

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 its disease control areas.

The farming industry's investment in TB eradication is paying off again as this year's disease control area (DCA) changes affect 2.3 million hectares, around 7400 herds and result in 289,000 fewer 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 less 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 reduced.

Extensive coordinated possum control over many years in the

Northern South Island has caused a dramatic drop in the number of TB infected herds.

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.

The new plan for tackling TB was launched in 2016 with the goal of eradicating TB from New Zealand, with freedom from disease in cattle and deer herds by 2026, from wildlife by 2040, and full 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.





Spencer and Susan White

TB TESTING EASES FOR MARLBOROUGH FARMERS

Spencer and Susan White farm on the north side of the Wairau River 40 kilometres from Blenheim in Marlborough. For 20 years they've milked 550 cows twice a day on a farm that's flat with a top and bottom terrace, two-thirds of which bounds the steep bush of the Mount Richmond Forest Park.

That used to mean an increased risk of bovine tuberculosis for cattle and deer as TB-infected possums could wander out of the bush onto farmland. But for more than 20 years, methodical TBfree possum control has eradicated disease from the area's wildlife, and the region is now a vector-free area (VFA) – no TB-carrying possums.

"When I heard the talk of eradication 10 years ago, I wasn't sure if it was possible," says Spencer, "but it's amazing the progress we're making now."

The Northbank-Dashwood region of Marlborough is a small area for dairy with only half-a-dozen herds, although there are 178 beef and five deer herds in the surrounding 95,500 hectares.

On 1 March, the TB testing regime for all cattle and deer over 24 months will change from biennial to once every three years. That means more than 1000 fewer herds tested, and another step towards the TBfree programme's goals of eradicating disease from cattle and deer by 2026, from wildlife by 2040 and from New Zealand by 2055.

"It is nice to have one less job to do, because we live in a time when we seem to be getting more and more. The fact that we haven't had to test this year has been a bonus – we've had enough to do without it!"

DISEASE CONTROL AREA CHANGES IN THE NORTHERN SOUTH ISLAND

Areas valid from 1 March 2017

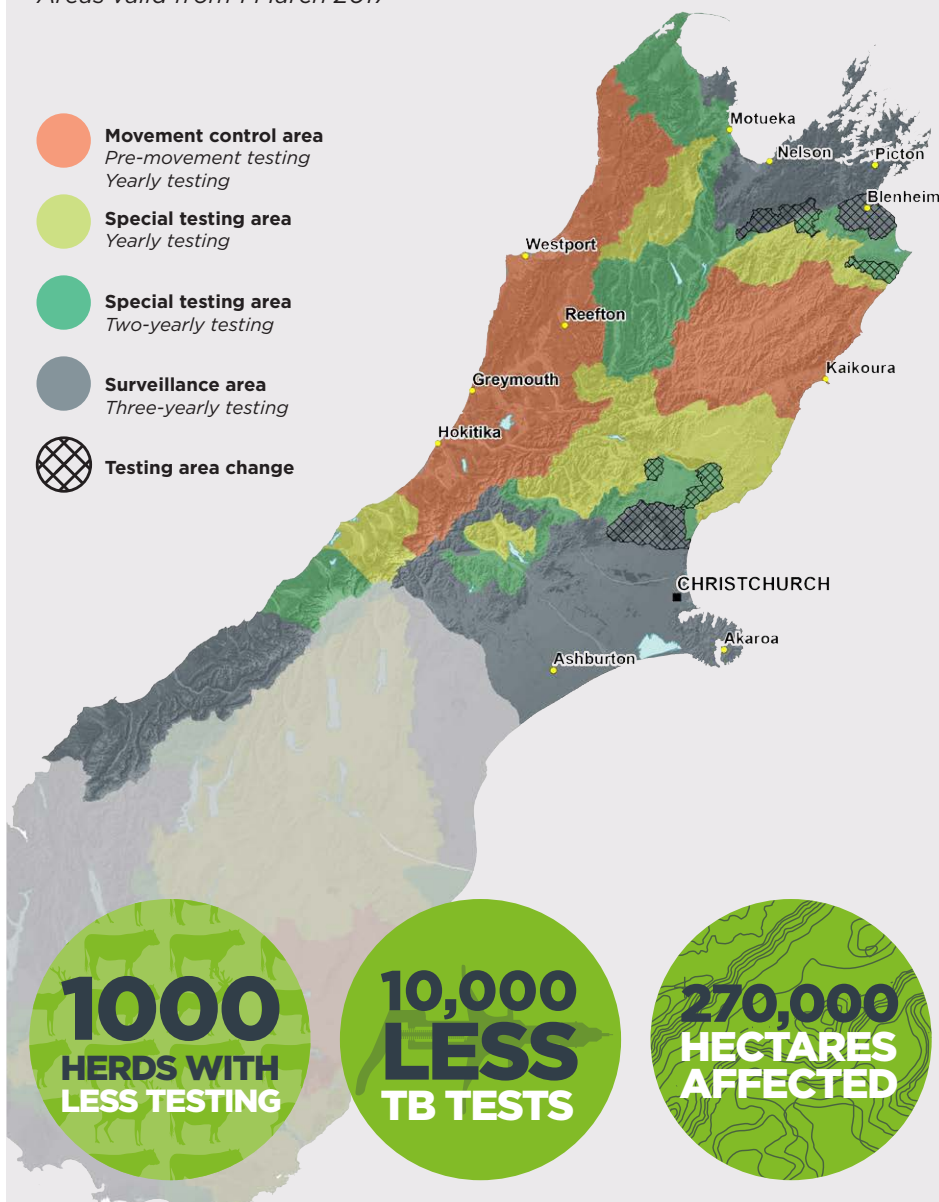
Movement control area
Pre-movement testing
Yearly testing

Special testing area
Yearly testing

Special testing area
Two-yearly testing

Surveillance area
Three-yearly testing

Testing area change



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.