

BENMORE RANGE **BOVINE TB CONTROL**

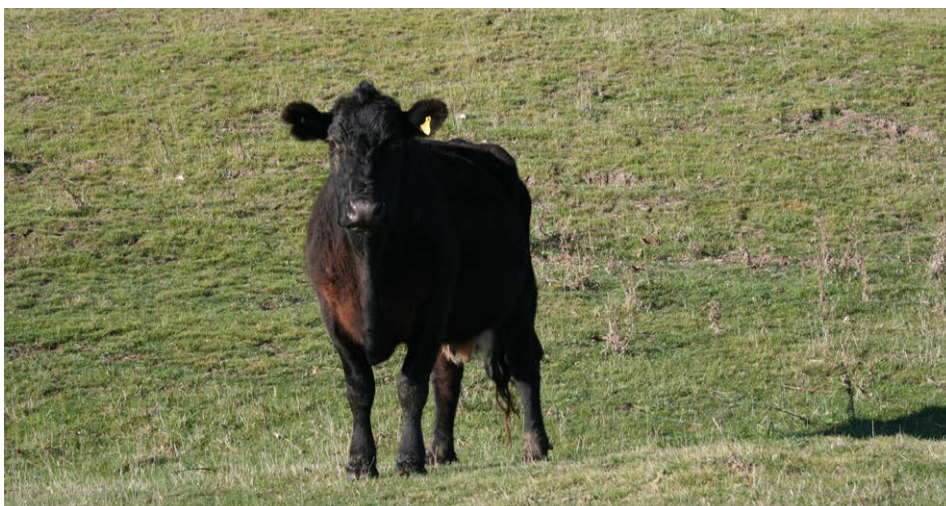
OCTOBER 2016

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN BENMORE RANGE

A range of work is underway in the Benmore Range to determine the TB status of its wildlife. Outlined below is a summary of key activities, outcomes and ongoing programme in the area.

RESEARCH

In late 2015, a research project was undertaken by Landcare Research on behalf of OSPRI with the aim of determining the probability that the possum population in the Benmore Range was clear of TB. During this work, 20 ferrets were caught and sent for necropsy. Of these, four were discovered to be infected with TB. The possum survey was completed and of the low number of possums caught, none were found to be infected. Following the completion of the Landcare research, OSPRI undertook a ferret operation in February and March 2016 to follow up on the discovery of the infected wildlife. This resulted in a further four ferrets being identified as being infected with TB.



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

A number of operations are now being planned for 2016/17.

FERRET RESEARCH

The role of ferrets in TB transmission has become a focal point of discussion in some areas of New Zealand. In response to this further research is being undertaken by Landcare Research focussing on the wider issue of what is happening with TB in ferrets and determining why TB is persisting

in the population. This project involves areas within the Benmore Range and western Southland. This work is due to commence in November/December 2016. A Landcare Research staff member will be in touch with landowners within the research area prior to the work commencing.





FERRET SURVEY

Alongside Landcare Research's work, OSPRI will be undertaking a further ferret survey operation which is planned to commence in March 2017. The aim of this operation is to determine the extent of the TB infection in the ferret population. The animals caught will be post-mortemed to identify if TB is present or not. Traps only will be used in this operation. As a land occupier, you will be consulted if survey work is to be undertaken on your property and notification of this will be given in the future.

PIG SURVEY

A pig survey is planned for autumn 2017. At this stage the operation will involve an aerial search and recover operation followed by possible ground hunting. As with ferret surveillance, pig surveillance is one of the best tools for understanding the geographical location of TB infection. The contractor will request permission from the landowner as required prior to accessing land. Once feral pigs have been collected, post-mortem examinations will check for TB in the lymph nodes just below the jawbone.

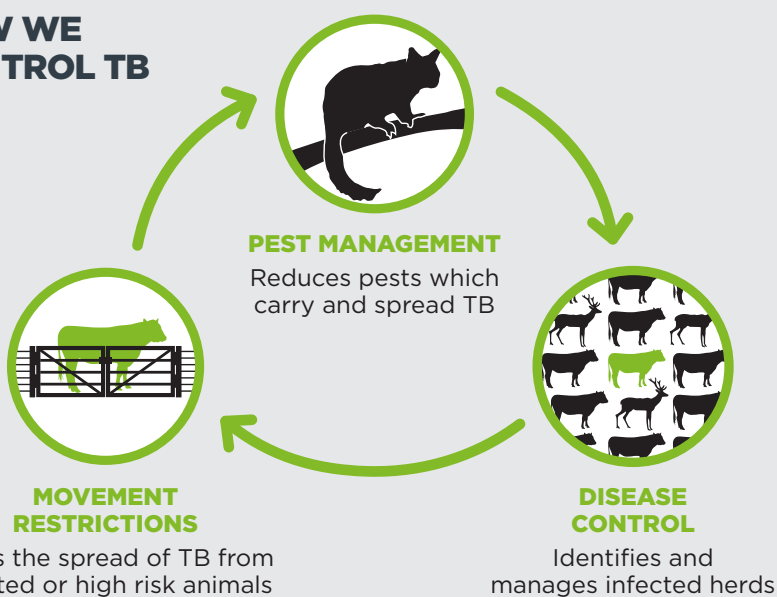
TB TESTING

TB testing for herds located in the Benmore range area will remain on annual testing for all cattle aged 12 months or older and deer aged 15 months and older. If you have any questions regarding TB testing and the disease risk to your animals please contact the Area Disease Manager on the details below.

THANK YOU

OSPRI would like to thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to OSPRI's TBfree programme.

HOW WE CONTROL TB



FURTHER INFORMATION

SSI Area Disease Manager

P 027 488 8591

E garry.knowles@ospri.co.nz

Senior Field Supervisor

P 027 265 1400

E grant.may@ospri.co.nz

tbfree.co.nz | ospri.co.nz