

# **MOUNT CARGILL** **BOVINE TB CONTROL**

**DECEMBER 2015**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MOUNT CARGILL?**

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) has recently been identified in livestock in the Mount Cargill area near Dunedin.

To establish the cause of these infections, and investigate and control any further spread, we are undertaking the following steps:

- TB testing all stock on the affected property and any animals that may have been in contact with the infected animals.
- Undertaking an intensive possum control survey to assess the disease status of the wild animal population, and provide an initial reduction in possum numbers.

## **POSSUM SURVEY**

OSPRI will be running a possum control / survey operation in the Mount Cargill area from 7 December 2015 (please see map enclosed for the operational area). The operation will be completed by contractors on behalf of OSPRI's TBfree programme. All animals captured will be recovered and post-mortemed to provide information on whether TB is present in the local possum population.



## **THE METHOD**

Our contractor will be using ground-based possum control methods to complete the operation. The methods will be discussed with landowners but will include options such as leg-hold and kill traps and toxin in small biodegradable bait stations (known as Strikers®). As mentioned, all carcasses will be retrieved for post-mortem. Follow up information on the number of captures will be provided to landowners once the operation has been completed. Landowners will be informed if any TB-positive animals are found on their property.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

Prior to the operation commencing, the contractor will visit all landowners and occupiers within the operational area. This visit will discuss the control methods, potential hazards and answer questions before seeking written permission to enter the property and commence work.

OSPRI will work closely with all affected herd and land owners over the coming months. If you have any particular concerns in relation to you or your property, please contact OSPRI using the details on the reverse.

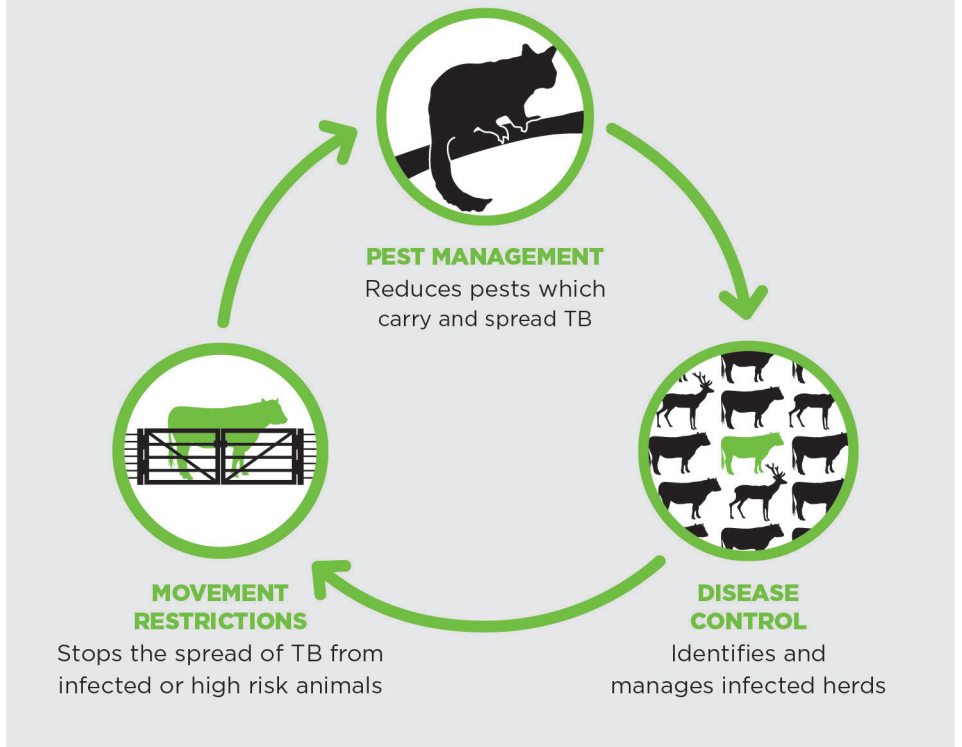
# OSPRI'S TB FREE PROGRAMME

The TBfree programme aims to manage and eventually eradicate bovine TB from New Zealand's farmed cattle and deer herds and wild animal populations. Controlling disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the world-leading reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products.

Possoms are the most common carriers of bovine TB, so we use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve our eradication goals.

Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historic findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results and the operational history of the region is used when planning operations.

## HOW WE CONTROL TB



## WHY WORRY ABOUT TB?

Bovine TB is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* and is spread by close contact between animals. In New Zealand, possums are a significant cause of TB in livestock. Once in a herd the disease can spread within and to other herds. Possums are a reservoir of TB and have the ability to maintain and spread the disease should they become infected.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long as you follow these instructions:

- **Do not** handle any bait
- **Do not** allow children to wander unsupervised
- **Do not** hunt or take game from within a two kilometre radius
- **Do not** bring dogs into the area

When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

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