



Industry Update

Summer 2008/09

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

WANGANUI FACTORY GROWS CAPACITY AS WAIMATE FACTORY ENDS AN ERA

On 30 November 2008, ACP's Waimate factory will close after nearly 50 years of serving the vertebrate pest management industry. Factory manager Peter Thompson and his wife Yvonne, will retire while Jim Holland will take a new job in rural merchandising.

ACP's whole production capacity will nevertheless be increased as a result of new installations on the present Wanganui site.

The Waimate factory was originally established in the late 1950's as a depot for mixing poisons and making baits for wallaby control in the nearby Hunter Hills. At that time, the factory had a life expectancy of only 10 years, by which time it was expected that wallabies would no longer be a problem in the South Island.

But the Waimate factory evolved from making wallaby baits for the local pest boards in the 1960's to making rabbit baits for pest boards all over the South Island in the 1970's, and then to making possum baits for Forest Service, AHB, regional councils, DOC and private pest contractors in recent years.

Evolution within the industry itself has brought successive changes to agency

structures and roles, the development of new species and regional priorities; and new strategic approaches to pest



January 2008 - Arawhata Valley, South Westland. 109 tonnes of Wanganui No.7 possum pellets applied in a single day using several helicopters. DOC Photo.

management at both national and regional levels.

The inevitable and unavoidable decision to close the Waimate factory and beef up Wanganui was due to several factors - the ageing and less reliable condition of Waimate machinery, impending staff retirements, limited on-site potential for expansion and escalating urban encroachment near the factory site.

ACP also recognised the need to keep pace with an industry which is forward looking, quality conscious, outcome focused, cost sensitive and working under much tighter regulatory controls.

New machinery currently being installed at the Wanganui factory will significantly increase ACP's overall production capacity and will improve bait quality, in particular ensuring conformity between non-toxic and toxic baits.

In future ACP will make both RS5 and No.7 pellets available only in the biodegradable multi-walled paper bags.

It is envisaged that RS5s will be available in large volumes from February 2009, after the new pelletising machinery has been through production testing and tweaking.

Animal Control Products Ltd Important Contact Information

PRICE INCREASE FROM 1 JAN 09

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

From 1 January 2009, ACP will be increasing the price of some products.

Unfortunately the current economic climate has seen local and imported raw material costs escalate at a rate which has outstripped our ability to absorb them. The economic outlook is such that a reversal of this trend is considered unlikely.

The main products affected are toxic and non-toxic pellet baits. Many other product prices have remained unchanged.

ROOK GEL NOW APPROVED

In late September 2008, the NZ Food Safety Authority approved an application for a variation to the registration for DRC1339, allowing the toxin to be mixed with petrolatum by field operators, for direct application to rook nests. The gel is mixed at a rate of 5% DRC1339 and is applied to rook nests during the breeding season. Dispensed through a multi-nozzled caulking gun, the gel sticks to the feathers of both adults and chicks. Rather than acting as a contact poison, it is ingested by the rooks during preening. The gel formulation is an alternative to the use of DRC1339 in bread & dripping baits. At this stage, the use of macaroni, maize, walnuts and other formulations which have proven useful for rook control, have not been added to the label directions.

DRC1339 STABILITY

- ACP has developed a non-accredited method for analysing samples containing DRC1339.
- DRC1339 may be rapidly degraded after being applied in the field. When exposed to sunlight, rainfall or heat it has a half life of only 1-2 days.
- DRC1339 in non-aqueous media such as petrolatum remains stable for several months when stored in a dark freezer.
- Always store sachets of DRC1339 powder in a cool, dark place.



Photographs kindly supplied by Hawkes Bay and Greater Wellington Regional Councils.

KBL TIMMS TRAP STILL POPULAR



The well known KBL Timms trap has come a long way in the last 20 years. The actual box has been made from wood, fibreglass and is now high density, injection moulded polyethylene, but the basic mechanism and design remains unchanged. Timms traps are really popular with people in and around cities who have a possum problem and many regional councils hold a good supply of Timms traps for lending or re-selling to local ratepayers. The main appeal of the Timms trap is that as a kill trap, it does not need to be checked daily, it is very simple to set by pulling the string attached to the cocking mechanism and when a possum is caught, pulling the string and shaking the trap, it will release the dead possum without having to touch it. An ideal solution for the squeamish! Timms traps are currently available from ACP for the special wholesale price of \$28.50 each plus GST and freight.



DEER REPELLENT PELLET TRIALS CONCLUDED IN SOUTH

Further testing of a deer repellent applied to 1080 cereal pellet baits used for possum control has been concluded successfully in the South Island under a containment approval issued to the Animal Health Board. In September 2006, ACP's label for 1080 Solution was amended to allow EPRO Deer Repellent (EDR) to be used in conjunction with carrot baits deployed for possum control. A number of operations have since been conducted with deer repellent on carrot baits in both the North and South Islands. Containment approvals granted by ERMA, have allowed pellet trials in the central North Island and at two locations in the

South Island, to be carried out over the last 12 months. The trials, which were assessed independently by the NZ Deerstalkers Association, Landcare and other professional agencies, have concluded that cereal pellet baits which have been surface coated with deer repellent and dried, are effective in achieving target densities of possums while having minimum impact on deer. Trials have now involved sika, red and fallow deer. Regional Services and Predator Contracting, both of Otago, carried out the most recent trials. EPRO and AHB will be submitting the trial data to ERMA and ACVM for approvals.

DOWNERS BUY EXCELL CORP

Excell Corporation Ltd, which bought the Canterbury part of Target Pest Enterprises around 12 months ago, has recently been sold to two companies - Downer Edi Works Ltd and Transpacific Industrial Solutions. The pest control division goes to Downers and will operate under "Excell Biosecurity" in order to maintain brand continuity. All of Excell's biosecurity staff have accepted accepted positions within the new structure under. Excell Corporation Ltd was formerly owned by businessman Eric Watson who has held business interests in a number of other companies including the Auckland Warriors and Hanover Finance.



NEWS BRIEFS

ACP CUSTOMER SURVEY - WIN \$250 !!

ACP's annual customer survey is currently underway. We want to know how we can improve our service and our products to make our customers more successful.

All returned survey forms which successfully answer the qualifying question will be eligible to enter the draw for \$250.

Last year's draw winner was Dean Roughton of Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

Please return survey forms before 30 November 2008. If you are an ACP customer and have misplaced your survey form or didn't receive one, please contact Piroška or Raewyn on 06-344 5302

ALPHACHLORALOSE REGISTRATION LODGED WITH ACVM

The Department of Conservation and ACP have lodged an application for registration of alphachloralose powder to be mixed in a concentration range of 8%-10% in margarine and applied to bread baits. A DOC trial commissioned in the South Island against black-backed gulls was successful and provided data to support the registration. Subject to any further data requirements requests by ACVM being met, registration approval should be given before the end of 2008. The registration will potentially serve the needs of many commercial pest control operators doing health protection work around landfills and bird control near airports as well as assisting DOC with conservation projects.

MAUNGATAUTARI MICE ERADICATION MAY BE IN SIGHT

The cause of continued mouse presence within the fenced 3,400 hectare Maungatautari Ecological Island has been identified as faulty screens in the many culverts draining streams on the perimeter. A close inspection showed that mice were entering the area via the culverts after sediment or other material had moved the screens out of position. The situation has been rectified and further localised applications of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** during winter appear to have successfully eradicated mice from the areas where tracking cards indicated a presence.

DIPHACINONE APPLICATION LODGED

ACP has submitted an application for registration of a diphacinone pellet bait for rat control, particularly on those parts of the DOC estate where brodifacoum rodenticides are considered too risky. After two major trials applying the new bait in three DOC areas, conclusive results showed the bait can be used to either maintain low rat densities or to knock down high rat densities. Diphacinone is not an efficient mouse toxin however.

XCLUDER® CEASES OPERATION

Xcluder® Pest Proof Fencing has recently announced that it has decided to cease operating as a result of there being too much uncertainty with the ongoing timing and volume of projects to justify the current company structure and costs. Xcluder have undertaken a huge number of pest proof fencing jobs both throughout New Zealand and offshore. The largest predator proof fence built was the perimeter fence around the Maungatautari Ecological Island.

IS MORE TOXIN BETTER THAN LESS?

A recent independent study which was carried out by a private research agency, tested the palatability and efficacy of three "new and improved" variants of the **Pestoff Rodent Block** against the standard **Pestoff Rodent Block**.

The results have busted the myth that the best rodenticides are those which contain the highest concentrations of the most potent toxin.

Four baits were tested in the trial which involved 80 rats over several weeks. These baits were:

1. Standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** containing 0.002% of brodifacoum.
2. A variant of the standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** also carrying 0.002% of brodifacoum.
3. A variant of the standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** carrying 0.005% of brodifacoum.
4. A variant of the standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** carrying 0.005% of diphacinone.

All rats presented with toxic blocks died within an acceptable time frame but time to death varied from bait to bait.

A palatability score was given to each block type. This was based on the mean amount of toxic block bait consumed per rat, expressed as a percentage of average total food plus block consumed per rat. In all cases, rats had a choice of blocks or non-toxic cereal food pellets.

The variant of the standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** scored 71% (two and a half times more block than non-toxic cereal food), the standard **Pestoff Rodent Block** with 0.002% brodifacoum scored 66% (twice as much block as food), the 0.005% brodifacoum variant scored 60% (1.5 times more block

than food) and the 0.005% diphacinone blocks scored only 40% (1.5 times more food than block).

But the real surprise came with time to death, which was shortest for rats fed the variant blocks with 0.005% diphacinone, followed by the 0.002% brodifacoum variant, then the 0.005% brodifacoum variant with the standard **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** last.



The rats in the trial had a preference for the brodifacoum blocks over their normal food.

The main conclusions of the trial were:

- All bait types presented resulted in 100% mortality of rats within an acceptable time frame, when bait was presented alongside a choice of cereal food pellets.
- No apparent advantage was gained by increasing the brodifacoum concentration of the block from 20ppm to 50ppm.
- The use of 50ppm diphacinone achieved the same rat mortality (100%) as that achieved using baits containing 20 and 50ppm brodifacoum.

In search of a better mouse bait

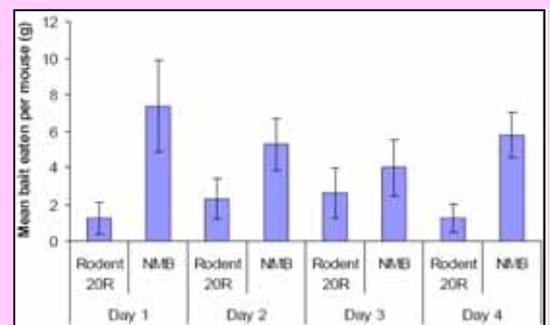
People who have worked on offshore island rodent eradication projects generally agree that mice are the most challenging of mammals to eradicate.

The very small home range and very low volume maintenance diet of mice are problems which need addressing in terms of timing and bait coverage. The presence of rats tends to complicate mouse eradications. Not only do rats affect mouse foraging behaviour but they also compete for food as well as preying on mice.

Nevertheless, mice can and have been eradicated from a number of locations such as Bird Island, Seychelles where Don Merton and his wife Margaret hand laid **Pestoff Rodent Baits** and on Mokoia Island, Lake Rotorua, which was aerially treated twice before eradication was achieved. With larger islands such as Rangitoto/Motutapu, Macquarie (Australia, Sub-Antarctic) and Gough (UK, South Atlantic) soon to be targets for rodent eradication, there has been some interest in assessing whether a more

palatable mouse bait can be developed.

ACP has commissioned a private research agency to test new mouse baits against the current **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**. Changes to the composition, size and hardness of baits appears to have produced positive results, with the new bait being consumed at more than double the volume of the existing bait in initial non-toxic palatability trials.



Mean non-toxic bait eaten per mouse per day (grams) **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** compared to new bait (NMB)

WHEN TO GET VTA PERMISSIONS

E RMA NZ has produced an excellent information sheet regarding the legal requirement for permission to be obtained in advance of applying certain VTA's in certain areas. Permission from DOC is required before any VTA is applied to any DOC land. DOC conservancy and area offices can assist with the process. Permission from the Public Health Unit (PHU) of the local district health board is required whenever cyanide, 1080, phosphorus or DRC1339 is to be applied in any area where there is a risk to public health or when the area includes a catchment area from which water is drawn for human consumption. The ERMA advice states "You should not independently determine whether there may be a risk to public health and therefore whether or not a permission is needed from the PHU." "In all cases, you should contact the relevant PHU. They are the agency with expertise in public health matters and it is they who should advise you on whether a permission is or is not required", the information sheet advises.

CSL's NEEDED

The law requires us to record all sales of 1080, cyanide, phosphorus, and DRC1339 against a CSL number and holder's name. When ordering these products, please send us a copy of both sides of your CSL when ordering these products. We may ask you to have these copies certified by a police constable or a Justice of the Peace, as true copies of the original CSL. Your CSL details will be retained for subsequent orders but please re-confirm your CSL number when re-ordering. We cannot deliver goods covered by a CSL unless the CSL holder or another person who is an approved handler for the particular class of goods, is available to receive the goods. Therefore when advising delivery destination, please ensure a qualified person for that class of goods will be present at the time of delivery.

Thank you
The staff of ACP

NPCA CONFERENCE 27 & 28 NOVEMBER

The National Possum Control Agencies (NPCA) Technology Transfer Conference is being held on the 26th and 27th of November at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington. The conference programme and the agenda for the 2008 NPCA Annual General Meeting of the National Possum Control Agencies is available at: <http://www.npca.org.nz>. The AGM is to be held on Tuesday 25 November 2008 at the AHB Board room level 9, Guardian Trust House, 15 Williston Street, Wellington and is scheduled to start at 2.00pm. The AGM is open to any individuals and organizations engaged in the vertebrate pest control industry. It provides an opportunity to have a say and contribute to NPCA's activity and the on going development of the vertebrate pest control industry. Confirmation of attendance should be emailed to npca@xtra.co.nz before Friday 14 November.

SLOW START LIKELY TO RESULT IN BUSY NEW YEAR PRODUCTION PERIOD

A slow start to the release of aerial contracts by AHB and regional councils, combined with delays in getting some of DOC's aerial programme underway, is likely to cause a fairly intense "catch-up" period of aerial activity between February and June 2009. While it is not unusual for most of the vector control work to be carried out during autumn and winter, very little

aerial work has occurred late winter and spring this year. A large chunk of DOC's programme in South Westland and elsewhere has been put back for various reasons, including delays in the granting of statutory approvals. With ACP Wanganui now carrying out all bait production work, providing ACP with **plenty of forward notice will be crucial for on-time bait deliveries.**

ACP closes for Christmas and New Year break on 19 December 2008 and re-opens on 5 January 2009. Please ensure all products required during December & January are ordered well in advance. Waimate factory closes 30 November 2008.



POSTAGE PAID WANGANUI
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