

What's What in Pest Control in Hawke's Bay

DIRECTORY 2018



Please retain this directory

This new annual directory for the rural community will help you get the right assistance with pest control on your land from Hawke's Bay Regional Council Biosecurity staff and contractors.

Please keep this in your farm office or by your phone so you can contact us when needed for pest control. We are happy to supply you with more copies if needed.

We'd also like your feedback

This is the first directory, and there may be other information you'd like us to include next year.

Let us know

We rely on Hawke's Bay people to be our eyes and ears looking out for and reporting unusual pests and organisms so we can check these out and take necessary action.

If you would like help with a pest control problem, or wish to report anything you think our Biosecurity team should know about, please contact us or report it online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #fixit

BIOSECURITY TEAM Phone 0800 108 838

Campbell Leckie, Biosecurity Manager

Allan Beer, Team Leader Pest Animals

Dean Roughton, Pest Animal Advisor

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Alice McNatty, Pest Plants Advisor

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Mike Perry, Pest Plants Advisor, Wairoa

Please update us with your phone and email details as necessary, as it helps us to keep you informed.



All information relating to your rural property gathered by HBRC - such as maps, gps points of bait stations - is available to you free of charge. You can contact the Biosecurity team directly to request supply of any information HBRC holds.

There is also information on hbrc.govt.nz, search#**open data**, that is available to you for free. You can create your own maps or search records. Please let us know if you use any of our open data in an innovative way or as a new application, as we'd be interested to learn about it.

30 June

Your possum control for your property must be completed before 30 June each year. Monitoring may be undertaken to make sure your possum numbers are kept under the 5% trap catch rate.

Contents

- 04 Possums**
 - Use Contractors for Possum Maintenance
- 05 Bait Subsidy**
 - Forestry
 - QE11 Blocks
- 06 Rooks**
- 07 Rabbits**
- 08 Site specific pest control**
- 09 Pest birds**
- 10 Pest Plants**
 - Total Control Pest plants
 - Boundary Control Pest Plants
 - Regional Surveillance Pest plants
- 12 Chilean Needle Grass**
- 13 Regional Planning**
 - Regional Pest Management Plan
 - Biodiversity Strategy
- 14 Managing Pests**
- 15 HBRC Approved Animal Pest Control Contractors 2017-18**

Possums

We've had a huge focus on possums in Hawke's Bay through the Possum Control Area (PCA) programme over the past sixteen years.

Possums are designated as a Regional Control Pest Animal through the Regional Pest Management Strategy. Possums are omnivores so, as well as being large pasture and native grazers, they will eat birds eggs and chicks, and they are a known vector for Bovine TB.

In rural areas landowners are responsible for the control of possums on their land, but our staff and contractors work with them through PCA (possum control area) programmes.

Thanks to the hard work of farmers, their staff and a number of contractors, the possum population across Hawke's Bay is generally well below the 5% trap catch rate which is set as the standard.

Complacency can't set in however, as there are quite a few patches where possum numbers could potentially build up again, and already the overall trap catch rate is slowly rising.

At any point you must be under the 5% trap catch rate, so maintenance is essential.

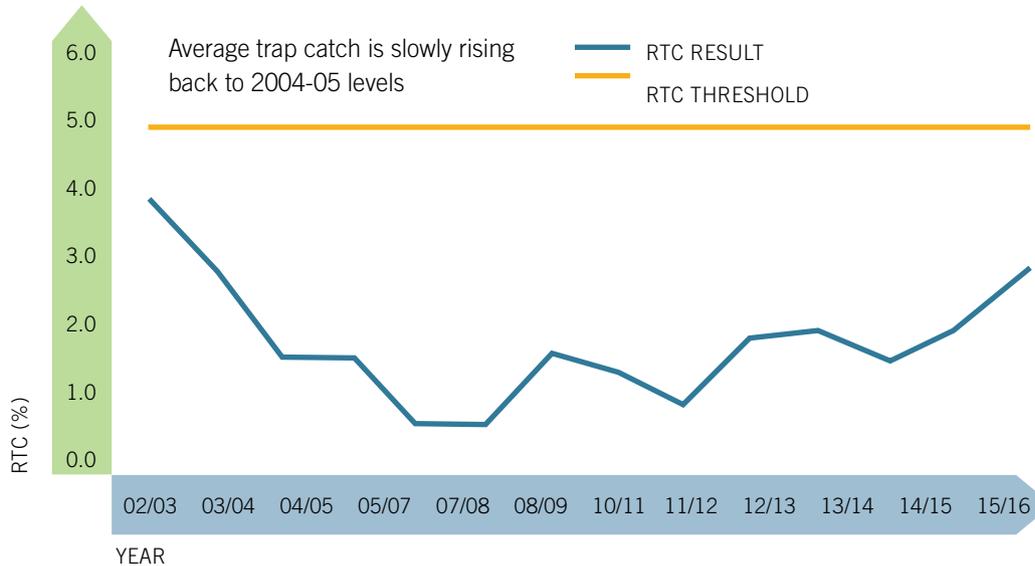
Use Contractors for Possum Maintenance

A full list of available contractors is on page 15

You can do the work of clearing traps and maintaining bait stations yourself, but HBRC recommends that you free yourself up and use a contractor.

Contractors will work with a landowner or farm manager to decide the best schedule to service bait stations regularly and keep them full. Bait stations are mapped with GPS. A contractor will supply bait stations from HBRC free of charge and replace older stations that are no longer in good condition.

RTC trend monitoring data 2002-2015



Bait Subsidy

Bait for bait stations is still subsidised by the regional council at 50%. Bait is available from Farmlands and Wrightson stores around Hawke's Bay.

Forestry

Commercial production forests and forestry companies within the PCA programme are obligated to maintain possum numbers within a 300 meter buffer zone from the pasture edge into their forest blocks.

It is important for both farmers and forest owners to undertake possum control on these boundaries as both these margins offer possums feed and denning sites, making the control of possums a common shared responsibility.

QEII Blocks

QEII blocks within the PCA programme are maintained in two ways by HBRC:

1. Under 20 ha blocks are supplied bait stations and bait free of charge
2. Over 20 ha blocks will be fully serviced by an HBRC approved contractor, supplying free bait stations, bait and labour.

Rooks

Rooks are declared a pest under the Hawke's Bay Regional Pest Management Strategy.

These are the most destructive introduced birds known to our farming sector, due to the sheer numbers of birds in congregations that may range into the thousands. These birds have a bad reputation for stripping crops, damaging pasture, and the noise from large rookeries.

HBRC's rook control programme has the objective of eradicating rooks in the region. Work is principally by helicopter where bait is applied by hand directly to each nest by an operator slung underneath. HBRC also undertakes ground control when large numbers of birds are on paddocks and crops.

When is the best time for control?

September and October each year is when HBRC's rook control programme is in operation.

Our Biosecurity team and contractors contact farmers with known rookeries beforehand to advise them that the programme is recommencing. They assess any hazards or manage any farmer concerns about flying over stock or property. Each visit by the helicopter takes 5-20 minutes once a year.

If you see 30 or more birds on paddocks you should contact HBRC Biosecurity staff. A contractor can be organised for ground control.

What can you do?

The best thing to do is contact HBRC's pest management team about grazing rooks, nests or rookeries. Our biosecurity team will discuss the problem and solutions, and ensure prompt action is taken- **0800 108 838**.

IMPORTANT - Please avoid any individual control or scare tactics as these can move the rooks on and delay our ability to control them.

Rabbits

Rabbits are designated a regional control animal pest, but landowners/occupiers are responsible for the control of rabbits on their land (as set out in the HB Regional Pest Management Strategy).

The level of immunity to rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) is on the increase, and we are waiting on Ministerial approval for a legal release of a new strain of the disease.

Parts of Hawke's Bay have had major rabbit problems, mostly attributable to droughts, soil type, land development, pasture fertility, habitat and farming practices. Rabbit populations vary from location to location but can explode during times of optimum conditions. Rabbit prone areas in Hawke's Bay are around pumice soils, coastal sand dunes and river beds such as the Waipawa, Tukituki, Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri.

Bait not always the best solution

The use of Pindone (rabbit pellets) is widespread, but it is not always the best way to tackle all rabbit problems.

A better approach is to start with a free consultation with our designated rabbit control contractor, who can give you advice and direction on:

- the best control methods to suit your property
- managing control within a neighbourhood group of property owners.

Book Your Free Consultation

A consultation with our pest contractor will help you better tailor rabbit control to meet your specific needs - such as crops or stock management, and the size of the rabbit population.

**Contact our designated rabbit control contractor
Jake Bowcock, Rural Pest Services Ltd, 021 280 2988**

Site specific pest control

Hawke's Bay Regional Council can assist landowners and community groups who want to protect and enhance the biodiversity of specific sites

The amount of control and assistance will depend on the technical feasibility and the level of ongoing community support for a potential programme. An assessment will also be made of the ecological values that require protecting and the level of threat, so that an appropriate control programme can be developed and implemented.

The following animals in the Pest Management Strategy can be considered for site-specific pest control:



Feral goats



Deer



Pigs



Mustelids
(ferrets, stoats, weasels)



Feral cats



Rats
(Ship and Norway)

Site specific programmes are set up primarily in areas of high biodiversity value. The formation of a site specific programme and the level of subsidy given is entirely at HBRC's discretion.

For areas where a site specific programme is not appropriate, subsidised pest control products for some species are available from Farmlands and Wrightson stores (50% off selected products).

Pest birds (that are not part of regional plan)

HBRC Biosecurity staff can advise on pest birds in Hawke's Bay, or direct callers to stock and station agents.

Pest birds, such as pigeons on crops, can be controlled using treated grains, or specific paste can be applied to baits.

These can be purchased from rural supply stores, (like Farmlands and Wrightsons). Although these products do not need a license to use, you should always read the label and follow the instructions carefully before administering poisons correctly.

Contractors

Contractors can be employed to undertake specific bird poisoning.

Check with the contractors listed within this publication may be available to help with the control of pest birds.

Shooting Clubs

Alternatively there are some shooting clubs in Hawke's Bay that consider pigeon shooting as a sport and may be able to help control populations in your area.

Pest Plants

A large number of introduced plant species have naturalised in Hawke's Bay, to the extent that we have more introduced plants growing wild than our native species.

Many of these are considered weeds, but some cause serious harm to the environment or economic loss to agriculture and are deemed 'pest plants'. For these pests, Hawke's Bay Regional Council has management plans in place, developed with community input, to meet the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

The Pest Plant Strategy's objectives are to:

- reduce the density and extent of pest plants,
- increase awareness of the public of the need to recognise and control these pests, and
- ensure that pest plants listed in the strategy are not imported into the region, sold or distributed.

All pest plants are banned from sale, propagation or distribution under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Different pests warrant different levels of control, so they are grouped into three categories:

1. Total Control Pest Plants

A total control pest plant is one with limited distribution in the region, and the long-term goal is to eradicate it completely. These pest plants must be destroyed or prevented from seeding wherever they appear. Responsibility for control of these pests usually rests with the land occupier, although in some cases HBRC will undertake control, or assist the land occupier to do so.

Total Control pest plants in Hawke's Bay are - African Feather Grass, Apple of Sodom, Australian Sedge, Chilean Needle Grass (see page 12), Chinese Privet, Cotton Thistle, Goats Rue, Japanese Honeysuckle, Nasella Tussock, Old Man's Beard, Pinus contorta, Phragmites, Saffron Thistle, Spiny Emex, Tree Privet, White Edged Nightshade, Woolly Nightshade, Yellow Water Lily.



2. Boundary Control Pest Plants

A boundary control pest plant is one that is abundant in suitable habitats in the region.

The long term goal is to prevent the plant spreading to new areas or neighbouring properties. Because these plants are widespread, the cost of eradication is considered too great to justify more rigorous methods of control.

The Strategy requires land occupiers to keep their property boundary free of the pest plant if it is not present within a defined distance of their neighbour's property. Boundary Control pest plants are banned from sale, propagation and distribution under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Boundary Control Pest Plants in Hawke's Bay are - Bathurst Bur, Blackberry, Gorse, Nodding Thistle, Ragwort, Variegated Thistle.

3. Regional Surveillance Pest Plants

Regional Surveillance pest plants have characteristics that may make these become a problem over time, or there are no known effective control methods. The focus for managing these pest plants is on preventing their spread by voluntary control, and monitoring their presence to gather information. This information will help determine what problems they pose, and whether they will need more rigorous control in the future.

Aquatic pest plants in Hawke's Bay are - *Egeria densa*, Hornwort, Hydrilla, Parrot's Feather, Sth African Oxygen Weed (*Lagarosiphon major*)

Land pest plants in Hawke's Bay are - Nut Grass, Pyp or 'pipe' grass, Wild oat.

Chilean Needle Grass

Chilean needle grass is one of the most serious pest plants in Hawke's Bay and HBRC is involved in a nationwide campaign to limit the spread.

Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is a Total Control (Occupier Responsibility) Pest Plant in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Regional Pest Management Strategy 2013. This is an invasive weed that out-competes productive pasture grasses and takes over large areas if left uncontrolled. Its seeds have a sharp, needle-like tip which attaches easily to stock and can penetrate skin and muscle. This can cause painful abscesses for the animal, and can lead to downgrading of pelts, meat or wool. The seed can also injure horses and dogs. It is unpalatable to stock when it is seeding (November to January), reducing the stock carrying capacity on a property.

More information

More information is on hbrc.govt.nz

A good reference for identifying weeds is the Weedbusters website weedbusters.org.nz



Regional Planning

Regional Pest Management Plan

A discussion document for the Regional Pest Management Plan review was consulted on early in 2017. This provided valuable input to the development of the plan which will be formally consulted on in **February 2018**, and we look forward to landowner input. This Plan will supercede the current Regional Pest and Phytosanitary Management Strategies.

The principle goal of the Regional Pest Management Plan is to limit the adverse effects of unwanted plants and animals. These invasive species can have wide ranging effects on human health, indigenous flora and fauna, our heritage, or the economy.

Over the past 15 years, approximately 80% of HBRC's biosecurity budget has been focussed on pests affecting agricultural production. There is now a growing community expectation for a greater focus on protecting our native species and habitats and to recognise the biodiversity gains achieved from our current programmes.

Biodiversity Strategy

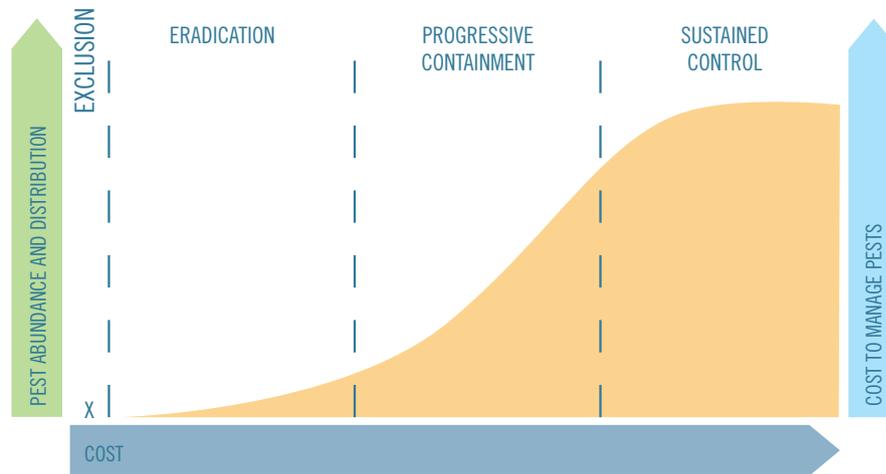
The Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy is a non-regulatory community document with the aim of halting biodiversity decline. This strategy has been developed collaboratively across a wide group of organisations, councils, agencies and individuals. It is accompanied by an Action Plan that aims to achieve five key goals **hbrc.govt.nz**, search **#biodiversitystrategy**.

The pest management plan assists in achieving several of these Biodiversity Strategy objectives through the pest control programmes.



Managing Pests

The pest infestation curve diagram is a useful way of describing what actions might be appropriate for managing any particular pest.



Exclusion: At the left hand side of the diagram are pests that have not invaded our region. HBRC’s role is to manage potential pathways for such pests and survey risk areas to check that they have not reached the region.

Eradication: If a pest manages to cross into our region and is detected before its numbers or distribution significantly increases, there may be an opportunity to eradicate the whole population.

Progressive containment: If a pest establishes before it is detected or where eradication fails, there may be an opportunity to prevent it spreading to other parts of the region or to reduce the population over time.

Sustained control: If a pest is widely established across the region, periodic or a low level of ongoing control will prevent or minimise its impacts.

Who Pays?

In developing its pest management policy, HBRC needs to consider how the costs of control are allocated. There is an expectation that those who benefit from pest control or those who exacerbate pest problems should be required to pay for pest management.

For exclusion and eradication programmes, there is generally public good in preventing the pest from establishing, so management of these pests is usually undertaken by HBRC.

For progressive containment and sustained control programmes, the costs of control usually fall substantially on land occupiers who get the primary benefit. In most cases, there is also a public benefit as well which needs to be accounted for.

HBRC Approved Animal Pest Control Contractors 2017-2018

Contractors are listed in alphabetic order, with no preference shown by HBRC. You are advised to get 3 quotes for any control work you want done to ensure you get the best service at the right price.

Bay Pest Eradication Ltd - Sam Joblin

3 Shrimpton Road, Haumoana 4102
smjoblin@gmail.com

(06) 875 0078, 027 387 2726

baypesteradication.co.nz

Baytrap Ltd - Gordon McKie

42 Shrimpton Road, Haumoana 4192
baytrap@xtra.co.nz

(06) 875 0840, 027 295 4108

CC Pest Control Ltd - Travis Cullen

PO Box 496, Waipukurau 4242
ccpestcontrol@xtra.co.nz

027 769 4112

Central District Pest Control Ltd - Rob Brenstrum

32 Hill Road, Bay View 4104
admin@cdpc.co.nz

(06) 836 5590, 027 576 0776

Equaliser - Brian Ronke

34 Kuku Street, Te Awanga 4102
brian.teawanga@gmail.com

0274 931 253

Jim Turner

Wairoa District
jimmycoonpossumcontrol@gmail.com

(06) 837 3758, 021 266 3177

JJS Pest Control Ltd - James Stephens

12 Parson Road, RD 1 Napier 4112
jjsoffice@xtra.co.nz

(06) 845 4189, 021 232 4542

Rural Pest Services Ltd - Jake Bowcock

492 Main Road North, Bay View 4104
possumsmasher@windowlive.com

(06) 836 5485, 021 280 2988

