

GOOD NEWS! WE'RE REDUCING TB TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OVER 7000 HERDS

Farmers can enjoy the benefit of less TB testing as OSPRI's TBfree programme reduces the disease control areas.

The farming industry's investment in TB eradication is paying off again as this year's disease control area changes affect 2.3 million hectares, around 7400 herds and result in 289,000 less TB tests. The reductions are effective from 1 March.

If you're in a region where special testing requirements have been changed you'll benefit from significantly fewer TB tests.

OSPRI's TBfree programme divides the country into a number of disease control areas. Each has different TB testing requirements and control measures depending on the risk of TB being transferred from infected wildlife (mainly possums) to cattle and deer. Intense TB testing, movement control and both ground and aerial pest control are used to stop the spread of TB. As our work proves successful in each area, disease control areas are reviewed and testing requirements relaxed.

Extensive coordinated possum control over many years in the northern North Island has seen a drop in the number of TB-infected herds with only 10 infected herds at the end of 2016.

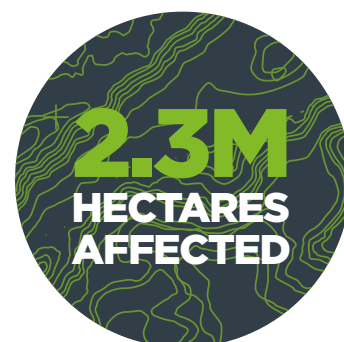
Over the past five years, OSPRI's TBfree programme has eradicated TB from possums over 1.6 million hectares at the end of 2016 and infected herds were down to 43 – a huge decrease from nearly 1700 in 1994.

A new plan for tackling TB was launched in 2016. Under the new TB plan, our goals are to eradicate TB from New Zealand, with TB freedom from cattle and deer herds by 2026, TB freedom from possums by 2040, and biological eradication by 2055. In order to achieve that, changes to the TB testing and pest control approach will be phased in.



Visit tbfree.co.nz/dcamap to check which disease control area you're in.

New areas will be available on 1 March.





Michael Vosper

HEALTHY ANIMALS ENJOY RELAXED TESTING REGIME

The Vosper family's 80-hectare organic Cleavedale farm in Matamata sits in the dairy heartland of Waikato, and is home to a pampered production herd of 270 individually named pedigree Jersey cows.

"Their comfort and well-being is paramount," says Michael Vosper, the fifth generation of his family to farm the property, which supplies Fonterra and also trades as Jersey Girl Organics from a container-based micro milk factory

on the farm. Jersey Girl organic milk is available from vending machines in Mt Maunganui and Tauranga and at selected stores throughout the North Island.

"We love the land we live on, the animals that share it, and we take pride in producing top-quality milk in a way that honours natural processes," says Michael. He's pleased to see that, from 1 March, the TB testing regime is being relaxed, from biennial to once every three years.

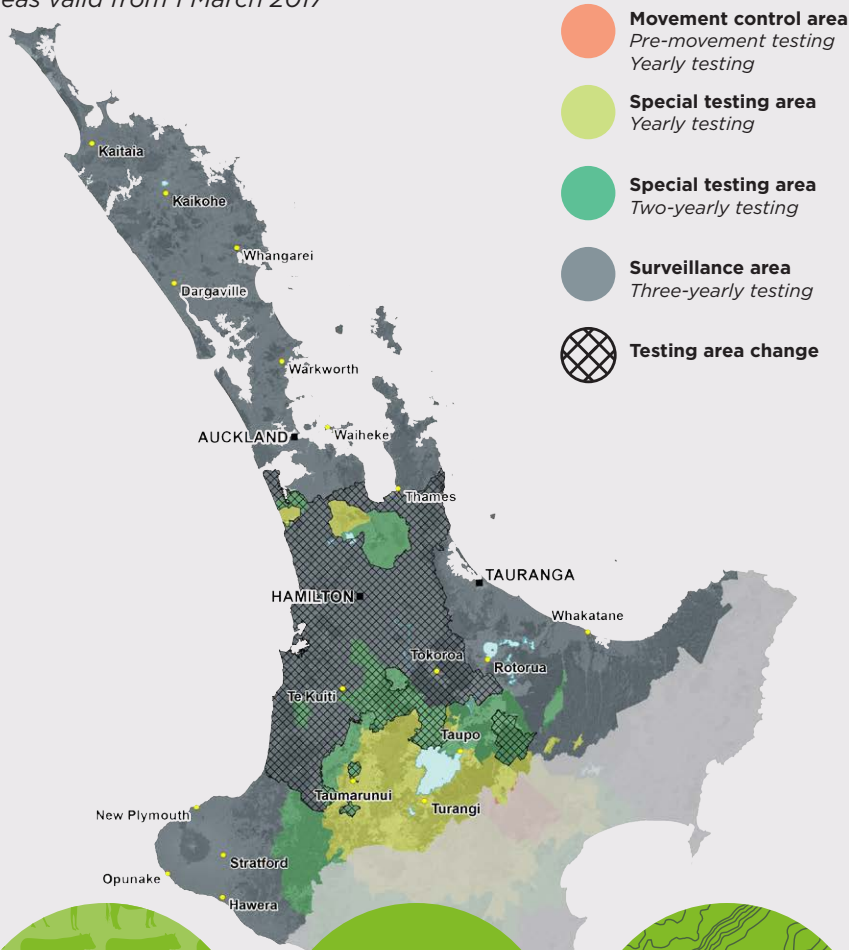
The Waikato has been a special testing area because of its high concentration of dairy herds, and the industry's commitment to ensure protection for the health of its most productive animals. The changes to the TBfree programme's disease control areas (DCAs) signal the end of special testing and reduce TB test requirements. The changes affect more than a 1.7 million hectares of land and almost 5100 cattle herds, saving farmers about 240,000 TB tests.

The Vospers' support block backs onto the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park that has benefitted from years of TBfree wildlife control to limit the population of TB-transmitting possums. Along with a rigorous programme of TB testing and movement controls, the eradication of the disease has been proven possible.

"It's changed from the testers coming yearly early on, then it moved to every second year. Now to move to every third year is great – testing takes a couple of hours out of our day, but I don't see it being a big issue because of how important it is to get rid of TB."

DISEASE CONTROL AREA CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN NORTH ISLAND

Areas valid from 1 March 2017



5100
HERDS WITH
LESS TESTING

228,000
LESS
TB TESTS

1.76M
HECTARES
AFFECTED



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information visit tbfree.co.nz.

If you have questions or need a hand call OSPRI on

0800 482 463

OSPRI manages the NAIT and TBfree programmes and can help you meet your responsibilities for each.