

THE NEW PLAN TO TACKLE TB

Our new goal is to eradicate bovine TB from New Zealand. This means we're changing how we operate.

REVIEWING OUR WORK

The work of OSPRI's TBfree programme is determined by the National Pest Management Plan (TB plan), which is developed by a range of stakeholders. Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, this plan must be formally reviewed on a regular basis. Each review provides an opportunity for the TB plan to be updated and improved with feedback from funding parties, other stakeholders and the wider public.

The TB plan was reviewed in 2015 by an independent group, the Plan Governance Group. This group was made up with members from DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, Deer Industry NZ, Federated Farmers, the Ministry for Primary Industries and OSPRI.

The outcome of this review was that OSPRI were ahead of TB eradication targets under the 2011 TB plan and had proved eradication was possible. The new TB plan reflects this with a goal of total eradication and accelerated timelines, and was approved by the Minister for Primary Industries in May 2016.

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED

Under the 2011 TB plan our goals were to eradicate TB from 2.5 million hectares by 2026, to keep areas without TB infected wildlife free of TB, to keep infected herd numbers low, to prove eradicating TB was feasible and to maintain period prevalence below 0.4%. At the end of June 2016 we had exceeded these goals:

- Eradicated TB from nearly 1.6 million hectares (ahead of schedule).
- Reduced infected herds to 43.
- Proved eradication is feasible in two challenging proof of concept areas

(Hokonui Hills, Hauhungaroa and Rangitoto Ranges).

- Maintained a period prevalence rating well below the 0.4% target.

OUR NEW GOALS

Under the new TB plan, our goals are to:

1. Eradicate TB from New Zealand.
 - TB freedom from cattle and deer herds by 2026.
 - TB freedom from possums by 2040.
 - Biological eradication by 2055.
2. Maintain period prevalence below 0.2%.

OUR GOALS



2026



2040



2055

< 0.2% PERIOD PREVALENCE





WHAT TO EXPECT

We need to change our operational plan to meet the new TB plan goals. We'll be introducing new ways of running our TB testing and pest control programmes which are based on risk. We're able to do this now because we know eradication of TB is possible, and we have more information about animal movements to support this approach.

The benefits of our updated operational plan include:

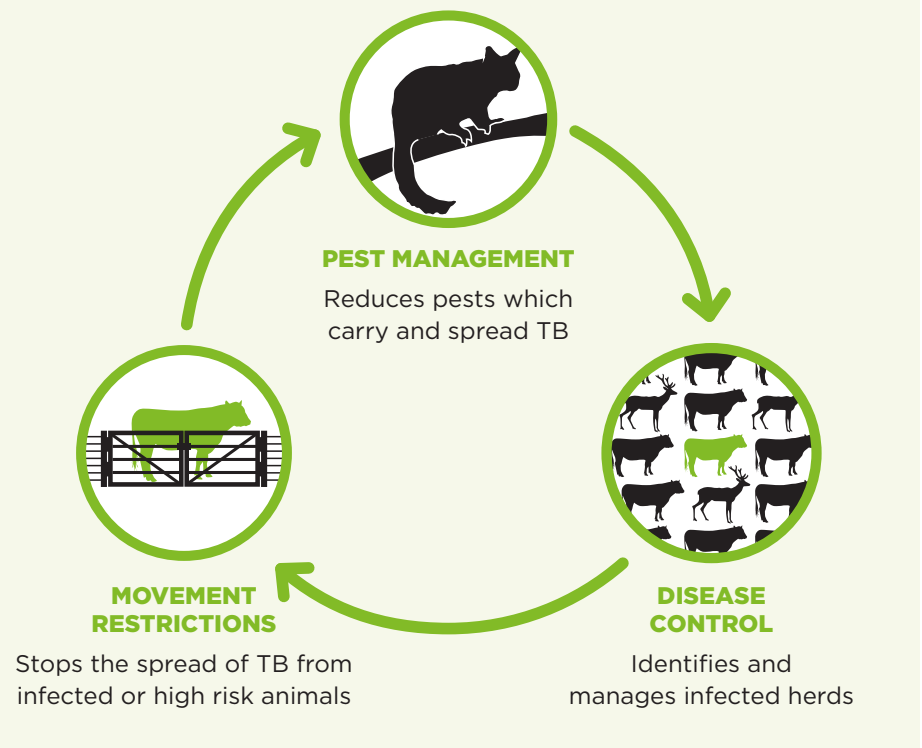
- Full eradication of bovine TB from New Zealand.
- Reducing costs for funders to \$60 million per year, from \$80 million.
- Reduced TB testing for low-risk herds.
- An accelerated timeline so farmers can benefit from reduced risk of disease sooner.

WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?

These changes will be phased in over time. The timing will be based around

HOW WE CONTROL TB

The three key components required to control TB remain – disease control, movement restrictions and pest management.





development of the framework relevant to individual industry groups (beef, dairy and deer) and then agreement with them about who will be participating in the pilots and how.

RISK-BASED TESTING

The new approach for TB testing will be based on more detailed risk assessments of which herds require testing, how often and in what circumstances. The three key factors are:

- **Location** – risk from wildlife (mainly possums).
- **History** – residual risk of TB infection within a herd.
- **Movement** – the number, source and type of movements into the herd.

The main differences to the previous testing approach include:

- Individual animal movement data available to help determine test requirements.

KEY FACTORS FOR RISK-BASED TESTING



Location



History



Movement

- Type of herd and farming practise considered to help determine test requirements.
- Post-movement testing of high-risk animals into TBfree areas.

The benefit of the new approach to TB testing is that it will be targeted to your herd and farming practise. Your testing could be different to your neighbours as you'll have a different herd history and number of movements into your herd. There will be fewer TB tests nationally and less tests wasted on herds that are low-risk.

Post-movement testing of high-risk animals is being introduced into herds in TBfree areas.

This will allow us to do more testing of high-risk animals over a longer period of time, meaning we're more likely to find a TB infection as the disease is slow to develop.

This risk-based testing method is reliant on movement data being recorded by everyone, so it's important you understand your NAIT obligations. We're here to help, so give us a shout on 0800 482 463 if you have any questions.



RISK-BASED PEST CONTROL

The new approach for controlling pests (mainly possums) will be based on three key factors:

- **Risk to herds** – areas that pose the most risk to herds getting infected because of the number of possums and presence of TB in wildlife.
- **Time** – areas that will take significant time to eradicate (so control can be started early), and areas that will be relatively quick to eradicate (so they don't regress if no control work is done).
- **Infection rate** – areas that are hotspots of TB infection.

The main differences to the previous pest control approach include:

- The whole country will have a strategy of eradication, instead of being split into three zones (infected herd suppression, free area protection and eradication).

- Areas with similar habitat, disease patterns, geography and control history will be grouped into TB management areas. Each TB management area will have an individual eradication plan.
- An increase in aerial control work to support our goal of eradication under a shorter timeframe with less funding.

PROVING TB ERADICATION

Information from both disease modelling and real life experience support that bovine TB can be eradicated from both livestock and wildlife in New Zealand. The key is to reduce and maintain the main carrier and spreader of TB, possums, to very low numbers in vector risk areas (areas where TB is known to exist). If we reduce possum numbers to about two possums per ten hectares for a number of years, the disease will eventually die out.

Control work and surveillance over the last three years of two challenging proof of concept areas (Hokonui Hills, Hauhungaroa and Rangitoto Ranges) has validated the belief that eradication is feasible across all of New Zealand. This work has been independently reviewed and supported.

OSPRI's TBfree programme uses a variety of techniques to decide whether TB has been eradicated from possums in an area. First a team looks at the probability of TB persisting in a possum population given the type of habitat and history of possum control work. This probability along with data from wildlife TB surveys in that area is then assessed by the team, and any additional known risk factors are included. If the team are satisfied there is a high probability of the area being free of TB, and there's low risk and low cost if it's a wrong decision, then the report is presented to the OSPRI board to approve the eradication status.

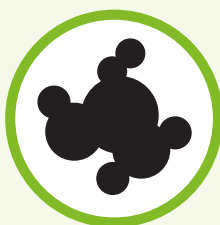
KEY FACTORS FOR RISK-BASED PEST CONTROL



Risk to herds



Time



Infection rate



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information visit
ospri.co.nz.

If you have questions
call OSPRI on

0800 482 463