

A feral pig can be defined by establishing if any pig:

- was born or has lived in the wild
- demonstrates wild and erratic behaviour
- is not domesticated or
- has some, or all of the following morphological features:
 - long course hair
 - elongated snout
 - sloping hindquarters

Feral pigs can cause significant economic losses to agriculture by damaging crops, pastures, water holes, fencing and to a lesser extent on the North Coast, killing lambs and sheep.



Photo: Vanessa McDonald

We're here to help - just ask!

Consult your nearest North Coast LLS Biosecurity Officer who has the knowledge and experience to assist you to manage feral pigs and other invasive species by:

- providing advice
- supplying baits and traps
- assisting with coordinating baiting programs
- becoming involved with other control techniques such as trapping programs

Contact us 1300 795 299

Casino
147 Barker Street
Ph: 02 6661 2900

Grafton
24-26 Mulgi Drive
Ph: 02 6604 1100

Kempsey
83 Belgrave Street
Ph: 02 6563 6700

Lismore
79 Conway Street
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Need more information on biosecurity?

northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au
dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity
farmbiosecurity.com.au
feral.org.au/pestsmart

Subscribe to our e-newsletters
news.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au

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Problems with Feral Pigs?

North Coast Local Land Services can help you



Photo: Nik Perkins

"Because feral pig populations have the reproductive ability to double in size annually, control campaigns need to be highly effective to have an impact"

Biosecurity - it's a shared responsibility



Local Land Services
North Coast

What should I do if I find **feral pigs** on my property?

Contact your nearest North Coast Local Land Services (LLS) office and speak to a Biosecurity Officer for advice on control options.

Methods of **feral pig control**

There are a range of methods available for the control of feral pigs including:

- 1080 baiting
- exclusion fencing
- aerial and ground shooting
- trapping - there are a limited number of pig traps that can be borrowed from North Coast LLS by landholders to assist in controlling these pests

As with any pest control program, a single control method used in isolation may provide limited local control of pig populations; however, a coordinated program involving neighbours and utilising multiple control methods will prove more successful over a broader area.



Health risks

Leptospirosis is considered the most common bacterial infection in feral pigs. The bacterium causes an influenza-like disease in humans and complications may include jaundice and bleeding disorders. A nationally notifiable disease in people, leptospirosis continues to be a significant cause of ill health in people and results in high hospitalisation rates.

Swine Brucellosis (caused by the bacterium *Brucella suis*) is a disease transmitted from pigs to humans. Those at greatest risk are feral pig hunters who operate in northern NSW and other parts of Australia. In a retrospective review conducted in Queensland, 32 patients with swine brucellosis contracted between 1996 and 2009 found that feral pig hunting explained 30 of the cases (94%), none of whom used protective equipment during hunting. *Eales K, Norton R, Ketheesan N. Brucellosis in northern Australia. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 2010; 83(4): 876-878*

Brucellosis may come on either suddenly or quite gradually. It can cause a continuous or intermittent fever, headache, weakness, drenching sweats, chills, joint pains, weight loss and generalised aches. The severity and duration of symptoms can vary greatly between people. *Queensland Government. Brucellosis. Queensland Health Fact Sheet. (Online) 2010. Available: http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/BacterialInfections/brucellosis_fs.asp*

The most important means of preventing disease in humans is to take precautions when coming into contact with animals. Precautions include:

- Cover all cuts or abrasions with waterproof dressings
- Wear gloves, overalls and eye protection when slaughtering animals or handling carcasses, with disinfection of protective equipment by heat treatment or soaking in disinfectant
- Thoroughly wash hands and arms in soapy water after handling animals or carcasses and use a disinfectant hand rinse

- Take particular care when handling or disposing of birth products
- Wash off all urine, faeces, blood and other body fluids thoroughly cleaning all working areas

World Health Organisation. Brucellosis in humans and animals. (Online) 2006. Available: <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/Brucellosis.pdf>

Hunting dogs are also at high risk of contracting the brucella suis bacterium and consequently, have potential to transmit the disease to humans.

Fines for transporting or releasing feral pigs

Strict laws are in place to deter people from transporting and releasing live feral pigs. These fines include:

- up to \$22,000 for transporting live feral pigs
- up to \$5,500 for liberating feral pigs (or any pest animal)
- up to \$2,200 for having a live feral pig (or any live pest animal) in your possession

Authorised officers continually monitor for these illegal practices.

