



Farming Small Areas article – March 2011

Trapping pigs using a top swinging door trap

Article contributed by Grant Eccles, Tablelands LHPA ranger

The Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority works with landholders to control declared pest animals, such as feral pigs, by providing advice and assistance. Feral pigs are a declared pest animal in NSW, causing significant economic losses to agriculture by damaging crops, pastures, water holes, fencing and by killing lambs and sheep. Below is a step by step process for catching pigs using a top swinging door trap.

- Look for fresh signs of where pigs have been (direct observation, diggings, rubs, scats).
- Identify hot spots such as where pigs are entering through a fence, watering or turning over the soil.
- Commence free feeding in these hot spots with a small pile (2kg) of wheat that has been soaked in water overnight or boiled. Add molasses to entice pigs.
- Do not use any forms of meat. This is an illegal practice ('swill feeding') and carries a fine of up to \$11,000.
- Once pigs are eating the free feed, replace the free feed every day and increase the amount of grain. Place the grain in trails (see photo 1).
- Do not disturb the area, do not shoot any pigs and do not chase pigs with dogs.
- Once pigs have commenced eating the grain contact your local LHPA office to organise a trap and identify a good trap site close to where the pigs are feeding.
- Free feed the pigs so that they are taking the feed every night for at least three consecutive nights.
- Set the trap in an open position where the free feeding has been occurring and continue to free feed (may take more than one night).
- Once the pigs are comfortably eating the free feed out of the trap in the open position, set the trap up with a trip wire (photo 2 and 3).
- Place the feed so that maximum numbers enter the trap prior to tripping the door (photo 4).
- After pigs have been caught destroy them in the trap (headshot) and bury somewhere else. Do not put dogs on the pigs and do not sty the pigs for consumption (heavy fines apply for transporting, releasing and/or keeping live feral pigs).
- Keep re-setting the trap until there are no more pigs being caught and activity ceases.

Note there are different types of pig traps that can be utilised; the above is just one example. For more information contact your local LHPA.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

