

Grazing cattle on land with Panama TR4

Panama disease tropical race 4 (Panama TR4) is a serious disease of banana plants. It is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil. It is spread by the movement of infected banana plant material and contaminated soil or water.

The fungus can survive in the soil for decades without detection. This means it can be unknowingly moved on, around or between farms prior to banana plants showing signs of the disease.

If a grower wants to use a section of land to graze cattle on a property with Panama TR4, the Panama TR4 Program (Program) will conduct a risk assessment.

The Assessment will work out the level of risk of that land being contaminated with Panama TR4 and what the grower must do to manage that risk.

The risk assessment process is outlined in the Managing the risks - mixed farming on Panama TR4 affected land factsheet.

From the assessment, the land will be given a classification of either 'clean' or 'dirty' land.

Both classifications are managed under the processes and procedures detailed in a Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4. Overleaf are the requirements for 'dirty land'.

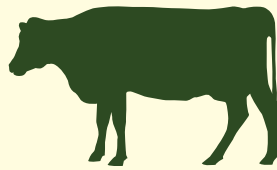


Dirty land

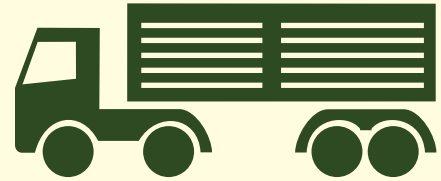
If the land is considered at a higher risk of contamination by Panama TR4, the land will be designated as a dirty zone and become part of the farm's dirty zones.

The dirty zones on a farm are subject to processes and procedures under a 'Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4'. These minimise the risk of disease spread and can include:

On-farm



Cattle must not move from the dirty zones to the clean zones of the property.



All machinery, people or other things that move between dirty zones to clean zones must be cleaned, rinsed and disinfected.

Transport

When transporting cattle the grower will be responsible for ensuring the cattle are:

- ✓ penned without feed for 24 hours to allow them to empty their stomachs prior to transport
- ✓ loaded directly from the dirty zone to the truck and must not have any contact with the clean zones or public roadside land
- ✓ visually free of soil and dirt or washed to remove soil and dirt before leaving the property, and loading must not occur in wet or muddy conditions
- ✓ sent directly from the property to slaughter outside of the northern banana biosecurity zone
- ✓ ensure you comply with your other legal requirements for moving cattle eg NLIS, movement records, animal welfare standards.

The grower must ensure that the cattle truck:

- has partial or fully enclosed sides
- has the parts of the truck that could come in contact with the cattle washed to remove all loose dirt prior to undertaking the transport
- has the drain holes blocked during transport
- does not enter the dirty zone. If it does, it will need to undergo cleaning, disinfection and inspection prior to exit
- be washed, disinfected and inspected at the slaughter yard after unloading and before returning to the northern banana biosecurity zone—paying close attention to the parts of the truck that could have come in contact with the cattle
- uses a direct route, using sealed roads to the end destination and avoid farmland where possible
- disposes of any solid waste in the truck outside of the banana growing region, in a way that manages the risk.

The grower must keep vehicle decontamination and movement details records.

