

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS TO ERADICATE BOVINE TB

This factsheet explains how OSPRI works with landowners to eradicate Bovine TB and its legal powers under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

OSPRI'S TBFREE PROGRAMME

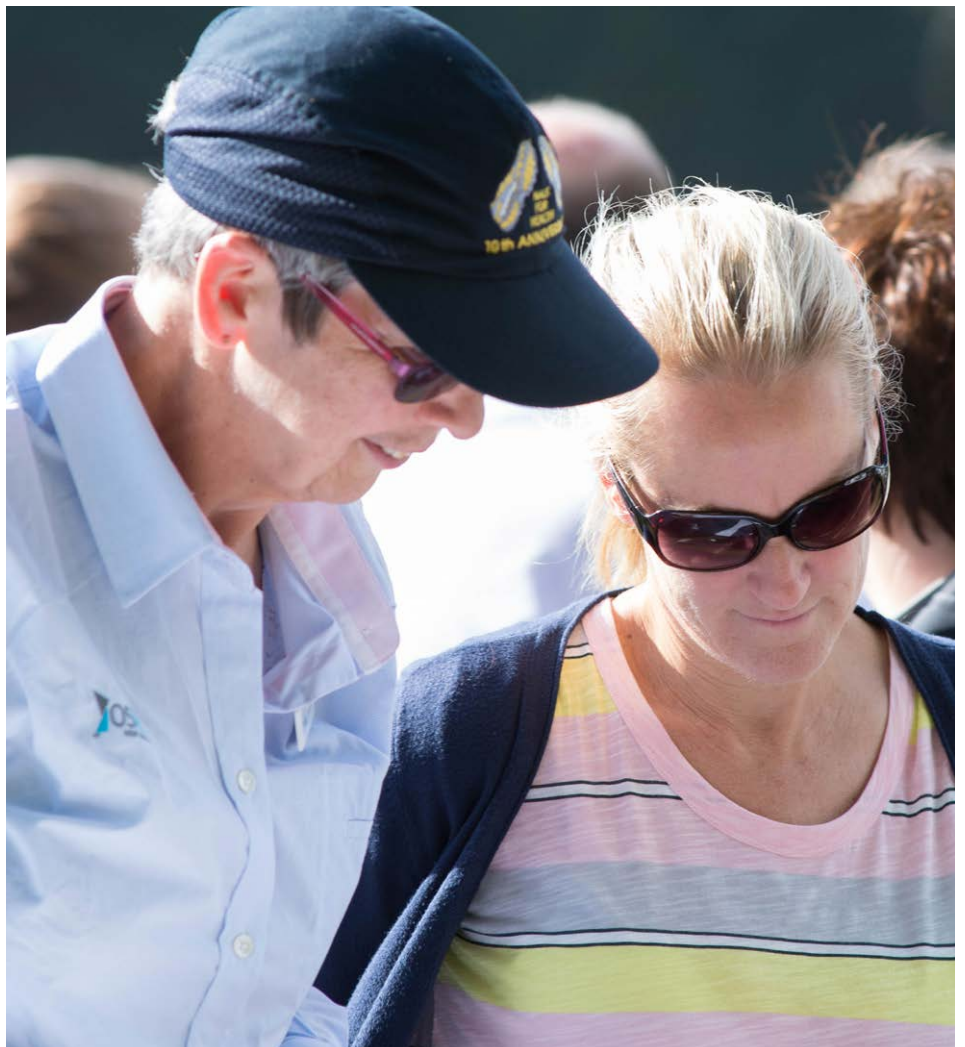
The TBfree programme aims to control and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand by 2055. Controlling the disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products.

We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to reach our eradication goals. Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historical findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results, slaughter surveillance and the operational history of the region is used when planning operations.

On average, our wildlife control and surveillance operations are carried out over three million hectares of land throughout New Zealand each year, which affects over 200,000 land occupiers. Around 18000 cattle and deer farmers are also visited each year for livestock TB tests. Effective communications and engagement with these land occupiers and farmers is essential to the success of the overall programme.

OSPRI'S APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

OSPRI is committed to listening and accommodating a wide range of views through thorough and genuine public



consultation about the effects of its operations. For all operations OSPRI aims to ensure that communities, land occupiers and land users are

notified well in advance and have the opportunity to submit feedback about any possible risks or sensitive areas that need to be managed.



BIOSECURITY ACT POWERS

If necessary we have access to legal powers under the Biosecurity Act which enable our staff and contractors to enter land and carry out necessary pest control, survey work and livestock testing.

Alternatively, we can legally direct land occupiers to carry out control work themselves. If the land occupier fails to act when reasonably directed, then we can arrange for the work to be carried out, and we can recover the costs of this from the occupier.

Any exercise of powers must be carried out by or under the supervision of an Authorised Person,

LEGAL POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, OSPRI has certain legal powers necessary for implementing the TBfree programme. These powers must be exercised by persons Authorised for use of those powers under the Biosecurity Act. Broadly stated, these powers are to:

- Enter land and detect or manage pests on that land
- Direct land occupiers to carry out pest management
- Test cattle or deer (or other organisms) for TB
- Enter land to muster and test, or destroy untested cattle or deer.

When land occupiers or livestock owners refuse permission, legal powers may be used to enforce disease or pest management requirements, but our primary objective is always to work with landowners.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND LANDOWNERS

OSPRI will always seek the willing cooperation of land occupiers when TB control work needs to be carried out on their land. However, if necessary we can use Biosecurity Act powers which enable our staff and contractors to enter land and carry out necessary work.

It is important to note that before any operations begin, affected landowners

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

DISCLAIMER

This factsheet has been provided for general information purposes only. It is not intended to provide formal legal advice or policy guidance in relation to the use of powers or the obligations of persons under the Biosecurity Act 1993 or the Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

