

MEDIA RELEASE

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HogHopper™- serving it up to feral pigs

The HogHopper™ is a new bait delivery device designed to keep wildlife out but lets feral pigs feast. It will be launched on December 1, 2010, at the Australasian Wildlife Management Conference in Torquay, Victoria.

The device ensures feral pig baits of any kind are only accessible by these destructive introduced animals. This means it can be used in World Heritage and other sensitive environments rich in native wildlife and valuable livestock.

The design is suited to the feeding habits of pigs and requires the snout strength and dexterity of these significant agricultural and environmental pests to gain access. What's more, it keeps bait fresh for longer and requires less maintenance than traditional baiting methods.

"The HogHopper™ will provide peace-of-mind to land managers that toxic baits are not going to domestic stock on farms or non-target native animals in national parks" said Project Manager, Associate Professor Steve Lapidge.

Trials of the HogHopper™ have been conducted in such diverse places as the Daintree Rainforest, Qld, in the snow at Namadgi National Park, ACT, on Kangaroo Island, SA, and within the Macquarie Marshes Ramsar wetlands, NSW. In the latter trial the HogHopper™ achieved 100% reduction in feral pig mobs feeding at the device without any baits being taken by non-target animals.

The sites chosen reflect the diversity of habitats where feral pigs are currently found and causing massive destruction.

"Land managers Australia-wide now have a new tool to efficiently manage the many detrimental impacts of feral pigs in all kinds of environments", said Assoc. Prof. Lapidge

Developed by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, with funding from the Australian Government Bureau of Rural Sciences, the units will be on sale through Animal Control Technologies Australia.

Enquiries (Photos and footage also available):

A/Prof Steve Lapidge on 0401 990 367 or steven.lapidge@invasiveanimals.com

Invasive Animals CRC: www.invasiveanimals.com

Pest portal: www.feral.org.au