

## FERAL PIG CONTROL BY POISONING

### For internal circulation only

Poisoning is an important tool in feral pig control; it provides a cheap and effective way of reducing a large population.

You must make several decisions in poisoning feral pigs. For example, you need to choose the bait type, method of presentation, duration of free-feed, amount of free-feed, amount of poisoned bait and the length of time the poisoned bait is offered.

The number of feral pigs killed by a programme depends on the number that find and eat a lethal dose of the poisoned bait. Free-feeding is therefore of great importance because it encourages more pigs to eat the bait. For further information on how to free-feed see 'Free-feeding of Feral Pigs' (Infonote 30/88).

Successful free-feeding will attract the maximum number of pigs to the site. Then you can start to lay poison. The only poison that may be used for feral pig control is "1080" (sodium monofluoroacetate). At present "1080" is used at a rate of 4000 mg (1 vial of Concentrate Black diluted to 60 ml with water) per 7 kg mix.

### POISONING PROCEDURE

#### Before going on the property

- obtain "1080" Concentrate Black.

If this is obtained from the Regional Officer, make sure that the poison transfer is entered correctly in RO's poison docket book (AD 227), and the docket is signed by you and the RO. Keep "1080" solution locked in the metal security box

provided. The cardboard box containing the vials is not secure.

- make sure you have the following:

- 1) a clean mixing drum
- 2) a small tin for diluting the concentrate
- 3) personal protective clothing, ie. PVC or NBR gloves, boots and overalls
- 4) a supply of clean water
- 5) poison warning notices
- 6) your field reporting and invoice form (FRIF) book

#### When you arrive on site

- clean up any free-feed which still remains on the site
- determine the amount of free-feed eaten at each feeding place
- make sure that the bait material to be poisoned is the same as that used in free-feeding and does not contain any contaminants (eg. doublegees, etc)
- get the landholder to sign a FRIF for indemnity
- put on protective clothing

#### Mixing procedure

- fill the mixing drum with clean bait material up to the crosswires
- take a "1080" vial from the box and shake vigorously
- empty the vial into the small dilution tin
- fill empty vial with clean water, replace lid and shake vigorously
- empty this solution into the dilution tin containing the concentrate

- again fill empty vial with clean water and empty into dilution tin

- add this solution to the bait material in the mixing drum. Close the drum and mix thoroughly using a cork-screw-type action.

This 60 ml of "1080" solution is enough to achieve a good dispersion of "1080" throughout both grain and pellets without any liquid remaining in the bottom.

- mix an amount of bait equal to the maximum quantity eaten on any free-feed night

#### When you have mixed enough bait

- clean up mixing area and wash mixing drum, dilution tin, gloves and especially your hands
- record the number of vials of "1080" Concentrate Black used on poison record in box
- complete FRIF form to record work done and material used

#### Laying procedure

- put up warning notices
- place heaps of poisoned

bait material at the sites where free-feeding has been carried out. At least 2 kg of poisoned bait should be placed in each heap; larger amounts may be used depending on the feeding pattern established during free-feeding

- check the bait station the next morning and top up if necessary. Continue this daily until no more poisoned bait is taken. This usually takes only one or two days, but sometimes longer

#### After poisoning

- when feeding stops any uneaten bait should be cleaned up and buried
- some indication of control success should be estimated. This will help in deciding whether control is still needed.

1080 is one of the most toxic pesticides used. You must follow each of the above steps for your own safety as well as for effective feral pig control. Do not try to take any short cuts.

**For further information on feral pig control contact your regional officer, Agriculture Protection Adviser or APB Research Section at Forrestfield on (09) 453 6622.**

