



Wild dogs costing communities

Media release: 3 September 2012

Are wild dogs affecting your farm? Wild dogs place a heavy financial burden on regional Queensland towns causing large stock casualties, lost income for farmers and impact entire communities. With wild dog numbers increasing it is particularly important for communities to take steps together to curb the costly problem.

It has been proven that control methods are more successful and cost-effective when landholders work together to strategically reduce pest numbers. To assist farmers in reducing pests across the region, AgForce Projects is encouraging landholders to attend the Southern Downs Regional Council free 1080 baiting days from 12-14 September.

Scott Hurtz, a trapper and shooter in the Southern Downs region, is concerned that wild dogs are devastating farms and killing livestock but some farmers do not grasp the extent of the problem, or understand how to tackle it effectively.

“A lot of people don’t realise there are wild dogs on their property until it is too late, and they don’t understand how much damage the dogs are causing,” Mr Hurtz said.

Mr Hurtz said the only way to reduce wild dog numbers and the impact they have on communities across regional Queensland is a strong coordinated effort that involves baiting, trapping and shooting.

AgForce and Southern Downs Regional Council have been working collaboratively to encourage landowners to control wild dog numbers. Southern Downs Regional Council are holding free 1080 baiting days across the region from 12-14 September. For details visit the SDRC website www.southerndowns.qld.gov.au (Facilities & Services – Pest Management) or call 4661 0300.

For comment call Damien Ferguson on (07) 3238 6046 or 0402 424 424. Media contact: AgForce Projects communication officer Madeline Cooper (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091.

Photo Caption: Wild dog taken with motion-detecting infra-red trail camera, by Scott Hurtz, May 2011.

Further Information:

What to do before baiting:

Landholders participating in 1080 baiting programs must abide by conditions/regulations identified in ‘Toxin 1080’ – available at the DPI website.

- Neighbour notifications/consents must be undertaken at least 72 hours before program.
- Landholders seeking to bait within 5 kms of town require consent of BQ Authorised officer
- Landholders seeking to bait in closely settled areas (20+ dwellings within 2 kms) require consent of Authorised Officer
- Consent of authorised officers must be sought at least 1 week prior to the program.
- Separate consent is a requirement for every 1080 baiting program.
- Lot/plan description, identifying property to be baited (recent rates/ valuation notice)

- Agents collecting baits/signing indemnity forms on behalf of others require completed authority form

Sourcing meat for baits:

Participants are required to provide bait material. Baits must be fresh, well drained meat, hearts or livers and free of gristle, skin and bone. 250 grams or fist size