

Pests & Biosecurity on the Chatham Islands



IMPORTING FARM ANIMALS TO THE CHATHAMS?



What you need to know ...

The Chatham Islands environment is unique and beautiful and the economy is highly dependent on farming and fishing. The Chatham Islands are free of many pests and diseases which cause economic and environmental problems on mainland New Zealand.

The importance of biosecurity

Keeping the Chatham Islands pest- and disease-free creates unique opportunities for the farming community to ensure lower costs and increased market access for their products. Importing animals is a necessary aspect of Chathams farming but does carry the risk of introducing new pests and diseases.

Bovine tuberculosis (bovine Tb)

The Chatham Islands are free from this serious disease, which poses a threat to the local cattle farming sector. TB can cause severe economic losses from livestock deaths, chronic disease and movement restrictions.

All cattle imported to the Chathams must meet Animal Health Board regulations.

Primarily:

- No cattle can travel to the Chathams without an Animal Status Declaration (ASD) and a Permit to Move issued by the Animal Health Board (Telephone 0800 4TB INFO or 0800 482 4636).

Pigs are also a major vector of bovine Tb and therefore pose a very real risk to the Chathams.

- The movement of wild pigs is prohibited under the Wild Animal Control Act and all domestic pigs imported to the Chathams must meet Animal Health Board regulations and have an Animal Status Declaration (ASD) which requires pigs to be free from a range of serious disease prior to movement.

External parasites

Ticks puncture the skin of the host animal, causing blood loss and anaemia, as well as a reduction in hide quality. Cattle are particularly affected, with infested animals often suffering weight loss.

Once introduced, ticks are practically impossible to eradicate. Treating any cattle to be shipped to the Chathams with an effective drench such as Bayticol will ensure larvae, nymphs and adults will come in contact with the active ingredient. It is important that all new stock be treated and quarantined before being shipped to the Chathams.





Internal parasites

Cattle and sheep are prone to a range of internal parasites, particularly worms. These parasites absorb nutrients and affect the health of the host, which may be a dog, cat, cow, sheep or human.

What can you do?

Animals should be healthy and drenched or dosed prior to shipping.

Blowflies

Fly-strike in sheep is a major economic concern to New Zealand farmers, costing around \$10 million in lost production each year.

The Chatham Islands DO NOT have the Australian blowfly, *Lucilia cuprina*, which is now well established in other parts of the country.

What can you do?

Sheep shipped to the Chathams should be sourced from farms where practices are known to be in line with good fly-strike management.

Shearing can be an effective, short-term control measure in the face of fly challenge. It helps prevent fly-strike for a few weeks because it causes the eggs and maggots to dry out. This usually will reduce the need for chemical treatment for 4 weeks or more prior to shipping.

Weed seed contamination of fleeces

When shipping sheep to the Chathams it is important that you insist that fleeces have not been contaminated by any vegetable matter (seeds, leaves etc). This may be done simply by requiring that they have been shorn prior to shipment.

For further information about biosecurity or queries about importing farm animals to the Chatham Islands, please contact the Biosecurity Officer on 03 305 0013 or email info@cic.govt.nz.



Chatham Islands Council
P O Box 24
Waitangi
Chatham Islands
Phone 03 305 0033
Facsimile 03 305 0044
www.cic.govt.nz

