

## POISONING PROGRAM

### 1. Monitor Site and Assess Infestation

Before starting a poisoning program, locate warrens, rabbit harbour and feeding areas. Identify rabbit grazing and scratching areas. The placement of bait is critical. Consult your local authority if more information is required on how to implement any of the following:

- Map your paddocks and land areas identifying rabbit feeding areas, rabbit prone soils, areas of wildlife congregation, rocky areas, warrens/burrows (size and number), "rippable" warrens, steep areas unsuited to ripping with machinery, rivers, streams, above ground surface harbour, and show any rabbit free areas, boundary fences (rabbit proof or not), spotlight transect routes.
- Spotlight counts should be undertaken 3 consecutive nights commencing 1 hour after it is dark identifying areas of high, medium or low rabbit infestation.

Other methods of assessing infestation can be used in conjunction with the spotlight counts:

- Warren monitoring counts to identify how many burrows are active or non-active over the monitoring period.
- Warren/rabbit counts - involves counting of rabbits that emerged from warrens. This method gives better appreciation of the age of rabbits on each warren. The Gibb, McLean and other modified Scales - these scales may be used as indicators of relative rabbit abundance.

### 2. Notify Neighbours

Landholders (in NSW) must ensure that at least three days notice is given to and received by all adjoining neighbours before laying Shotgun Pindone baits. Notification can be given by telephone or personal contact or where this is not possible, by mail. The landholder must put up notices specifying the target animal and date of poison application immediately before Shotgun Pindone poisoning operations start on his/her property. These notices must remain up for at least four weeks and are placed at:

- All entrances to the property
- All entrances to the actual poisoning site, and
- All the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.

Notices are available from APB (WA), Rural Lands Protection Boards (NSW), your local authority and chemical retailers.

### 3. Laying Bait

Shallow furrows and swathes of mown grass are commonly referred to as trails. Whatever the method of laying trails, they must be laid through feeding areas in the area of most rabbit activity as identified during monitoring of rabbit populations. Two locations are recommended for bait trails, one reasonable close (but not closer than 30m) to where rabbits are living and one a further 40m out. If rabbit populations are high, there may be a need for baiting a further 40m out. These trail positions are only a guide and depending on experience, they can be altered. The aim is to maximise the chance that all rabbits in the local area will encounter the bait trail.

#### • Furrow baiting

Lay the bait in trails made by cutting continuous furrow 10cm wide and 2cm deep (to a maximum depth of 10cm) between rabbit feeding areas and harbour then around and through feeding areas. For large scale programs use 16km of trail per 100ha with trails 40m apart. In areas of loose sand it is best to replace the cutting disc of the baitlayer with car wheel and tyre so that the oats are laid on a compacted, flat surface. This technique is only necessary if the area to be baited consists largely or entirely of loose sandy soils with little or no vegetation.

#### • Scatter (broadcast) baiting

This method is mainly used in areas where it is impossible to run a trail due to terrain, large rocks, fallen timber or crops; or because trailing might lead to erosion. Bait can be thinly broadcast if cutting of furrows is impractical. The oats are scattered in a swathe about 5m wide, but using a vehicle-mounted (or towed) machine.

#### • Aerial Baiting

Aerial baiting is an effective means of dealing with a rabbit problem in steep, rocky and hilly areas where ground baiting cannot be employed. As there are restrictions and legal requirements in most States/Territories associated with aerial baiting programs, a landholder should discuss the intended program with the appropriate State/Territory authority several months in advance.

### Amount of Bait Required

As a general guide, the amount of bait required is outlined in the following table:

Density of rabbits	Low	Medium	High
Estimated by spotlight transect	<20 rabbits/km	21-50 rabbits/km	>50 rabbits/km
Kg bait per km trail	3	6	9

Sufficient bait is required to enable all rabbits in an area to consume approximately 15-30g of bait from each application.

### 4. Collect uneaten bait/Cover trail

All baits that are not eaten within a period of 4 days after bait consumption ceases are to be collected and destroyed by incineration (where permitted), or buried at a depth of 500mm, or covered with sufficient soil to prevent domestic animals or livestock from gaining access to the poison bait.

### 5. Collect Rabbit Carcasses

Collect unused bait and carcasses and dispose of unused baits and carcasses safely by burning (where permitted) or burying below 500mm in a disposal pit.

### PRECAUTION STATEMENTS:

DO NOT place baits in locations that are accessible to children.  
DO NOT allow bait to contaminate foodstuffs or feed intended for human or animal consumption.

### PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK:

DO NOT allow stock to graze in any treated area.  
DO NOT place baits in locations that are accessible to domestic animal or livestock.

### PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS, AND ENVIRONMENT:

DO NOT feed to birds or native wildlife.  
DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers.

### STORAGE AND DISPOSAL:

Store in the closed, original container at or below 25°C (room temperature).  
Do NOT store for prolonged periods in direct sunlight. At the end of the control program collect or bury the residual bait before allowing stock onto the baited area. Both during and at the end of the program recover any rabbit carcasses and destroy by incineration or deep burial as some species of birds are susceptible to poisoning from rabbit carcasses. Triple or preferably pressure rinse containers before disposal. Dispose of rinsings in a disposal pit marked and set up for this purpose, clear of waterways, desirable vegetation and tree roots. Break, crush, or puncture and deliver empty packaging for appropriate disposal to an approved waste management facility. If an approved waste management facility is not available bury the empty packaging 500 mm below the surface in a disposal pit specifically marked and set up for this purpose clear of waterways, desirable vegetation and tree roots, in compliance with relevant Local, State or Territory government regulations. DO NOT burn empty containers or product.

### SAFETY DIRECTIONS:

Poisonous if swallowed. DO NOT touch bait. DO NOT inhale dust. When preparing and distributing the bait wear elbow length PVC gloves. If product on skin and after baiting, wash thoroughly with soap and water. Wash hands and gloves after use.  
Vitamin K1 (phytomenadione) is antidotal.

### FIRST AID:

If poisoning occurs get to a doctor or hospital quickly.

### MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET:

Additional Information is listed in the Material Safety Data Sheet

### LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

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