New Zealand Society of Animal Production online archive

This paper is from the New Zealand Society for Animal Production online archive. NZSAP holds a regular annual conference in June or July each year for the presentation of technical and applied topics in animal production. NZSAP plays an important role as a forum fostering research in all areas of animal production including production systems, nutrition, meat science, animal welfare, wool science, animal breeding and genetics.

An invitation is extended to all those involved in the field of animal production to apply for membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production at our website www.nzsap.org.nz

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production in publishing the conference proceedings is engaged in disseminating information, not rendering professional advice or services. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production and the New Zealand Society of Animal Production expressly disclaims any form of liability with respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the contents of these proceedings.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

You are free to:
  Share— copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Under the following terms:
  Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
  NonCommercial — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.
  NoDerivatives — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

http://creativecommons.org.nz/licences/licences-explained/
Progress in controlling Bovine Tuberculosis in New Zealand

P. LIVINGSTONE

Animal Health Board, PO Box 3412, Wellington, New Zealand

Bovine tuberculosis (Tb) is the greatest disease problem facing the New Zealand cattle and deer industries. During the 1999/00 financial year, 1,212 (1.67%) cattle and deer herds were infected at some point, eight times the international accepted level for freedom from infection. The source of infection for cattle and deer herds is predominantly wild animals, particularly possums and in some parts of the country, ferrets. Areas where wild animals act as a source of Tb infection for cattle and farmed deer are classified as Vector Risk Areas (VRAs). Currently 33% of New Zealand’s land area is classified as VRA. Reducing the density of Tb vectors in VRAs, to minimise contact with cattle and farmed deer, is therefore a core requirement for controlling bovine tuberculosis in New Zealand. The level of vector control undertaken since 1994, together with tighter restrictions on cattle and deer moving from infected herds and VRAs, has resulted in a 53% reduction in the number of infected herds. However, Tb wild animals are still spreading from VRAs. In 2000/01, AHB plans to spend $32.9 million controlling wild animal populations over 4.1 million hectares of land (15% of New Zealand’s land area).

The AHB is currently negotiating with stakeholders on a strategy to reduce the proportion of infected herds in New Zealand to less than 0.2% by 2012/13 and prevent further spread of infected wild animals. This would require an increase in the level of vector control and cost an average of $53 million per year (61% increase) over 12 years.