



Industry Update Summer 2006

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

DECAL™ WORKS ITS MAGIC!

Pestoff DECAL™ Possum Bait, first released in July, has already become a hit with our customers.

Ross Patterson of Katikati has 18 hectares of kiwifruit vines which get attacked every year when the vines begin budding and shooting.

"This year we used **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait** for a while until we realised

that the huge numbers of possums coming from the surrounding bush, were greater than what we could cope with using the anti-coagulant bait."

"So we applied one pulse of **Pestoff DECAL**

Possum Bait and most of the bait was taken on the first night, but after that, very little bait was taken", Ross said.

"Since then we have seen only one possum during our spotlighting trips around the farm where we previously used to shoot heaps of them."

"This is the first time we have really been on top of the possum problem here. We will be using exactly the same approach next year.. pre-feeding with **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait** and following up with **DECAL**.

Possum contractor Derek Boyd of Tairua has also been impressed by DECAL.

Derek works buffer zones at the edge of kiwi protection areas adjacent to large forest areas containing huge numbers of possums on the Coromandel peninsula.

Derek said that possums quickly cleaned

out his bait stations containing **DECAL**, showing that **DECAL** is suitable for maintaining buffers and reducing the problem of re-infestation of control areas from surrounding uncontrolled forest areas.

Further north, Pim de Monchy and Eddie Murphy of DOC Coromandel say that using **DECAL** over a 400 hectare possum control

block lowered rat densities by as much as 80% and achieved a 0.0% RTC on possums. Scott Forbes of Greater Wellington Region's business unit says that an initial knockdown operation in his area which had very high possum numbers before

work started, was given one application of **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait** followed by one application of **DECAL**. He says this has blitzed the possums in the area - "we've had a huge kill", said Scott.

Before applying **DECAL**, it is important to pre-feed using either **Pestfeed Plus** or **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait**. Pre-feeding with **Pestoff Brodifacoum** is most effective because the brodifacoum dramatically increases the susceptibility of possums to poisoning by cholecalciferol, the active ingredient in **DECAL**.

No licence is required by operators applying **DECAL** which is available in 10 kg bags of either cinnamon or raspberry flavour.

The cost per kill, based on 20 grams of **DECAL** per possum, is about 34 cents.

[Registered under the ACVM Act 1997 No.9500]

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"We will be using exactly the same approach next year.."

INSIDE...

- Carbon credit savings
- DOC's mainland rodent ops
- Maungatautari underway
- NPCA guidelines
- Pestoff Hi-Strength
- Deer repellent for carrots
- 'Tools of Trade' limits
- Product price review
- 1080 re-assessment
- Christmas closures
- Kawau Island

WONDERLURE BULK PRICE CUT

Pestoff Wonderlure non-toxic paste has been in such hot demand over recent months that ACP is now packing the product into 20 litre pails. Initially launched by ACP 6 years ago as a pre-feed for cyanide paste, operators have found Wonderlure excellent for a wide range of applications including the baiting of possum traps.

The incredibly high (almost glow-in-the-dark) visibility and the irresistible taste of Wonderlure account for its success.

The new 20 litre pail packs of Wonderlure are available in various flavours for only \$120 plus GST.

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

NEW LABELS & SAFETY DATA SHEETS ON WEB

New Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in PDF file format and new product labels in either draft or final form have been prepared and posted to the ACP web site www.pestoff.co.nz. The Safety Data Sheets are accessible by clicking on the red "Safety Data Sheets" button on the left margin of the ACP home page. Product label information can be obtained by clicking on the "Products" button on the left margin and scrolling to product listings at the bottom of the page.

MORE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL MAY SAVE SPENDING MILLIONS ON CARBON CREDITS

Increasing the biomass of existing forests through pest control, may be the key to meeting Kyoto goals...

Controlling browsing animal pests in New Zealand's native forests has very likely already made a substantial contribution helping the country towards meeting its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that is the over-arching agreement under which the Kyoto Protocol was developed.

The convention and subsequent protocol were established with the goal of cutting world wide emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases (GHG) which are contributing to global warming and climate change.

Developed countries, including New Zealand, are required to reduce their net GHG emissions to 5% below their 1990 levels.

They can do this by any combination of cutting emissions or increasing the amount of CO₂ locked up in 'sinks' or purchasing "carbon credits" from countries who pollute

less than their allocations given under the protocol.

This creates a financial incentive for countries to reduce GHG emissions; in fact New Zealand has millions of dollars in reserve specifically for the future purchase of carbon credits from offshore.

But a more positive and less expensive means by which to add credits to the right side of New Zealand's carbon ledger is to create carbon "sinks" such as new forests.

The biomass in forests is created by the conversion of CO₂ from the atmosphere to carbon compounds that make up wood, leaves, animals etc.

The exotic forest sector was originally thought to be a major asset to NZ's carbon balance as new planting rates were substantial. Recently any benefits which might have come from the exotic forestry sector since Kyoto appear to have been lost due

to many exotic forests being converted back to agricultural land; including dairy farms with cows which themselves create GHG's - and which were once considered a potential source of tax!

The real options therefore are either to create new forests on current agricultural land or to better manage New Zealand's native forests, some 80% of which are managed by the Department of Conservation.

It has recently been estimated that the increase in forest biomass (more leaves, shoots and twigs) which occurred in response to all of the increased DOC and AHB's wild animal control operations in DOC managed areas, carried out over 1990 to 2000, generated enough carbon credits to offset any increase in GHG emissions over the same period.

It could therefore be argued that the GHG emission target should be 5% below the 2000 level rather than 5% below the 1990 level!

But the most interesting hypothesis is that the cost of the additional animal pest control required to further increase forest biomass to a point where New Zealand does not have to purchase carbon credits offshore, would be only a fraction of the cost of purchasing carbon credits offshore. It also would have major spin-off benefits in New Zealand for employment, bio-diversity, soil and water quality, tourism, bio-security and cultural heritage.

New Zealand's pest control industry faces an uncertain future as AHB's Tb eradication goals are met and DOC pest control budgets decline in real terms.

The new realisation that pest control is significantly reducing the requirement for, or severity of, such measures as carbon credit purchase, emission control taxes, subsidised forestry or land retirement, may lead to the "value added" outcomes of your work generating a net profit as well as achieving the intended bio-diversity or disease control outcomes.



The numbers suggest that New Zealand wouldn't need to purchase carbon credits if the management of forest pests was intensified. The value of downstream social, economic and ecological benefits would be significant.

DOC TARGETS RODENTS IN AERIAL 1080 PELLET BAIT OPERATIONS

The Department of Conservation has recently carried out major aerial 1080 pellet operations in the Wakatipu, West Coast and Tongariro areas using pre-fed 1080 pellets applied by aerial broadcast. The primary target of these operations was ship rats while possums were a secondary target.

This is a critical time of year for native birds in terms of the survival of new broods said a DOC spokesperson. With the pressure of rat predation of both eggs

and chicks reduced by a timely rodent control operation, the viability of many threatened native bird species can be reassured.

The operations were made possible by recent variations to the registration for 0.15% 1080 pellets, which was supported by DOC's data showing the benefits of aerial pellet operations to bird survival, through rodent control.

Stoats, which predate poisoned rodents, are a welcomed by-kill of such operations.

1080 CASE NOW WITH ERMA

An application has been jointly lodged with the Environmental Risk Management Authority by the Department of Conservation and the Animal Health Board, for the re-assessment of the risks, costs and benefits of the use of 1080 poison for animal pest control.

It is likely that the re-assessment application will be publicly notified by ERMA during early November 2006. This will open a six week period for submissions by any interested person or organisation. ERMA will then examine the arguments surrounding 1080.

PESTOFF

...Simply Smarter

NEWS BRIEFS

20R CODE APPROVED

The revised Code of Practice for **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** has been approved by the NZ Food Safety Authority. A copy of this can be downloaded along with the label as a PDF file from the ACP web site, under the product listings. Changes are generally minor and are mainly intended to clarify roles and responsibilities of project managers and operators working under the code.

DEER REPELLENT CARROT APPROVED

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority has approved a variation to the registration and label claims for **1080 Solution** which now allows a specific deer repellent substance, EDR™ Deer Repellent (from EPRO Ltd, Taupo), to be applied to 1080 carrot baits when they are used for possum control in areas where deer may be at risk of being poisoned. There have been a number of cases where aerial operations have been held up because of concerns that 1080 baits aimed at possums, may kill deer as well.

The application of deer repellent to *pellet* baits is not covered by this approval. Approvals will be sought from ERMA and NZ Food to allow trials to be carried out using deer repellent on pellet baits some time during 2007. Data from the trials, covering mainly the efficacy and non-target effects of deer repellent pellet baits, will be necessary to support a subsequent application for registration of deer repellent pellets.

MAUNGATAUTARI RESTORATION HELD UP BY WEATHER

New Zealand's most ambitious and determined mainland restoration project yet, Maungatautari (near Cambridge) has been completely ringed by 50 kilometres of Xcluder® predator proof fence but the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust has been 12 weeks waiting for a suitable weather window to begin the eradication of rodents and other exotic pests within the 3,400 hectare area.

The first of two applications of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**, applied a few weeks apart, was carried out during the first week of November. The eradication process will be carried out by EPRO Ltd working in conjunction with Lakeland Helicopters Ltd. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R.

NEW GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

National Possum Control Agencies (NPCA) contractor Diederik Meenken, working with expert groups from within the pest industry, has produced some excellent new guideline publications for the control of rooks and rabbits; as well as producing a manual on the use of vertebrate toxic agents. These three documents can be downloaded at no cost from the NPCA web site home page at - <http://www.npca.org.nz>

SLOW BUT STEADY PROGRESS WITH PESTOFF HI-STRENGTH APPLICATION

ACP has been continuing its negotiations with the NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) on the registration application for **Pestoff Hi-Strength Possum Bait** containing 0.005% brodifacoum as the active ingredient.

Both ACP and the NZFSA recognise the potentially higher residue risk profile which the product presents and ACP accepts that a conservative approach towards who may have access to the product and under what circumstances and conditions it may be used, are sensible steps which would allow the real risk of residues to be monitored by NZFSA in areas where the product has been used.

Measures so far suggested which may mitigate the risk of residues associated with the product include using the product in bait stations which non-targets cannot access, collection of uneaten bait after operations cease, tracking the sale of the product, limiting availability for use in Tb or conservation projects

only, maintaining a register of all sales, making ACP the sole seller of the product, compulsory returns from users on volumes used by dates and areas, and the need for a special CSL endorsement for buyers and users.

Negotiations with NZFSA will continue over the next few weeks with a view to having a product registration early in the new year.

ACP first filed the application for registration of the product in June 2001.



Bait stations must be placed so that stock cannot access bait or possible spillage.

Christmas/New Year Branch Closure Dates

Wanganui closes on 20 December and re-opens 8 January 2007.

Waimate closes on 20 December and re-opens 15 January 2007.

Please ensure that orders required during December are placed well in advance; particularly if they are goods requiring manufacture.

CSL's WANTED

The law requires us to record all sales of 1080, cyanide, phosphorus, Magtoxin and DRC1339 against a CSL number and holder's name. Please send a copy of both sides of your CSL when ordering these products. Your CSL details will be retained for subsequent orders. For subsequent orders however, please state your CSL number on the order form.

POSITIVE PRICE REVIEW FOR ACP'S CLIENTS

Animal Control Products has recently carried out a price review of its full product range (over 40 products) and is pleased to be able to advise clients that unless there are unexpected increases in material or manufacturing costs, prices will remain at their current level until 30 June 2007.

"This will give some comfort to operators who have already won contracts for work taking them through the first half of 2007, that their operating margins will not be eroded by unexpected cost increases", said ACP's Managing Director Colin Carter.

"Our capability to hold prices, at what are essentially 2001 levels, comes from continuous improvement within the company's operation and the New Zealand Dollar holding its value", he said.

He added that some prices, such as for bulk Wonderlure, have in fact gone down.

NEW TOOLS OF TRADE LIMITS ON VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENTS

The re-classification of VTA's under the HSNO Act and Regulations has affected the quantity of product which may be carried as "Tools of Trade" - that is without vehicle placarding and without a dangerous goods declaration.

A safety data sheet for the products must always be carried, regardless of the quantity being carried.

For all 6.1A products; Sodium Cyanide Paste, 1080 Solution and 5% or 10% 1080 Gel the maximum amount is 5 litres or 5 kg.

For all 6.1B products; 1080 pellets and pastes in the range 0.15% - 0.2%, phosphorus pastes, and for potassium cyanide products the maximum amount is 50 kg or 50 litres.

For all 6.1C products; DRC1339 powder, pindone concentrate and 1080 products from 0.04% - 0.1% the maximum amount is 250 kg or 250 litres.

KAWAU: THE FORGOTTEN ISLAND

A private landowner initiative, implemented by the Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand with support from other organisations, could soon see possums and wallabies eradicated from Kawau Island, to make restoration of the island's forgotten ecological values possible.

Possums and five species of wallaby were introduced to Kawau by Governor Sir George Grey during 1868-1869, six years after he purchased the island from the owners of New Zealand's first underground copper mine. This group of metatherian aliens quickly set about destroying the Governor's gardens, and then moved on to all other palatable plants over the entire island.

Much of Kawau was either cleared for pastoral farming, or milled for timber. It has been estimated that there were over 40,000 wallabies and moderate numbers of possums on the island around 1912 when pasture was most plentiful. At that time wallabies were taken from Kawau and liberated in the Rotorua area to add further to New Zealand's animal pest problems. On Kawau, by destroying the pasture, wallabies eventually brought farming to an end. The pasture soon reverted to predominantly

kanuka forest, because kanuka is one of very few native species not palatable to both possums and wallabies. All other emerging seedlings were destroyed. Possum damage on Kawau's ancient pohutukawa trees was brought to the attention of authorities in 1955; but the response was one of scepticism rather than shared concern.

Thirty-one North Island Weka introduced to Kawau Island in 1976 grew to more than 3,000 birds within 10 years, placing further pressure on the island's ecology. Weka numbers have remained at this level for approximately 20 years now, not only indicating that carrying capacity has long been reached, but also suggesting that an opportunity to take weka from Kawau Island for re-location elsewhere has been passed up. Wildling pines, spreading eastwards across the island from the Governor's plantings threaten to eventually displace and swallow up the remaining native vegetation.

Ship rats and feral cats on Kawau were joined by stoats about 1989, when they swam from the mainland, only 1400 metres away.

Very territorial magpies and Indian mynas come and go as they please, competing with native birds for the depleted habitat and food supply now available on the island.

Despite these depredations and modifications, Kawau Island's bellbirds, tuis, kakas, kereru, morepork, white faced herons, brown teal, and kiwi struggle onwards. Fortunately, remnant native trees over 300 years old, survivors of the logging era, hang on in some areas to provide a seed source, but until recently possums and wallabies have destroyed the seedlings every year.

Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand chairman Ray Weaver, who owns forested land on Kawau Island, regards possum and wallaby eradication as the essential first step towards restoring the ecological worth of

Kawau Island.

For many years, the Trust has been gradually reducing possum numbers through the use of trapping, shooting and baiting with **Pestoff Brodifacoum** and **DECAL** possum baits. Possums are down to low numbers and within the last 12 months wallaby numbers over much of the island have reduced by up to 80%. Although some wallabies take bait intended for possums and it is impossible to prevent this, the most preferred method of wallaby control has been the use of rifles; but Weaver believes effects of **Pestoff Brodifacoum** and **DECAL** possum baits have been significant factors in the reduction observed.



Ray Weaver stands alongside a well developed kauri tree on Kawau Island.

Photo courtesy of Ray Weaver

With 90% of Kawau Island in private ownership and the remaining 10% being public land under the control of the Department of Conservation, Weaver acknowledges the support of Kawau Island's numerous private landowners as essential to achieving the eradication of wallabies, and enabling the restoration project to succeed.

The Trust recently held a general meeting of supporters where the theme adopted was "Fast Forward" towards wallaby eradication, the permanent solution!



Any seedling growth under the kanuka has been quickly devoured by wallabies.

Photo courtesy of Ray Weaver



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