ERADICATING BOVINE TB FROM GREY WEST

JULY 2018 | VERSION 2.0

TB MANAGEMENT AREAS

The TBfree programme aims to control and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand by 2055.

We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve this objective. 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.

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB management areas (TMAs). These areas were created based on the likely or possible presence of TB in wildlife, similar habitat features, known disease patterns, geography and control history. Each TMA has a specific TB control plan designed to eradicate TB as effectively as possible.

A TMA is made up of one or more Vector Control Zones (VCZs) within which possum control or wildlife survey operations may be carried out from year to year, depending on wild animals present, habitat, progress toward TB eradication and available funding.

This notice provides an overview of TB control work planned for the Grey West TMA. It is not a formal notice of any specific operation. All operation dates provided are provisional and subject to consultation.

GREY WEST

The Grey West TMA covers 42,557 hectares west of the Grey River backing on to the southern Paparoa Range. The area includes public conservation land, privately owned bush blocks and exotic forest at Craigieburn. The habitat includes plains and river terraces with narrow strips of farmland bordered by mountain ranges with mature beech forest and scrub. Altitudes range from 100m-1300m (Paparoa Range).
GREY WEST
TB HISTORY
The Grey West TMA has a long history of TB infection in both wildlife and livestock since the early-1980s.

CONTROL HISTORY
Ground based possum control has been undertaken annually in the Grey Valley West TMA since 2009 up until 2017.
Aerial possum control has previously been undertaken in 2015 in the Craigieburn block over approximately 10,000 ha and in 2014 in the Atarau block over approximately 20,000 ha.

ERADICATION GOALS
OSPRI’s main goals for TB control in the Grey West area are:
• Maintain TB freedom in livestock
• TB freedom in possums and the Grey West TMA by 2021.

These goals are ahead of the national objectives of TB freedom in livestock by 2026, and TB freedom in possums by 2040. We aim to have eradicated TB from New Zealand by 2055.

TARGETING POSSUMS
To eradicate bovine TB from possum populations, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every ten hectares.

Previous possum control and livestock disease management has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the West Coast/Tasman region. However monitoring has shown that further control work is needed in the Grey West area to reduce the possum population, to minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and onto farmed cattle and deer and to ensure further good progress towards disease eradication.

CONSULTATION
OSPRI aims to ensure that communities, land occupiers and land users are notified of planned operations well in advance and have the opportunity to submit feedback about any possible risks or sensitive areas that need to be managed.

OSPRI will always seek the willing cooperation of land occupiers when TBfree programme work needs to be carried out on their land.

Before any operations begin, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. Depending on the methods used and the location of the operations, consents may be required from the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Health.

OPERATIONAL TIMEFRAME
Planned control and surveillance management activities are outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CONTROL</th>
<th>WHEN?*</th>
<th>HOW MANY HECTARES?</th>
<th>WHERE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground Control</td>
<td>2020/2021</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>Grey Valley West</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Hectares under control are indicative only and may change after consultation.

* The operational year runs from 1 July – 30 June
THE METHOD
GROUND CONTROL

Our contractors will be using toxins and traps to carry out this possum control operation.

Different toxins are used depending on the size and terrain of the operational area. Toxins will either be placed in bait stations, stapled to trees in biodegradable bags or hand-laid. Contractors will consult with landowners on which toxin will be used to ensure the safety of livestock, pets and native animals.

There are many different types of traps, such as leg hold or kill traps. In choosing the right one, we will take into consideration ease of access, set-up and maintenance time, animal welfare factors and the potential risks to livestock, pets and native animals.

On occasion our contractors may also use corflute chew cards or wax tags to identify possum populations where control is required.

Following control work, the possum population density may also be monitored to assess the operation’s success. From the results, we’ll be able to tell if further possum control work needs to be done in the area.

TESTING HERDS

Cattle and deer herds are monitored for TB through a combination of herd testing and carcass inspection at slaughter. The frequency of testing depends on the herd’s location, management and TB history.

To check the testing frequency for your property visit ospri.co.nz/dcamap

MOVEMENT CONTROL

The Grey West is in the West Coast Movement Control Area. As a result, TB testing is required for cattle and deer before they are moved to another herd or farm.

WHAT NEXT?

Dates and control methods for the proposed operations are provisional and subject to consultation. OSPRI contractors will be in contact with affected landowners and occupiers before any work commences.