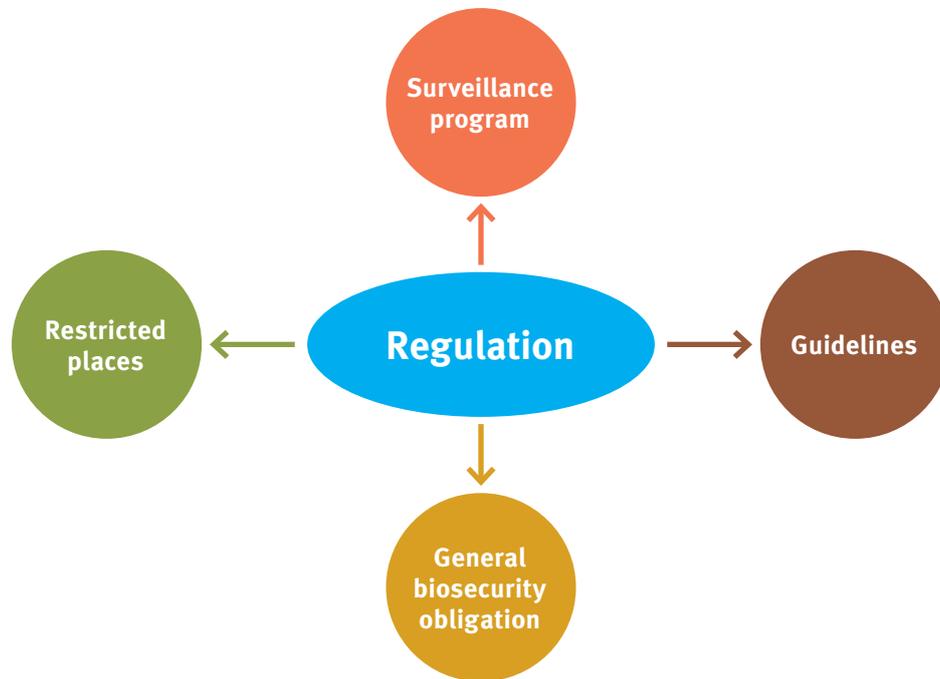


A new framework for managing cattle tick in Queensland



Introduction

The new provisions for cattle tick proposed for the Biosecurity Regulation will form the major part of the new framework for managing cattle tick in Queensland under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The other components of the framework will be:

- a surveillance program
- the declaration of infested places in the free zone as restricted places
- guidelines for eradicating cattle tick, treating animals for cattle tick and inspecting animals for cattle tick
- the application of the general biosecurity obligation for matters not covered by the Regulation.

Regulation

The main mechanism for managing cattle tick in Queensland will be through the regulatory provisions contained in the Biosecurity Regulation. The Regulation will establish two biosecurity zones for cattle tick—the **free zone** and the **infested zone**—separated by the **tick line**. The location of the tick line is to be decided.

Other regulatory provisions will be:

- notification obligations when any cattle tick or tick fever is present in the free zone
- movement restrictions and treatment requirements for carriers (host animals) crossing the tick line or moving from infested land in the free zone
- obligations to record treatment methods undertaken before moving carriers.

Notification obligations

A person who owns or occupies property in the free zone must report to a biosecurity inspector if they:

- become aware of cattle tick on the property
- believe or ought to reasonably believe that cattle tick are present on the property
- become aware that an animal is suffering from tick fever.



Movement restrictions

Host species of cattle ticks, which are called carriers under the Biosecurity Regulation, will be the same as under the Stock (Cattle Tick Notice) 2005.

Before moving a carrier from the infested zone or from infested land in the free zone to a feedlot or meat processing facility in the free zone, the property owner or occupier must do one of the following:

- Treat the carrier with an appropriate chemical product according to the label instructions and obtain a biosecurity certificate stating the details of the treatment.
- Take steps to ensure the carrier is free of cattle tick.
- Obtain a permit to move the animal.

Before moving a carrier from the infested zone or from infested land in the free zone to a place in the free zone, other than to a meat processing facility or feedlot, the property owner or occupier must do one of the following:

- Obtain a biosecurity certificate stating the carrier is free of cattle tick.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the carrier is free of cattle tick.
- Obtain a permit to move the animal.

Obligations to record treatments

Any property owner or occupier moving a carrier must list in the movement record either the treatment or measures taken to ensure the animal is free of cattle tick or how the movement otherwise complies with movement restrictions.

Surveillance program

A surveillance program will be established in the free zone to:

- monitor compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- confirm the presence of cattle tick
- assess the effectiveness of eradication programs in the free zone.

The surveillance program will primarily be used to determine compliance with the new movement restrictions.

Obligations may be imposed on an owner or occupier of a property in the surveillance program area. These could include, for example, mustering animals for inspection.

The surveillance may be ongoing and conducted in any area in the free zone. The results of the surveillance may be published on www.daf.qld.gov.au.

Restricted places

A place in the free zone that becomes infested with cattle tick will be declared a restricted place, and the owner or occupier will have an obligation to eradicate the cattle tick. To reduce the risk of spreading cattle tick to neighbouring properties, limitations on the use of restricted places may be imposed.

Guidelines

These will outline the steps that must be taken to ensure a carrier is free of cattle tick. These steps must be listed in the movement record before the animal is moved. It will be an offence to make a false or misleading claim in a movement record.

Guidelines will also explain how cattle tick can be eradicated from an infested place in the free zone.

General biosecurity obligation

Under the general biosecurity obligation, every person and organisation must take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant. The regulatory provisions will outline how a person is to discharge their general biosecurity obligation.

Obligations specific to cattle tick will be contained in the Biosecurity Regulation and the guidelines.

More information

For more information on Queensland's framework for managing cattle tick, visit www.qld.gov.au/cattletick or call **13 25 23**.