



# Control options in feral pigs: **Exclusion fencing**

## How effective is exclusion fencing?

Exclusion fencing is a highly effective non-lethal control method that secures the area within from feral pigs and other pests such as foxes, dingos, goats or wild dogs. In a survey conducted in 2020 of land managers in NW NSW, exclusion fencing was the least used control but regarded as the most efficient at minimising damage from feral pigs. Research publications suggests efficiency is varied depending on the structure of the fence.

Large broadscale cropping areas where land may be left fallow for moderate periods is less suitable to exclusion fencing than highly productive areas such as lambing paddocks or areas of conservation value.

**This method shifts a pest population rather than control it, so is at odds with area-wide management programs aimed at reducing the pig population.**

## What is the cost and how big is the benefit?

Unlike the other control options, exclusion fencing has a high upfront cost with a 25 year period of benefit. Costing will vary, but is approximately \$13 / m.

net benefit. In a cropping scenario serious consideration would need to be given to the anticipated cropping rotations and periods of fallow. As an example, averaging the benefits over a five-year winter cropping cycle with one fallow resulted in a 30% probability of a loss (benefits not exceeding costs) and a median net benefit of \$3 / ha.

Farming enterprises were modelled to understand the net economic benefit of feral pig control methods. Using many data combinations of pig damage, crop yield, commodity prices, control cost and effectiveness, the results indicated mixed net economic benefit. The results presented in Table 1 consider an annualised cost of the investment and are presented as an annual

Results show that exclusion fencing can produce net economic benefits, particularly in productive areas or areas with sustained high crop damage such as along water ways.

**Table 1: Per hectare net benefits of Exclusion fencing by enterprise**

	Cotton	Wheat & barley	Faba beans	Chickpea	Sorghum	Hay	Maize	Sheep
Median benefit (\$/ha)	\$20	-\$4	\$16	\$31	\$2	\$8	-\$3	\$6

### 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](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or [www.agecon.com.au](http://www.agecon.com.au)
- Contact your local LLS representative for information on current area wide management strategies ph. 1300 795 299