



Contact Us by
phoning 02 6772 9123
or email
mail@snelcc.org.au

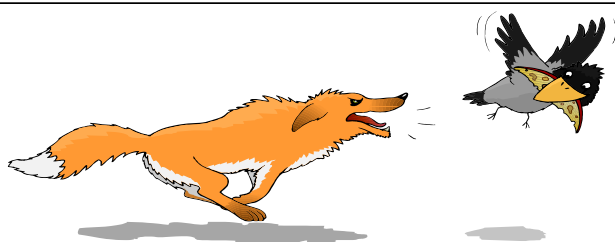
Wild Dogs & Foxes - *Hydatids*

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 by-products 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.



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.

NE LHPA run half day training courses on the safe use of '1080' & Pindone poisoned baits quarterly, subject to registration numbers.

The cost is \$44 per person to attend. To register your interest for this course contact the Armidale office of the NE LHPA on 02 6772 2366.

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.

Incorporating these four principles into your pest animal control program will maximize your success whilst also saving you time and money.

We'd like your opinion on pest animal matters

Available as hard copy surveys from the Southern New England Landcare office, 3/119 Beardsy Street, Armidale or online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/JTY7LCV

Responses will be treated confidentially and will help plan future pest animal management programs.

Surveys must be completed by the 30th of June 2013.



2013 Coordinated Fox Control Program

Key Times for Control

Date		Time	GROUP	COORDINATOR	PHONE	Order by
14 June	Fri	8.00	Warrane Rd	Charles Belfield	67751168	7 June
14 June	Fri	9:00	Wandsworth	Hamish Hunter	6779 4242	7 June
14 June	Fri	11.00	Tenterden	Jim Knox	0417660425	7 June
14 June	Fri	1:00	Malpas/ Black Mtn	Pam Youman	6775 0117	7 June
19 June	Wed	12.00	Guyra	Rita Williams	6779 1182	12 June
19 June	Wed	12:00	Llangothlin	Bob Williamson	6779 1251	12 June
21 June	Fri	10:00	Chandlers Peak	Laurie Smith	6779 2037	14 June
				Wayne Mills	6779 1552	14 June
27 June	Thurs	9:00	Tilbuster	Neil Clayton	6775 0155	20 June
27 June	Thurs	10.30	Puddledock	Maryanne Sisson	0411579549	20 June
28 June	Fri	9:00	Herbert Park	Andrew McLennan	6775 1768	21 June
28 June	Fri	10:00	Rockvale	Glen Tully	6775 1621	21 June
3 July	Wed	10:00	Walcha Rd/ Woolbrook	Belinda Laurie	67775813	26 June
9 July	Tues	10:00	Lower Apsley	Eric Noakes	6777 2834	2 July
9 July	Tues	11:30	Yarrowitch-Tia	Shelley Marchant	6777 3901	2 July
10 July	Wed	9:00	BOZO	Cameron Lisle	6778 7325	3 July
11 July	Thurs	9:00	Balala Brushgrove	Celia Strong	6778 7060	4 July
11 July	Thurs	10:30	Kingstown	Jim Swales	6778 9135	4 July
11 July	Thurs	12:00	Bundarra	Bill Doak	6723 7330	4 July
11 July	Thurs	1:30	Rumbling Mtn.	Angus McLean	6723 7383	4 July
11 July	Thurs	2:30	Yarrowyck	Jim Swales	6778 9135	4 July
16 July	Tues	11:30	Bendemeer	Ray Quihampton	6769 6509	9 July
		1.00				
18 July	Thurs	9:00	Warrane Road	Charles Belfield	6775 1168	11 July
19 July	Fri	9:00	Cooney Creek	Stuart Waters	6775 3989	12 July
19 July	Fri	10:00	Oaky	Sandra Moen	6778 1255	12 July
24 July	Wed	10:00	Brackendale	Graham Benson	6777 3838	17 July
25 July	Thurs	9:00	Harnham	Ted Williams	6778 4324	18 July
				Alex Taylor	6778 7341	18 July
				Callum Schaeffer	0488758372	18 July
26 July	Fri	9:30	Baldersleigh	Pat Marshall	6779 4222	19 July
30 July	Tues	9:00	Wongwibinda	Simon Wright	6775 8444	23 July
31 July	Wed	9:00	Dangarsleigh	Lach Fulloon	6775 1217	24 July
31 July	Wed	10:30	Enmore	Gary Swanson	67782120	24 July
1 Aug	Thurs	9:00	Winterbourne	Polly Locke	6778 0278	25 July
	Thurs	12:00	Glen - GRO	Polly Locke	6778 0278	25 July
16 Aug	Fri	10.00	Chandlers Peak	Laurie Smith	67792037	9 Aug
				Wayne Mills	67791552	9 Aug

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

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.

Utilising 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

Pest Animal Control Field Days

Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs, Rabbits and Foxes

When & Where

Thursday 4th July 2013

10am to 3pm

Baldersleigh

Friday 5th July 2013

10am to 3pm

Kingstown

Morning tea and lunch provided.

**RSVP Friday 28th June to
SNELCC on 02 6772 9123.**



WIN PRIZES!! – Southern New England Coordinated Fox Control Program 2013

Coordinated Group Baiting

Anyone who orders '1080' poisoned baits as part of a coordinated group (Group baiting schedule included in this newsletter) will enter a draw to win a 1/2 hour joy flight for 2 people with **Fleet Helicopters**.



Fox Foot Raffle

Any person who brings the (front right paw of a fox) into the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (NE LHPA), Armidale office will enter a draw to win a Vortex Crossfire 3-9 x 40 Rifle Scope donated by **Hunting Haven**.



Shooting Data Raffle

A fox shooting form to record details of any foxes shot over the winter period can be collected from the NE LHPA, GrazAg or Hunting Haven. Return the form to the NE LHPA Armidale office by the 31st of August 2013 for your chance to win a \$150 open order from **GrazAg** (includes ammunition, subject to firearm regulations).



All draws close 31st August 2013

Fox Busters 2012 (Guest article)

For as long as I can remember, I have been an avid fox shooter. Born and raised in the beautiful New England region of Northern New South Wales, on a sheep property 8km East of Armidale, I have seen first-hand the untold damage caused by foxes, particularly at lambing time.

My interest in shooting started when I was in my early teens, and my Grandfather passed down to me his Remington 22LR. Little has changed as far as my interest in shooting goes, but the gear has definitely got more elaborate, and more expensive! 2012 will go down as a special year for myself and a dedicated bunch of brother-in-laws (and a few mates along the way), who in January 2012 decided that we would keep a running tally of the foxes we shot for the year. Our goal, whether real or imagined, was to shoot 1000 foxes for the year.

Being an Agronomist in Armidale gives me unrestricted access to a great number of properties in the region (for which I am eternally grateful) to shoot, with the growers taking a real interest in our achievements during the year. Given the fact that the New England had experienced two excellent seasons back to back (2010 and 2011) (2012 was wet early, but very dry through the rest of the year), we have had an explosion in fox numbers.

The year started with a bang, with myself, Brother in laws, Dave Piddington, Greg Carson and Jimmy Piddington, shooting a personal record (at the time) for the night at Black Mountain, with 46 scalps. To say we were shocked was an understatement, but the grower was in utter disbelief. It was a windy night and long distance shots were a bit hit and miss, but after seeing 70 for the night, we figured that we had scored alright. Vowing to mop up a few missed ones, we ventured back to the same property twice more for January, shooting another 32 and 14 foxes. This event started a tally for the year, that ended on 1083 foxes (on December 23rd).

Many people have asked what the secret to our success was, and I would say, it is to have really good equipment. We always have one member of the party on the whistle at all times as we drive around the property. We have found that this means you see a lot more sets of eyes than just relying on picking them up in the spotlight. It also means at various times throughout the year, that you will have multiple targets running at you, meaning you can turn off the light and wait for them to come to you. The key to shooting multiple foxes at once is to have two shooters ready at once, and making sure that you don't miss.

We have used throughout the year various Predator callers (with success), the squawkers (also with success), and just about every fox whistle on the market, as well as our own whistles and noises. It is just a matter of getting and holding their attention long enough to get that shot away.

We have moved from the typical halogen spotlights, now to the excellent HID lights (currently Lightforce and Winchester), and found that we seem to be able to hold the foxes longer with them, allowing that crucial shot to be taken. It also seems to allow target acquisition when the foxes are not even looking at you, meaning the cagey foxes that are feeding or won't look at the light are shot as well.

Using a HID light, we also find that we can get an accurate reading with a rangefinder even at night. This allows us to place our shots with greater precision, and allows us to tag the longer distance shy foxes that won't come any closer.

At last count, between the four originals and two mates (Professional shooters Mick Frost and Michael Clark), we had used 21 different calibres to shoot the 1083 foxes. So to answer the question, which is the best calibre to shoot foxes? I would say that there are any number of calibres that do an excellent job.

Shooting is another tool to be used in control programs to effectively reduce fox population numbers. It is most valuable as a mop up tool after conducting a coordinated '1080' baiting program.



These six culprits were shot in quick succession at Ben Lomond

Feral Pigs - *Leptospirosis*

Feral pigs can carry many infectious diseases & external parasites. These include Brucellosis, Q fever, Melioidosis & Leptospirosis.

Leptospira (Leptospirosis) is found in animal urine & tissues. *Leptospira* bacteria usually enters the body through skin cuts or abrasions & occasionally through the mucous membrane of the mouth, nose & eyes.

Leptospirosis causes abortion in cattle & can cause high temperatures, kidney failure & jaundice in humans. Severe Leptospirosis can be fatal.

In some areas 100% of feral pigs test positive for Leptospirosis.

What can you do?

- Cover all skin abrasions & cuts when coming into contact with feral pigs.
- Wash your hands & arms after handling feral pigs.
- Vaccinate livestock for Leptospirosis.
- Minimise feral pig populations by undertaking coordinated control.



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

Resources Available to Assist You!

A limited number of resources are available for loan to assist landholders in their coordinated group pest control efforts. These resources include sensor cameras, fox cage traps & Indian Myna traps.

Please contact the New England LHPA or Southern New England Landcare for more details.

Pest Animal Fact Sheets

A range of fact sheets on pest animals and their management have been developed by the Invasive Animals CRC. To download the PestSMART fact sheets visit <http://www.feral.org.au/pestsmart/>



Southern New England Landcare Ltd
ACN 099 357 454
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Level 1, 3/119 Beardy Street, PO Box 85, Armidale 2350

Tel 02 6772 9123, mail@snelandcare.org.au, www.snelandcare.org.au



Pestchat

Landcare in Southern New England, No. 95, May-June 2013

Southern New England Landcare appreciates generous support from Caring for Our Country, Armidale Dumaresq Council, NSW Environmental Trust, the Border Rivers Gwydir CMA, and the Northern Rivers CMA, and is sponsored by Landmark (Armidale) and Wesfarmers Federation Insurance.

Landchat presents a forum for the expression of a range of opinions.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of Southern New England Landcare or its employees.

While every effort is made to publish accurate information, Southern New England Landcare and its employees do not accept responsibility for statements made and opinions expressed in this newsletter.



Join the coordinated community fight against pest animals .

Join a Pest Animal Coordinated Control Group

A number of coordinated pest animal control groups occur throughout the southern New England region.

If you would like to join a coordinated pest animal control group or are interested in forming a group in your area contact the New England LHPA or Southern New England Landcare on 02 6772 9123 or email mail@snelcc.org.au



Regional Landcare Facilitator



Catchment Management Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



Catchment Management Authority
Namoi



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