



# HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>

## meSN Feral Pig Bait

Trust the proven performers

### A quick guide to a new way to humanely manage feral pigs

**HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>** uses a peanut and grain flavoured paste containing high levels of the food preservative sodium nitrite (SN) to quickly and humanely kill feral pigs. SN is toxic to pigs in high doses but safe for humans in food at very low doses. **HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>** is APVMA approved and does **not** require special permits to purchase or use.



SN degrades in the environment and poses little or no risk to scavengers feeding on pig carcasses. This bait works faster and more reliably than all other methods, but to get best results it is necessary to properly “set the pigs up” for a fall. Full details are available in a detailed **HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>** product booklet downloadable from the ACTA web site (<https://animalcontrol.com.au>). This quick guide provides a simple overview.

- Step 1** First try to find where mobs of pigs are actively foraging. Look for tracks, signs of rooting, tree rubs and sightings. IR triggered cameras can assist in conformation of activity and numbers present. Pigs may forage widely in good wet seasons, so best time to control them is during summer.
- Step 2** Place locally available food such as grain, corn or fruit at the likely active site. A small quantity (say 20kg) is all that is needed. Check frequently and replace if pigs are taking the food, as this will cause them to habituate to this feeding site. If site is inactive (no food taken) after a week simply abandon and set up a new site where pigs are visiting. This pre-feeding process clusters a whole sounder (family group) to feed reliably at one point. This investment in time to CLUSTER will lead to much higher control rates than just placing bait randomly, just as for using traps.
- Step 3** At active site deploy the **HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>** hopper with lid propped open and some grain or other food inside and in front for a day or two. This teaches pigs that the hopper is no threat and continues to cluster the group. Then close the lid, as pigs quickly learn to open the lid to access food.
- Step 4** If food continues to be taken by pigs from the hopper, immediately switch to trays of placebo (non-toxic) paste. While we know that no-one wants to feed the pigs(!) this step for one or two nights will accustom the pigs to this “new” food type. Usually 80-100% is eaten on night 1 and all on night 2.
- Step 5** Finally, replace the non-toxic bait with **HOGGONE<sup>®</sup>** SN toxic bait and place warning signs (provided with hoppers) at entry points to baited area (APVMA label requirement). Almost all pigs in the group will feed on the first night of toxic bait deployment and will be found dead within 50-200m on the following morning. If any pigs are thought to remain, deploy toxic bait for a second night, though generally few additional pigs are controlled.
- Step 6** Collect dead pigs if required and recover, wash and dry hoppers for re-use or relocation. Repeat process if additional pigs are discovered in the area of control.

	Cluster Phase	Grain Phase		Placebo Phase		Toxic Phase	
Day	Cluster Pigs over several days as needed						Collect dead pigs if needed
Product	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
	Grain Only			Placebo		TOXIC	
Baitbox	Absent until pigs visiting site	Lid Open		Lid Closed			

Please see other side

## Some helpful tips:

- It is better to have several baiting points in a large area, rather than try to get all sounders to visit one site. They wander in family groups that do not readily mix.
- For clustering only small piles of feed are needed, say 20kg. Pigs react more to feed presence and frequency of presence than to feed quantity.
- US studies have shown that placing baiting cluster points at 750m grid spacing can also achieve high levels of biomarking (mock poisoning) of pigs in a large area, if activity sites are uncertain.
- For disease control carcasses can be picked up and buried or burned, but otherwise it is safe to let them rot naturally as the SN levels present **do not** pose a risk to scavengers.
- Clustering is aimed at getting >70% and preferably 100% knockdown of the whole sounder. Lower control, just as for shooting and trapping if not done perfectly, will enable females to breed up again quickly.
- Work with neighbours to deplete large areas. While neighbour notification is NOT required (unlike for 1080), we still recommend working together for mutual benefit.
- Moisture is the enemy of SN chemical. SN absorbs moisture and can degrade quickly to cause a loss of palatability of the bait. Discard old bait and use bait as freshly as possible from date of manufacture, preferably within 9 months. Old bait will become unpalatable and can release gas to swell containers (tell-tale sign).
- **Remember, the reason for doing all steps is to try to get as close to 100% control of each mob as possible. Previous short cut baiting and trapping methods have killed some pigs but not enough to get proper control. Thus, feral pig problems are getting worse everywhere. It is worth the investment to cluster bait to ensure maximum knockdowns.**



## For best results



### Cluster Phase

Use about 20kgs of grain (can be fermented) at sites of pig activity to cluster pigs to the site

Do not place hoppers unless pigs are visiting

### Grain Only

Pigs quickly learn to eat from the hopper.



### Cluster Phase

If pigs are present they will feed repeatedly at night.

Try to estimate pig numbers based on consumption of grain

### Placebo Phase

Close lids and fill hopper with grain.

Then if grain is taken fill with Placebo (unpositioned) HOGGONE® bait



### Grain Only

Secure hoppers to the ground.

Fill with grain with lids propped open

### Toxic Phase

Pigs that are used to eating the placebo bait will readily take poison bait on the first night

Pick up dead pigs next morning, if required



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