FEDERATED FARMERS
OF NEW ZEALAND INC

PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND FROM EXOTIC PESTS AND DISEASES











0800 FARMING
0800 327 646



www.maf.govt.nz/sff



MAF Exotic Diseases & Pests Hotline
0800 80 99 66







DEER INDUSTRY
NEW ZEALAND





0800 NZ PORK
0800 697 675
04 917 4750

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INTRODUCTION

Early detection of unwanted pests and diseases will protect New Zealand's economy and environment. Although 95% of biosecurity investigations result in a negative diagnosis, early reporting of a suspected exotic disease or pest is vital to a rapid and effective response.

You have been given this leaflet as:

- A general introduction to the biosecurity investigation process; or
- An unusual pest or disease on your farm has been reported to Biosecurity NZ (part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) that deals with biosecurity issues) by you, your vet, or another concerned party; or
- Your farm is undergoing an investigation for a possible biosecurity incursion; or
- There is a significant risk of a biosecurity incursion near your farm; or
- Restrictions have been imposed on your property through regulatory powers such as a "Restricted Place" or "Controlled Area" notice.

The information in this leaflet will help answer some of your questions about biosecurity investigations and responses in New Zealand.

Please keep this information where you can find it again and help play your part in protecting New Zealand's agricultural economy and environment.

PREVENTION THROUGH MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

There are four major access routes that you can manage to minimise the risk of an exotic pest or disease appearing on your property. They are:

- Animal Movements;
- Feed Materials;
- People;
- Vehicles and Equipment (especially if contaminated or dirty).

Animal Movements

Diseases and pests can be readily spread by animal movements. An Animal Status Declaration (ASD) must be sent/ received when moving cattle, deer, sheep, goats, pigs, llamas and alpacas. To reduce risk:

- **Purchase stock from reputable suppliers;**
- **Ensure animals can be identified as belonging to you;**
- **Reduce or minimise contact between your stock and other animals;**
- **Quarantine new stock for a period of time to ensure they are healthy.**

Feed Materials

The control of feed material is critical to prevent the risk of spreading some exotic diseases including BSE. It is recommended that you:

- **Do not feed ruminant protein to ruminant animals (e.g. cattle, sheep, deer and goats);**
- **Check stockfeed labels to ensure that the feed given to ruminants is labelled as suitable for ruminants;**
- **Do not feed raw meat products to livestock.**

The law requires that meat from any source, including food waste that may contain or have come into contact with meat, must be heated to 100ºC for 1 hour, before it is fed to pigs.

People, Vehicles and Equipment

Visitors can bring diseases and pests onto the farm through dirt being carried on footwear, vehicles and equipment as well as food and plant material that people bring onto the farm. Poultry and pig farms are likely to have biosecurity standards that must be met before entering a farm.

At the very least you should:

- **Control access and movement of people, vehicles and equipment;**
- **Record the transfer of all new stock onto the property (when, what, from where). This can be achieved by retaining copies of ASD's;**
- **Be aware of potential contamination that people can bring to your farm;**
- **Ensure that visitors clean their footwear prior to walking around your farm;**
- **Ensure appropriate biosecurity measures are followed when leaving a farm eg cleaning footwear.**

INCURSION PROCESS

1. IF YOU SUSPECT AN EXOTIC PEST OR DISEASE ON YOUR PROPERTY

If you observe unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths of animals, or an unknown pest on your farm, you are required to report this under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Who should you contact?

- **Preferably your vet first; or**
- **Contact Biosecurity NZ directly on the Exotic Disease and Pest Emergency Hotline: 0800 80 99 66 (which operates 24/7);**
- **Contact your industry body (e.g. dairy company, meat processor company, farmer's organisation, etc) to manage supply on the advice of the investigating vet;**
- **Support networks are in place to assist you in dealing with the impact of investigations. You can also call Federated Farmers of NZ Inc on 0800 FARMING (327 646);**
- **Your local council, if applicable.**

Although 95% of investigations EXCLUDE an exotic disease, early reporting of a suspected disease is vital to a rapid and effective response.

2. WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU HAVE REPORTED A POSSIBLE EXOTIC PEST OR DISEASE

Biosecurity NZ is well prepared for the reporting of a possible exotic pest or disease and has systems, resources and powers in place to manage the investigation and response.

Investigation

If your vet or the Biosecurity NZ Exotic Disease Hotline is unable to rule out the possibility of a biosecurity incursion from the information available, an investigating vet will be dispatched to your property from Biosecurity NZ.

The investigating vet will need your co-operation. You may be requested to:

- **Provide information e.g source of stock;**
- **Provide full access onto your farm to authorised persons; and**
- **Muster stock (once or several times) for examination and, if necessary, sampling.**

If a highly infectious exotic disease such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is suspected by the initial investigating vet, an incursion vet will be dispatched to your property.

This initial investigation phase may be of short duration (hours or days) or longer (up to months), depending on how long it takes to confirm or exclude the suspected disease or pest.

Who to contact?

- **Your meat processing, dairy company or poultry company, to pass on the advice of the Biosecurity NZ investigating vet; and**
- **Neighbours, to pass on the advice of the Biosecurity NZ investigating vet.**

3. WHAT TO EXPECT IF A RESPONSE IS DECLARED

Response

A response can be declared by Biosecurity NZ in order to effectively contain, control or eradicate an incursion, if

- **A suspected biosecurity incursion warrants action prior to the test results being returned (e.g. to reduce the risk of spread of a potentially serious or easily transmitted disease); or**
- **An exotic disease or pest is confirmed.**

The extent of the response will vary depending on the risk. The response may only affect one animal or one farm, be elevated to a national scale (as with an FMD incursion), or anything in between.

A Restricted Place (RP) notice may be issued to you. This is a legal notice which may restrict certain activities on your property. If you receive a RP notice, read it carefully and ensure that you understand the contents and implications. If there is anything you do not understand or you are unsure of your responsibilities and rights, ask the officials from Biosecurity NZ or contact one of the support people / organisations listed on page ten.

Testing Procedures

If an exotic disease or pest is confirmed on your farm, the following can be expected (not all actions will be exercised for every exotic disease):

- **Your farm will become a Restricted Place, resulting in strict biosecurity measures being implemented. Movement on and off your farm will probably be prohibited or severely**

restricted. There may be some exceptions (e.g. for the collection of milk) however you will be informed of this at the time of inspection.
- **Recent movements of all livestock and risk goods (e.g. milk) to and from your property will be traced.**
- **Possible further samples may be collected for testing by Biosecurity NZ.**

In the event of a critical biosecurity incursion (for example Foot and Mouth Disease) being confirmed on your farm the following can be expected:

- **A 'whole of government'[1] crisis management structure will be activated.**
- **A nationwide livestock standstill will be declared.**
- **All properties within the infected zone will be quarantined and inspected.**
- **Livestock slaughter may occur (refer to compensation support section on this page).**
- **Investigative teams will begin assessing transmission risks, including animal contacts with adjoining properties, further investigation of animal movements off the farm and possible windborne spread of the disease to assist in determining the extent of the potential spread of the disease.**
- **Livestock may be vaccinated as a control measure.**

4. BEST PRACTICE FOR FARMERS DURING AN INVESTIGATION OR RESPONSE

If an exotic disease is suspected get clear written instructions from Biosecurity NZ investigators. These instructions may include prevention of any movement of vehicles, livestock, products or people on or off the farm. Refer to 'Records' (page 8).

5. COMPENSATION

The investigation and response period will be a difficult time for you. It is also likely to result in costs and the loss of expected income. There is a legal framework to financially recompense farmers and others for losses directly attributable to the exercise of powers under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

1 In the event of an exotic disease or pest, the government implements a 'whole of government response'. This will include a National Response Centre in the basement of the Beehive, and will include representatives of government departments with relevant accountabilities and resources. Their role is to support the Director of Biosecurity in making policy and strategy decisions, keeping contact with government ministers, coordinating government departments and their communications with stakeholder organisations, media and international trading partners.

Compensation Support

The Biosecurity Act 1993 allows for compensation to be paid to people who have suffered verifiable loss due to the exercise of powers under the Act to manage or eradicate an unwanted organism. Compensation can be paid for the damage or destruction of property, and also for losses as a result of imposed restrictions on movement or disposal of goods.

There are several important points to bear in mind to ensure that you meet the criteria for compensation. These include:

- **Losses must be directly attributable to the exercise of powers under the Act. See 'Losses Eligible for Compensation', below.**
- **Losses must be verifiable. That is, you must be able to provide documentation demonstrating your losses (see 'Records' below).**
- **You must have complied with the Act and all regulations under the Act. That is, you must ensure that you meet all requirements including restrictions imposed through regulatory powers such as a Restricted Place notice or Controlled Area notice.**

Losses Eligible for Compensation

Losses that are eligible for compensation include the following:

- **Stock euthanased for testing purposes ;**
- **Stock euthanased for disease eradication or control purposes;**
- **Loss of income when a Restricted Place notice prohibits you from selling stock as you would normally do, and**
- **In some cases, interest may be paid on claims.**

Losses directly attributable to the disease under investigation or other health challenges are **not** eligible for compensation. For example:

- **if your stock have a disease and die from the disease, or**
- **failure to thrive.**

Compensation is not paid for losses suffered before the exercise of powers commenced, for any unauthorised goods, or where persons failed to comply with the Act, and where this has contributed to the spread of the disease or has hampered disease control.

Records

Compensation will only be paid for fully documented and justifiable losses. Therefore, ensure you keep:

- **Detailed production records;**
- **Financial records of all costs incurred;**
- **A diary of events and instructions given and actions taken.**

6. SUPPORT

Farmers wanting support during an investigation should contact the following organisations:

- **Federated Farmers of New Zealand**
  Federated Farmers staff and elected farmers representatives can provide advice and practical assistance to members during a biosecurity investigation or response. In very important circumstances, such as a biosecurity breach, the Federation's services are also available to non-members. Phone Federated Farmers on 0800 327 646 or refer to the FFNZ Directory or website www.fedfarm.org.nz for contact details.
- **Industry Bodies**
  Federated Farmers will contact the appropriate industry body.
- **Processing industries and organisations e.g dairy company, meat processor.**
- **Further support is available from:**

  Rural Trust Services
  Rural Support Trusts provide a free, financial negotiation and counselling service. Support from Rural Support Trusts is available to families and individuals who need to talk the issues through with an independent person who is experienced in farm or orchard management. Local networks are contactable through Federated Farmers (see above for contact details).

7. DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

Media contact should be avoided at all times. The media are continually updated with contact details of the relevant Biosecurity NZ staff.

Farmers should not discuss any biosecurity investigations, as even rumors of an incursion can have a major impact on New Zealand's export trade.

Your rights to privacy are that:

- Biosecurity NZ will not disclose property specific details to the media unless it in the national interest to do so;
- Any advice to neighbors would be provided by the Biosecurity NZ investigating vet, as advised on page six of this booklet.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Biosecurity NZ Exotic Disease & Pest Hotline

0800 80 99 66

Disease Fact Sheets

- MAF Biosecurity NZ Fact Sheets
  http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/
- New Zealand Food Safety Authority Website:
  http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/food-safety-topics/animal-diseases/index.htm
- Federated Farmers Fact Sheets:
  www.fedfarm.org.nz
  0800 (FARMING) 327 646

Personal Advice & Support

- Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc.
  www.fedfarm.org.nz
  0800 (FARMING) 327 646
- Rural Support Trusts contactable through Federated Farmers of NZ
- Local networks contactable through Federated Farmers of NZ
- Relevant Industry organisation
- Refer to Biosecurity NZ

Service providers

- Local Vet
- Industry representatives e.g. Dairy Company Representative, Meat Company Agent, Stock and Station Agent, Farm Advisor.

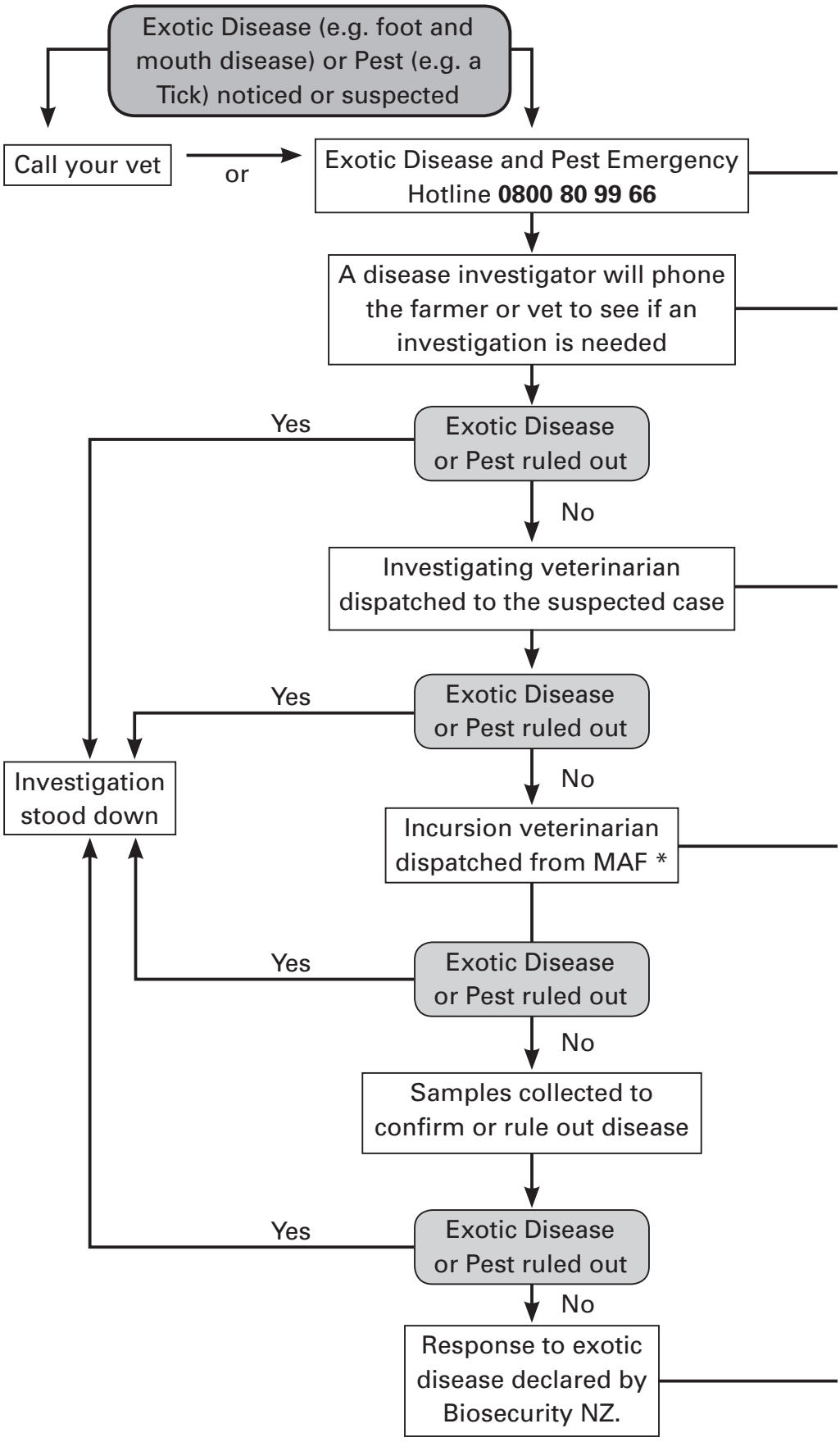
Thank you for your interest and help in protecting New Zealand.

To report suspected exotic pests or diseases in ANIMALS OR PLANTS:

Biosecurity NZ Exotic Disease & Pest Hotline

0800 80 99 66

Biosecurity NZ Process



* Biosecurity NZ is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Exotic Disease

Farmer – To do list

- Phone your vet or the 0800 80 99 66 hotline immediately if you suspect an exotic disease.
- Clean your boots, overalls or any equipment that may have been used on or near these animals, especially if you leave the farm.
- Prevent contact between your animals and any neighbouring stock.

- Inform your neighbour only on the advice of the investigating veterinarian.
- Minimise animals/people entering farm.

- Muster suspected animals and keep them separate from healthy animals, where possible.
- Avoid unnecessary movement of animals, people and vehicles on and off your farm.
- Have all details ready for when the investigating vet phones. This includes symptoms noticed, numbers affected, any production records, records of new animals introduced, feeding records, vaccinations or animal treatments etc.

- Have all relevant records on hand.
- Ensure that the incursion vet can inspect affected animals without delay.
- Provide adequate holding and restraint facilities, and provide help as needed.
- Ensure adequate lighting is available, especially when the inspection is done at night.
- Ensure warm water and buckets are available to wash equipment used in the inspection.

- Read the Restricted Place (RP) notice carefully, and understand the contents and implications.
- Ask questions about the notice – enquire about your responsibilities and rights.
- Report any further information that may be of use in the investigation or to control the disease.
- Abide by the conditions of the RP notice.
- Have to hand historical breeding records, and keep a diary of events for compensation purposes.









