

Feral Pigs

- Shooting is only effective when you are confident you will shoot all the pigs at once and can be useful when there are only a few pigs or as a follow up method to other methods.
- You must be very careful when dealing with pigs as they are easily frightened and will be scared away from a site if disturbed. If pigs are disturbed, they will move into new areas and cause more damage.

Fencing

- Electric fences can be used to protect small areas of high conservation priority

Signs of feral pigs

Look out for the following signs of feral pigs activity around your property:

- Uprooting of earth
- Disturbance to crop and pastures
- Fence damage with mud and hair on the wire
- Tracks
- Faeces
- Wallows along the edge of dams
- Rub marks on trees/ posts
- Sightings

For more information contact Greater Sydney Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

You can also record sightings and activity via FeralScan www.feralscan.org.au

Contact Us



1300 795 299



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Feral Pigs

What are feral pigs?

Feral pigs are an invasive species introduced to Australia as domestic livestock.

Feral pig populations are found throughout New South Wales and are most prevalent in the northern and western areas of the state.

They prefer to live in wetland, floodplain and watercourse environments.

Why are feral pigs a problem?

Feral pigs can cause severe damage to the environment. They are considered a pest because they

- hunt native animals, including frogs, reptiles, birds and small mammals
- eat native plants
- cause soil erosion by digging for food – particularly along drainage lines and around swamps and lagoons
- contaminate water sources by wallowing in dams, waterholes and other damp or swampy areas
- create drainage channels in swamps and destabilise stream banks
- spread weeds and disease – feral pigs carry endemic diseases such as leptospirosis, brucellosis and melioidosis and are a potential host of foot and mouth disease.
- prey on new-born lambs, eat and destroy grain crops and pastures, and damage fences.
- Host for pathogens such as brucellosis and leptospirosis and are known to carry diseases such as foot and mouth disease, African swine fever and rabies if those diseases were introduced into Australia

- Feral pig hunting is the number one risk for catching brucellosis in NSW. Pig hunting dogs are also at high risk and can potentially pass on the infection to other dogs and humans

Control options

There are several ways you can control feral pigs and help reduce their impact on the environment and agricultural production. A single control method used in isolation may provide limited local control of pig populations however, a coordinated program involving neighbours using multiple control methods will prove more successful over a broader area.

Poisoning

- 1080 is the most common poison used to control pigs. It is regulated by a Pesticides Act and needs to be carried out under the restrictions of the 1080 pesticide control order.
- If using 1080, you need to be aware that certain legal restrictions apply. Greater Sydney Local Land Services biosecurity officers can advise you on these.
- Sodium Nitrite Feral Pig Bait is also approved for use and can be purchased direct from a supplier. However, signage and distance restrictions still apply.
- Baiting should be done strategically, with baits placed along tracks or in areas where pigs are known to feed.
- Free feeding prior to poisoning is essential to attract as many pigs as possible to the area. It also gives an estimate of how much bait is needed and the ability to monitor the feed uptake to ensure no non-target animals are impacted.

Trapping

- Traps are an effective method of catching large numbers of pigs. Traps are generally made with firm mesh with steel posts securing them into the ground.
- Livestock should be removed from the area so they don't eat the feed from the trap.
- trap designs will vary on landscape and pig density and can range from large silo traps to smaller panel traps to suit landholder needs and increase effectiveness
- Traps need to be checked every 24 hours.
- Pigs caught in traps need to be humanely destroyed by shooting.

Shooting

