

Bovine Tb update

Environment Canterbury manages the control of Bovine Tb vectors under the Animal Health Board's national pest management strategy for Bovine Tb. Animals that spread the disease among deer and cattle are known as vectors. These are mainly possums but also include ferrets, pigs and feral cats. The new programme for 2003-04 will cover over 1 million hectares of control and survey operations. This is divided up into 56 operations involving both possum and ferret work and six surveys.

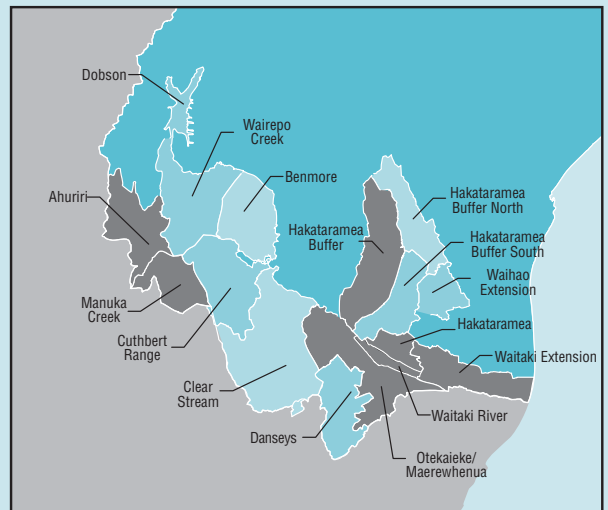
Operation Name	Monitoring Results	
	Required RTC (%)*	Actual RTC (%)
Ahuriri (new)	5%	4.31%
Amberley Coast	2%	1.58%
Amberley Hills North	2% & 5%	0.48%
Amberley Hills South	2%	1.43%
Amuri Range	2%	0.82%
Ashley Buffer aerial Mt Oxford	5%	
Ashley Buffer ground	2%	
Ashley River North	2%	1.02%
Belfast	2%	
Blythe Valley	2%	0.18%
Castle (New)	1 & 3%	
Cavendish Hills (New)	5%	1.02%
Cloudy Hill	3%	
Conway Riverbank	2%	
Doctors Hills	2%	0.15%
Ethelton	2%	0.97%
Hapuku Buffer (incl. Mt Fyffe)	2%	0.13%
Hawarden Basin (New)	3%	1.21%
Inland Road	3%	
Intake	2%	0.00%
Kekerengu & Extension	2%	0.54%
Kowhai River Swyncombe	2%	
Kurow Hakataramea Buffer	2%	1.15%
Kurow Hakataramea Extension	2%	
Leader Valley (new)	3% & 5%	3.33%
Lowry Cheviot	2%	
Lowry Range (New)	5%	
Manuka Creek	5%	
Moores (New)	3%	0.10%
Motunau	3%	
Mt Cass	2%	0.21%
North Otago Buffer-Otekaieke	2%	
North Otago Buffer-Waitaki River	2%	0.25%
Okuku Gorge aerial (new)	5%	
Okuku Gorge ground (new)	5%	
Overton (new)	3%	0.00%
Oxford/ Rangiora	2%	1.84%
Pahau	2%	0.82%
Parnassus	2%	
Rotherham	2%	0.67%
Rotherham Extension	2%	1.34%
Scargill	2%	0.00%
Stanton	3%	
Virginia Road	3%	
Waihao Extension	5%	
Waimak Ashley Woodend	2%	0.78%
Waitaki Extension	2%	1.10%
Waitohi River	2%	0.29%

* Residual trap count

Bovine Tb operations in the north of the Canterbury region



Bovine Tb operations in the south of the Canterbury region



Legend

- Current control operations (02/03)
- Proposed operations (04/05)
- New operations (03/04)



Environment Canterbury
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Bovine Tb infected herds

Location	Infected Herds at 31/01/03	
	Cattle	Deer
Kaikoura	7	0
Conway-Waiiau	7	3
Waiiau-Hurunui	3	0
Hurunui-Waipara	18	12
Waipara-Ashley	3	2
Ashley-Waimakariri	2	
Banks Peninsula	1	0
Upper Waitaki	3	1
Total	44	18

A plan for the varroa bee mite

The varroa bee mite, which attacks the pupae of the honey bee, appeared in New Zealand in April 2000. Its arrival has serious implications for both New Zealand's beekeeping industry, and the horticulture, arable and pastoral sectors that rely on bees for pollination. Central government has taken the lead role in dealing with the mite. A planning group has prepared a discussion document as the basis of a national strategy for controlling the pest. The Varroa Planning Group (VPG) includes representatives from Local Government NZ, Federated Farmers, MAF, National Beekeepers, NZ Grain and Seeds Federation Inc, NZ Fruitgrowers Federation, NZ Vegetable & Potato Growers Federation Inc, Pipfruit Growers NZ Inc and Zespri.

The discussion document suggests that the primary objective of the proposed national pest management strategy should be to maintain the South Island free from varroa. Slowing the spread of varroa within the North Island is also suggested, for as long as it remains practicable.

The document says that delaying the spread of varroa to the South Island by 10 years would result in net benefits of \$114 million. Delaying the South Island spread by five years would provide a net benefit of \$86 million and a two-year delay a \$35 million benefit. It suggests that funding could come from a partnership between the beekeeping, pastoral, arable, and horticultural sectors in the South Island, and possibly South Island regional councils.

Environment Canterbury's submission supports a national pest management strategy for control of varroa, maintaining the South Island free from varroa, and suggests that any strategy should include provisions to control any incursions into the South Island and for movement control.

For regional information contact Senior Resource Management Planner Ray Maw 03 353 9009 extn 7187

Bovine Tb update cont...

Most of this work is now tendered out to contractors. Registrations of interest were called for on April 12, 2003 and the full tender round begins on April 25, 2003. First operations are scheduled to begin in July 2003 and will finish in June 2004. Stock from herds which test positive for Bovine Tb are not allowed to leave the district. This is known as movement control. Herds on movement control are decreasing within the Canterbury region from 72 at 30/06/01 to 62 at 31/01/03. Movement control is a key measure of the success of the overall national strategy.

For more information contact Bovine Tb and Contracts Manager, Kevin Gallagher 03 353 9009 extn 7320.

Grubbing nassella tussock in the autumn has advantages

Landowners on many of the 850 properties in Canterbury where nassella tussock occurs could consider grubbing their nassella tussock earlier than the normal spring period.

Some land owners are finding themselves caught out in late October with very little nassella tussock control work completed, no time to do much of this work themselves and they can face a shortage of experienced contractors to do this work.

Landowners grubbing in late spring are running the risk of allowing nassella tussock to seed, not only onto their own property but wind-blown seed will affect neighbouring properties as well. Nassella tussock seed is viable at the plant's flowering stage when purple seed is seen emerging from the panicles.

Nassella tussock is more easily found in the autumn and winter period when pasture is usually shorter when compared to locating plants in lush green spring grass.

The regional pest management strategy 1998 requires landowners to eradicate nassella tussock plants annually by October 31 to prevent seeding.

A list of contractors is available by contacting Environment Canterbury's Amberley office 03 314 8014.

Regional pest management strategy

Environment Canterbury expects to notify a proposed regional pest management strategy (RPMS), to replace the RPMS (1998), at the end of May 2003. The present RPMS expires on June 30, 2003. Environment Canterbury considered the views and concerns that emerged during the consultation in preparing the strategy. Among these issues are how wallabies should be controlled, and the possibility of an earlier completion date for nassella tussock grubbing programmes.

For more information contact Senior Resource Management Planner Ray Maw 03 353 9009 extn 7187, or Cr Robert Johnston, pests and biosecurity portfolio chairman, ph 03 312 4166 fax 03 312 3085.

Photo: R. Toft Landcare Research.

0.5 mm



Argentine ants

About four years ago Argentine ants were found in Christchurch.

The Argentine ant is considered to be a significant ecological pest and is listed in the world's top 100 pests list. As well as being a major household pest, in the outdoors, the ants will aggressively compete with or kill all other insects and even kill young birds. There is currently no effective commercially available insecticide for this species.

Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation and the Christchurch City Council are working together to eradicate Argentine ants from Christchurch. Recent extensive surveys have been undertaken to determine how widespread the infestations are. Results showed them to be confined to an area in Riccarton and another in Sockburn. These two Christchurch sites and one at the port of Nelson are the only known infestations of Argentine ants in the South Island.

At the end of February 2003 control work was carried out covering six hectares in Riccarton and 25 hectares in Sockburn, using an experimental bait insecticide - Fipronil. This is the same active ingredient used in cockroach bait and in flea control in cats and dogs, but for ants it is at extremely low concentrations (0.01%). The bait is in paste form and during control was placed in small blobs every few metres throughout the treatment area. The ants usually remove bait within hours. The bait used is currently being developed by Landcare Research scientist, Dr Richard Harris, and is being applied in the field under an experimental use permit.

As it takes 12 weeks to kill all the ants in a nest, it is too early to measure the success of the operation. Early indications however are very encouraging and show a big reduction in ant numbers.

For more information contact Biosecurity Team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Christchurch office 03 353 9009 extn 8835 or the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Biocontrol news

Release of old man's beard sawfly

Environment Canterbury has recently bought a release of old man's beard (OMB) sawfly from Landcare Research. This new biocontrol agent has been introduced to work in conjunction with the previously released OMB leaf miner and leaf fungus to aid in the control of OMB. Until this year, only three sawfly releases in New Zealand had been made – two near Lincoln and one in Hamilton. A recent concerted breeding programme by Landcare Research staff has produced sufficient numbers to allow several more releases throughout New Zealand. The Environment Canterbury release has been made in the Ashburton River vicinity, an area with a known OMB problem.

For more information contact Landcare Research 03 325 6701: Lynley Hayes extn 3808 or Hugh Gourlay extn 3748.

Nursery and garden centre visits

Environment Canterbury biosecurity officers undertake annual inspections of nurseries to ensure certain plants aren't being offered for sale, propagation or distribution.

This programme is now also part of the national pest plant accord, which is a co-operative agreement between regional councils and government departments with biosecurity responsibilities. Under the accord, regional councils agree to undertake surveillance to prevent the commercial sale and/or distribution of an agreed list of plant pests (the national pest plant accord list).

Some nurseries have been selling cultivars of prohibited plants, particularly heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). A cultivar is still the same species as the parent plant but has had specific desired characteristics selectively bred into it. The Department of Conservation considers that these cultivars, while initially seeming non-invasive, may eventually revert to wild types or possibly cross-pollinate with wild types.

For more information please contact Biosecurity Manager Ron Paulin in Christchurch 03 365 3828 or in Timaru 03 688 9069 extn 8839.

Biosecurity strategy

The New Zealand Biosecurity Council has released its draft biosecurity strategy for New Zealand. The aim of the strategy is to keep New Zealand free of damaging pests and diseases in the most effective way and to control or eliminate established pests and diseases once they get in.

Environment Canterbury expressed concern at central government's apparent reluctance to remain committed to pest management once incursion response is no longer

needed. It also suggests that greater recognition should be made of regional participation in surveillance and incursion responses. Environment Canterbury also highlights the need for better central government and regional council partnerships.

The Biosecurity Council is comprised of chief executives of the Department of Conservation and the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry; Health; Fisheries; Environment; Maori Development; Research, Science and

Technology; the Environmental Risk Management Authority; representatives of regional councils, primary production industry, environmental organisations; and the group director of MAF Biosecurity Authority. Its role is to co-ordinate biosecurity issues and to provide advice to the Minister for Biosecurity, Hon Jim Sutton.

For regional information contact Senior Resource Management Planner Ray Maw ph 03 353 9009 extn 7187.

Waimate operation for bell heather

Environment Canterbury is attacking an infestation of bell heather on the Hunter Hills near Waimate. What makes this different from usual programmes is that bell heather is not identified as a pest in the regional pest management strategy. However, this plant has been declared an unwanted organism and this allows Environment Canterbury to control it under a small scale management programme. Bell heather was first identified in the Hunter Hills in 1943 where there had been an attempt to establish it. It now covers an area of 368 hectares.

For more information contact Biosecurity Team Leader Graham Sullivan in the Timaru office 03 688 9069 extn 8835.

Pest management liaison committee representatives

Pest management liaison committees in the region advise and work with Environment Canterbury's pest management staff on local pest issues.

Here is a list of the chairpersons of pest management liaison committees in the region.

Ashley	Ian Ford	03 312 9700
Waikari	Graeme Gibb	03 314 3872
Amuri (acting)	Hamish Roxburgh	03 315 6049
Hurunui Nassella	Errol Monk	03 314 4087
Kaikoura	Bob Todhunter	03 575 8681
Ashburton	Robin Bruce	03 307 0008
Selwyn	Roger Gilbert	03 324 3648
Banks Peninsula	Paul de Latour	03 304 8518
Kurow	Peter Reid	03 436 0216
South Canterbury	Ian Jefferis	03 689 5565

For more information on the functions of pest management liaison committees please contact Biosecurity Manager Ron Paulin in Christchurch 03 365 3828 or in Timaru 03 688 9069 extn 8839, or Cr Robert Johnston, Pests and Biosecurity Portfolio Chairman 03 312 4166 fax 03 312 3085.

Copies of this newsletter and past issues are available on Environment Canterbury's website at www.ecan.govt.nz. If you would like to see more information on this site about animal and plant pest management, please phone Pest Portfolio Manager, Rob Phillips on 353 9009 ext 7069.

Pest management people at Environment Canterbury

Pest Portfolio Chairman: Cr Robert Johnston, phone (03) 312-4166, fax (03) 312 3085. Robert is also a member of the Regional Animal Health Advisory Committee and a director of Target Pest Enterprises.

Portfolio Manager, Biosecurity / Pest Management: Rob Phillips is responsible for coordinating overall portfolio activities including advising council and ensuring the achievements of outputs and outcomes.

Planning and policy formulation: Christchurch-based Senior Resource Management Planner Ray Maw is responsible for the biosecurity area.

Bovine Tb: Kevin Gallagher is the Bovine Tb and Contracts Manager. He is responsible for managing the Tb vector control programme as part of the national pest management strategy within Canterbury. He is based at the Christchurch office, (03) 353 9009 extn 7320.

Biosecurity Manager: Ron Paulin is responsible for how the policies in the regional pest management strategy are implemented. He works from Timaru but has responsibility for the whole region. Phone (03) 688 9069 or (03) 353 9009 extn 8839.

The biosecurity section is organised into three teams:

The Northern Team Leader is Laurence Smith in **Amberley**. Amberley Biosecurity Officers are Terry Charles, Lance Smith, Peter Morgan and Jan Crooks, (03) 314 8014.

Cheviot Biosecurity Officers are Noel Crump and Tom Kirkwood, (03) 319 8614.

The **Kaikoura** Biosecurity Officer is Peter Adams (duties combined with river engineering), (03) 319 5781.

The Central Team Leader is Rob McCaw in **Christchurch**.

Christchurch Biosecurity Officers are Jenny Williams, Stephen Brown and John Thacker, (03) 365 3828.

The **Darfield** Biosecurity Officer is Errol Barnes, (03) 318 8155.

The **Little River** Biosecurity Officer is Jock Bulman, (03) 325 1103.

The Southern Team Leader is: Graham Sullivan in **Timaru**. Timaru Biosecurity Officers are Terry Broughton, Phil Crotty and Brent Glentworth, (03) 688 9069.

Target Pest Enterprises is an Environment Canterbury-owned company contracted to control pests throughout the Canterbury region. Paul Ash is its General Manager, 353 9001 (Christchurch).