

MEDIA RELEASE

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Game changer in feral pig management now on the market

Feral pigs are spread over 45% of the Australian mainland and cause significant destruction to agriculture and the natural environment.

They cost Australian agriculture more than \$100 million a year and that will skyrocket if African swine fever gets into Australia and feral pigs prevent eradication.

After more than a decade in development, an Australian innovation to tackle this destructive pest – **HOGGONE** – has received regulatory approval.

Australian farmers, state government agencies, local councils, pest control businesses and other land managers can now access the fast-acting, humane, targeted feral pig bait.

HOGGONE was developed by Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA) through the former Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre with collaboration from USA and NZ scientists and support from Meat & Livestock Australia and AusIndustry.

Vertebrate pest specialist and ACTA Managing Director Dr Linton Staples said the rollout is well timed.

“Feral pig populations rise rapidly in good seasons,” Dr Staples said.

“With estimates of up to 24 million of the destructive pests in Australia, the current La Niña weather event means feral pigs are likely to increase in number and range in the coming months.

“HOGGONE is a key part of the solution to the feral pig problem in Australia. Its capacity to cull large herds quickly and humanely has the potential to revolutionise our approach to management.”

He said HOGGONE has an innovative formulation of the active ingredient, sodium nitrite, which is a very effective and targeted poison for pigs.

“Sodium nitrite is a food preservative which is safely used in low concentrations. People and most animals can tolerate modest amounts of sodium nitrate, but pigs lack the protective enzyme that is present in other species,” Dr Staples said.

“HOGGONE renders pigs unconscious before they die, typically within one to three hours, without suffering.”

Importantly, it breaks down very quickly in the environment, leaving no toxic residues. The challenge for developers was to find a way to keep the active chemical stable and attractive to pigs.

“It took us more than 10 years to develop and refine this product and we are so excited to get it out to farmers and public land managers,” Dr Staples said.

HOGGONE is a Schedule 6 poison so landholders can buy and use it without specific training or certification. It is deployed via a specially designed HOGGONE bait box that non-target animals cannot access.

Early adopters are having excellent results on the landscapes they manage and farm.

Toowoomba-based pest researcher and consultant Darren Marshall has run trials to test HOGGONE in south west Queensland on multiple properties and in a national park.

“If you use as the label suggests, it works very well. It is very humane and achieves really good knockdown with a lot of the dead pigs found close to the baiting station,” said Mr Marshall, the General Manager – Commercial Programs at natural resource management organisation, Southern Queensland Landscapes.

“We need to control feral pigs to protect agriculture and the environment.

“We need to kill 75% of the feral pig population in an area to control them, and you can only do that through baiting or aerial shooting. That’s why HOGGONE is a really important tool in controlling feral pigs.”

For more information or to purchase the product, visit <https://animalcontrol.com.au/products/hoggone>

Media enquiries

Contact Laura Griffin, 0400 170 663 / laura@curriecommunications.com.au

Access high resolution images of the product and feral pigs [here](#)

About Animal Control Technologies Australia

Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA) is Australia’s leading research and manufacturing company specialising in control of vertebrate pest animals including foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs, rabbits, plague mice, plague rats, some invasive ant species and cane toads.

For nearly 30 years since its first product FOXOFF, ACTA has developed, registered and manufactured a range of world class products, to help protect farmer livelihoods and the environment from pest animal damage.