Classifieds

The tears, then the reality of cattle disease

Frank Peters is the human face of a disease which has struck dozens of livelihoods across the country, writes Gerard Hutching.

shburton dairy farmer Frank Peters is feeling more optimistic than in May when he tearfully watched 300 of his "beautiful" calves being sent off to slaughter.

They had no signs of the cattle disease Mycoplasma bovis but the fact that others in the 1400-strong herd were infected was enough for the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to pronounce the death sentence

So far Peters has been compensated "about \$2 million" for the replacement of his cattle. Nationwide \$18.9m worth of claims have been paid out, from \$25.3m received.

Peters is the human face of a disease that has struck dozens of livelihoods across the country since M bovis was first detected in July last year on a South Canterbury farm.

MPI's director of response, Geoff Gwyn, worries about the impact on people who have been put under pressure.

"Have I had sleepless nights? Without a doubt, because we're impacting on people's lives and someone in my position worries about the farmer who can

potentially be put out of business." Gwyn said he did not know of farmers in that position, but some sharemilkers have not been so

Peters said he had been able to retain 480 of his cows as winter milkers, which has given him cash flow while he gets back on

"They don't go to the freezing works till Christmas. We managed to split up our farm – we've got two dairy sheds. One side was not an infected property and we've managed to put a border in between, so we're not chasing

"There's the question of replacing the genetics. I don't see how they can."

Geoff Gwyn milk compensation."

However, Gwyn said farmers would be eligible for another round of compensation as a clearer picture emerged of what they had lost.

"People won't go back to peak production immediately with a new herd. So there'll be additional compensation claims in the out years around that difference.

"There's the question of replacing the genetics. I don't see how they can. What they're trying to do is purchase like herd for like herd," Gwyn said. "In some instances they are likely to, but in others it's problematic.'

Farmers have asked for permits to retain genetic material, such as embryos, and MPI was assessing the risks presented by embryos from infected herds.

Peters has in the past ran holstein-friesian cows using American genetics which are not easy to replace. Having to buy in a new herd also usually means buying heifers or younger cows, which do not produce as much.

"We tried to get like for like - I had to hunt around and that's cost \$100 extra per cow. You try to get like for like but we've ended up getting as good as we can."

Peters has run into other problems. MPI paid out on livestock agent valuations of about \$800 per cow for young stock, but by the time these were replaced, the price had risen to \$1000 each.

He was also faced with all the bureaucratic issues related to a new herd - having to re-tag them and make them Nait compliant, and having to train them.

Peters is more optimistic MPI might get rid of the disease. Initially he had hoped the Government would opt to manage it long term.

"All I'm hoping is they don't find another strain; if they don't we've got a reasonable chance of stopping it."

Gwyn said the signs were good, but the critical point would come with the results from calving and spring milk testing.

At the worst point in May there were 354 properties under some form of regulatory control, but that has been cut to 234. Not all of those are infected, including 30 in the South Island and seven in the

North Island. "The milk testing starts in spring, the time of the year when the animals are most under stress and are likely to be shedding the disease if they have it. The tests will be done four weeks after lactation.'

MPI officials would carry out six rounds of tests on every farm, two weeks apart. They were looking at slaughter sampling at freezing works for beef, also targeting bobby calves because of their weak immune systems and in the New Year weaning calves.

Frank Peters has found it difficult to replace his holstein-friesians.

Ashburton farmer Frank Peters, whose

farm is on the road to recovery after

being hit by the Mycoplasma bovis



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MAINPOWER TRUST

2018 CAPITAL DISTRIBUTION REVIEW

FINAL DECISION OF TRUSTEES

At the recent public meeting held on

21 August 2018 the Capital Distribution

Review Proposal to continue to hold

100% of the Trust capital was confirmed

as the Review Decision.

For further information, please contact

the Secretary on (03) 313 8103 or

by email mpt@kollerhassall.co.nz

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DANGEROUS AND INSANITARY BUILDINGS POLICY

We are reviewing our Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy and we would like your feedback on what we are proposing.

We have undertaken the policy review to keep in step with changes to the Building Act and ensure the policy is fit for purpose. Having an agreed, up to date policy to address unsafe buildings will help keep people who work in and use buildings safe.

More detailed information about this policy review can be found at www.ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay or by ringing

Submissions are open between Monday 3 September 2018 and Friday 5 October 2018 and the Council will make a decision in November/December 2018. www.ccc.govt.nz

TE TUMU

PAEROA



Alton V Section 12 MEETING OF OWNERS **Tuesday 4 September 2018**

1.30pm Te Whare o Te Waipounamu, 15 Show Place **CHRISTCHURCH**

Agenda:

1.00pm – registrations

Apologies

Minutes of the last meeting

3. Alton V Section 12 Owners Report

4. Financial Report a) Financial Report for 31 March 2015 to 31

b) Costs of replanting and projected profit

Distributions – projected balance of funds

6. Trust Review a) Review the Trust Order

b) Vary the terms of the Trust 7. Add, replace, reduce or confirm Advisory

8. Forestry Management Report a) South Island Natives Land Act 1906 (Brief

b) Your Exotic Plantation & Remaining

Indigenous Forest c) Harvest results from Pinus radiata

Plantation d) Relationship with PF Olsen Ltd e) Replanting of harvested areas

9. Owner Aspirations - Forest

Enquiries about the meeting can be made to: Telephone: 0800 Whenua (0800 943 682) Email: tearoha.mcdonnell@tetumupaeroa.co.nz Te Tumu Paeroa: the Māori Trustee, is an

independent professional trustee organisation that protects and grows the assets of Māori landowners.

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Public Notices



MILITARY EXERCISE 06 - 19 Sep 2018

The general public is to be advised that a NZ Army Exercise will be conducted in the Ahaura area over the period 06 - 19 Sep 18. The exercise will involve personnel of Depot Company, 2/1 RNZIR, from Burnham Military Camp. The exercise will involve up to 100 personnel.

Training will involve soldiers conducting foot patrols and vehicle movement in the vicinity of the Ahaura - Kopara Road. Soldiers will be wearing uniforms, packs and carrying

Live firing of small arms will take place 08 10 Sep 18. Pyrotechnics and Blank rounds will be used 11 - 19 Sep 18.

For more information please call 03 363 0099

Notice of Payment into Victims' Claims Trust Account

and Victims' Claims Act 2005, compensation awarded to David Soane is required to be paid to the Secretary for Justice, and the surplus after deductions is to be held in Trust on behalf of David Soane

AND THAT on 14 August 2018, \$5,030.62 was paid into the Victims' Claims Trust Account on behalf of David Soane. This money must be held in the Trust Account to enable any victims of David Soane to make claims

ANY PERSON that has been a victim of David Soane, in respect of an offence for which David Soane was convicted in a Court of New Zealand, is entitled to make a claim against the money held in the Trust Account on behalf of David Soane. Claims by victims are not limited to the amount available in the Trust Account.

CLAIM FORMS, and information on how to make a claim, may be obtained from:

> The Secretary Victims' Special Claims Tribunal Private Bag 32001 WELLINGTON 6146

Fax: 04 462 6686

ALL CLAIMS must be filed on or before Monday,

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