

KYOTO

Talks may resolve impasse

Forest owners are continuing to ban government climate change officials from entering their forests.

However, some dialogue has taken place with the government, and the NZ Forest Owners Association (NZFOA) is hopeful the industry's concerns will be reflected in a government Kyoto policy review which will report after the election.

NZFOA environmental committee chair Peter Weir says the unwillingness of the government to even discuss its Kyoto policies led in late June to the NZFOA executive advising members to refuse officials access to their forests for carbon monitoring purposes.

"This decision was not taken lightly. But we could no longer remain silent about the Kyoto policies which had contributed to the dramatic fall in forest planting rates in recent years."

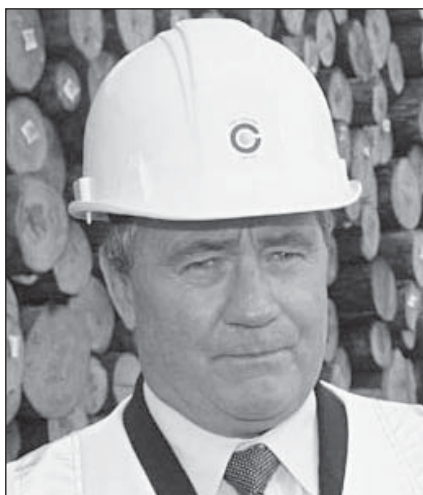
Coincidentally, as the Association went public with its concerns, the government publicly released its 2005 revision of New Zealand's likely position in the first Kyoto commitment period 2005-08. This showed a further significant deterioration in the country's greenhouse gas ledger, due in part to reduced forest planting and increased deforestation.

"The greenhouse gas net position blow-out has raised public awareness of the risks to the economy and to individual taxpayers if New Zealand fails to meet its Kyoto targets. There is also a much better public understanding of how forestry can help the country meet its commitments," Weir says.

During July, Association representatives met with forecasters from the ministries of forestry and the environment.

"During the meeting, our representatives became concerned that – despite revisions included in the alarming 2005 review – some of the assumptions used to calculate the country's greenhouse gas ledger may still be unduly optimistic."

More recently, forestry minister Jim Anderton met with the NZFOA for an airing of views about climate change issues. This was followed by some preliminary talks



Jim Anderton
Forest owners appreciate his willingness to break the ice and support initial talks

between officials and the forest growing sector to see whether more formal discussions might be possible.

"Mr Anderton has consistently taken an interest in the welfare of the forest sector and we appreciate his willingness to break the ice on this," says NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes.

While the Association has represented the forest growing sector in meeting with government, it has worked closely with the Kyoto Forest Association and the Farm Forestry Association.



Peter Weir
We could no longer remain silent about the Kyoto policies which had contributed to the dramatic fall in forest planting rates

"The Kyoto Protocol, with its arbitrary line in the sand at 1990 and the failure of government to adopt climate change policies which are sector-neutral, has resulted in different parts of the forest growing sector being treated in different ways," Rhodes says.


So it is encouraging to see all forest growing groups united in their views about post-1990 sink credit arrangements and deforestation liabilities, he says.

The forest sector has, for example, consistently opposed the 10% deforestation cap and also called for a market-based mechanism to be put in place which reflects the value of carbon sequestration.

"These policies need to be part of a package which encourages forestry planting. Some 60,000 ha of new forest needs to be planted each year if New Zealand is to meet its carbon sequestration targets. At the moment we could struggle to make 10,000 ha."

Mr Rhodes says the association remains hopeful that further constructive dialogue will take place in the near future with government.

"This is particularly important at a time when government has begun a fundamental review of its climate change policy with a report due back in October."

With regard to the monitoring ban, "this remains in force for now but we are constantly reviewing the situation. We remain hopeful that sufficient constructive progress with government can take place for us to recommend to our members that the ban be lifted." 

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By NZFOA president Peter Berg

Restructure moves forward

On 30 September, the NZ Forest Industries Council goes out of existence. For a decade or so it has provided strong leadership and representation of the forest industry on matters ranging from workplace safety to the removal of the international barriers to forest products trade.

The decision to discontinue the NZFIC reflected a view that its organisational and funding structure was no longer particularly representative of a rapidly changing industry.

In common with other industry groups the NZFOA has a view that the industry would benefit from better representation, coordination and leadership on issues of sector-wide importance. We have accordingly participated in discussions centred on reorganising the industry and its associations.

If at all possible, any new structure should be fully representative, and provide for a more or less equal grower and processor representation.

Wood processors, particularly those not covered by any existing entity, have responded quickly with moves to establish a wood processors association (WPA) which will hopefully align with the long-established Timber Industry Federation. The WPA expects to be in place by September.

Meanwhile, *Project Woodco*, the proposed 'association of forestry associations' has been seeking to provide the coordination and wider representation commented on above.

As a potentially significant member of and contributor to Woodco, the NZFOA, represented by Phil Langston and myself, has participated fully in the discussions. As an association we are pleased with the emerging commitment to Woodco and the philosophy behind it.


Generally Woodco is seen as focusing on generic, cross-industry issues and providing leadership and representation on these. It will not get involved in matters that clearly lie in the bailiwick of either the processor or grower groups.

To undertake its projects Woodco will be equally funded by growers and processors, both of whom will have equal representation at board level. Grower and processor groups/associations will need to agree on representational and funding arrangements among themselves.

On the grower side, the groups expected to be

involved in Woodco alongside the NZFOA include the NZ Farm Forestry Association, the Forest Industry Contractors Association and the Maori forest owning group.

Before formally committing the NZFOA to Woodco, the executive committee plans to get together shortly with these groups to discuss and confirm the philosophy, structure and funding of Woodco. Formal agreement will then need to be reached between grower and processor representatives.

Meanwhile, as part of a transitional process, the NZFOA has agreed to meet a share of the cost of continuing a small number of projects initiated by NZFIC and which are of considerable importance to the forest industry. 

National standard adopted

The New Zealand forest industry now has a national standard for sustainable plantation forest management.

The industry hopes to have it ultimately approved by the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Since 1991, many forest owners have independently sought and obtained FSC certification for their forests using interim internationally prescribed standards. At present, 34 per cent of the country's total plantation area meets the council's standards.

"Getting FSC accreditation for the national standard requires further negotiation," says NZFOA chief executive, David Rhodes.

"In the meantime, the significant input made by iwi, environmental, recreational and social groups has meant we have produced a standard we can be proud of. We appreciate the efforts of all concerned."

NZFOA environmental chair Peter Weir says the standard formalises management practices in what is arguably the most environmentally-friendly production forest industry in the world.

"It provides proof to potential customers everywhere that we are as good as we say we are," Mr Weir says.

NZ forest owners have a history of voluntarily committing to sustainable land use practices, starting with a landmark agreement with major conservation organisations – the 1991 Forests Accord.

This committed the industry to the protection of indigenous forest remnants in the establishment and management of plantations. For their part, conservation groups recognised the sustainability and conservation benefits of plantation forestry.

The standard is posted on the home page of the NZFOA website: www.nzfoa.org.nz 

New chief executive

The NZFOA's new chief executive, David Rhodes, welcomes his new role and recognises significant changes and challenges ahead.

"Many are raising questions about the future of the industry, so there is no shortage of challenge for me personally. My dentist, for example, now holds me personally accountable for the welfare of his forestry investment.

"Restructuring continues in the industry and in the organisations that represent it. Restructuring has taken place in the government agencies we deal with, and we are likely to face changes in the government regardless of the election outcome."

He notes that some industry issues are somewhat stubborn. But this is not an industry based on short-term horizons and he aligns himself with the optimists who, like himself, have invested in trees.



David Rhodes
In living rooms around the country people are now aware of forestry's carbon sequestration role

Rhodes describes his background as being one of ecological research sprinkled here and there with forays into economic analysis.

"I do not have formal training as a forester, but almost by osmosis over recent years I feel I have become one. Certainly I have a passion for forestry – whatever the species."

He also has a strong interest in outdoor activities, including mountaineering and "high-handicap golf" – interests which are tolerated by his wife Katy and two young daughters.

A key issue for him will be getting public recognition for the public-good benefits forestry makes to society.

"The positive aspect of the carbon sequestration issue is that for the first time we have a market value being ascribed to one of these values. In living rooms around the country people are now aware of this role of forestry."

Rhodes's appointment to NZFOA was preceded by time as a senior analyst in the Ministry of Forestry, as manager of the Forest Policy Coordination Group in MAF, as well as a year in Ottawa as a special advisor to the Canadian Forest Service.

"This experience will hopefully serve me well when I represent forest owners' interests and I look forward to interacting with the membership more closely in the future." 🌲

ROB SAYS ADIEU

After eight years in the hot seat as NZFOA chief executive, Rob McLagan believes the defence of private property rights is probably the biggest issue facing the business sector.

"Secure property rights are fundamental to the functioning of a private enterprise economy. But they are probably most important for forestry, because it is such a long-term investment."

He says the constant creeping erosion of these rights has been reflected in the appropriation of carbon credits and forest nitrate sinks; restrictions on the land owners' ability to convert in and out of

forestry; and the imposition of unfair roading levies on forest owners as a condition of getting harvest consents. The list goes on.

"Forest owners and investors generally are good corporate citizens and good environmental managers and take the public interest into account in their decision making. But they primarily invest in property so they can manage it for their private benefit.

"This applies equally to mill owners, tourism operators, farmers and foresters – it's the way private enterprise works."

He argues that if overseas investors feel their property rights will be eroded in New Zealand, then they will invest elsewhere.

"If a company does this, there is often no public awareness of their decision. It's an invisible loss; but one that's very real and damaging to the NZ economy.

"The general lack of investment in new mills and mill expansions compared with Australia is evidence that New Zealand – for a number of reasons – is no longer seen as a preferred place for investment."

Looking back on his time with the forest industry, McLagan says he has made many good friends and has a strong belief in the industry's future.

"There have been recessions before and there will be recessions in the future, but I'm one of those who share Wink Sutton's view that if wood was invented today, it would be seen as a miracle fibre."

After working long hours for the NZFOA, McLagan is now trying to pace himself a little. By working part-time as acting chief executive of a public policy research group he hopes to have more time to spend with his grandchildren and on other interests. 🌲



Rob McLagan at his farewell with NZFOA executive assistant Christine Molineux

Bigger trucks, fewer journeys

Greatly improved safety statistics (see panel below) will make it easier for the forest industry to ask the government to ease weight and length limits on log trucks.

Road Transport Forum chief executive Tony Friedlander says he is hopeful of making progress in the next six months with a permit-based relaxation of current limits for trucks operating in selected sectors.

Milk tankers have good safety records, so they are likely to be among the first to have the forum's backing.

For its part, the government is thought to be most inclined to support relaxing the limits for commodities and geographic areas where there is no real competition with coastal or rail freight.

From the forest industry's point of view, increasing load limits to 50 tonnes and 22 metres can't come soon enough. Loads of this size and greater are regularly carried off-road without any problems.

At present, laden heavy four-axle trucks can legally weigh up to 25.8 T. Trucks and trailers can weigh up to 44 T.

The maximum permitted vehicle length is normally 20 metres, but 22 metre log trucks are allowed under a special permit system which has contributed to the improved safety record.

NZFOA transport chair Brian Pritchard says 50 tonne-22 metre loads could be carried on existing vehicles, with perhaps some minor modifications.

"Bigger loads mean fewer journeys and significant cost savings."

In 2001 Transit NZ reported on the outcome of a series of studies into the feasibility of allowing heavier and longer trucks – up to 62 T and 25 m – to operate on all or parts of New Zealand's public roading system.

The studies indicated benefit-to-cost ratios of between 6:1 and 9:1 and concluded that it was economically viable to:

- Increase nationally the weight limits for heavy vehicles.
- Increase the dimension limits for heavy vehicles on a selected network of routes.

Since then, Transit NZ, the Ministry of Transport and the minister of transport – currently

Pete Hodgson – have been battling the issue to and fro.

The last public statement appears to have been made in 2003 by then transport minister Peter Swain when he told the Road Transport Forum that the Ministry of Transport was conducting a 'mini-review' of Transit's proposals.

"It is also looking at ... whether there should be higher weights for semi-trailers. And it is



Shake and rattle, maybe, but fewer rollovers
Bigger trucks save money and aren't are a bigger safety risk

also looking at ... the question of longer but lower and more stable loads.

"Most would agree that this has already proved to be successful for logging trucks, and the mini-review will now look at this approach in a broader context."

Friedlander says the mini-review is due to report back "any day now", but the forum had decided to soft pedal the issue until after the General Election.

Pritchard says the NZFOA also wishes to keep the issue out of the election arena, but will be actively lobbying the incoming government. The association has already met with the forum, Land Transport New Zealand and the Ministry of Transport.

"There's a potential to knock about 10% off our log transport costs," he says.

"On the question of safety, I believe our case is watertight. Transit says there is no evidence that bigger trucks are a bigger safety risk.

"Also, the safety performance of 22-metre trucks since their introduction three years ago has been outstanding.

"The best thing the forest industry has going for it on this issue is a continued strong focus on safety, by staff as well as contractors – and this includes the folk who cart your logs."

Log transport operators have many years of experience, on the forest industry's private off-highway road network, safely operating vehicles which are much heavier (up to 100 tonnes) than those permitted on public roads.▀

Log truck safety success

There has been a major reduction in log truck rollover crashes in the five years since 1999, from 45/100 million km to 10/100 million km.

In 1999, 31 log trucks had rollovers – 22% of the total. By 2004 this had reduced to 12, or 7% of the total.

The average rollover rate for log trucks is now at the road transport industry average.

According to TERNZ, it appears that only one 22 m log truck has been involved in a

rollover crash in the last two years.

TERNZ carried out surveys of speed through curves in July 2002; April and May 2003 and in April 2005.

Overall there has been no change in the speed through curves of heavy vehicles in general or of log trucks in particular since the surveys began in 2002. Nor was there any evidence that the increased use of 22 m log trucks had led to increased speed through curves.▀

De-thumping the night

Anyone who has lived in a two-storey wooden house with tenants upstairs will know about footsteps in the night.

Low frequency impact noise – the technical term for the sound you hear coming from the ceiling – is associated with multi-storey buildings constructed from lightweight materials; not just wood. But it's a challenge which needs to be solved if we want more use made of wood in the building industry.

Grant Emms is an acoustics engineer at Scion, the former Forest Research Institute. He's working on floor designs for timber-framed buildings where the average footstep on a carpeted floor will be inaudible in the room below.

With him on the research team are Dr George Dodd and Dr Hyuck Chung of the University of Auckland and Ken McGunnigle of Prendos. Carter Holt Harvey, Winstone Wallboards and Australia's CSR are also involved.

The research is one of a series of 'Building Green' projects part-funded by the government's public good science fund. This particular project is administered by the NZ Pine Manufacturers Association, with funding through the Forest and Wood Products Research Development Corporation (FWPRDC).

The government is keen to encourage greater use of wood as a construction material. Wood is much less energy intensive and has a vastly superior greenhouse gas profile than concrete and steel, the materials of choice in most commercial buildings and a growing number of private homes, apartments and schools.

Emms says the research team is looking at new building systems using existing materials. "This is not about finding a new type of insulation."

Interestingly, having carpet on a floor has little effect on low frequency noise generated by footfalls. The level of noise perceived downstairs is mainly to do with the way the drumskin – the floor – is constructed.

"Due to some lucky break, the average footstep on a carpeted concrete floor slab (120 mm of concrete) is usually inaudible – it falls just below the threshold of hearing. Yet the same footstep on a lightweight floor is often



Scion's Grant Emms at the scene of a lot of scientific floor thumping
All in the interests of quieter buildings, of course

quite audible – maybe 20 decibels above the hearing threshold," Emms says.

To minimise noise, the floor needs to have enough mass and an appropriate stiffness, it needs to be damped to absorb the acoustic energy, and the downstairs ceiling height needs to be optimised.

"Making the floor very stiff doesn't work," says Emms. "You just move the frequencies further up the scale where the human ear is more sensitive.

"Ceiling heights in the room below are also important. The standard ceiling height of 2.4 m produces what is known as a standing wave, like an organ pipe. In the worst cases you get resonance."


Already it has been shown that some construction techniques don't work well. For example platform construction, which is common in multi-stories, involves floor joists coupling into the wall. The preferred alternative is to make the walls as high as possible and to put the floors inside them.

"We're trying to identify systems that work well, without making any dramatic changes to building practices – otherwise they won't be adopted," says Emms.

The research team has developed a standardised system to measure the subjective perception of noise by the human ear, known as the 'psycho acoustic response'. It has also modelled and built in acoustic laboratories a range of floors which have been subjected to footsteps, falling concrete blocks and assorted thumpings.

Based on the outcome of these trials, 'solution floors' have been installed in real buildings and are now being tested. Results are being analysed as they come in and will be used to inform a technology transfer programme which will get underway later this year.

"Our aim is to produce a tool which is useful for the building design community. Lightweight construction techniques have very big advantages over concrete and steel, but acoustics have traditionally not been one of them.

"We believe we can provide innovative design solutions which will ensure that timber-framed floors have low-frequency impact insulation performance comparable to a concrete slab. We will also do this without unduly increasing the cost or complexity of construction," Emms says. 

NECTRIA STAYS SOUTH



Fluting of a Nectria-infected radiata trunk

Research organised by the Nectria Focus Group confirms that the damaging fungus has not spread north of the infection zone south of the Rangitata River.

First diagnosed in 1996, Nectria has similar symptoms to Diplodia. It causes fluting of radiata trunks, devaluing them for timber purposes.

Because so little is known about the disease, a research programme was set up two years ago. Co-ordinated by forestry consultant Gordon Hosking, it involves one full-time post-doctoral fellow and six other scientists.

"An early concern was that the disease may have been spread to the North Island on tree seedlings grown in the south. But we have taken samples in all regions, focusing on those areas where seedlings have been sent and the results are negative," Hosking says.

All indications are that infection is not spread on seedlings. But to make totally sure, a trial will soon be underway in which topped seedlings will be planted in an established plantation where infection levels are high.

The main mode of infection appears to be via the stubs of pruned branches of growing trees.

"Initial results indicate that the bigger the stub, the bigger the chance of the tree becoming infected. We may well come up with an upper limit for pruning – where branches are thicker than the limit, you won't prune," Hosking says.

The focus group is also looking for radiata clones which are less susceptible to the disease. Such clones may be naturally resistant, or it may be cross-linked to branch size.

Contact: Gordon Hosking, Tel 0274 586 500, email gordon.hosking@xtra.co.nz

Waste fuels energy hopes

Wood technology researchers at the University of Canterbury, with help from energy experts from Otago University and Delta S Technologies, are looking at a more efficient system for generating electricity and thermal energy from wood wastes.

Wood wastes are already used for co-generation of electricity and thermal energy at some major industrial sites here and overseas, but the technologies are largely based on combustion.

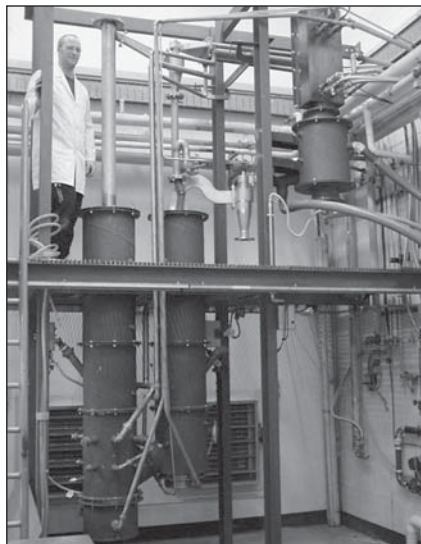
The FoRST-funded research involves a new technology – a biomass integrated gasification combined cycle (BIGCC) system.

The NZFOA strongly supports government-funding of such research because of the potential of bio-fuels to make a big contribution to the country's greenhouse gas ledger (*Forestry Bulletin*, Summer 2004).

In a BIGCC system, biomass is thermally gasified in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere to produce a producer gas rich in hydrogen, carbon monoxide and methane.

After tar and other compounds are scrubbed from the gas, it is used in a gas turbine to generate electricity. The hot exhaust gas then goes through a heat recovery steam generator, enabling more electricity to be generated using a Rankine cycle steam turbine.

BIGCC has high electric efficiency, a high and



Postgraduate student Jock Brown with the Canterbury University lab gasifier

flexible power-to-heat ratio, and low emissions. As the fuel sources come from sustainable and renewable forests, net carbon emissions are zero.

The aim of the research is to develop gasification technologies for radiata pine residues; and to model woody biomass supply and en-

ergy demand in regional forests and wood processing plants.

A 100 kW lab-scale gasification plant has been built at the university to enable different feedstocks to be tested and to optimise gasification conditions.

Larger-scale tests will be undertaken in a 2 MW commercial gasifier at Page Macrae Engineering Ltd, a partner in the project.

Ultimately the team will produce a process design, and a technical and economic model of the BIGCC system for use in a feasibility analysis for the establishment of a BIGCC pilot plant in New Zealand.

Other industry partners, including the Selwyn Plantation Board and Meridian Solutions, are assisting with practical issues like feedstock availability and costs, and power plant location.

The research group in liaison with the Centre for Advanced Engineering is holding an industry workshop on 28 November. International experts and research team members will present the latest R&D on biomass gasification for power generation.

Contact: Associate Professor Shusheng Pang, director, Wood Technology Research Centre, Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Canterbury. Email: shusheng.pang@canterbury.ac.nz, or tel 03 364 2538.

Safety focus gets results

Accident rates in forestry have tumbled and forest owners are chuffed.

"This is a permanent trend the industry has been working on for years. We want forestry to be recognised as an industry with high occupational safety standards," says NZFOA chief executive David Rhodes.

Last year, according to the Department of Labour, there were 46 workplace deaths in New Zealand, but only one of them occurred in the forest industry. There were 23 in agriculture.

"While any fatality or serious injury is one too many, the industry is encouraged by the steady downward trend, and by the dramatic fall in the number of accidents relative to the volume of wood harvested," Mr Rhodes says.

Ten years ago, there were 45 workplace deaths in New Zealand, 11 of those resulting from forest operations, a fairly typical figure for the era.

"Since then there has been a 70% increase in the annual log harvest, with more of it coming from forests on difficult terrain. Yet during this period our safety record has improved dramatically."

He says the improved fatality statistics reflect a concerted effort by the industry to address its health and safety issues. Injury statistics and figures for logging truck roll-overs appear to confirm this.

"There has been a marked decline in the number of new ACC claims for injuries incurred in forestry, down from 666 in 1994/95 to 455 in 2003/04. Logging truck rollover crash statistics released by Transport Engineering Research show a dramatic



NZFOA safety chair Sheldon Drummond

and consistent downward trend since 1999."

Association safety committee chair Sheldon Drummond says the potential hazards in forestry have not changed.

"What have changed are our systems and the attitudes of forest staff. Our workforce have stepped up with a concerted and professional approach to safety, out-performing other hazardous occupations."

Five years ago the forest industry took stock of its safety performance and decided that improvements had to be made. Causes of accidents were identified and the Forest Safe Campaign was launched, followed by the People Safe Campaign. The latter was directed mainly at alcohol and drug abuse.


"Thanks to Department of Labour support and clarification of the legal position through a test case, most companies now have recon-

firmation drug testing.

"The NZFOA has now agreed to a blanket policy on reconfirmation drug testing. This has done much to increase the safety of those working in the forest, and given increased confidence to parents in encouraging their sons and daughters to enter the industry," he says.

"FITEC, our industry training organisation, is highly effective. It works closely with the industry in designing new courses and certification to further improve professionalism and safety performance."

In 1998 there were 7749 persons undergoing formal training in silviculture and harvesting, a figure which has grown to around 10,000.

Mr Drummond says the industry is "really chuffed" with what has been achieved, but its target is to have zero fatalities and a further significant fall in the number of accidents. 

ZERO LOST TIME FOR INJURIES




Mike Fraser of Fraser Logging (right) is pictured with Bruce Easton, general manager, CHH Forestry Operations at the awards dinner.

Fraser Logging, Nelson, was the winner of the Carter Holt Harvey Forests Excellence in Forestry Safety Award at the 2005 FITEC National Awards in Rotorua on 9 June. The company – which won the award for the second year in a row – achieved zero lost time for injuries in the past year.

The awards, attended by more than 500 guests, celebrate the achievements of the best trainees, apprentices and companies. They also reflect the strong commitment of the industry to excellence in occupational safety.

Mike Fraser, principal of Fraser Logging, says his company puts a strong focus on individual work behaviours.

"We focus on improving workplace safety through training, with the aim of having operational safety being taken seriously by staff at all levels." 

Possum damage index

Scientists at Landcare Research have developed a Canopy Indicator Assessment (CIA) method which allows forest managers to describe the nature and extent of possum damage to pine forests in a standardised way.

The system is a useful tool for objectively assessing damage and for deciding whether it's worth mounting a control programme.

Possums aren't usually seen as a major pest of pine plantations, apart from the threat they and other browsing mammals pose to seedlings and saplings. However, in late winter and spring when foods elsewhere are scarce, possums may come foraging for highly nutritious pollen cones.

The loss of the cones does little damage to pines, but major damage may result to terminal shoots and laterals when they are climbed by animals weighing up to 5 kg.

Researchers Ian Payton and Chris Frampton say this is most likely to occur in stands less than 15 years old, where leader damage can result in reduced tree vigour, loss of apical dominance and an increase in fungal attack.

The ISO 14001 compliant method manual, is available from Ian Payton, Tel 03 3252127, paytoni@landcareresearch.co.nz



Lateral damage to the top whorl caused by possums

No-fog, no-scratch



Wairarapa entrepreneur and forestry contractor owner Phil Hall has developed forestry safety goggles made of fine stainless steel mesh set within a moulded plastic frame.

Hall, who employs more than 20 pruners and thinners working in Wairarapa forests, realised five years ago that there was a gap in the market, and that his workers were potentially at risk.

"We were simply using visors attached to our safety helmets. The visors blocked up easily and were unsuitable because wood chips and other material could still fly up under and through the visors."

Hall and his team tried a variety of anti-fog goggles but found none could withstand the rigours of daily life in a forestry team. They scratched easily and did just what they were not supposed to do – fogged up.

So he set about creating his own goggles, experimenting with a variety of mesh sizes until he found the ideal gauge rolled up in an acquaintance's Masterton workshop.

The result is Safe Eyes, goggles which have a wide range of uses, but are ideally suited for anyone using a chainsaw.

Safe Eyes are attracting growing demand both nationally and internationally from users as diverse as secondary schools, boat builders, and mining companies, as well as the original target market – forestry workers.

Contact: Phil Hall, Safe Eyes, Tel 06 377 3378, Email safe-eyes@kiwi-ideas.co.nz

Hitchhiker ban

Logs, buildings and bulk wine grapes being shipped to the South Island must now be inspected to ensure honeybees don't hitch a ride south.

The inspections are not expected to create undue hassles for log transporters, says NZFOA executive director David Rhodes.

"Forest owners understand the importance of biosecurity and appreciate the need to protect the South Island beekeeping industry from the varroa bee mite."

Varroa is widespread in the North Island where it has killed many feral bee colonies and has greatly reduced yields from commercial hives. The government has set up an agency to manage a pest control strategy to keep varroa out of the South Island.

Rhodes says the association has been advised by AgriQuality, which acts for the Varroa Agency, that forest owners will be involved in the development of any policies involving log transport to the South Island.

"We will want to ascertain what the actual risk is more carefully. For example, radiata logs are grown straight and fast and probably won't provide much of a hiding place for bees. This may mean there is a need for different rules for pine than for say, macrocarpa."

Anyone intending to ship logs to the South Island will need to get a permit from AgriQuality in Hamilton. Conditions may apply to the permit, which normally takes two working days to process and can be achieved via faxing.

At this stage it is expected that the only requirement is for the shipper to state they have performed a manual inspection and detected no bees. There will be no cost for the permit. Later in the year some audit inspections will be carried out.

Further details are available via the website: http://nzfoa.org.nz/file_libraries/forest_health

Telephone AgriQuality on 0508 00 11 22



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