



Demonstration site - Mid-West Western Australia

Co-ordinated ground and aerial control of feral pigs is steadily reducing their impacts

NATIONAL
FERAL PIG
ACTION PLAN



Summary of key results:

- Ongoing ground control efforts have estimated a 60% reduction in feral pig numbers in key locations from ongoing ground and aerial control
- March 2022 flight - 27 hours and 23 minutes over a 1,519 km flight path
- 645 pigs, 15 foxes and 1 cat were removed from the landscape
- 211 pigs were removed from within the Northern Biosecurity Group's region
- Of the remaining 434 pigs, 242 pigs were removed from five properties across the Midlands and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Groups' region that had not been involved in any previous coordinated baiting programs
- It is essential that land managers continue monitoring and implementing coordinated baiting and trapping programs to remove any remaining feral pigs

Purpose

This program is a collaboration between the Midlands (MBG), Central Wheatbelt (CWBA) and Northern Biosecurity Groups (NBG). These groups are all part of the MidWest Demonstration Site.

It aims to reduce the impact of feral pigs in the Mingenew, Morawa and Greater Geraldton Shires of Western Australia by applying coordinated, collaborative, and integrated feral pig management strategies.

Ground baiting control efforts are initially conducted. Aerial shooting is being used to supplement ground baiting control efforts and enable extensive and inaccessible areas in key locations to be controlled.

In the region, feral pigs are mainly found within dense natural bushland where ground control is not possible.

Progress being achieved through this coordinated feral pig control program

Land managers reported throughout the latter half of 2021 of a significant decline in crop damage caused by feral pigs, and reduced activity in general, in areas where ongoing groundwork is being conducted.

In contrast, where little to no groundwork is being conducted, feral pig numbers are high, and increasing.

Effectiveness of control actions

Good outcomes in reducing feral pig populations and their impacts are being achieved by using ground baiting with 1080 in conjunction with aerial shooting.

This can be demonstrated by results being attained by the CWBA/MBG program :

- 691 pigs were removed by aerial shooting in November 2020,
- 402 pigs were removed by ground baiting from the same area between January and July 2021,
- 466 pigs were removed by aerial shooting in July 2021.
- 207 pigs were removed by ground baiting between October 2021 to March 2022.
- 250 pigs were removed over the same areas by aerial shooting in April 2022.
- During October 2021 to April 2022, 45% of feral pigs were controlled on-ground vs. 55% by air

Over the last 18 months, prior to the 2021/22 aerial shoot, nearly 1700 feral pigs have been removed across the region by baiting or trapping, supported by the Licensed Pest Management Technician.

These three recognised biosecurity groups have also engaged the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to support their activities to control feral pigs on public land.

For more information contact Chris O'Callaghan at eo@mbg.org.au.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

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