



Best Practice for Controlling Feral Pigs with Bait-Rite Paste®

This document covers the requirements for using the vertebrate toxic agent Bait-Rite Paste to achieve effective pest control of feral pigs while safeguarding the operator and bystanders, minimising adverse effects on the environment and potential for contact by non-target species.

Compliance

Permission for work: No license is needed to use Bait-Rite Paste however consent to carry out work with Bait-Rite is required for all private land but not land administered or managed by the Department of Conservation. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Permission for Feral Pig Control form must be completed and returned to the EPA and permission granted before product can be purchased and applied. The EPA Permission application form can be downloaded at http://www.epa.govt.nz/Publications/Application_Form_Permission_Sodium_Nitrite_EPA0346.pdf

Notifications of Operations

- (1) No person may apply, or engage another person to apply, the bait unless the person has given notice of the proposed application to –
 - (a) The nearest Medical Officer of Health (MOH) or the Medical Officer of Health in whose region the application area is situated; and
 - (b) Veterinarians operating in the area close to the application area who are likely to treat poisoned animals.
- (2) The notice to the MOH and local veterinarian must –
 - (a) Be given with the sufficient prior notification, up to 1 month in advance of the proposed application: and
 - (b) Specify the following:
 - (i) The approximate date on which the substance will be applied;
 - (ii) The name and nature of the substance;
 - (iii) The risks to humans and companion animals;
 - (iv) A description of the area over which the substance will be applied, including–
 - A. the boundaries of the area; and
 - B. districts, roads, and other commonly known features that may identify the place;
 - (v) the name and address of the person responsible for the application of the substance:

Signage: If Bait-Rite is applied where public may have access to the treatment area; signs must be posted at normal points of entry to the area. Signs must remain in place for at least two months after the retrieval of bait and for four months after the last application of bait. Follow label directions.



Bait Site Selection

Bait should be applied into bait stations where feral pigs are feeding and congregating by evidence of sightings, pig rooting, pig tracking flattened, and droppings. Alternatively, where extensive pig damage is occurring to pasture over large areas and control may be required over time then a trail camera would be suitable to identify the best areas to place bait.



Bait Stations

Bait-Rite Paste must be applied into purpose built bait stations only. They should be constructed of robust materials and designed to minimise any risk of the paste being spilt and that will self-close after pigs have taken bait. This is to ensure that non-target species are not put at risk.

Bait stations must be secured into place.

A suitable pig bait station design is shown in figure 1. It is recommended when making pig bait stations that they are large enough to accommodate a number of pigs feeding at the same time. Pig bait stations can be supplied by Connovation Ltd or to make your own, plans can be uploaded from www.connovation.co.nz/pbstn

Bait stations must not be placed over or within 10 metres of a water body.

It is recommended that bait stations be placed in clusters of 3 to 5 dependent on pig density. Spacing's between bait station clusters will vary between 500m and two kilometres depending on pig populations, topography and cover.

It is recommended to place 4–6 250 gram bait balls per station.

Identify the bait station (unique marking) and note the position on a geographical map or record GPS position. This will ensure all bait stations are subsequently visited for bait checking, replenishment, or removal.

Prefeeding

Prefeeding with non-toxic bait is recommended to maximise bait uptake. Prefeeding with paste should mimic the toxic application and will educate animals to go to the bait placement sites for food.

Place 250g of pre-made non-toxic paste balls into bait stations. The paste is very palatable to feral pigs and a good smear of paste on top of bait stations will ensure pigs to find the bait quickly and they will readily feed on the bait housed inside the enclosed bait stations.



It is recommended to pre-feed with non-toxic paste for 1 to 2 weeks before replacing with the Bait-Rite toxic paste.

If bait uptake is rapid then additional bait stations may be required.

Bait-Rite Toxic Application

Once satisfied that target animals are readily consuming bait and no further prefeeding is required, remove all uneaten prefeed bait before applying the toxic Bait-Rite Paste.

Wear protective clothing and gloves to dispense the toxic Bait-Rite Paste 250g balls into each bait station allowing 1-3 balls for each pig.

Check bait stations at two day intervals if a high feral pig population is suspected. For low to medium populations a 3 to 4 day interval will be suitable.

Keep lid on the original paste pail when not in use. Store securely and in cool place (less than 30 °C) away from children, pets, animals and food stuffs when not in use.

Bait-Rite Shelf Life

We recommend that Bait-Rite Paste bait be used fresh and not stored for extended periods. Always check bait expiry date before using previously used pails. If not less than 30 days from date of manufacture, dispose of by burning, or burying under at least 600 mm of soil.

Adhere strictly to the label directions, any Conditions of Use under the ACVM Act 1997 (refer www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/acvm/ and Controls under the HSNO Act 1996 (refer www.ermanz.govt.nz).