Pestchat



Pest Animal Control in New England Tablelands, May—June 2013



Contact Us
Ph O2 6732 3443
Visit Us
68 Church St
GLEN INNES

Join or start a coordinated pest animal control group today.

For information on existing pest animal groups in the local area for wild dogs and/or foxes contact GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443 or the NE LHPA Glen Innes office on 02 6732 1200.

We'd like your opinion on pest animal matters for the Glen Innes district

Survey forms as hard copies from the GLENRAC office or online at Responses are confidential www.surveymonkey.com/s/JTY7LCV and will help plan future pest animal management programs. Surveys must be completed by the 30th June 2013.

Half Day '1080' Safe Handling Course

You are required to have a chemical users certificate or to have completed a '1080' safe handling course to receive '1080' baits.

A half day training course on the safe use of '1080' poisoned baits will be run at the NE LHPA Glen Innes office on **Wednesday 5th of June 2013** subject to registration numbers.

The cost is \$44 per person to attend. To register your interest for this course contact the Glen Innes office of the **NE LHPA on 026732 1200**

Four Key Principals for Effective Pest Animal Control

Pest animals impact the whole community and when left uncontrolled they cause significant losses to agriculture and our natural environment. As populations increase pest animals move into new areas to establish territories and home ranges.

Areas throughout the New England North West that have previously not had issues with wild dogs are now frequently reporting stock losses. Similarly the known distribution of feral pig populations is increasing and foxes are found throughout the landscape. Numbers of other pest animals such as deer and feral cats are also increasing.

All pest animal control needs to follow four key principals to be successful. These are;

Cooperative - control programs must involve the maximum number of land managers as possible. This includes private & public landholders and agencies.

Coordinated - control must be performed at the same time between land managers.

Broadscale - cover as large an area as possible. This reduces the rate of pest animal reinvasion, therefore maximising the effectiveness of your control program.

Integrated - use a variety of control methods. Do not rely on one measure only.



Wild Dogs & Foxes - Hydatids

Hydatid disease is caused by a tapeworm that infects domestic dogs, wild dogs & foxes. At its intermediate stage it forms cysts in the internal organs, especially livers & lungs, of a number of animals, including sheep, cattle & humans.

In humans, the disease is so serious that it often requires surgery for treatment. Hydatid disease also causes losses in livestock with the downgrading of edible meat byproducts because of the presence of hydatid cysts. In some areas of Australia offal is unsaleable due to the high presence of hydatid cysts.

What can you do?

- Wash your hands after handling dogs.
- Do not feed dogs raw offal or allow dogs to scavenge on carcasses.
- Regularly worm domestic dogs.
- Minimise wild dog & fox populations by undertaking coordinated control.

For more information on hydatids go the NSW DPI website, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and look up Prime Fact 475 "Hydatids—you, too, can be affected"

Deer - How can you control them?

Wild Deer are a pest animal that are now found throughout a large proportion of the New England North West area. Deer are declared a Game Species in NSW and are managed under the Regulations of the *NSW Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*.

You must hold a current NSW Restricted Game Hunting license in order to hunt these species on declared public land. Hunting deer in NSW without a license (General or Restricted) issued by Game Council NSW is illegal. If you hunt without a license, on private property or public land, you could be fined up to \$5,500, face a hunting ban of up to 10 years and/or lose your hunting equipment/vehicle. Seasonal limits also apply to four of the seven species of deer in NSW - if you hunt outside the season, you are hunting illegally and are subject to penalties and prosecution.

However, you as a landholder, your immediate family and your staff may control these animals on your own property all year round. Landholders who are hunting on their own land are complying with their requirement to control feral and pest animals. Upkeep of the land and prevention of the impacts of these animals directly effects your income and livelihood which is why you are exempt from licensing. Spotlighting is a way to reduce numbers quickly. In addition if a landholder can show that they are experiencing losses due to wild deer you can apply to have the recreational hunting law suspended from your property. The Game Council of NSW can be contacted for more information.

Game Council's regional representatives are available to provide advice to private landholders about management of wild deer populations on their property; whether it be in the form of assisting in the development of property based game management programs, establishing conservation hunting groups or in the control of over-populations of wild deer in surrounding areas.

If you would like specific advice for managing Feral Deer in your area please contact Ned Makim, Game Manager, Northern Zone, Game Council of NSW on 02 6762 8758 or ned.makim@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au

Key Times for Control for Pest Animals

The success of your control program can be maximized by knowing the biology & ecology of the pest animal you are targeting.

Did You Know? In order to stop an increase in fox & wild dog numbers 70% of existing animals must be controlled annually. For feral pigs 80% of the population must be controlled annually. The best control occurs if multiple programs can be run in a year.

'1080' aerial and ground baiting are the most effective forms of control. Trapping, harbor destruction and shooting should be utilized as mop up tools in an integrated program. Utilizing cooperative, coordinated, broad-scale and integrated methods some key times of the year to undertake control are:

Wild Dogs March: pups are being weaned & are dispersing to find new territories. **May/June:** mating is occurring & there is less food available due to colder temperatures & frosts.

Feral Pigs Feral pigs are driven by hunger. Undertake control programs before wild dog/fox control as feral pigs can consume a lot of wild dog & fox baits. May/June: piglets are being weaned & there is less food available. July/August: mating is about to occur & less food is available. You are more likely to get feral pigs eating grain. Undertake control before grain crops come into head.

Foxes March: cubs are being weaned & are dispersing to find new territories. **June/July:** less food is available due to colder temperatures & frosts.

Control should also be implemented when it suits your farming calendar, e.g. pre-lambing

Resources Available to Assist You

GLENRAC now has a limited number of resources available for loan to assist landholders in their pest control efforts. These resources include a feral pig traps& Indian Myna traps. We can also help you access sensors cameras and hog hopper feeders from BRG CMA.

Pest Animal Management & Landholder Engagement in New England NSW project partners

















