

## **Farming Small Areas article – April 2011**

### **Spend a little, save a lot during lambing**

Written by Claire Dutailis, Tablelands LHPA ranger

Foxes have always posed a great threat towards lamb survival, and at times like these when the price of lamb and mutton are at record highs landholders should be looking to control foxes and ensure a maximum return.

They may also target many other farm animals, including free range geese, ducks, chooks and predate on small native animals.

Foxes should be baited at critical times, such as during dispersal, breeding and whelping, and prior to lambing. By targeting foxes at times when they are most vulnerable and likely to take baits, you can maximise your success.

More specifically, this is during late summer – early autumn, spring and especially prior to lambing, to cull as many foxes as possible before the first lamb drops.

Foxes are territorial animals and so it is essential to bait prior to lambing to remove foxes that currently hold that territory and follow up by removing foxes that take over that territory.

The Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority suggest you commence baiting six weeks prior to lambing and replace baits continuously if you are baiting on an individual property.

This type of pro-active baiting is essential to successful lambing; not reactive baiting, when lambs have already been taken.

By organising a group baiting program in your area, you can even further increase your success by targeting foxes on a larger scale – this type of pro-active control has been proven to result in great success.

To be qualified to bait with 1080 or Pindone products, landholders must hold a current chemical certificate which can be acquired through your local Tablelands LHPAs 1080 and Pindone Course. The AQF3 chemical accreditation course covers a range of other rural chemicals (also includes 1080 and Pindone), but is only provided through registered training organisations (not LHPAs).

While baiting is the most effective control option, certain restrictions may apply. For more information on restrictions, controlling foxes or completing a 1080 and Pindone course, contact your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority office.