



EDITORIAL

A milestone for *Surveillance*

Welcome to the September 2011 annual report edition of *Surveillance*. In this edition you will find annual reports from various contributors to New Zealand's biosecurity surveillance activities. As a consequence of having both MAF and external contributors, there is some variation in reporting periods between articles. Some reports are for the 2010 calendar year and others are for the July 2010–June 2011 year. For further information on any of the individual reports please contact the authors listed at the end of each article.

This edition of *Surveillance* represents a significant milestone as the first comprehensive annual report on the biosecurity health status of New Zealand across the animal, plant, environment, and marine and freshwater sectors. Our intention has been to maintain and enhance the reputation and value of this publication as an authoritative source on the state of New Zealand's biosecurity, while also ensuring that it is cost-effective in these fiscally challenging times. Broadening the scope of *Surveillance* and making it an electronic publication better reflects the interests of the wider biosecurity system, and makes it more accessible to present and new readers. This has already been reflected in a significant increase in readership. Significant progress is also being made on implementation of the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2020 (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/surveillancestrategy>). This strategy outlines key actions aimed at improving biosecurity surveillance within New Zealand:

1. A prioritisation and decision support system has been developed and has undergone some pilot testing. Transition planning is now underway to look at how best to implement this system within MAF.
2. Information on New Zealand's biosecurity surveillance needs has been collected and reviewed, following engagement with biosecurity stakeholders and a reference group of Māori environmental managers. A final report is due in the coming months. Specific activities to address these needs will then be identified, explored and implemented.
3. Research on the barriers to reporting to the MAF exotic pest and disease hotline by farmers and growers has been completed. Results indicated major differences between the animal and plant sectors, and these will need to be addressed.

I am also very pleased to report on the release this year of two significant biosecurity surveillance publications:

1. *The Atlas of Biosecurity Surveillance* (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/surv-mgmt/surv). The purpose of this publication is to outline our surveillance programmes, showing why and where we do them.
2. *The New Zealand Marine Biosecurity Porthole* (<http://www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz>), a partnership between MAF, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and SilverStripe Ltd, a Wellington-based web development company, which has been developed to provide information on marine pests and other non-indigenous marine organisms collected over the past decade as part of MAF's marine surveillance programme.

I hope you find this annual report edition of *Surveillance* useful and informative, and through it you are able to gain greater insight into the broad range of biosecurity surveillance and related activities being undertaken by MAF and across the New Zealand biosecurity system.

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