



Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

PESTSMART THINKING IN PRACTICAL PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

With pest animals costing the Australian economy over \$720 million every year, farmers need all the help they can get to effectively manage pest animals. At the 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference in Sydney today, the Invasive Animals CRC's PestSmart information toolkits on best practice animal management will be officially launched.

Keryn Lapidge, PestSmart Project Leader at the Invasive Animals CRC, will explain how 7 years of pest animal research in Australia has been translated into practical toolkits focusing on strategic planning, management and control of key agricultural pest animals.

"The PestSmart toolkit provides farmers and land managers with a single information resource on the key pest animals in Australia.

Toolkit publications can be used individually as a snapshot of a particular control method or program, or together as a comprehensive best practice management guide," said Mrs Lapidge.

The PestSmart toolkit includes 'how-to' guides, case studies, fact sheets, guidelines and technical reports on foxes, wild dogs, feral cats, feral pigs, carp and tilapia. Some information on other pest animals including mice, cane toads and camels will also be produced.

"A national PestSmart roadshow to promote the toolkit and new pest animal control products directly to farmers and land managers will visit every state and territory in the first half of 2012.

The Invasive Animals CRC is running the roadshow in partnership with Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation Limited and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to ensure we engage with as many key stakeholders as possible," said Mrs Lapidge.

The PestSmart toolkits, funded by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics and Sciences, are available online at www.feral.org.au/pestsmart and published in hard copy. Hard copies of the toolkits, as well as other guidelines and reports, will be available at the Invasive Animals CRC's exhibition stand at the 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference.

The 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held at the Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney from Monday 20 June to Thursday 23 June 2011. Presentations may be made available to the media upon request. Please contact Keryn Lapidge (details below) for an interview.

Statement ends Tuesday 21 June 2011.

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FOR INTERVIEWS

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