

RODENT CONTROL ON FARM

INDUSTRY RODENTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Project

The Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan is a guide for producers on best practice management of on-farm rodenticide use to optimise rodent control, which minimises the spread of disease and damage to infrastructure. The booklet provides producers with the information to allow them to set up their own Rodenticide Stewardship Plan. It also ensures the methods used to control rodents do not compromise food safety.

Value to Producers

Implementing an effective and sustainable on-farm Rodenticide Stewardship Plan is not a huge task, but will help producers to minimise the transmission of a number of pig diseases. This results in better animal welfare outcomes and less cost to the producer in treating those diseases.

The standards developed for on-farm quality assurance (QA) programs such as the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ) are consistent with the requirements of a farm's rodenticide stewardship plan. For example, a properly created and implemented APIQ QA system will complement the requirements of the Rodenticide Stewardship Plan through compliance to multiple basic APIQ Standards. The APIQ standard performance indicators are outlined in the Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan.

There are additional benefits to having an on-farm rodent management plan, including a reduction in other pests such as cats and foxes that might feed on rats and mice, and reduced damage to wiring and infrastructure, and therefore lower maintenance and replacement costs.

Problem

Rodents, such as rats and mice, are a significant pest for piggeries. They can transmit diseases which can compromise the health and growth of pigs. These include leptospirosis, salmonellosis, swine dysentery, erysipelas, intestinal spirochaetosis, and toxoplasmosis. Rodents can also cause significant damage by gnawing and burrowing into wiring and shed infrastructure.

Project Participants

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More Information

- For the full manual: <http://australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Industry-Rodenticide-Stewardship-Plan-2019.pdf>
- For technical information, contact Lechelle van Breda at lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au

Recommendations

On-farm rodent control programs should not rely on rodenticides alone to control rodent problems as this is not effective or sustainable. Instead, they should take an integrated approach which includes:

- prevention and hygiene
- monitoring
- non-chemical solutions
- chemical solutions (baiting)
- ongoing monitoring

This approach is explained in more detail in the Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan.