



Controlling feral pigs

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are declared pest species. Landholders are legally responsible for preventing their spread and eradicating them where possible.

They

- Cause severe environmental damage through rooting, wallowing, and overgrazing
- Compete with native wildlife and livestock for resources
- Spread diseases that threaten human, livestock, and wildlife health
- Impact agriculture by destroying crops and infrastructure

Location and habitat

These pig control methods are relevant statewide across a range of habitats. Pigs are most common around waterways and wetlands and in moist habitats.

General information

- Use a range of methods in coordination for greatest impact, including baiting, trapping and exclusion fencing
- Develop a feral pig management plan to determine the best control actions available to you and the likely outcomes
- Begin control as soon as pigs are detected, even at low population levels
- Coordinate with neighbours to increase impact across the whole landscape
- Monitor pig activity using scats, tracks, wallows and cameras before, during and after control program
- Follow animal welfare, firearms and chemical use legislation
- If using dogs, follow animal welfare and domestic animal legislation



Methods

Baiting:

- Use 1080 or sodium nitrite (sold as HOGGONE)
- Because high doses of poison are required, bait stations must be pig-specific (sold as hoppers) to avoid impacts to off target species
- Pigs must first be trained to use bait stations with grain before using poison
- Carcasses must be disposed of responsibly to avoid secondary poisoning of off target species
- Follow chemical use legislation, including gaining a 1080 and PAPP endorsed Agricultural Chemical
- Use Permit (ACUP) or use a suitably qualified contractor
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Trapping:

- Use large cage traps or holding yards
- Train pigs to enter traps using grain
- Follow animal welfare legislation by providing food, water and shade, and checking traps daily

Shooting:

- Although targeted and humane, shooting is not an effective standalone control method for pigs except in combination with other methods and for very small numbers of pigs. Pigs will travel long distances to avoid hunting pressure and may move away after being targeted, however are likely to return if resources (i.e a permanent water source) are present on your land
- Attract pigs with grain, however pigs will quickly become wary
- Follow firearms and animal welfare legislation

Exclusion Fencing:

- Effective for significant habitat but can be costly, labour intensive and high maintenance




Maintenance and monitoring


- Continue camera surveillance and track counts throughout control program
- Inspect fences regularly
- Replace baits and maintain bait stations as per label instructions
- Record control actions and outcomes
- Work with neighbours, Landcare groups and public land managers for coordinated control programs
- Record data on FeralPigScan to assist with regional control efforts

Further information

If you have a conservation covenant, please consult with your Trust for Nature regional staff member to ensure land management activities are in line with your covenant deed.

For further advice and support, please contact Trust for Nature.

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Safety

Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when undertaking land management. Follow all label instructions on equipment and local regulations. Be mindful of weather conditions. Do not conduct land management on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger or total fire ban.

