



Moura pig control

Landowners achieving better outcomes together

Paranui, a 7,500 acre beef cattle and grain operation on the Dawson River between Moura and Theodore is suffering damage caused by feral pigs. Scott and Kelly Becker who lead the property along with Scott's parents Norman and Desley say the damage to crops and profits is a significant issue for them as well as their neighbours.

In the Becker's 10 years of crop production, they have watched feral pigs cause wide spread damage to harvests and grazing land while spreading weeds across their property. The flow on effects have negatively impacted crop yield and profit for many farms in the area.

Tackling the problem

Scott says when the opportunity came to join the Moura feral pig control group coordinated by Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA) and supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA), it was a chance for all property owners to help each other address the increasing numbers of feral pigs across the region.

"This isn't just a problem for us. The pigs travel between farms digging up expansive areas, leading to greater erosion and the spread of weed seeds," Scott said.

"For our property, if we can't manage the feral pig numbers it means we might not be able to continue cropping. Things we've tried in the past on our own have had limited success.

"Joining the control group was an opportunity for Moura landholders to learn about new skills and infrastructure to better manage the problem across all of our properties," he said.

The Moura Feral Pig Control Program was set up to tackle the issue of pig damage across a broad geographical area incorporating numerous properties.

Landholders attended information and one-on-one training sessions with animal/behaviour trapping experts to learn new techniques to manage pigs.



Moura landholders are working together to control feral pigs across multiple properties.



Feral pig control is critical to protecting ground cover, creek banks and water quality.

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Neighbourhood-wide control is essential as pigs move quickly from one property to the next in search of food.

Project Outcomes

Scott says since the control group was formed they have seen a greater reduction in feral pig numbers but long term control needs to be the focus.

"We hope that as a collective, the landholders in the Moura feral pig control group will be able to work together to continue reducing feral pigs numbers throughout the district," Scott said.

"The inconvenience, lost income and degradation to properties will be greatly reduced as will the impact that feral pigs have on our business.

“ We hope this project will continue into the future. It has been a great experience, with the training providing some valuable information on how to tackle the problem going forward,” he said.

Since the control group was formed the Beckers have seen a reduction in feral pig numbers but say long-term control needs to be the focus.

This project was coordinated by DCCA and supported by FBA through funding from the Queensland Government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries under the Biosecurity Queensland, Drought Assistance Feral Animal Management program.



Motion detecting sensors and baits are core tools used in the control program.