Equipment required

Traps

- Several trap designs exist, differing mainly in their gate construction. These include the silo trap, the drop-gate trap, the panel trap and the box trap. All are basically an enclosed area with a one-way gate.
- It is best to use steel mesh with a small grid size e.g., 50mm x 75mm or 50mm x 100mm. A grid larger than this will damage the pigs' snouts if they charge the mesh.
- The minimum height needs to be 1.5 metres.
- Entrance to the trap can be a funnel entrance, a tripped gate or a pig specific trigger.
- Choice of trap design will depend upon habitat, material available and accessibility to site.

Owner: NSW Department of Primary Industries. Excerpt from the March 2022 publication.

Procedures

Selection of trap sites

- Free feeding should be undertaken at sites where pigs are active, for example, near watering points, holes in fences, wallow areas or sites of recent damage to crops. This helps to retain pigs in the area and will give an indication of the most suitable trap site. Leave 5 to 10 kgs of grain or pellets at each selected site. If necessary a short (5-10m) trail of bait can be used to lure pigs to a chosen trap site.
- Cease any activity in the area that will disturb normal feeding behaviour e.g., shooting or use of dogs.
- If possible, choose a site that is in a shady area with as much natural vegetation as possible.

Placing the trap

- Build the trap at a site where bait is being regularly taken.
- Place fresh bait both inside and outside the trap to keep pigs feeding for 1 to 2 days.
- Once the pigs have become accustomed to the trap and are still regularly feeding, only place bait inside the trap. Keep feeding until all pigs within a group are going into the trap to feed before it is actually set. This may take 1 to 2 weeks.

Setting the trap

- Once bait is being taken inside the trap, set each evening and check the following day, preferably in the morning.
- Continue to set the trap each evening until no more pigs are caught. A change of bait may be tried to entice more pigs, with free-feeding again for 1 to 2 nights before activating the trap.
- Traps can be left at permanent sites and reactivated when fresh pig activity is detected or they can be moved to new sites depending on requirements.
- Some baits, e.g., grain, may attract birds. Where this happens, lightly cover the bait with vegetation. Night baiting may also reduce bird take. Additionally, grain that has been dyed green may help to deter consumption by birds.

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