



Industry Update Summer 2009/10

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



*Season's Greetings from the staff and management of
Animal Control Products Limited*

LONGER TERM RELIEF FROM POSSUMS

Continuous improvements over the past 20 years in both possum bait manufacture, possum control strategies and bait delivery systems have significantly improved the results of possum control operations, regardless of whether the goal is to protect conservation values or reduce the incidence and spread of bovine tuberculosis.



Better bait, control strategies and delivery systems have evolved.

Steve Deverell and Hans Stroffregen of the Department of Conservation in Takaka say that pre-fed aerial 1080 operations in the Golden Bay area are now achieving such good results even at low sowing rates, that longer re-treatment cycles up to 8 years between applications, may still provide an adequate level of sustained relief from possum browse and predation.

These longer return times would also allow DOC to better operate within the constraints of its limited funding.

Tb Free Programme Manager Brent Rohloff of Dunedin says that the Hokonui Hills, which were treated with aerially applied 1080 pellets in 2004, are holding extremely well. Monitoring carried out immediately after the operation in 2004 could not catch a possum

and a 2007 trend monitor showed RTC to be 0.85% and indications are that possum numbers are still very low, 5 years after aerial control.

At Hinahina in the Catlins and at Wanaka, post operational monitoring of aerial 1080 operations carried out by Predator Contracting and Regional Services during winter 2009, could not catch a single possum in either area following the bait applications. By comparison, the ground treated exclusion zones adjacent to the Catlins block failed to meet the required RTC on multiple occasions due to high catch rates on a few lines.

The industry has clearly become very adept at managing the operational variables and making sound choices which both minimise the risk of failure and maximise the gains associated with operations.

Animal Control Products Ltd Important Contact Information

ACP WANGANUI CONSOLIDATION

Wanganui Office Phone	64 6 344 5302
Wanganui free phone	0800 22 44 23
Wanganui Office Fax	64 6 344 2260
Bill Simmons Mobile	64 274 798318
Web Site : http://www.pestoff.co.nz	
E-mail: info@pestoff.co.nz	Orders: orders@pestoff.co.nz
Safety Data Sheets: http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm	

During the year, a major restructuring project involving closing ACP's Waimate Factory and consolidating all manufacturing activities in Wanganui was successfully completed.

This exercise was a result of a review to establish the optimal manufacturing structure and required the construction of a new building and importation of a new state-of-the-art pelletising plant.

PACKAGING CHANGES

While a few South Island customers have previously obtained all of their product in 25kg woven polypropylene bags (WPP) supplied by the now closed Waimate factory, ACP has now moved to using multi-walled paper bags to pack all of its pelletised baits. ACP has made a decision to discontinue the use of the WPP bags due to their cost, environmental concerns, disposal requirements and production processes which are designed around the biodegradable paper bags.

The paper bags differ from the WPP bags in that are not waterproof, they are more fragile and the paper bags occupy more space when empty. This necessitates more care in handling and makes for a bigger job if they need to be transported off site for disposal by burying or by burning.

The Bulk Bag option

A number of helicopter operators and customers have asked whether ACP can provide pellets in bulk bags with a draw-string discharge spout. There are currently a large number of operators loading 25kg bags into bulk bags in order to speed-up the process of loading helicopter buckets and if bulk bags of the correct weight were available (depending on the type of helicopter being used) this would reduce the time and labour costs associated with transferring product from the smaller 25kg bags to the bulk bags. ACP's registration conditions for **0.15% 1080 Pellets** currently allows it to fill 25kg bags and bulk bags in a range from 250kg to 650kg, in 50kg increments. These bulk bags are

manufactured from UV stabilised woven polypropylene with a laminated interior lining.

The bag dimensions are 90cm x 90cm at the base and the height can be custom made to suit capacity requirements.

Customers who are interested in obtaining product in bulk bags should discuss their requirements with ACP at least 3 - 4 months in advance as the bags need to be ordered, drop tested and marked before they can be accepted for use.

DISPOSING OF USED BAGS (The label instructions are gospel but...)

When the loading site and wind conditions are suitable, disposal of empty bags on site by burning them in a trench approximately 1.2 metres deep, 1 metre wide and 4 -5 metres long, situated adjacent to the loading site, is a good disposal option.

It eliminates all of the potential risks and the costs associated with transporting bags off site for disposal. A continuous fire, burning 10 bags at a time (bags each containing 4 bags) is a good combination for burning and works well.

With temperatures well over 400 degrees Celsius, any 1080 dust or residue in the burning bags is destroyed.

The ash should be covered in soil at the end of the day and the trench filled in completely as part of the site decontamination process after the operation has been completed.

Before burning bags give consideration to any regional rural fire or RMA restrictions which you may also need to comply with.

VITAMIN D3 IN HOT DEMAND BUT SHORTAGE DRIVES PRICE UP

During winter in the northern hemisphere, a huge number of livestock are housed in barns and sheds to shelter them from the freezing weather. This practice prevents the livestock being exposed to sunlight and naturally producing their own Vitamin D3 so the Vitamin D3 necessary for their good health is incorporated as a feed supplement. The approaching northern hemisphere winter has therefore caused the demand for Vitamin D3





NEWS BRIEFS

ACP CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSURE

ACP will close its office and factory at mid-day on Tuesday 22 December 2009 and will re-open for business at 8am on Tuesday 6 January 2010. Please place orders required for January as soon as possible so that these can either be dispatched late December or in early January 2010.

SURVEY COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the \$250 cash prize associated with our customer survey was Adrian Gutsell of Contract Wild Animal Control Ltd, based in Te Anau, Southland.

Congratulations Adrian and a big thank you to all of our customers for your valuable feed-back, which helps us to help you.

PRICE RISE

From 1 January 2010 a new price list comes into effect. If you are an account holder and require a copy of this, please send an email to: orders@pestoff.co.nz

ISLAND INVASIVES CONFERENCE

In early February 2010, the Tamaki Campus of Auckland University will host an international conference on the eradication of invasive species on islands.

It is expected that over 300 people will attend the 5 day conference and field trips which ACP is a co-sponsor for.

TB OUTBREAK IN NORTHLAND

The source of a bovine tuberculosis (TB) outbreak in a second Far North dairy herd is thought to be related to the movement of bought in cattle.

Frank Pavitt, Regional Coordinator for the Animal Health Board (AHB) said that there is no evidence to suggest a transmission link between this new outbreak and the one reported in July

"We have completed the disease investigation into the first infected herd and are pleased to report that no further sign of infection has been identified. The second herd had 1300 cows tested, with a number of skin test positives found".

"While the second dairy farm is in the same area at Awanui, both herds are large and have had a lot of new stock introduced. This leads us to believe that the source of TB infection in both cases is movement related."

Mr Pavitt emphasised that there appears to be no risk of onward spread of the disease from either herd, and that both farm owners are cooperating with AHB in the management of the outbreaks.

This follows outbreaks detected previously during the year in Taranaki, another region which has remained Tb free.

TWO NEW PRODUCTS

Pestoff Rat Bait 50D

A new product registration (V009533) has been obtained by ACP for a pellet based rodenticide containing 0.005% diphacinone as the active ingredient.

The registration has been achieved with considerable assistance from the Department of Conservation's Dr Craig Gillies and other DOC field staff who collected and collated efficacy data from 3 regions over a period of years, under both knockdown and maintenance situations.

Pestoff Rat Bait 50D will give the DOC and other agencies another tool for controlling rats in areas where it chooses not to use 2nd generation anticoagulants such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone or flocoumafen based products.

The product is registered only for controlling rats because diphacinone is not an effective toxin for controlling mice.

Alphachloralose Powder

Alphachloralose Powder has now been registered by ACP (V009536) for use against black-backed gulls.

Although the registration was largely driven by the Department of Conservation's need to control gull colonies in areas where they were impacting on conservation values, the product is also available to commercial pest controllers for use against black-backed gulls where they affect public health around landfills, or where there are safety concerns arising from potential bird strikes at airports.

A Controlled Substances License is not required for the use of Alphachloralose Powder but operators must hold an Approved Handlers Test Certificate for Class 6 and Class 9 Substances.

The product is registered only for application to bread baits for controlling black-backed gulls.

MACQUARIE ISLAND UPDATE

Planning for the most challenging eradication operation ever undertaken, which is aimed at rats, rabbits and mice on Macquarie Island is well underway with the Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service staff now grappling with the logistical options associated with getting 320 tonnes of bait, manpower, heli-

copters, fuel and support to this remote and hostile sub Antarctic island which is 34 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide.

The eradication is programmed to be undertaken during winter 2010 and will be followed up by ground crews using specially trained dogs to assist with the mopping up.



Rabbit damage in Royal Penguin habitat, Macquarie Island. Photo: Keith Springer

Tenders and contracts are currently being developed for bait supply, helicopter operation and shipping associated with the operation. It is expected that New Zealand companies will be present in the mix.

VECTOR CONTROL OPERATIONS AND SURVEYS DURING 2008/09

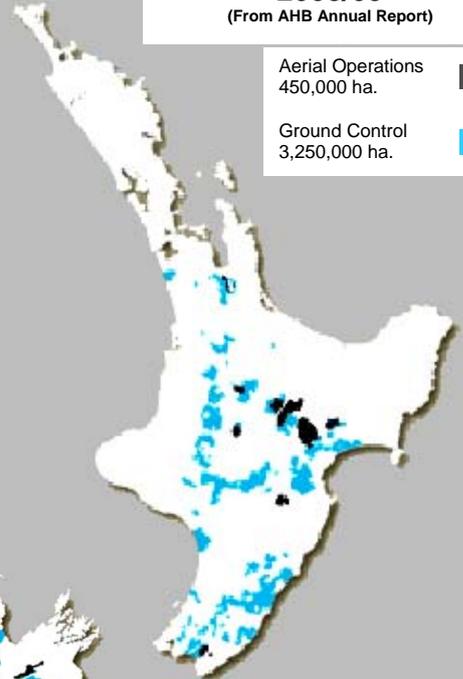
PROGRAMME	ACTIVITIES	AREA COVERED
Possum Control		
Ground based	1064	3,250,000 ha
Aerial operations	92	450,000 ha
Total	1156	3,700,000 ha
Ferret Control		
Ground	248	1,173,000 ha
Wildlife Surveys		
Concurrent with ground control ops.	350	1,600,000 ha
Independent surveys	170	3,130,000 ha
Total surveys	619	4,730,000 ha

TB POSSUM CONTROL OPERATIONS 2008/09

(From AHB Annual Report)

Aerial Operations
450,000 ha. 

Ground Control
3,250,000 ha. 

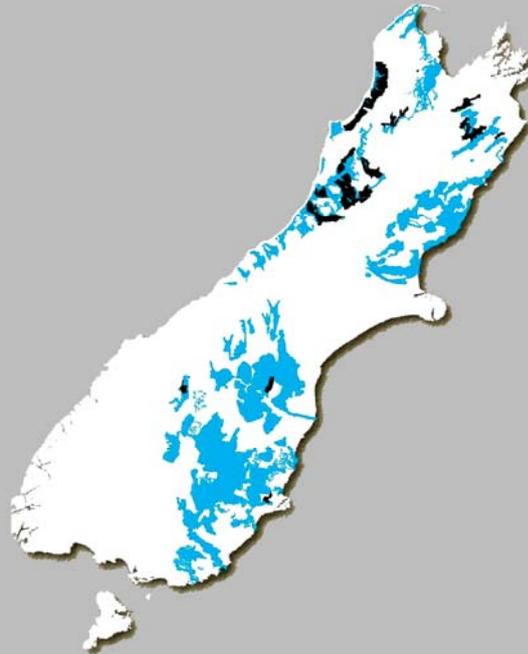


THE ROLE OF TB VECTORS

A wide range of introduced wildlife species carry TB in New Zealand, but is the introduced Australian brush-tailed possum and, to a lesser extent, the ferret, that are linked with transmitting the disease to livestock.

It is estimated that about 80 per cent of new infections in cattle and deer herds are caused by these two vector species. Although other countries such as the United Kingdom also have problems with wildlife vectors of bovine TB, the New Zealand situation is unusual because of its extent and ecological complexity.

Vector control programmes targeting possums and ferrets are a key component of the TB strategy and account for most of AHB's expenditure.



BOVINE TB VECTOR CONTROL OBJECTIVES

The objectives of vector control operations vary. Some are carried out to directly reduce infected herd numbers, while others are directed towards containing the geographical spread of infected vector populations.

In the long term, sustained control may be aimed at eradicating TB from vector populations on a local or regional basis.

(AHB Source)



POSTAGE PAID WANGANUI
PERMIT #59424

