

On-farm TB testing for cattle in surveillance areas

TB in New Zealand cattle herds is now at historically low levels. Most of the remaining risk comes from infected wildlife rather than other livestock.

In low-risk Surveillance Areas, herds have typically been monitored through slaughter surveillance, with less frequent on-farm testing.

As the programme moves closer to eradication, decisions about on-farm testing in these areas are increasingly made on a herd-by-herd basis, rather than through blanket testing.

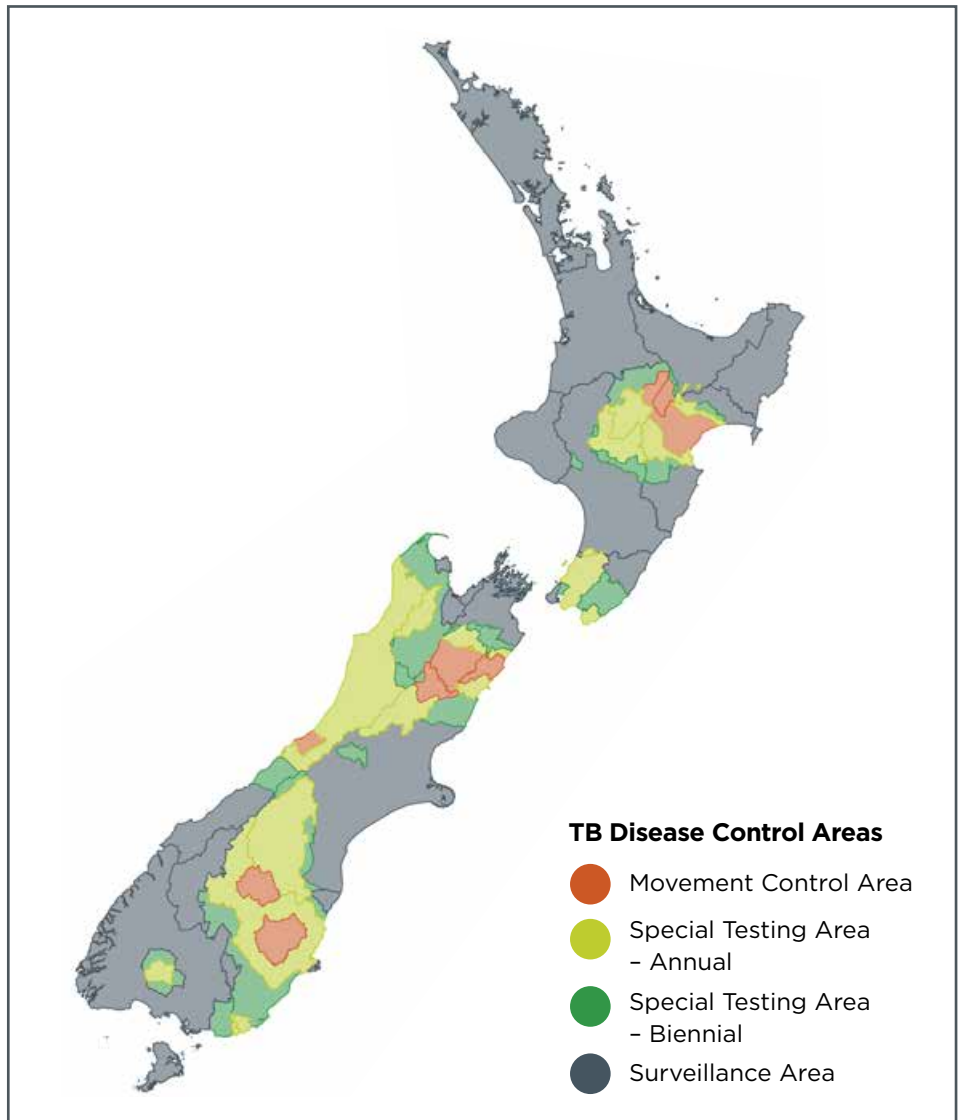
What do farmers need to do?

Farmers in Surveillance Areas can expect that on-farm TB testing may occur at different times than in the past, based on individual herd circumstances rather than a fixed testing cycle.

Under this approach, most herds will continue to be monitored through slaughter surveillance, while some will be selected for on-farm testing based on herd-specific factors.

How will I know if I have to TB test?

Selection for on-farm testing is based on herd-specific information such as animal movements and previous history, and farmers will be contacted by a TB tester if your herd is due for testing.



What benefits will farmers see?

- 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.

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“ This approach feels more practical. Instead of everyone being tested on the same cycle, decisions are based on what’s happening in each herd, while the works still do the heavy lifting for surveillance. If on-farm testing happens, it’s because something about that particular herd warrants a closer look which only strengthens the programme.

OSPRI Farmer committee chair (Taranaki) – Amanda Jordan



Working together

OSPRI's safety responsibilities

- Our TB Testers are experienced and accredited testers with proven skills in animal awareness and handling. Our testers will work closely with you to ensure testing is carried out smoothly and safely as possible.

Your safety responsibilities

- Meet on-farm with our TB tester to discuss the best and safest way to carry out testing based on your yard, facilities and animals.

- Ensure any hazards at the farm are controlled as far as practicable for testing, and that our tester knows about them.
- Have your animals mustered and secure, ready for testing.

When completing an **Animal Status Declaration (ASD)**, you must record the **date of your last test**.

If you have **not previously carried out a herd test**, leave this field blank.

You can find the **TB test details** in the following places:

- The test receipt from your most recent TB test.
- In your ASD book, where the last test date is recorded.
- By contacting our **Support Centre** on **0800 482 463**