



Control options in feral pigs: **Trapping**

How effective is trapping?

Traps are erected on sites where pigs are active. Free feeding for several days before the trap is set can increase effectiveness. Trapping may be useful for areas where poisoning is not suitable, however it can be time consuming when not targeted or carefully planned.

This method is most effective when alternative food sources are limited. In a 2020 survey of land managers in NW NSW, trapping was noted as one of the most commonly used methods although it was considered to be the second least effective method after ground shooting.

What is the cost and how big is the benefit?

Although there are new trapping technologies available, most farm managers have materials on hand to erect an effective pig trap. In addition to the cost of the trap (either purchased or DIY), the main cost is the labour associated with erecting the trap, free feeding and monitoring.

Using different data combinations of pig damage, crop yield, commodity prices, control cost and effectiveness, the results indicated net economic benefits of trapping across all enterprises (Table 1). The largest benefits were in enterprises that sustained heavy yield damage from feral pigs and were high value commodities. Trapping is a useful follow up method after an initial pig reduction.

The total cost of trapping is estimated to range anywhere from \$20 to \$250 per pig.

As a control option, trapping is most effective when utilised in areas of high pig activity. It is particularly useful in areas where poisoning is not suitable.

Key farming enterprises were modelled to understand the net economic benefit of various feral pig control methods.

Table 1: Per hectare net benefits of trapping by enterprise

	Cotton	Wheat & barley	Faba beans	Chickpea	Sorghum	Hay	Maize	Sheep
Benefit up to (\$/ha)	\$52	\$17	\$48	\$73	\$25	\$35	\$16	\$13
Average benefit (\$/ha)	\$20	\$4	\$17	\$27	\$9	\$12	\$5	\$4

Further information:

- Findings summarised from the NW LLS funded study *Cost benefit analysis of feral pig control in North West NSW*. To read the full report visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au or www.agecon.com.au
- Contact your local LLS representative for information on current area wide management strategies ph. 1300 795 299
- Standard operating procedure for [Trapping of feral pigs](#)