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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Graeme Butcher, Operations Controller (Bovine Tb)

Bovine Tb Vector Control – A Review of 2000/01 Operations

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with information on all Bovine Tb vector control operations undertaken in the 2000/01 financial year.

2. Background

The Council and the Animal Health Board approved the 2000/01 vector control programme to treat 270,837 hectares at a cost of \$3,136,200.

Following the annual technical review held with the Animal Health Board, and in partnership with AgriQuality, the programme was revised. The revised programme of 290,376 hectares costing \$3,130,000 was approved by the Animal Health Board and the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee.

3. Vector Control

Vector Control was carried out over 34 operations, including two ferret control operations.

The reduced number of infected herds within the Region has meant that increased effort can be directed towards infected herds. This issue was discussed with the Animal Health Board at the technical review. Consequently, performance standards for high risk herds and contiguous habitat has been increased.

Previous control strategies within the Region focused on complete coverage or deferred maintenance of operational areas. This strategy has changed. Most operations will now receive partial annual control, dependent on the Bovine Tb incident rate, location of historic problem herds, and adjoining habitat type.

In high risk areas performance standards have increased from an average RTC of 5% to a target of RTC 2%. Individual monitoring line targets are also included.

3.1 Results of Possum Control Activities

The following table summarises possum control undertaken in 2000/01, and the available RTC results. There are a number of operations where monitoring is currently occurring or is yet to commence.

No Control	Partial Control	Total Control
Castlehill	Bideford 0.3%	Pakowhai 3.2%
Mataikona	Featherston	Ponatahi-Longbush 1.0%
Waingawa	Holdsworth-Carterton 0.3%	Ruamahanga River 0.2%
Tawhero Crown	Homewood-Riversdale	Stronvar 3.0%
Rewa Rewa Crown	Kahutara 2.7%	Taueru-Maungaraki Ext 1.0%
	Mangaroa-Kaitoke	Te Wharau 0.4-1.5% range
	Martinborough 2.0%	Tinui 0.3-1.7% range
	Mount Bruce-Waipoua 0.6%	Whangaehu 3.3%
	Owahanga	East Alfredton 3.4%
	Taueru-Maungaraki	Featherston Crown 0.8%
	Waiorongomai	Otaki Crown 1.7%
	Woodside	Tinui Crown 0.3%
	Otaki Buffer	Lake Wairarapa Crown 1.4%
	Featherston-Waiorongomai Crown	Te Wharau Crown
	Haurangi Crown 2.7%	
	Holdsworth-Woodside Crown	
	Mount Bruce Reserve Crown	
	Mount Bruce- Mikimiki Crown 0.6%	

3.2 Results of Mustelid Control Activities

Two ferret control operations were completed this financial year. Unfortunately, no nationally recognised monitoring method is available to indicate their success.

Allsops Bay	4,513 hectares		
Ferrets	38	ha/ferrets	118
Stoat/weasels	13	ha/stoats/weasels	347
Totals	51	ha/mustelids	88
Otaki	2,000 hectares		
Ferrets	23	ha/ferret	87
No other mustelids caught			

3.3 Incomplete Control

Approximately 3,500 hectares of the revised 2000/01 plan was untreated, as follows:

Te Wharau 2,300 hectares were delayed due to drought conditions. This work has been rescheduled for control in the July/August 001 period.

Owahanga This operation was part of the revised programme which was not approved by the Animal Health Board until 22 March 2001. 1,800 hectares was untreated because insufficient time was available before year end. This problem was recognised early with control targeted to areas of historical concern.

3.4 Non-Acceptance of Council's Control Methods

Each of the following operations had an occupier(s) who opposed preferred Council control techniques:

- Otaki Crown
- Tinui (2)
- Taueru-Maungaraki Extension
- Whangaehu

In every case the occupant was issued with a Notice of Direction under Sec 122(1) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to undertake their own control.

In four cases the occupier successfully achieved the required RTC target.

In one case the occupier changed their mind and allowed the Council to use preferred methods (1080 aerial).

3.5 Summary of Vector Control Activities

A total of 287,307 hectares were treated for vectors during the 2000/01 year. The cost of this vector control was \$2,987,700 or 95.2% of the original budget.

4. Communications

This information will be reported to the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Animal Health Advisory Committee. A summary will also be included in the Rural Services Newsletter, which will be mailed to all RD addresses in September.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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