination risk.
- Next disinfect. Spray over all surfaces that have been in contact with fluids, secretions and faecal matter, with vehicles make sure you get around tires and wheel hubs.

7. **Visitors/Contractors/Vets coming into direct contact with your stock**

- People not adequately cleansing and disinfecting pose a risk to your livelihood, it is up to you to enforce biosecurity or refuse them the right to come into contact with your farm/stock
- Make sure they have clean overalls and boots
- Make sure you provide hot water and disinfectant for clean-up and an appropriate area to do this. Hot soapy water will kill and remove mycoplasma off the skin.
- Leave contaminated rubbish on farm – e.g. gloves, syringes

8. Taking your **own equipment/machinery off-farm**

- Make sure your own protective clothing (e.g. boots and overalls) are clean before visiting other farms.
- It is a good measure to give your own vehicles and machinery a good wash down if taking them off farm for e.g. servicing or where other farms vehicles may congregate.

9. Have a **foot bath** available for disinfection immediately prior to **leaving/entering farm**. A good idea is to place one at your gateway and one at the disinfection area.