

PESTOFF[®]

... Simply Smarter

Industry Update Winter 2004

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

LITTLE BARRIER OPERATION UNDERWAY

It has been estimated that prior to the arrival of kiore (*Rattus exulans*) on 2,800 hectare Little Barrier Island, over 300,000 tuatara were present there. It was believed that kiore had wiped out tuatara on the island until they were re-discovered there during the 1990's.

On 9 June 2004, DOC staff under the direction of project leader Richard Griffiths barged the first 33 of 55 tonnes of **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R** to the island and unloaded it on to

the island, beginning the first wave attack in a kiore eradication operation which has been several years in the planning.

The bait was loaded into the spreader buckets of 3 helicopters and was applied in two separate drops of 8 kg/ha and 6 kg/ha approximately 1 week apart.

Richard Griffiths says that the topography which runs steeply from sea level to 722 meters above sea level presents a challenge in terms of sowing the bait evenly and ensuring total bait coverage. Sowing height above ground and sowing speed over ground must remain fairly constant to ensure even distribution. The operation used 10 mm **Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R**, each pellet weighing about 2 grams.

DOC successfully appealed a condition of its resource consent for the operation which required it to relocate some of the kiore to one or two other islands in the Hauraki Gulf. The condition was amended to requiring DOC to only facilitate the removal of some of the kiore by Iwi interests, to an as yet undisclosed location.

The Little Barrier Island tuatara population has been kept in captivity on the island since its re-discovery and now numbers over 100.



KIORE – DOC PHOTO

The tuatara will be re-released into their natural home as soon as the island is declared rat free.



NEW RULES APPLY FROM 1 JULY 2004

From 1 July 2004, the Vertebrate Pest Control Regulations become replaced by the full provisions of the HSNO Act and the ACVM Act. Vertebrate pesticides become "vertebrate toxic agents" (VTA's) and licenced operators must become "approved handlers". Persons or organisations selling VTA's will be required to become approved Traders. Label conditions become mandatory and altering products or using products in a manner outside the label directions will be illegal.

Animal Control Products Ltd Important Contact Information

Wanganui Office Phone	64 6 344 5302
Wanganui Office Fax	64 6 344 2260
Waimate Factory Phone	64 3 689 8367
Waimate Factory Fax	64 3 689 8804
Bill Simmons Mobile	64 25 798 318
Web Site : http://www.pestoff.co.nz/	*****
E-mail address: info@pestoff.co.nz	*****
Safety Data Sheets: http://www.pestoff.co.nz/msdpage.htm	*****

ACP NOW HOLDS ISO 9001:2000 ACCREDITATION

On 11 March 2004, Animal Control Products Limited was issued a certificate updating its ISO 9001 accreditation to the new ISO 9001:2000 standard.

The new standard shifts the focus from quality systems and procedures which are now firmly in place, to business management, business development, policy and outcomes. The new certificate can be viewed on the ACP website at <http://www.pestoff.co.nz>

AHB EXPANDS WEST COAST VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAMME

The West Coast will receive an extra \$2 million for possum control over the next year in the continuing fight against the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

The extra money will boost the West Coast Regional Animal Health Board's (AHB) annual spend on possum control to about \$6 million for the next few years.

Aerial drops of 1080 poison will continue but the expanded programme will focus on extra ground control (trapping and poisoning) over more than 500,000 hectares to further reduce the risk of TB-carrying possums infecting stock. Board Chairman Murray Stewart said the Coast currently has about half New Zealand's TB-infected dairy herds, and about 22 per cent of the total infected herds (including cattle and deer) nationally. "The TB strategy is to get down to less than 10 herds on the Coast by 2013. It's an ongoing programme," Mr Stewart said.

The biggest change will be extending possum control further into the bush around key areas of farmland. The buffer zones will widen from 200m to at least 1km.

"The bulk of the programme will be done using ground control methods, but the use of aerial possum control will continue, to protect 3km wide deep bush buffers behind the ground control buffers in key areas."

The new method had begun around Barrytown in the past financial year

and it was due to start around Karamea in June. It will be introduced in other areas in the next two financial years and should reduce TB infections in deer and cattle. Mr Stewart said farming areas bordered by bush continued to pose the biggest difficulty in the fight against TB. The regional council and the Department of Conservation would work together to control possums on these border areas.

The extra \$2 million had come from the AHB's national coffers. It spends over \$50 million nationally a year fighting TB.

Infected herds on the West Coast had been reduced by 71% over the past 9 years – from 249 in 1995 to less than 70 now.

The West Coast Regional Council will continue to manage the board's TB carrier control work.

ALPHA TECH SALES TO CEASE

As from 1 July 2004, technical grade vertebrate pesticides (VTA's) will no longer be able to be sold unless they become registered in their own right under the ACVM Act.

This includes alphachloralose 98% technical grade powder which has been extensively used by licenced pest control operators for bird control near landfills, airports and on special conservation projects.

ACP will be investigating the viability of obtaining a registration for alpha tech.



NEWS BRIEFS

ROTORUA CONFERENCE

The joint Biosecurity Institute/Vertebrate Pest Management Institute Conference, to be held in Rotorua over 21 – 23 July 2004 looks like once again attracting record attendance. The vertebrate pest component of the conference will occur mainly on days 1 and 3 and will cover a range of issues from himalayan thar and sika deer to magpies, pest fish and rodent eradications. Plenary sessions and field trips will be held on day 2. Community involvement in pest control is once again a key theme of the conference. ACP is a corporate member of the Vertebrate Pest Management Institute and is one of the conference sponsors.

The AGM's of both institutes will be held at the Grand Tiara, Rotorua at 4.30pm on Wednesday 21 July 2004.

REGIONAL NPCA TECH TRANSFER SEMINARS UNDER REVIEW

The National Possum Control Agencies Regional Technology Transfer Seminar programme has been put on hold for the time being while the NPCA considers alternative ways of delivering training at regional level. Smaller contractors are apparently finding it increasingly difficult to attend the regional seminars due to both the cost and time commitment associated with taking a day out of their work schedules for training purposes.

A National NPCA Technology Transfer Seminar will be held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington over 24th to 25th November 2004. The NPCA AGM will be held on Tuesday 23 November 2004.

1080 BOOSTS KOKAKO NUMBERS IN KAIMAI-MAMAKU

Kokako numbers are on the increase for the first time in decades in part of the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park.

There are only 1200 of the endangered birds over the whole of New Zealand and Department of Conservation staff in the Tauranga Area Office are excited about the boost in their district which was previously thought to have only a handful of birds.

A survey of the Opuiaki ecological area on the Mamaku plateau revealed seven adult pairs of kokako, 12 single birds and



DOC PHOTO

Kokako: The native blue wattle crow

three newly fledged chicks.

Project manager Brad Angus said there were probably more juveniles yet to be found.

He attributed the rising population of kokako to the success of a pest control operation carried out last year using pre-fed 1080 pellets in bait stations.

Approximately 1 bait station per hectare had been used to achieve a low density of possums, thereby reducing predation of kokako eggs and chicks by possums and other predators.

DOC TRIALS DIPHACINONE FOR RODENTS

Following recommendations by Landcare Research Ltd, the Department of Conservation has spent the last 6 months carrying out an extensive trial using the first generation anti-coagulant diphacinone as a possible alternative to brodifacoum for DOC's rodent control operations on the mainland.

Trial sites at Trounsen Kauri Park near Dargaville, Moehau on the Coromandel Peninsula and Boundary Stream in northern Hawkes Bay have been selected due to the network of access tracks and rodent bait stations which were already in place.

According to the DOC scientist coordinating the trial, Craig Gillies, all three areas have excellent base line information on rodent densities so the effect of using pulses of diphacinone cereal baits will be measurable.

ACP has assisted in the trial by obtaining the necessary research approvals from ACVM and by developing with DOC a new cereal bait tentatively called **Pestoff Rodent Bait 50D** with 0.005% diphacinone. Preliminary results from tracking tunnel monitoring on the Boundary Stream block indicate that the bait has kept rat densities at extremely low levels (near zero) and bait consumption rates in the other two blocks suggest that good results should be achieved there also.

DISPOSALS

Due to continued requests from our industry contacts we are providing this contact information once again: Chemstocks NZ Ltd is a Feilding based company which will visit 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. Contact Ed Hills on freephone 0800 243 678.



ACP has recently introduced a new rodent bait station for domestic, industrial or conservation use – the **Pestoff Dead Rat Café**.

The bait station is designed for indoor or outdoor use and is specially designed for use with **Pestoff Rodent Blocks** but can also be used to hold cereal pellets.

Features of the **Dead Rat Café** include:

- Keyholes at the outer ends of the station enable it to be screwed to a floor or staked to the ground.
- Wire hoops hold the bait by fitting tightly into sockets in the floor.
- Will hold up to 8 Pestoff Rodent Blocks.
- Lids are available in translucent or pigmented yellow.
- Lids can be secured against tampering using various options.
- Easily possum-proofed by fixing cable ties around the waisted sections of the station.
- The bases can be nested for easy transportation in limited space.
- Upraised floor sockets hold bait off the floor and away from condensation on inside surfaces.
- Rats can see through the station, and are therefore less cautious about entering the bait station.
- Pillar and slot feature allows swinging insect barriers to be fitted. (Barriers can be cut from light corflute)
- Raised steps inside station reduce the risk of water intrusion.
- Price is very competitive compared with other bait stations of similar capacity.
- Space is provided on the lid for a service record.
- Two wire hoops provided with each Dead Rat Café.
- The plastic material is UV stabilised.



1080 PROTESTOR ORDERED TO PAY FOR FRIVOLOUS APPEAL

West Coast anti-1080 campaigner Phil Paterson has been ordered to pay almost \$6,000 for using the Environment Court as a forum for "frivolous appeals".

Environment Court Judge Jeff Smith ordered Mr Paterson to pay the West Coast Regional Council \$2,800 in costs and the Animal Health Board \$3,000. Judge Smith said Mr Paterson had ignored sensible advice and pursued

High Court and Environment Court action which had cost the regional council \$14,000 to defend.

The Animal Health Board had spent \$12,000 on its defence.

The judge said he was aware Mr Paterson might have trouble paying but costs had to be ordered against him and others who might see the Environment Court as a forum to raise issues that were effectively political.

PRICE FREEZE

ACP IS PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT
CURRENT PRODUCT
PRICES WILL BE HELD
FOR THE 2004
CALENDAR YEAR

**1080 BAIT ASSAYS AT
COMPETITIVE RATES**

ACP's Lab in Wanganui will carry out residual toxicity testing (assays) on 1080 bait samples collected from the field or held in storage. Pellet, carrot or paste samples can be assayed at a cost of \$95 + GST per sample.

**THE WORLD WANTS
OUR PRODUCTS**

Over the last 12 months a growing number of countries have obtained products from ACP. While a majority of export orders are for our rodenticide products, there have been requests for a wide range of other products including 1080-based vertebrate pesticides.

The list of locations exported to over the last year includes Tonga, Fiji, Australia, Pitcairn Island, New Caledonia, Ecuador, Denmark, Malaysia, Tahiti, Falklands, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Portugal and South Georgia.

**ACP's PRODUCTS
A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE****POSSUM CONTROL**

1080 Pastes 0.06%, 0.08% and 0.15% in fruit based paste – used on earth spits, in pots, on tin lids and for tree baiting.

Pestoff Exterminator Paste 0.15% 1080 in peanut butter base. Used in bait stations and in bait bags.

Double Strength Phosphorus Paste for earth spits, pots and tin lids.

Non-toxic equivalents of the above pastes are available for pre-feeding (pre-feeding is always recommended)

Cyanide Paste (55%) and **Wonderlure** for pre-feeding are a deadly combination.

1080 pellets in 0.06%, 0.08% and 0.15% for hand broadcast, bait station and aerial use. 20 mm, 12 gram baits are highly recommended.

Non-toxic equivalents of the above pellets are available for pre-feeding (pre-feeding is always recommended)

1080 Solution for application to apple or carrot baits.

Pestoff Brodifacoum Possum Bait for sustaining low numbers of possums and **Pestoff Waxed Possum Bait** for use in damp conditions. Both products are for use in bait stations only and do not require any pre-feeding due to the delay the onset of poisoning symptoms.

RODENT CONTROL

Pestoff Rodent Bait for use in bait stations in domestic, industrial and outdoor areas.

Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R for aerial or hand broadcast by DOC or by others under the approved Code of Practice.

Pestoff Rodent Blocks (approved for

food premises) for use in bait stations in all situations.

Pestoff Mouse Bait Stations and **Pestoff Dead Rat Cafés** for keeping your bait dry and safe.

RABBIT CONTROL

1080 pellets 0.04% for aerial or hand broadcast and **1080 paste 0.06%** for use on earth spits. Both bait types must be pre-fed to maximise toxic bait take.

Single Strength Phosphorus paste.

1080 Solution for application to carrots or oats.

ROOK & BIRD CONTROL

DRC1339 powder for mixing with bread & lard baits for rook control. **Pestoff Bird Control Paste** for magpie, sparrow and other nuisance birds and **Pestoff Treated Grains** containing alphachloralose for sparrow and pigeon.

FERRET CONTROL

Pestoff Ferret Paste containing diphacinone for use in tunnel-type bait stations.

FERAL CAT CONTROL

Pestoff Feral Cat Pellets containing 0.1% 1080 – a polymer and fish-meal bait for use by DOC only.

WALLABY CONTROL

0.2% 1080 pellets for aerial and hand broadcasting. **5% and 10% 1080 polymer gel** for foliage baiting. **1080 Solution** for application to carrot baits.

DEER CONTROL

10% 1080 polymer gel for foliage baiting and **1080 Solution** for application to carrot baits.



POSTAGE PAID WANGANUI



PERMIT #59424