



# MYCOPLASMA BOVIS



## SPRING SURVEILLANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When will testing begin for my herd?

Testing will begin approximately one month following the start of supply. Or for winter suppliers already supplying, testing will begin on 1st or 2nd August, whichever is their first day of supply in August.

### How will samples be collected?

The tanker operator will take the samples as part of their standard process during collection.

### Do I need to do anything e.g. take samples?

No. Farmers are not required to take any action during this surveillance programme. Tanker operators will take the samples at the time of collection as part of their routine process.

### Why are you testing again? Haven't you already tested my herd?

Yes, we tested all farms supplying dairy earlier this year. However, *Mycoplasma bovis* is a unique disease in that it is able to avoid detection for weeks or even months in an infected cow. Therefore, we must test repetitively. Spring is deemed the best time for testing as *Mycoplasma bovis* is more likely to be detected if the cow is shedding the bacteria, a process which happens more often when a cow is under stress such as during calving or beginning milking.

### Why are you not collecting samples from the sick cow mob?

While the tests from the sick mob were an effective and fast way of testing for *Mycoplasma bovis*, it proved logistically challenging and disruptive on farm. By testing for a longer period of time with a greater number of bulk milk samples (up to six), we achieve the same degree of assurance.

### When will I get my results?

Where *Mycoplasma bovis* has not been detected in the samples tested, farmers will receive their results via email in November (North Island on or before 1 November and South Island on or before 15 November).

If *Mycoplasma bovis* has been detected in the samples tested, MPI will contact that farm immediately with information about next steps.

### If I'm under a Notice of Direction will I be tested?

Yes, every farm except for those which are a Restricted Property or Infected Property will be tested through this programme.

### How will farmers be tested if they are dried off?

This surveillance programme will test all farms which are supplying milk for collection. Samples will be taken starting four weeks after the start of supply.

### **Do farms on skip-a-day collection need to do anything different?**

No. Tanker operators will take samples from farms as part of their standard processes as they collect milk.

### **Where can I find out more information about this surveillance programme?**

Please contact your local Dairy Company Area Manager for more information.