

# Surveillance testing for cattle – FAQs

## What is changing with TB testing?

OSPRI is using a more refined approach to how herds are selected for TB testing in Surveillance Disease Control Areas (DCAs) only, with no changes to testing requirements in any other disease control areas.

## What is the benefit farmers will see with this approach?

- Smarter use of resources to find any remaining TB.
- Continued progress toward **TB eradication**, without increasing burden on farmers.
- Cost savings from reduced testing have enabled increased possum control.

## Why is TB testing changing now?

TB levels in New Zealand are **very low**, with **fewer than 20 infected herds nationally**. Because of this, broad, routine testing in low risk areas is no longer the most effective way to find any remaining TB.

## How are herds selected in surveillance areas?

Instead of testing every herd on a fixed cycle (for example, every five years), OSPRI now looks at each **individual herd's movement and TB history data** to decide whether testing is needed.



## What areas does this new approach apply to?

This new approach is only being used in Surveillance Areas for cattle (areas with low or no wildlife TB risk).

All other **Disease Control Areas (DCAs)** stay the same, with testing frequency still based on wildlife risk.

## Does this mean my farm won't be tested anymore?

Not necessarily.

- **Some farms may be tested sooner than expected.**
- **Others may go longer without testing.**

It depends on the **specific factors of your herd**, not just where your farm is located.

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## What could trigger TB testing on my farm now?

An on farm TB test in a Surveillance Area may be triggered by:

- High levels of **stock movements on or off the farm.**
- **Cattle introduced from high risk areas or herds.**

## Should I be worried if I'm asked to present cattle for testing?

No. Being selected for testing **does not mean TB is suspected.**

## What do farmers need to do if a TB test is scheduled?

- Work with the OSPRI tester to **plan the safest way to carry out testing.**
- Discuss your **yards, facilities, stock behaviour, and health & safety needs.**

- Follow the **updated health and safety protocols** put in place for farmers, testers, and animals.

## What about deer herds in Surveillance Areas?

In Surveillance Areas:

- **Deer are generally not TB tested on farm.**
- TB surveillance instead carried out on inspection at meat processors.
- On farm testing may only occur in **special circumstances.**

## Will this approach stay the same in the future?

OSPRI will continue to **review testing in surveillance areas** and adjust if needed. The goal is to make sure TB surveillance stays effective while avoiding unnecessary testing.

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