



# Control options in feral pigs: **Ground shooting**

## How effective is ground shooting?

*Ground shooting of feral pigs undertaken by licensed shooters is the most commonly used lethal control method.*

In a 2020 survey of NW NSW land managers, ground shooting was reported as the most commonly used, yet least effective control method. Efficiency is low, due to a tendency for this method to scatter the pig population.

## What is the cost and how big is the benefit?

Labour is the main cost component of this control method. The services of free recreational shooters was not considered within the analysis because there is little evidence to prove it is effective in significantly reducing population size.

*The cost of ground shooting is estimated to be in excess of \$100 per eradicated pig.*

Key farming enterprises were modelled to understand the net economic benefit of various feral pig control methods. Using different data combinations of pig damage, crop yield, commodity prices, control cost and effectiveness,

the results indicated a low net economic benefit for ground shooting (Table 1).

Avoiding feral pig damage in any enterprise can result in an economic benefit. The greatest benefit is when ground shooting is used as part of a control program for high-value enterprises, such as cotton and chickpeas.

*A labour intensive 'per pig' method, ground shooting is useful as a secondary control method after an initial pig reduction.*

**Table 1: Per hectare net benefits of ground shooting by farming enterprise**

	Cotton	Wheat & barley	Faba beans	Chickpea	Sorghum	Hay	Maize	Sheep
Benefit up to (\$/ha)	\$20	\$4	\$17	\$29	\$8	\$12	\$4	\$3
Average benefit (\$/ha)	\$4	-\$3	\$3	\$7	-\$1	\$1	-\$2	-\$2

### Further information:

- Findings summarised from the NW LLS funded study *Cost benefit analysis of feral pig control in North West NSW*. To read the full report visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or [www.agecon.com.au](http://www.agecon.com.au)
- Contact your local LLS representative for information on current area wide management strategies ph. 1300 795 299
- Standard operating procedure for [Ground shooting of feral pigs](#)