

MEDIA RELEASE



Embargoed until 16 September

Wild dog trapping DVD captures attention of landholders

A new self-help DVD that shows farmers how to use traps in wild dog control will be launched today by National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group Chair and AgForce President Brent Finlay at the AgForce conference in Brisbane.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, welcomed the DVD initiative, which was produced by the Invasive Animals CRC with assistance from the Australian Government's Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

"It is critical for Australia to better manage existing pest animals and to prevent new pest animals from becoming established," Minister Ludwig said. "This instructional DVD helps us meet these objectives and provides landholders with the capacity to be proactive and effectively control wild dogs to reduce their impact on their livestock/agriculture".

The DVD *Managing Vertebrate Pests - introduction to using foot hold traps for the capture of wild dogs and foxes* includes State-by-State guides to regulations for the use of foot hold traps and provides a snapshot of proven tips and techniques from a variety of locations across Australia. It contains two hours of footage and was produced with the guidance of professional trappers to enable landholders to confidently undertake trapping as part of integrated wild dog control program.

National Wild Dog Facilitator, Greg Mifsud said the DVD will be rolled out across the country at wild dog management field days and trapper training days. "Trapping is an integral part of any wild dog and fox management program and while some parts of Australia are well serviced by professional wild dog and vertebrate pest controllers many areas are not. This DVD will help landholders themselves to set foot hold traps in the most effective and legal manner.

"Landholders should continue to call on the skills of professional trappers in areas where they are available," Mr Mifsud said. "The DVD also allows landholders and stakeholders to review topics covered on training days in their own time, providing them with the confidence to effectively set a trap in the ground when necessary. I encourage landholders to ensure they are familiar with relevant legislation and regulations surrounding the use of foothold traps in each State before they use these traps".

The DVDs will be available for viewing at natural resource management group and catchment management authority offices throughout the country. The DVDs will be provided free-of-charge at wild dog and fox management field days and trapping training courses conducted by industry, natural resources management groups and state government agencies.

Copies of the DVD are also available free of charge by contacting the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre on email: contact@invasiveanimals.com or (02) 6201 2887.

MORE INFORMATION:

Glenn Conroy

Invasive Animals CRC

Ph: 02-6201 2890 or 0406376648

Email: glenn.conroy@invasiveanimals.com

University of Canberra, Canberra ACT 2601