

(TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE– Procedures for cattle from properties
on the *T. saginata* disease surveillance Suspect List)

***Taenia saginata* Programme**

Management Plan Guidelines

A SUMMARY DOCUMENT

December 2002

INFORMATION

All inquiries regarding this document should be addressed to:
Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review)
Animal Products Group
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
South Tower
68-86 Jervois Quay
PO Box 2835
Wellington
Phone: (+64 4) 463 2500
Fax: (+64 4) 463 2643

FOREWORD

The NZFSA *Taenia saginata* Programme outlines the requirements, structure and responsibilities of the parties involved and the outcomes to be achieved.

Designated MAF Verification Agency (MAF VA) staff are responsible for following up on the guidelines requirements and as specified in relevant related documents (e.g. OMAR's).

RELATED DOCUMENTS

NZFSA Manual 16 (Post-Mortem Inspection)

NZFSA Manual 12 (Overseas Requirements and Certification)

Associated Technical Directives and OMARS, in particular “Procedures for cattle from properties on the *Taenia saginata* disease surveillance Suspect List”

RELATED LEGISLATION

- Meat Act 1981
- Animal Products Act 1999
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Official Information Act 1982
- Privacy Act 1993
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992

APPROVAL

This programme is approved by:

Tony Zohrab

Director Animal Products

____/____/____

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1. PART A – GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

This Programme is in support of the requirements of Section 7A Movement Controls of the Meat Act 1981. It should also be noted that the application of sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 are to be considered in the application of this programme to individual cases.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Programme is to prevent the parasite *Taenia saginata* becoming established at a level that is higher than its current level. This is to protect public health and to facilitate market access.

1.3 Intention

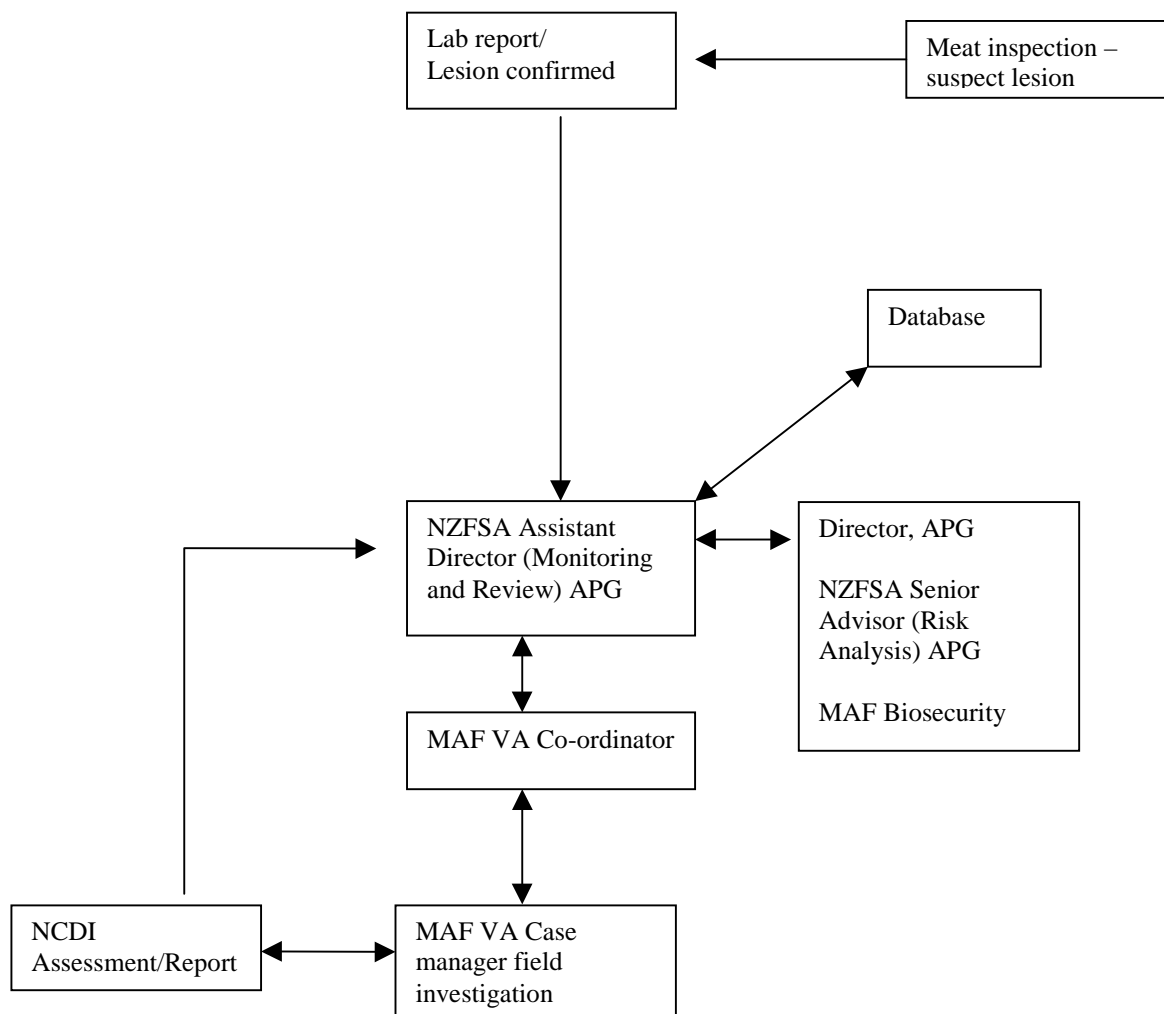
This programme has been designed to ensure that *T. saginata* remains at its historically low level of prevalence.

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Initial Investigation

The basic sequence of events in case of suspect lesions is outlined in Flowchart 1

Flowchart 1: Routine monitoring - Sequence of events



2.1.1 Meat Inspection

- a) Meat inspection shall be performed in accordance with NZFSA Manual 16 (Post-mortem Inspection) and Manual 12 (Overseas Requirements and Certification) and associated Technical Directives and OMARs,
- b) Suspect lesions shall be submitted for laboratory examination (Gribbles Veterinary Pathology, Hamilton).

2.1.2 Laboratory Identification

Following examination of the suspect lesion by the laboratory

- a) The following diagnoses can be distinguished:
 - The lesion contains identifiable cestode material (eg scolex, cestode wall, calcareous corpuscles),
 - The lesion does not contain identifiable cestode material but appears to be caused by a parasite,
 - Another cause (eg neoplasm) of the lesion can be identified,
 - No cause of the lesion can be identified,
- b) Regardless of whether lesions are confirmed or not, the laboratory shall notify the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review), Animal Products Group (APG),
- c) The laboratory advises the appropriate Medical Officer of Health of positive lesions.

2.1.3 NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG

The NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, or the person with the relevant delegated duties shall:

- a) Assess the laboratory report, and may request the MAF VA co-ordinator to initiate a farm investigation,
- b) Approve the questionnaire used for a farm investigation,

- c) Ensure that the lines of communication outlined in Flowchart 1 are followed up. This includes consultation with MAF Biosecurity,
- d) Ensure a surveillance programme is in place, including data being entered into a database,
- e) Inform the NZFSA Senior Advisor (Risk Analysis) APG, of any lesions, confirmed or otherwise, and seek technical advice as necessary.

Note: Any of the sections below that refer to the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, can be applied to a person with appropriate delegated authority.

2.1.4 MAF VA Co-ordinator

Following the request by the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, the MAF VA Co-ordinator shall:

- a) Ensure that the farm visit and investigation (refer to section 2.1.5) take place within ten working days,
- b) Request any other support if deemed necessary,
- c) Advise MAF NCDI and arrange for an exotic disease investigator to coordinate a questionnaire,
- d) Fax the pathology report to MAF NCDI and the MAF VA Case Manager.

2.1.5 MAF VA Case Manager - Farm Investigation

Following the request by the MAF VA Co-ordinator, the MAF VA Case manager shall:

- a) Receive the pathology report from the MAF VA Coordinator,
- b) Contact the exotic disease investigator at MAF NCDI,
- c) Contact the slaughterhouse where the sample was collected and get the animal identification number,
- d) Inform the affected farmer of the situation and arrange for a farm investigation to take place,
- e) Carry out a farm investigation as per the approved questionnaire within ten working days. The approved questionnaire is available from the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG,

- f) Inform the farmer of potential actions that may take place (Refer to Flowchart 2 and Flowchart 3) once the NCDI report is assessed by the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG,
- g) Liaise with NCDI during the investigation, as necessary,
- h) Provide the completed questionnaire report to NCDI within two working days.

2.1.6 MAF NCDI activities

MAF NCDI shall:

- a) Develop the questionnaire for on-farm investigation,
- b) Carry out the epidemiological assessment and provide a report to the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, (refer to section 2.1.3) within five working days,
- c) Advise the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, on technical issues, if requested,
- d) Supply the AgriBase number to the MAF VA Case Manager, or any other appropriate farm identification number from the farmer that will be used for describing the location of farms. This number will allow the farm to be mapped, and neighbouring properties easily located, along with epidemiologically important features such as waterways.

2.2 Response to Investigation

The following sequence of events will occur:

2.2.1 NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG

Following the NCDI epidemiological report outcomes (refer to 2.1.6), the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, shall:

- a) Evaluate the report with a group consisting of NZFSA, MAF VA, and MAF Biosecurity and decide appropriate actions,
- b) Decide whether the farm should be placed on the NZFSA Suspect List,
- c) Notify the property owner(s) in writing when the farm is placed on the Suspect List,
- d) Decide which animals will be covered by the Movement Control Notice,

- e) Ensure that the activities outlined in Flowchart 2 are followed up by other designated parties.

2.2.1.1. Suspect List

A farm may be placed on the Suspect List if it meets one of the criteria listed below:

If five or more animals with one or more suspect lesions have been identified, including at least one lesion with confirmed cestode material, over a one-year period,

If two or more animals with five or more suspect lesions each have been identified, including at least one lesion with confirmed cestode material, over a one-year period.

2.2.1.2 Farms on the Suspect List

The following will apply to farms on the Suspect List:

- a) The Movement Control Notice describes the animals and the property to which it applies. These animals will require individual identification before they leave the farm,
- b) Slaughter and processing of the animals shall be as outlined in Flowchart 3,
- c) The Movement Control Notice is lifted when all suspect animals have been removed from the farm to slaughter or their identification and sale has been notified to the Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG.

Alternatively, in some cases there may be a presumption that the source of infection was present for a limited time only. If so, the absence of infection on post mortem inspection in 350 slaughtered animals introduced after the presumed period of the epidemic is required before the suspect status is removed unless available information clearly shows the farm no longer has infected cattle,

- d) A farm acquiring suspect cattle will be subjected to the same procedures as the initially affected farm. This will apply to infected animals only.

2.2.2 MAF VA Technical Supervisors

The MAF VA Technical Supervisor shall:

- a) Give the processor a copy of the Suspect List,
- b) Ensure the routine and enhanced inspection procedures are completed for Suspect lines of cattle,

- c) Ensure boning under supervision occurs as described in the flow charts,
- d) Notify the NZFSA Assistant Director (Monitoring and Review) APG, of the numbers of animals presented for slaughter and the post-mortem findings.

2.2.3 Owners of Cattle on the Suspect List

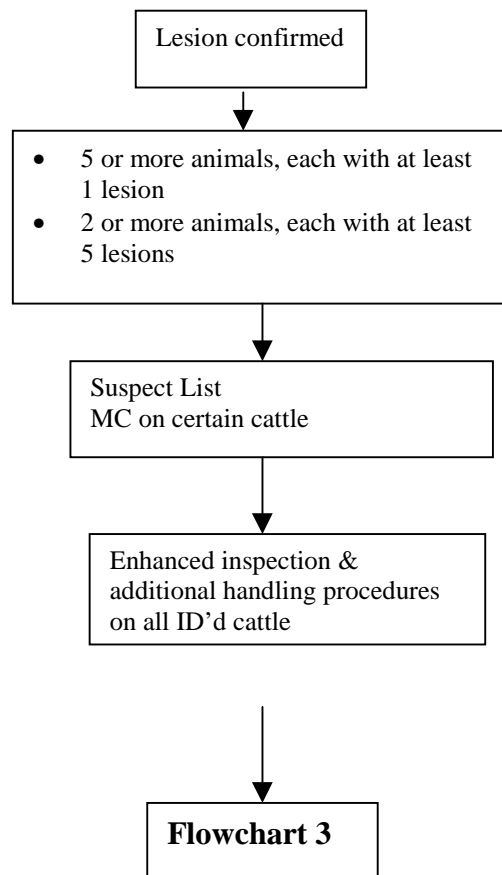
Owners of cattle on the Suspect List are under movement control and must follow the instructions of the Movement Control Notice (Appendix 1).

2.2.4 MAF VA Case Manager Field Activities

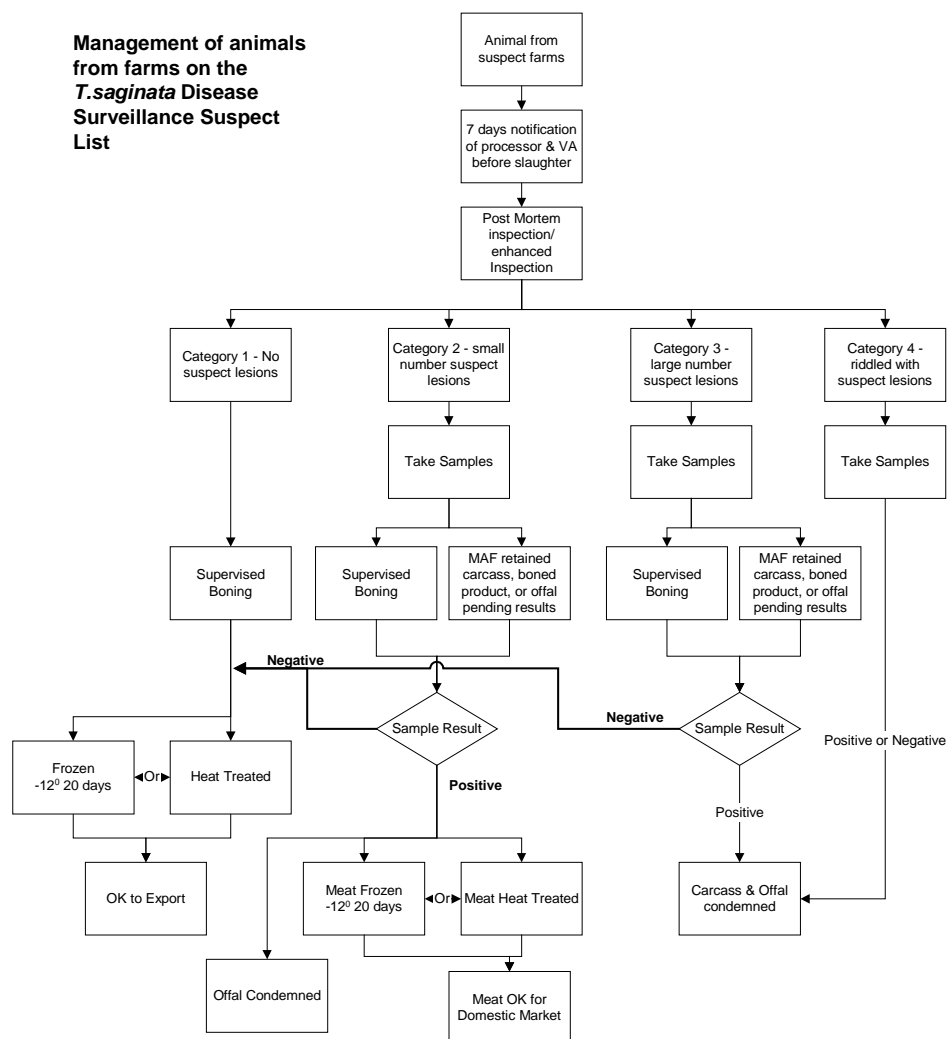
Following the assessment of the report (refer to section 2.2.1), the MAF VA Case Manager shall:

- a) Advise the owners of their status and obligations to notify premises and MAF VA when submitting the animals for slaughter,
- b) Issue a Movement Control Notice (Appendix 1) and will describe the property and animals affected by the notice.

Flowchart 2: MAF VA Field Activities



Flowchart 3: Management of ID'd cattle from farms (*T. saginata* Suspect List)



2.3 Relevant information

2.3.1 Stakeholders

2.3.1.1 Consumers

Consumers can become infected and meat inspection intends to minimise human infection. Sensitivity of inspection of lightly infected animals is low. Freezing can be used to kill infective cysts.

2.3.1.2 Processing Companies

These cysts are both a wholesomeness and a food safety issue. Detection overseas can lead to market access problems. Intensified procedures will come at a cost.

2.3.1.3 Slaughterhouse Inspection Service

A considerable amount of inspection effort is used for the detection of this parasite. The low level of this parasite in New Zealand cattle has provided opportunities for reduced inspection efforts which have been explored by NZFSA.

2.3.1.4 NZ Farmers

The very low level of this parasite can be used to the advantage of NZ farmers compared with other farmers internationally.

2.3.1.5 Affected Farmers

There can be considerable costs if a property has an infection. It includes loss of product due to potential condemnation, problems to sell affected stock, cost of intensified procedures and restrictions on the product.

Appendix 1: Movement Control Notice – A Template**MOVEMENT CONTROL NOTICE**

This notice is issued to:

Mr/Mrs _____, (being the owner/occupier, person in- charge, or person reasonably appearing to be in-charge of the property) _____

(insert address)

- a) The Notice is issued in respect of the property known as _____, and situated at _____ as identified on the attached map

(‘the property’)

- b) The Notice is issued in respect of animals of the following type (being animals on the property as described above):

(‘the animals’)

NOTICE

Pursuant to section 7A of the Meat Act 1981, I, _____, being an Inspector duly appointed under the Act, am satisfied that an organism prescribed under this Act, namely *Cysticercus bovis* (also known as *Taenia saginata*) as specified in the Third Schedule and Fourth Schedule to the Meat Regulations, as a disease or defect requiring condemnation of parts of or all of a carcass affected by the disease, is present in animals which are located on the property of _____.

Accordingly, the movement of the any animals of the type identified above, outside the boundaries of the property is prohibited subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Prior approval of an Animal Products Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) must be obtained before animals may be moved off the property;
- (2) If animals are moved off the property for slaughter:
 - (a) Slaughter may only be carried out at premises licensed under the Meat Act or holding a risk management programme under the Animal Products Act;
 - (b) Slaughtering premises must have a capacity to freeze animal product at -12°C for a minimum of 20 days, or arrangements, which satisfy an Animal Products Officer, need to be in place for slaughtering the animals at one premises and freezing the product at another ;
 - (c) The slaughter premises, the premises which performs the freezing (if applicable) and MAF must have provided approval for slaughter (and freezing) and must be notified at least seven days in advance of the impending arrival of the animals;
- (3) If animals are moved off the property for sale they must be identified with MAF approved identification.
- (4) Deaths of animals on the farm are to be reported to MAF

Issued at this day _____ of _____

Inspector under the Meat Act 1981