



Industry Update Autumn 2006

Pestoff is the Registered Trade Mark of Animal Control Products Ltd, 408 Heads Road, Wanganui, New Zealand

PESTOFF DECAL™ IS COMING!

After several months of product development and testing, working with suppliers, researchers and private laboratories, Animal Control Products is very close to releasing its new ready-to-use pellet bait containing cholecalciferol as the active ingredient. **Pestoff DECAL Possum Bait** differs from the previous cholecalciferol based pellet bait product in a number of ways.

Firstly, an improved synergist has been used with this product, which means better efficacy and a less "chalky" product - which means a better initial bait uptake.

Secondly, an improved pellet bait formulation has been developed to reduce the hygroscopic nature of the pellets.

No licence will be required to use Pestoff **DECAL**. One of the appealing aspects of the bait is the relatively low toxicity of cholecalciferol to most birds. This, combined with the requirement for the product to be used either in bait stations or bait bags, means that the risk to birds is very low. A blackbird, for example, would need to eat around 10 grams of **DECAL** for a lethal dose. Users will be able to purchase a pre-feed bait which is tailor-made for Pestoff **DECAL**, to ensure the best

NEW PRODUCT

possible results are achieved. Trials during the product development phase showed that up to 95% of possums will eat a lethal dose of **DECAL** at a single exposure following a period of pre-feeding.

For those users who are able to use **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait** between applications of **Pestoff DECAL**, the effect for possum populations should be devastating. The added synergy of using a potent second generation anticoagulant bait (brodifacoum) in conjunction with cholecalciferol has long been documented by researchers and appreciated by pest control operators.

DECAL will be available from April 2006 and will provide new control options for the Department of Conservation, private landowners and pest control contractors.

DECAL™ contains 8 grams per kilogram of cholecalciferol in the form of a bait. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. V9500

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PESTOFF HI-STRENGTH

ACP has re-activated its application to register **Pestoff Hi-Strength Possum Bait** containing 0.005% brodifacoum. It is hoped that the product will be available from June 2006.

Research has demonstrated that the risk of feral pigs accumulating brodifacoum residues through scavenging poisoned possum carcasses is related more to the density of possums (i.e. the number of possum carcasses available) than to the toxic loading of the bait used.

Trials showed that less bait needs to be used with **Pestoff Hi-Strength** and baiting periods can be both less frequent and of shorter duration; further reducing exposure for feral pigs.

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Safety Data Sheets: <http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm>

LABEL CHANGES UNDERWAY

Over the next 12 months, ACP will be replacing its old product labels and introducing new labels, starting with the most commonly sold products.

The new draft labels, which have been approved by the NZ Food Safety Authority, are substantially more informative than the previous labels in terms of having clearer directions for use, precautions, disposal advice and HSNO classification information.

The new label texts will be available from the ACP web site from the end of March. Safety data sheets will also be updated this year.

HAUHUNGAROA RANGE OPERATION AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The largest aerial 1080 pellet operation ever carried out in New Zealand has been heralded an outstanding success by all parties involved.

The contractors who won the work in the Hauhungaroa Range, EPRO Ltd, were faced with challenges that ranged from some fairly short weather windows to the logistical complexities of carrying out two pre-feed applications followed by a toxic bait drop over 80,000 hectares, conducted from multiple load-out points.

Animal Health Board's Technical Manager had said prior to the operation that they were hoping to achieve near zero densities of possums in the range so that Tb could be eradicated from the population.

And near zero densities certainly were achieved! Residual trap catch monitoring carried out following the operation caught a total of only 6 possums for 15,328 trap nights. That's 0.04% RTC - an extremely impressive result!

The bulk of the operation was carried out over May to August and involved two pre-feeds of 16 mm (6 gram) orange lured pellets and a toxic application of 20 mm (12 gram) double orange lured pellets.



ACP Executive Director Colin Carter holds the certificate of appreciation and recognition awarded to the company by Environment Waikato.

At a function held in Wellington before Christmas, Jeanie Byers of Environment Waikato presented out-going chairman of the ACP board, Giff Davidson with a special certificate recognising ACP's role in making the op-

eration a success, but also acknowledging the role of EPRO, Agriquality, Qualmons, Lakeland Helicopters, Animal Health Board, the Department of Conservation, Horizons Manawatu-Wanganui and Environment Waikato.

ANNUAL DOC SHOOT PROVES POPULAR

Over eighty shooters, including past and present staff of the Department of Conservation, with invited guest shooters from Target Pest, Environment BOP and private pest control companies attended the 20th annual Department of Conservation shoot held in Wanganui on Saturday 18 February.

Organiser Rod Smillie of DOC Wanganui said the shoot was increasingly changing from a DOC only competition to a venue where the vertebrate pest industry gets together for a social competition. Several sponsors including ACP Ltd provided prizes for winning teams as well as spot prizes for shooters who had travelled from as far away as the Chatham Islands. The winning team on the day was Environment BOP, while the highest scoring DOC team was the "Taranaki Goat Hunters". Top DOC shot was Barry Ovenden of Stratford and best overall shot was Malcolm Gillis of Rotorua. Prizes ranged from a brand new Remington rifle to out-

door clothing and team helicopter trips into thar country, the Ureweras and the Matemateaongas.

The shoot is held in February each year at the Wanganui Pistol Club facility.



The Environment Bay of Plenty Team, the winning team on the day, and a Wanganui/Tongariro DOC womens team shoot it out together at the DOC Wanganui annual shoot.

Brodifacoum spill paper published

A case study has been published in the **Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology** based on the May 2001 accidental spill of 18 tonnes of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R into the sea near Kaikoura. The spill was the result of a road transport accident.

The paper, which was co-authored by Penny Fisher and Geoff Wright of Landcare Research, concluded that the measurable effects of the spill were concentrated within a 100 square meters of the spill site. Brodifacoum residues in sediment and water at the site fell below detectable levels within 3 days and 9 days respectively. In shellfish, residues persisted for up to 31 months, but this was thought to be caused by a combination of a prolonged long half-life in these animals and re-exposure through wave action.

The case study is a valuable resource providing pest managers with a basis for assessing the potential impacts on the marine environment of island eradication projects using brodifacoum cereal baits.

PESTOFF

...Simply Smarter

NEWS BRIEFS

CODE UNDER REVIEW

The Code of Practice for **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** has been reviewed following last winter's operation at Maungatautari, Tawharanui, Bushy Park and East Coast. The purpose of the code of practice is to allow the aerial and hand broadcast of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R on mainland islands which have been fenced according to an established standard, and on non-DOC offshore islands, while ensuring that brodifacoum residues comply with regulatory thresholds. The proposed changes, yet to be approved by the NZ Food Safety Authority, are generally minor and are intended to clarify roles and responsibilities under the code.

AUCKLAND ISLAND PIGS

The Department of Conservation is considering options for eradicating pigs from Auckland Island. The pigs are currently in high numbers after a couple of good winters according to Pete McClelland of DOC Invercargill. The pigs often have hard times and some get through by scavenging washed-up marine life and seaweed. A pilot study later in the year using non-toxic cereal baits will assess whether cereal baits may have a role to play in the eradication. Options for eradicating feral cats on the island will also be examined.

MAUNGATAUTARI FENCE

Following on from two mainland islands already established at Maungatautari, the construction of a predator-proof fence around the 3,000 hectare forested remnant volcano south-east of Cambridge is progressing very well. At the present rate of progress it is likely that the fence will be completed in time to allow the eradication work to commence in July or August this year.

NEW GUIDELINES EMERGING

The National Possum Control Agencies (NPCA) has contracted Deep Blue consultant Diederik Meenken to work with expert working groups and co-ordinate the development of best practice guidelines for the control of rooks and rabbits. The documents will integrate monitoring, control and toxin use and will be aimed at field operators.

CYANIDE FOR PIGS

Landcare Research and Animal Health Board, in collaboration with a number of other agencies, are investigating the possible adaptation of the M-44 coyote killer as a tool for controlling pigs where they become a problem following aerial 1080 operations. The M-44 is a mechanical ejector which fires cyanide into an animal's mouth when the animal pulls on a bait attached to the top of the mechanism. Pigs have previously caused pasture and livestock damage after 1080 aerial operation. Pig hunters will not take their dogs into these areas due to the risk of their dogs being poisoned through scavenging possum carcasses; so an alternative is needed.

BUSHY PARK GETS READY FOR THE NEXT STAGE

Six months ago, Animal Control Products and a range of other businesses, organisations individuals got together and co-operatively sponsored a bold ecological restoration programme over the 100 hectare lowland forest remnant of Bushy Park near Wanganui.

The construction of a 4.7km Xcluder® predator-proof fence around the perimeter of the forest followed by aerial and ground based applications of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** have created a predator free haven for native flora and fauna in a very publicly accessible, special forest environment.

Bushy Park Trust Executive Committee Chairman Allan Anderson says that six rounds of monitoring up to 400 tracking tunnels through the forest have failed to show signs of any surviving mustelids, rats, possums, cats or mice.

The few hedgehogs which were in hibernation during the winter - spring period now appear to have been cleaned up and apart from a few anxious moments caused by the discovery of a half eaten rat (apparently dropped into the reserve by a hawk or a morepork) the area now appears free from exotic mammalian pests.

The next stage, while continuing to monitor for the presence of predators, is the re-introduction of saddleback

and kiwi.

Mr Anderson says that the Trust is very, very happy with the achievements and the Trust has formally thanked ACP and other sponsors of the project.

ACP is delighted to have been part of such a successful community driven initiative which will go a long way towards restoring a piece of natural New Zealand to its former species richness.



"Ratanui" the largest northern rata, is located in Bushy Park

Brodifacoum and 1080 benefits not shared by cyanide or traps

One of New Zealand's leading conservationists, who is both a user of Pestoff Brodifacoum possum bait and a strong advocate for 1080 recently sent us these unsolicited comments about our products.

The comments have been edited slightly, only to improve readability and to protect the identity of the writer.

"The reason why I wholeheartedly support the use of 1080 wherever possible and Pestoff (brodifacoum) everywhere else, is that they kill the predators which eat the bodies of poisoned possums."

"When you kill possums with cyanide however, especially in the spring or winter, all you are doing is providing a wonderful non-toxic supply of fresh meat for rats and stoats at a crucial time of the year; which will sustain their numbers and make them more lethal to birdlife during the following bird breeding season."

"Essentially I'm arguing that instead of seeing possums or rats as just a problem, we should wherever possible, use their presence as a

very effective way of killing stoats through the secondary kill capacity offered by 1080 and brodifacoum."

"It is necessary to kill stoats over a big area to be effective and this is also a good reason for doing the large 1080 aerial operations during late winter/early spring. The resulting 6 months or so of a reduced predator presence creates relief for birds during the breeding and fledging periods."

"Why I particularly favour the anti-coagulant approach through bait stations is that it ensures no bait shyness develops (which can be a problem with 1080 and cyanide) and there is a continuing supply of dead possums and rats, or even slow rats, to attract and then kill stoats so you don't end up with an explosion of rats - which happens every time a major stoat trapping operation is carried out."

"Rats are absolutely devastating for all of the smaller forest bird species."

A huge increase in rat numbers is expected in beech forests this year due to prolific seeding.

WHAT DO THE NEW LAWS MEAN FOR OPERATORS?

The ACVM Act, the HSNO Act and the HSNO Regulations, form a bit of a minefield for pest control operators. Here's a quick guide to what some of these mean.

Controlled Substances Licence (CSL)

You must have one of these if you intend to purchase or apply Class 6.1 A, B, or C substances; i.e. any 1080, cyanide, phosphorus or DRC1339 product. Proof of your licence must be provided when purchasing these products and the appropriate endorsement by substance and lifecycle must be stated on the rear of the licence.

You do not require a CSL for the anticoagulant baits (other than aerially applied pin-done), for alphachloralose products 2.5% or lower, or for baits containing cholecalciferol.

Approved Handlers

A pre-requisite to obtaining a CSL is holding an Approved Handler Test Certificate. When freight operators deliver 1080, cyanide, phosphorus or DRC1339 products, they can not offload the goods unless an Approved Handler with a Test Certificate for the appropriate class of substance is present. The Approved Handler then becomes responsible for the security, storage and tracking of the product.

Freight Operators

Freight operators do not have to be Approved Handlers and can transport or store controlled substances in transit as long as the driver has a current dangerous goods endorsement on his or her drivers licence.

Tracking

All 1080, cyanide and phosphorus products must be tracked from the time they are manufactured and sold, until they are used or disposed of. Individual packages identifiers must be tracked. In the case of brodifacoum used for possum control, this doesn't need to be tracked but a record must be kept of volume sold, date and purchaser.

Supervision

All field operators laying controlled sub-

stances must be holders of a CSL or under the immediate supervision of the holder of a CSL. Being within shouting distance or radio contact are no longer acceptable.

Use of Vertebrate Toxic Agents

No Vertebrate Toxic Agent may be used other than in accordance with the directions for use, or other instructions on the product label or the conditions of registration.

Health Permission

The permission of the Medical Officer of Health is required when laying any controlled substance in a catchment area from which water is drawn for human consumption or in any other area where a risk to public health may be created if the substance is applied, unless the area is DOC land and DOC already given its permission.

Signage

The requirement for signage varies from product to product and place to place. Every application of 1080, cyanide, phosphorus or DRC1339 must have signs posted at every normal point of entry to the place where the substance is laid; regardless of whether the land is private or public land.

Every application of any other Vertebrate Toxic Agent must have signs posted at every normal point of entry to the land where the substance is laid if the substance is laid outdoors in a place where the public ordinarily has access.

When laying brodifacoum baits in public areas, signs must remain for a period of 12 months after baits

have been removed or destroyed. In other areas signs must remain for 9 months after baiting has ceased. When applied by aircraft (Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R), signs must remain for 12 months after the last application of the substance.

For more information on signage requirements see pages 3503-3505 of the VTA transfer notice and pages 2171-2172 of the 1080 transfer notice.

Aircraft

Aircraft carrying out aerial bait applications must not fly over any public drinking water supply, any waterway less than 100 meters upstream of a drinking water supply or any place excluded in a permission from DOC or the MOH. Aircraft must be decontaminated before being removed from the operational area or before being used for any other purpose.

Loading and mixing sites

These must be either be decontaminated or fenced and signposted until the area has been decontaminated.

WARNING! POISON	
_____ baits coloured _____	
and containing the toxin _____	
have been laid for _____ in this area.	
Laid by: _____	Date: _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Feral animals in this area may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food. ♦ Do not handle baits, bait stations or animal carcasses. ♦ Do not allow dogs to roam or scavenge in this vicinity (if dogs are permitted). ♦ Do not allow children to wander without careful supervision. ♦ It is an offence for any person other than the operator to remove this sign or to remove baits from this area. 	<p>TREAT ALL BAITS AND BAIT RESIDUES AS TOXIC</p> <p>IN CASES OF SUSPECTED HUMAN POISONING RING THE NATIONAL POISON CENTRE 0800 764 766</p> <p>For additional information contact:</p>
(SIGN SUPPLIED BY ANIMAL CONTROL PRODUCTS LTD)	

A4 warning signs printed on plasticised paper are available from ACP for 95 cents + GST



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