

The 9th Leading Seminar

The management of wildlife and bovine tuberculosis in New Zealand

Date: 9th of July 2014

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: Lecture hall



Lecturer:
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Abstract:

New Zealand, apart from two species of bats, has no native terrestrial mammals. It has, however, many species of invasive alien mammals, and spends >US\$100 million annually controlling them. The main pest species are the Australian common brushtail possum; four species of rodents (Norway rat, ship rat, Pacific rat, house mouse); three species of mustelids (ferret, stoat, weasel); seven species of deer; feral pigs; and two species of lagomorphs (European rabbit and brown hare). These pests are controlled to mitigate browsing damage to native forests, predation of native animals, and damage to agricultural crops. The possum is also the principal wildlife host for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) which it spreads to farmed cattle and deer. Deer, feral pigs and ferrets are also often infected with TB. Although they are mainly spill-over hosts, they each play some role in the maintenance of Tb infection in wildlife.

