

# MOUNT CARGILL BOVINE TB UPDATE

MARCH 2016

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN MOUNT CARGILL

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) was identified in livestock in Mount Cargill, North Dunedin in November 2015. Work has been progressing well in response to the outbreak. A summary of key activities and the next steps for managing the infection are outlined below along with our ongoing plans to support farmers in the area.

## POSSUM SURVEY

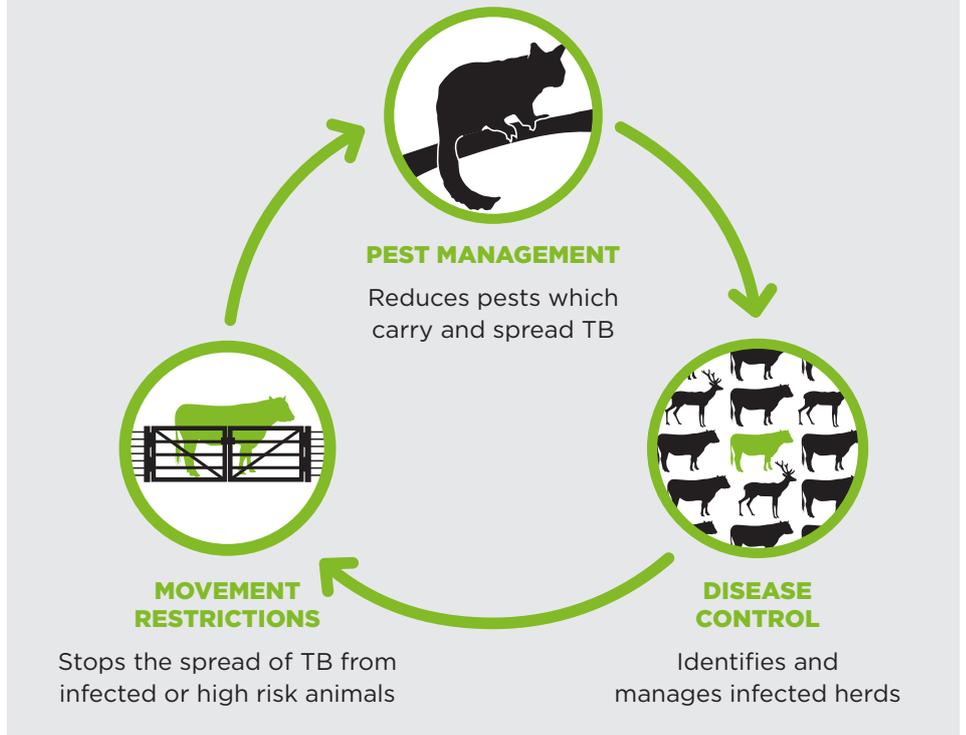
OSPRI's TBfree programme conducted a combined survey and control operation of possums in a 960 hectare area around the infected herds to determine the presence of TB in the local wildlife.

A total of 1,364 possums were recovered from the operation. Every possum recovered was sent for further investigation by an experienced independent necropsy contractor. Any possums found with lesions suspicious of TB underwent further, more intensive, laboratory diagnosis.

Ten possums with suspicious lesions were sent for laboratory diagnosis and DNA strain type analysis. Six possums were identified as being infected with an Otago strain of TB - the same strain type found in the infected herds.



## HOW WE CONTROL TB





identified in local wildlife, neighbouring herds in the immediate area have had their test histories reviewed and new testing schedules set.

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

OSPRI will use a combination of herd TB testing, movement control, and survey and control of wild animals (mainly possums) to eradicate TB from the Mount Cargill area.

### FERRET SURVEYS

As TB has been found in possums within the Mount Cargill area, further surveillance work is needed to determine the spread of the disease in local wildlife. OSPRI conducts ferret surveys as a way of monitoring the disease status in vector populations (animals that carry and spread TB). As ferrets scavenge TB infected possums, they can become infected with the disease. This makes ferrets extremely important indicators of whether TB is present in an area. These surveys will take place across the wider Waitati / Mount Cargill area.

### POSSUM CONTROL AND SURVEYS

Further possum control and surveys will be done during 2016 and 2017, with the aim to reduce the possum population in the area. You will be consulted on this if control is to be undertaken on your property.

Further laboratory testing (whole genomic sequencing) is now underway to help understand where the infections originated from. One infected ferret was also caught in the area.

We'll let you know if TB is detected in a wild animal recovered from your property.

## INFECTED HERDS

TB testing identified an additional infected herd within the possum survey area. This brings the total to four infected herds in the area.

The infected herds are subject to an on-going intensive TB testing programme until they are free of the disease. Because TB has been

## BLUESKIN A&P SHOW

OSPRI will have a stand at the Blueskin A&P show on Sunday 10 April between 10am and 4pm at Bland Park, Waitati. Please feel free to drop-in and discuss the situation in the area. OSPRI staff will also be able to help with any NAIT questions you may have.

## THANK YOU

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Mount Cargill community for their support and understanding, and for helping contribute to OSPRI's TBfree programme.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

### OSPRI

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