



# Industry Update Summer 2010/11

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



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

## NEW TB STRATEGY WILL BE TESTING

**W**ith TB infection rates reduced to less than 100 cattle and deer herds nationwide, the Animal Health Board now awaits Government approval of its proposed new national pest management strategy.

The new strategy proposes removing the risk of disease resurgence by eradicating TB from possums and other wildlife in Vector Risk Areas (VRAs) covering nearly 40 percent of New Zealand.

Proving the feasibility of eradicating TB from wildlife over large areas and making significant reductions in the expanse of VRAs would be the next phase.

If successful, this would provide a basis for extending the eradication approach to further large areas of New Zealand.

In summary, the proposed strategy would aim to:

- Prevent expansion of existing Vector Risk Areas
- Target +/- 25% of the existing total extent of Vector Risk Areas for eradication

of TB and, in so doing, test the capacity to totally eradicate TB from wildlife and from cattle and deer herds in a variety of habitats

- Keep infected herd numbers at a level which avoids significant production losses and protects the quality

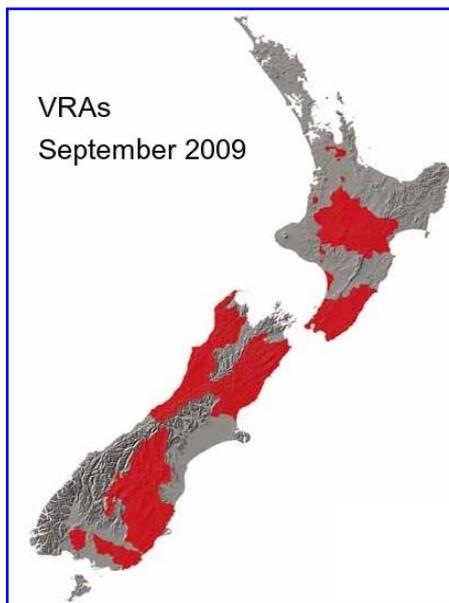


image of New Zealand's beef, dairy and deer products

- Improve the cost-effectiveness of possum control
- Introduce some changes to herd testing and movement control policies to reduce the risk of herd-to-herd transmission, and over time to reduce the need for herd TB testing in areas of low disease risk.

The strategy would have an initial term of 15 years (to 2024/25) subject to five-yearly review, including review of funding.

Initially, it is proposed to maintain existing funding levels at \$82 million per annum with a continuation of current funding arrangements and shares.

Funding comes from the beef, cattle and deer industries as well as local and central government.

The expected outcomes of the proposed strategy include no market access concerns, a 25% reduction in the size of VRAs and a 40% reduction in the number of cattle and deer required to be tested.

### Animal Control Products Ltd Important Contact Information

### GOOD NEWS NO PRICE RISE !

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Safety Data Sheets:	<a href="http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm">http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm</a>

**D**espite increases in some costs, ACP will **not** be increasing its prices on 1 January 2011.

Restructuring of ACP's production facilities, the relative strength of the New Zealand dollar against key overseas currencies and a period of relative stability in commodity prices have all helped ACP to control its costs.

This has enabled ACP to absorb much of the impact of cost increases in areas such as transport, electricity, rates and wages.

# HOT DEMAND FOR 50D

As an alternative to brodifacoum, diphacinone is the best first generation anticoagulant for rat control in forests. Diphacinone is more than five times more potent to rodents than any other first generation anticoagulant. With DOC policy limiting the use of brodifacoum for rat control on the DOC estate, an alternative product suitable for both knock-down and maintenance of rat populations was needed by DOC. With this in mind, ACP assisted DOC ecologist Craig Gillies and staff of three DOC conservancies to develop and trial the relatively new diphacinone bait **Pestoff Rat Bait 50D**. The bait is a 10mm diameter cereal pellet bait weighing approximately 2 grams and dyed green.

Demand for this product by DOC field staff during the recent spring nesting and fledging period has been extremely high and excellent results have been reported in terms of the level of protection afforded to birds from rat predation. The down side of diphacinone and other first generation anticoagulants is that they are relatively ineffective for mouse control, no secondary kill of stoats is achieved and much longer bait exposure periods are needed than for the more potent second generation anti-coagulants. Studies carried out by ACP showed that where 100% mortality was obtained within 7 days using 0.002% brodifacoum baits, mortality in rat populations exposed to 0.005% diphacinone baits for the same period could be as low as 40%.

## RELATIVE TOXICITY OF ANTI-COAGULANT BAITS TO NORWAY RATS

TOXIN	Rat acute oral LD50 as mg/kg	% Toxin in bait	Grams of bait for LD50 (400 g rat)	1st Gen/ 2nd Gen.
Brodifacoum	0.26	0.002%	5.2	2nd
Bromadiolone	0.65	0.005%	5.2	Generation
Difenacoum	1.8	0.005%	14.4	
Diphacinone	3	0.005%	24.0	1st
Coumatetralyl	16.5	0.005%	132.0	Generation
Warfarin	20	0.005%	160.0	
Pindone	50	0.005%	400.0	

## PESTOFF DECAL EXPECTED TO RETURN BY JANUARY 2011

ACP expects to be able to have **Pestoff DECAL possum** bait available for sale once again in the new year. In response to customer demand, ACP has been negotiating with overseas manufacturers of cholecalciferol to bring the price of active down to a level which makes DECAL a viable and affordable alternative to other baits and toxins. With these negotiations in the final stages, we can reasonably expect to have DECAL available again from January. The price of cholecalciferol skyrocketed last year due to the high demand for stock feed supplements containing Vitamin D3 having outstripped supply. Since then, some commercial equilibrium has been achieved with more manufacturers now producing the material, causing the price to drop significantly below the inflated levels of last year.



**2011 NPCA CONFERENCE**  
The 2010 NPCA Vertebrate Pest Control Conference will be held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington on Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25th November, 2010.

You can register on line at [www.npca.org.nz](http://www.npca.org.nz) or for more information about presentations, posters or displays contact Maurice Kennedy on (04) 499 7559 or at [npca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:npca@xtra.co.nz)

## BULK BAIT BAGS

Using bulk bags for filling helicopter buckets and aircraft loaders is nothing new but the filling of bulk bags by ACP at the factory is relatively new. Two different sized bulk bags have been tested by ACP and found suitable for packing aerial baits in. While the bags must be sieve proof and be able to retain their contents securely, they must also be able to withstand a drop of 0.5 metre, in accordance with the packaging test requirements as varied by the ERMA 2007 1080 re-assessment decision. Popular bag weights so far are 300kg and 350kg bags (for Jetrangers and 500's) using a 90 x 90 x 80cm high bag and 600kg and 650kg (for Squirrels and HU1s/UH1s) using a 90 x 90 x 120cm high bag. All bulk bags are shrink-wrapped on to a 110 x 110cm square wooden pallet with the 300kg and 350kg bags being stacked 2 high. Pack sizes from 300kg, in 50kg increments up to 650kg are available at present. The option of bulk bags is cost neutral for the customer. Bulk bags may be re-used but bags containing toxic bait can only be used for toxic bait thereafter.

## EFFICACY TRIAL FOR BAIT IN STORAGE

The viable life of stored 1080 and pre-feed pellets for aerial application has been a matter of debate for some time, but there is general consensus on the fact that bait stored in a cool, dry, low-light environment will last much longer than bait stored in less optimal conditions.

We also know that significant temperature fluctuations will reduce bait life because of the effects that temperature changes can have on microbial activity and moisture/condensation presence and distribution.

A number of operators have achieved outstanding results on possum control operations using bait which has been held in suitable storage for 8 months and good results have also been recorded where bait has been 12 months old. Despite some excellent work by Landcare Research in the 1990's which showed that the palatability of bait produced on an extruder pelletiser was good for 3 months and then declined quickly, no comparative work has been done with baits produced on a high compression ring pelletiser.

ACP has therefore commissioned Landcare Research to undertake a palatability and efficacy trial using pre-feed and 1080 No.7 and RS5 baits held in storage for 0, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12 months. The trial will conclude in October next year and should provide data of great interest to our clients involved in aerial operations.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### ACP CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

ACP will close for business at 11.30am on Wednesday 22 December 2010 and will reopen at 8.00am on Monday 10 January 2011. Customers requiring orders for production during January would be well advised to submit these in early November to ensure that deadlines for delivery are met.

### PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

Our clients often ask for more information about our products than offered by the label directions alone. The request most commonly comes from novice users of products not requiring a CSL and from the coordinators of community pest control initiatives such as self-help possum programmes and community-driven mainland island projects. Three pamphlets are available for **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait**, **Pestoff Decal Possum Bait** and **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**. These can be obtained in limited quantities from ACP at no charge. Phone Raewyn on 0800 224 423 for your requirements.

The pamphlets are also viewable through the PRODUCTS page of the ACP web site at [www.pestoff.co.nz](http://www.pestoff.co.nz)

### X-VERMINATOR LAUNCHED IN OZ

Bell-Booth Limited, ACP's national distributor to the retail and commercial pest control market, has now extended the distribution of ACP's rodenticides into the Australian market under the brand name "X-Verminator".

The X-Verminator pellet and block rodenticide products were launched by Bell-Booth Ltd at a pest control expo held on the Gold Coast during August.

"Market interest in the product was incredibly high and it certainly exceeded all of our expectations," says Bell-Booths merchandise manager Ben Bell-Booth.

"Over 200 commercial operators from all over Australia, as well as some major product distributors attended the expo.

"Their feed back on X-Verminator has been tremendous", he said.

Bell-Booth Ltd has already put a number of shipments of X-Verminator products into the Australian market via wholesalers with links to the farm merchandise and PCO sectors.

### SURVEY LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

The lucky draw winner of the 2009 ACP customer survey was Adrian Gutsell of Te Anau. Adrian won \$250 cash from ACP. The draw for the 2010 winner will be done in early December 2010.

ACP thanks all customers who completed and returned the survey questionnaire.

## YEAH RIGHT!

*From the Otautau Standard and Wallace County Chronicle, 17 September 1912.*

The Southland Acclimatisation Society has of recent times issued permits for the destruction of 1800 opossums but within the last three months some 10,000 opossum skins, taken surreptitiously, have been sent away from Dunedin. An Owaka man is at present averaging a catch of fourteen opossums a day.

Winter grey skins are realising 4 shillings each, black ones 6s each, and blues 10s. While the skins of animals killed in summer are of very little value, the opinion was expressed that there will soon be slaughter without discrimination, winter and summer alike.

"There is no question that the Government has made a mistake in removing all protection from opossums." Thus spoke Mr JW McIntosh, president of the Otago Acclimatisation Society. Mr McIntosh said his society had sent a ranger to Owaka District to investigate claims that the fruit-gardens and farms of settlers were suffering from the depredations of the opossum. The ranger's report went to show that a big majority of the settlers considered the opossum was not harmful.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the removal of the protection will shortly result in the extermination of the little marsupial", Mr McIntosh postulated. (Abridged)

*A year later, the Evening Post reported that Mr L Tripp, president of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, had urged Government to bring down legislation to prevent the extermination of the opossum. He said "They were not nearly as numerous as was often contended".*

*"They are the easiest things in the world to catch," said Mr. Tripp.*

*"The trappers set as many as twenty, thirty, or even a hundred traps, put something white on them and always get their traps full."*

## KAWAU ERADICATION RECEIVES APPROVAL

The NZ Food Safety Authority has approved a third party application made by the Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand to undertake the final phase of wallaby eradication on Kawau Island by employing Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait in bait stations.

The trust's proposal is for a low impact operation and a new approach to island restoration, which usually begins with two or more aerial broadcast applications of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R to eradicate rodents. Wallabies are a new target for eradication however and therefore a different and innovative approach is warranted.

The indigenous forest on Kawau Island has collapsed primarily due to destruction by wallabies and eradicating them will permanently enable at least 60% of the potential ecological gains for the Island. Operation of the bait stations is augmented by some shooting.

The approval follows a considerable amount of work, research and planning by the trust members to obtain the information necessary to support the application to NZFSA and develop a workable strategy for eradication which is most likely to succeed.

A comprehensive handbook and code of practice, which is also the approved operating plan for the eradication, has been prepared by the trust to guide progress and put the various control methods to be employed in context with each stage of the operation.

While much of the handbook contains information specific to Kawau Island, the section devoted to the code of practice provides an excellent template for self-help and volunteer pest programmes all over New Zealand - and in less than 4 pages!

Copies of the plan are available from the trust for \$10 each including postage. Please send your address details and payment to Pohutukawa Trust, 24 Umere Crescent, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051.

## MACQUARIE ISLAND NEWS

Prolonged periods of adverse winter weather on Macquarie Island have caused the Tasmania National Parks & Wildlife Service to postpone the mouse, rat and rabbit eradication after less than 10% of the operation has been completed. Weather records show that this year's winter weather at Macquarie was a whole level worse than previous years and without the frequent opportunities for aerial baiting provided in previous years. The seasonal arrival at Macquarie en masse, of penguins and other seabirds, placed these popula-

tions at significant risk of poisoning if the aerial broadcasting of bait had continued.

The window of opportunity for aerial baiting is limited to a few months during mid-winter, when the seabird and seal populations are largely absent from the island. ACP supplied over 300 tonnes of Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R for the operation and the remaining bait will be kept on the island and protected by purpose-built wooden storage "pods" until next winter. Macquarie Island is at latitude 54 degrees south.

**OUR AIM: TO DELIVER YOUR ORDER ON TIME**

**W**hile ACP maintains stock of some commonly used products such as rodenticides, lures, and Pestoff possum bait, most of our products are made to order.

This is necessary because the choices available to our customers are so numerous: pellet size, packaging type, lure type, lure strength, toxicity and formulation type.

In order for ACP to build product to precisely meet its customers' requirements, ACP needs to receive larger volume orders for aerial operations 2 months prior to delivery date, and possibly longer during the busiest winter months. This allows ACP to obtain the raw materials and packaging necessary to complete the order within the required time frame.

Specialist baits such as Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R and Pestoff Rat Bait 50D, and unusually small orders for pellets also require 2 months lead time in many cases, to ensure these can be scheduled between periodic plant clean-downs.

For most orders of paste baits, a week or two is usually sufficient notice.



**BIRD CONTROL UNDER SCRUTINY**

**T**he use and occasional misuse of alphachloralose and DRC1339 for controlling birds is a growing cause of public complaints to ACP and to official agencies such as public health authorities and NZFSA. These complaints highlight the ever-present public affection for birds of all species (especially by those who have never suffered a pest bird problem) and at times suggests operator uncertainty over the suitability, purpose and legal constraints surrounding the use of registered bird control products. In all cases, use of the products is constrained by the label directions.

PRODUCT	LIMITED TO SPECIES	METHOD OF APPLICATION	APPROVED SITUATION
Alphachloralose Powder	Black-backed gulls	Mix into margarine and apply to bread	Where present
DRC1339	Rooks Rooks or starlings	Mix with petrolatum and apply to nests. Mix into dripping/bread baits - apply baits directly on ground.	Nest baiting Lay baits on edge of crops or near roosts and rookeries.
Pestoff Bird Control Paste	Nuisance birds (if not otherwise protected)	Apply to bread	Where present and affecting horticulture or agriculture
Pestoff Treated Wheat	Sparrows	Apply by hand within rows or on perimeter of wheat crops.	Wheat crops
Pestoff Treated Barley	Sparrows	Apply by hand within rows or on perimeter of barley crops.	Barley crops
Pestoff Treated Peas	Pigeons (feral)	Apply by hand within rows or on perimeter of pea crops.	Pea crops

**SOME VTAs OK IN GRAZED AREAS**

**E**arlier this year, following extensive consultation with the pest management industry and stakeholders such as AHB, DOC and regional council representatives, the NZ Food Safety Authority agreed to explicitly permit the use of certain VTA's in grazed areas – principally brodifacoum, cholecalciferol, phosphorus and cyanide baits used in a contained (bait station or pot) situation for possum control. The decision was met with considerable relief because the cost of trapping and shooting only in such areas would be prohibitive.

The NZFSA agreement was tempered however by a firm requirement that operators must follow best practice and take all necessary steps to prevent exposure of livestock and non-targets. Practical measures include placing bait stations out of reach of stock, using spill-proof bait stations, mounting bait stations correctly and

not overfilling them.

New label amendments required for the affected products are:

- ✦ By law, all practicable measures must be taken to minimise all access to baits by livestock, pets and other non target animals.
- ✦ Carcasses: By law, access by livestock, pets and other non target animals must be prevented by collecting and burying or burning poisoned carcasses where practical, or necessary.
- ✦ In all instances when using this product, appropriate best practice guidelines must be followed, where these exist. Failure to comply with the label directions is an offence under the ACVM Act.



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