

PESTOFF®

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Industry Update Winter 2003

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

GROUP ACTION SAVES COROMANDEL KIWI

Operating in the Whenuakite Kiwi Zone between Tairua and Hot Water Beach on the Coromandel Peninsular, the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group is working hard to ensure the future survival of kiwi in their area. The group comprises about 50 members including landowners, locals, Department of Conservation and Environment Waikato, working over both conservation and private lands to reduce the impacts of kiwi predators and to restore forest habitats.



John Simmons, Biosecurity Manager of Environment Waikato addresses the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group workshop held during June



Whenuakite Kiwi Zone covers about 8,000 hectares of forest (marked in red) between Tairua and Hot Water Beach

The initial assault, which has substantially reduced possum numbers, used pre-fed 1080 pellets in bait stations, followed by cyanide and **Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait**. While maintaining possum numbers at very low levels, new assaults have been launched against goats, mustelids and rodents.

At a recent workshop in Whenuakite which was attended by DOC, Environment Waikato and pesticide

manufacturers including ACP, group chairman Arthur Hinds praised his members for their outstanding efforts in turning the tables for the benefit of kiwi. He said that most of the young kiwi in the area, would not be there without the group's efforts.

"This shows that if you have enthusiastic people to start with, and you can show them positive results from their efforts, such a program is sustainable in the long term", said Mr Hinds.

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FULL REGISTRATION FOR NEW PASTE

Pestoff Exterminator Paste containing 0.15% 1080 in a peanut/composite bait matrix is now fully registered and provides licensed pest control operators with an alternative bait type for use either in bait bags or in bait stations. The new paste has already proven to be extremely effective when applied in bait bags on grids for initial control, or for maintenance where an alternative to traditional pastes and pellets is desirable for renewing possums' interest in baits. A pre-feed version of the paste is also available for feeding ahead of **Pestoff Exterminator Paste** or for use with other products.

NZFSA BRODIFACOUM PROPOSALS ATTRACT MORE INDUSTRY COMMENT

In February 2003 the NZ Food Safety (NZFSA) released its draft recommendations for managing residue issues relating to the use of brodifacoum. This was the culmination of nearly four years of submissions, meetings and deliberations on the cause and effects of brodifacoum residues.

The draft NZFSA recommendations attracted 13 submissions from within the pest management industry. Many submitters suggested that practical measures proposed by the Expert Working Group (EWG) on brodifacoum had been overlooked in favour of less effective regulatory controls proposed by the NZFSA.

In addition to practical measures, the EWG had proposed that studies should be carried out to determine the extent to which appropriately managed operations using brodifacoum created any measurable residue risks. It remains to be proven whether unacceptable residue levels are a consequence of brodifacoum misuse versus what is deemed appropriate use.

The NZFSA now intends to consider comments from the submissions and seek clarification where necessary before calling another meeting of interested parties.

The long review continues to delay processing of ACP's now 2 year-old application for registration of **Pestoff Hi-Strength Possum Bait** (0.005% brodifacoum). The application was put on hold by the NZFSA pending the decisions coming from the brodifacoum review.



Is it only excessive use or inappropriate use of brodifacoum that causes residue problems? Comparative studies are warranted.

BEST PRACTICE USING BRODIFACOUM FOR POSSUM CONTROL

- ◆ Best used for low-medium possum densities.
- ◆ Use weatherproof bait stations placed 2 per ha in forest or 100 m apart on bush margins.
- ◆ Place bait stations out of reach of stock or feral pigs.
- ◆ Initially use about 500 g of bait per station
- ◆ Top up to 500 g level after 1 week and then leave for >1 month before repeating
- ◆ Repeat this process 2 – 3 times per year
- ◆ Always take measures to manage any possible residue risks

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NEWS BRIEFS

HUGE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Record registrations for the Biosecurity Institute's 2003 Conference, being conducted in conjunction with the Vertebrate Pest Management Institute in Nelson over 9 – 7 July 2003. By late June, it was clear to organisers that well over 200 people would be attending. The vertebrate pest component of the conference will occur on the afternoon and evening of 9 July and will cover a range of issues from stoats and horses, to possums, rabbits and community involvement in pest control. ACP is one of the conference sponsors.

NPCA SEMINAR DATES

The National Possum Control Agencies Regional Technology Transfer Seminars will be held at the Quality Hotel, Hamilton on Wednesday 23 July and at the Convention Centre, Palmerston North on Wednesday 29 July. The theme of the Regional Seminars is "making effective use of traditional possum and vertebrate pest control tools".

The National Technology Transfer Seminar is to be held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington over 19 – 21 November 2003.

FREE GPS MAPPING SOFTWARE

For contractors without access to GIS software but who would like to map out bait lines, block boundaries and link GPS waypoints, routes etc to maps, free downloadable trial software is available off the internet. With this, you can fairly easily load and calibrate your own maps. Download at <http://www.ozieplorer.com>

APPROVED HANDLER CERTIFICATES TO REPLACE VPC LICENSES

Introduction of the Approved Handler provisions of the Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act on 1 July 2004 will see many existing poison license holders tossing up whether they should pay the proposed new fees or simply relinquish their licences to use controlled pesticides. Some license holders have already indicated their intention to let their licences lapse rather than pay nearly \$500 to obtain an Approved Handler Certificate, which will replace existing

licences. Current license holders wishing to become Approved Handlers will need to contact a Test Certifier and sit the new test.

The impact that this could have on self-help possum control schemes, locally initiated community-based schemes and even some pest control businesses is of serious concern to some pest managers. In order to ensure no momentum is lost on pest programs and as an incentive for people to maintain their ability to use

controlled pesticides, a few pest managers and industry groups have proposed providing the services of Test Certifiers from within their own ranks for free. Others have suggested subsidising the cost of certification for members of community schemes or members of certain industry organisations. A list of Test Certifiers for vertebrate pesticides can be found on the ERMANZ web site at: <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/testcert-reg.asp>

DOC INDICATES MOVE TO DIPHACINONE

A report recently prepared by Landcare Research Ltd for the Department of Conservation has recommended the first generation anti-coagulant diphacinone as the best alternative to brodifacoum for DOC's rodent control operations on mainland New Zealand.



The report, which compared the suitability and persistence of brodifacoum, warfarin, pindone and diphacinone, concluded that "diphacinone appears the most promising potential alternative anticoagulant for mainland rodent control because it appears to have relatively low persistence but also medium potency to rodents".

DOC is now seeking commercial assistance from bait manufacturers including ACP Ltd to help develop, test and register diphacinone-active bait formulations which prove to be sufficiently effective for DOC's needs. DOC has indicated that at this stage it intends continuing to use ACP's **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** with 0.002% brodifacoum for rodent eradication on non-stocked offshore islands.

DISPOSALS

Are you stuck with agri-chemicals or vertebrate pesticides which you cannot dispose of easily? Chemstocks NZ Ltd is a Feilding based company which will go to the farm, depot or work site to recover, transport and dispose of unwanted materials in an environmentally sound manner. The company operates over both the North and South Islands and has dedicated processing plants for rendering chemicals safe for disposal. Chemstocks NZ Ltd can be contacted on freephone 0800 243 678.

ISLAND RESTORATION NEWS LOOKS GENERALLY PROMISING

RAOUL ISLAND – CAUTION

DOC is being cautious about declaring Raoul Island free of cats and rats until a major monitoring program, scheduled for late 2004, has been completed. Fifty-three tonnes of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** was sown over the island by Lakeland Helicopters Ltd working in conjunction with EPRO Ltd of Taupo. One tonne of **ACP's 0.1% 1080 Feral cat Bait** was also used in the operation.

DOC program manager Mike Ambrose says, "We are continuing to do some monitoring in the meantime and there have been no rats detected since July 2002...since 7 days after the first bait was dropped to be precise, and no feral cats have been found since October 2002".

"Tracking dogs have worked the island for cats quite extensively since then, so it is all looking promising", Mike Ambrose said.

CAMPBELL ISLAND SURVEY

A recent four week stint on the bleak Campbell Island by six DOC staff members and specially trained rat-dog "Jak", a Border Terrier/Fox Terrier cross, failed to find any sign that rodents have survived the 120 tonnes of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** applied to the 11,300 hectare island during July 2001. After two rat breeding seasons, DOC staff expected that the rat population would have increased to a detectable level if any had survived.

The search methods included snap trapping (4,089 trap nights), sign searching, and using Jak's nose to sniff out survivors. The team also put out

gnaw sticks that had been soaked in peanut oil. These were left out on the most commonly used tracks as a longer term monitoring tool.

HAUTURU (LITTLE BARRIER) POSTPONED

After several years of planning an operation aimed at eradicating pacific rats (kiore) from Little Barrier Island, delays in receiving the resource consent for the operation have forced DOC to postpone the operation for a further 12 months. In an unusual move, the conditions of the resource consent require DOC to re-locate some of the kiore to one or two other islands in the vicinity because of the species significance to local Maori. DOC has appealed to the Environment Court and has challenged the legality of such an action – given its statutory role in protecting native species, rather than distributing predatory mammals which make meals of native plants and animals. The operation plans to use approximately 55 tonnes of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**.



BEST PRACTICE – CYANIDE

- Use a high visibility pre-feed/lure such as **Pestoff Wonderlure** to bring possums on to the line.
- Vary bait density according to sign – place more baits where more possum sign occurs.
- Always pre-feed – twice if possible
- Use small lead-up baits of non-toxic paste to improve toxic bait take
- Use small toxic paste baits (small pea size) to ensure possums can take the whole bait into their mouths.
- Avoid laying in wet weather unless using flower pots or bait stations
- Avoid laying where stock may be present.
- Rub out or remove all baits at the end of the operation to prevent bait shyness developing

DOC WESTLAND SHIFTS MAJOR POSSUM CONTROL EFFORT NORTH

After treating upwards of 200,000 hectares of conservation lands in South Westland with aerially applied 1080 pellet baits over the last 4 years, the Department of Conservation in Westland is moving the bulk of its aerial operations north to treat forests in the northern Buller area over the next 12 months.

DOC Ranger Doug Cairns of Westport says "In addition to improving forest health generally, it is hoped that key native species including northern rata and Powelliphanta snails will benefit from possum control in the region".

The condition of rata/kamahi forest in Westland has improved noticeably as a result of aerial 1080 operations carried out by the Department.



Westland's almost continuous expanse of forest running from the coastline to the mountains make the region a national ecological jewel – well worth protecting against exotic intruders.

BUMPER SEASON FOR PESTOFF RODENT PRODUCTS

A huge increase this year in sales of **Pestoff** domestic and commercial rodenticides and **Pestoff** rodent bait stations suggests rodents have been more prolific than past years and that the sound reputation of Pestoff products is becoming more widely known. Sales of both baits and stations for the first part of the rodent season have been dramatically ahead of past years. Interest in the products was intense at this year's National Agricultural Field Days at Mystery Creek held over 11-14 June.



Ben Bell-Booth of Bell-Booth Ltd promotes Pestoff products at Mystery Creek

BEST PRACTICE 1080 PELLETS

Based on operational results from ACP's most successful clients

- A bait acceptance trial using rhodamine dyed pellets is a sensible precaution if bait shyness or abundance of natural food may affect bait take.
- Always pre-feed unless circumstances such as weather make pre-feeding impractical.
- Always use the same bait mixture and lure type during pre-feeding as will be used during the toxic phase. Double-luring the pre-feed bait is not necessary.
- 2 kg per hectare of both pre-feed and toxic pellets should be regarded as a minimum application rate for achieving even sowing rates from aircraft and ensuring sufficient bait is available for possums.
- Weather forecasts should indicate 2 – 3 fine nights following both pre-feed and toxic applications.
- Toxic pellets should be approx. 12 gram average, 0.15% 1080 and double-lured to mask the 1080 content of the bait.
- Toxic bait application should occur 8 – 15 days after the pre-feed or as soon after that as weather permits.
- For bait station operations, place bait stations 100 meters apart and carry out 2 pre-feeds before applying toxic bait.
- If the land is normally grazed, restocking should occur by agreement between the grazier and the pest manager and not before pellets from a range of representative strata have been analysed and residual toxicity results obtained.



POSTAGE PAID WANGANUI



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