



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.

Conservation and Wildlife Management Division

"Preserving Australia's Heritage"

SSAA (Qld) Inc Conservation and Wildlife Management Division  
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## **CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld) NEWS**

### **March 2012 Edition**

#### ***A message from Qld State President of SSAA - Geoff Jones***

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Last month in Brisbane the CWM committee and regional leaders came together for a one day workshop to review the CWM division's progress and consolidate a vision for future growth.

The logistical challenge of gathering and organising the participants from the far flung parts of the state in the one place on the same day can't be underestimated and the committee and regional leaders should be congratulated on producing a very successful day.

Successful "get togethers" of this nature (as some of you in management positions may know) require a reasonable investment of resources and I can confirm that the committee and regional leaders organising this event were extremely sensitive to the implications this has on the division's funds. I can also confirm and endorse that the expenditure was

excellent value for money. The benefits to the division in the future will be returned in truck loads.

The workshop participants identified many worthwhile topics for consideration however given the time available their efforts were mainly focused on the more pressing issues. The remaining issues will be dealt with over the next months as time and resources permit. The feedback I have received from the committee following the workshop has been extremely enthusiastic and many of the actions arising from the workshop are starting to be implemented.

Neal Finch, who many of you know through his work on setting up the Red Deer Research Project at Cressbrook attended the workshop as a guest of the committee and gave the meeting an enlightening insight into how hunting organisations are currently viewed by the world in general.

One of the key issues identified by Neal was the changing mix of culture, age and gender within the community/stakeholder's organisations and the ultimate challenge that poses now and into the future for the survival of hunters and sporting shooters.

More so now than ever, it is important to understand the impact this demographic change may have on our 'image' and how we are being perceived within the general community/stakeholder's organisations. The CWM committee and regional leaders will over time develop a strategy to position the division to best deal with this challenge.

In relation to the workshop outcomes, I would summarize that a major focus will be made on building relationships with key stakeholders and building the CWM capacity to deliver through increased membership and membership involvement. This coupled with continued improvement in our operating procedures and on the ground performance will set the

platform for an exciting and rewarding future.

As the CWM division is purely a volunteer organisation I would like to encourage the membership to get behind the efforts of the committee and put up your hand to help contribute to building of a stronger future for the division.

Geoff Jones

### ***Message from the Committee Chairman***

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**New Projects** Get your accreditations done, start preparing your vehicles, equipment, rifle loads and keep some holidays up your sleeve.

We are in the final assessment and sign off stages on up to 3 important new projects.

The 3 government owned properties cover an area of approx 250,000 hectares and are in the Blackall/Longreach region of Western Qld. There has been a massive increase in cat and fox numbers on 2 properties due to the increase in native rats following the rains of 1 to 2 years ago.

The native rats are no longer in large numbers and CWM have been requested to provide teams of accredited shooters to reduce the numbers of cats and foxes that are suspected to be dining on our native birds and animals.

A major part of this project is that specimens shot are to be frozen and sent away for a University study into their diet - i.e. to see what they are eating now that the native rats are no longer available.

CWM has been requested to provide 1 or more teams per month until mid 2013, with the first teams to go in March 2012 (weather, roads depending). In the initial phases we are looking for members that want to put their spotlighting skills to good use. Barracks with hot/cold running water, 240v, bedrooms, showers, kitchens etc are available.

There are other feral species that can be controlled also so long as we keep the cats and foxes as the 1<sup>st</sup> priority. We expect this to change over time as we conclude the cat & fox study phase and our project partners see our results and look to use our skills more widely.

Email [cwm@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:cwm@ssaaqld.org.au) with Subject: 'Longreach' if you wish to put your name on the list of possible attendees.

**Social Night in Brisbane** It was great to see so many people along to our 2nd Brisbane social night.

**Hunters Survey** I hope everyone appreciates the importance of the 'Hunter's Survey' being run by the Uni of Qld and wholeheartedly endorsed by the SSAA.

The purpose of this survey is to document and understand the motivations of Australian hunters, particularly in relation to their role as natural resource managers, and to quantify their participation rates and expenditure on hunting.

You can anonymously complete this online survey that will help to show the value of hunting to the environment and the economy.

If you haven't yet completed the survey, please log in now at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aushuntersurvey>

Keep an eye out for the next social night or training event in your area and remember to bring a friend or family member as we'll need many more good conservation hunters to service the many projects in the pipeline.

Damien Ferguson  
Committee Chairman  
Mobile - 0402 424 424  
[damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)

### ***The committee needs your HELP!***

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We are looking for some members to join a standing subcommittee for **Document Control**. This is a vital area of work for any well run organisation.

The purpose of the subcommittee is to review our current documents from time to time and improve the content as well as work on new documents such as things like specific Job Safety Analysis for our projects.

If you have a bent for developing procedures or just enjoy creating meaningful simple documents then this is for you. Most of the work can be done via email.

Please contact **Mike Farrell** on **0418 350 422** for more information and to express your interest.

## ***Revised Field Guidelines - Project Standard Operating Procedures***

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In recent times the division's public profile has gained a very positive lift and we are now being seen as a credible group of dedicated volunteers who provide their services for the conservation of our native plants and animals.

It is important that we maintain our high standard of field safety and ethical behaviour and build on these achievements as we move forward into the future.

Over the last few months the committee has been undertaking a review of the Trip Leaders Tool Kit (standard field operating procedures). The review had two main objectives, firstly to review our current mitigation of high risk activities and secondly to refine our procedures in light of lessons learnt and experience gained on past projects.

One important change is that we have renamed the document '**Project Standard Operating Procedures**'. Over the next few months the document will be rolled out in all of our operating regions.

We would encourage all members to continue to build the division's reputation and positive image through the active implementation of our Project Standard Operating Procedures.

## ***Central Eastern Queensland Report***

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**Gladstone region round up -** Since the last newsletter there has been two Calliope project trips and one Gladstone project trip.

Calliope project in November had the highest number of pigs destroyed since the start of that project. A total of 30 pigs were trapped or shot over the week which was a top effort by all. Interestingly three out of the four traps all caught large solitary boars where most of the others shot were medium sized pigs in small mobs. This was the first time that quite a bit of time was put into free feeding prior to the start of the project. Also the use of game cameras gave us a real head start in knowing where to look for the pigs first.



One of our female members

The Gladstone project was touch and go with the weather. As always in December the chances of storms are high. But if the weather holds out it can be quite productive. The trip was cut short due to the weather (bogged 4 times on the way out) but good numbers were taken. A total of 18 with the traps starting to capture pigs for the first time in over 12 months due to the dryer conditions. Two aerial shoots were conducted through 2011 32 and 101 pigs shot on those occasions. The majority of those numbers were to the north of the marine plain in the mangrove swamps that aren't accessible to CWM.

The Calliope pig project in February was again productive

with 26 pigs shot, none trapped. The wet weather prior and during the project meant the pig activity patterns had changed, more pigs were found in the higher drier areas. One theory is that the pigs were avoiding the wetter areas because of the large numbers of leeches. This suited us just fine, because removing leeches every two steps was starting to get tedious. Although "Rid" and "Bushmans" did slow them right down.



Calliope is a awesome property

One more pig trap was built; a number 6 shaped design was used with a different gate tripping mechanism. This will be trialled and if successful existing traps will be changed and ones built in the future will be of this design. If funding comes through another 10 traps are planned to be built giving us a quite an effective trapping program.



Pig traps were built

The trip down to Brisbane for the CWM strategy meeting and social night was a highlight for me. Getting around a table with

people I have only spoken to on the phone or seen their names copied in on emails was very rewarding. I came away from that week end with the view that we have a lot of very talented people in the organisation that are really committed to the cause of furthering the organisation's and membership's best interests.

Greg De Koning

### **Central Western Queensland Report**

G'day from the Central West. Well the rain is still with us, and as such has hampered us getting on the ground pretty much since last year. Although Avocet has been visited a few times the grasses are very high which makes it very easy for our target species to evade us.

A recent accreditation training was held and 4 new members have come on board. Three of the new members are now ready to hit the paddocks "as keen as". We just need to put in the hard yards again and tackle the long grass. I imagine this is a dilemma that all of CWM is facing at the moment.

Speaking of long grass and things that bite and the recent death of a young man in our district I would like to touch on the subject of snake bite and being prepared for such an incident. Myself, I have compression bandages in every pack that I carry and also several in the 4x4. Now I'm no expert on the subject but what I know is how to treat this situation.

- Remain calm
- Don't wash the wound (helps identification of snake)

- Immobilise the bitten limb with pressure bandage and splint if able to
- Get help to the patient if possible
- Or get the patient to help as quickly as possible
- Monitor their vitals
- **REMEMBER, REMAIN CALM.** If you're hysterical this isn't helping the patient.

As I write this tonight the rain is still coming down, hopefully we can get on the ground real soon and see you all out there. Safe and happy hunting.

Rod Costin

Phone: 0417 747 063  
coscarp@hotmail.com

### **North Queensland Report**

#### **Townsville report**

We have had a very quiet wet season up this way. We will be kicking off the year with a Range Day at Thuringowa SSAA on the first Saturday in the month at 3.30pm. Col will be running the practical shoots for those interested in competing against themselves or just use the range. The practical shoot proved popular amongst those that had a go last year.

The Dam Project is on hold waiting for the weather to improve and Paul will be advising on developments there.

We will be looking for 2 member teams to deal with a few feral problem areas around the Townsville area so if you are interested and available let me know.

There are several Townsville

members interested in heading down to the new project in central Queensland. Drop me a line or come out to the Range Day the first Saturdays of the month at 3.30 and we will fill in the details with what we have for 2012.

Randle Irvin

### **Mackay Report**

Collinsville Project - recent discussion with the owners have indicated that another trip may be possible later in the year. At the moment the property is inaccessible due to the wet season. Although the future use of the property has not been determined at the present time the owners have indicated that we should be able to have access for another project, most probably during the period July to September. We will continue to monitor the situation and let members know as early as possible when any future trip may be.

Mackay members held a practice day at the local SSAA Range on 4th February where our only female member managed to upgrade her accreditation from Light rifle to Heavy rifle. The following week-end she participated on the Calliope Pig Project and bagged her first pig. Well done!

On Sunday 12th February several members attended the second annual Mackay Sports Expo to support SSAA Mackay in encouraging juniors to participate in the shooting sports.

We have three remaining Accreditation Days on our calendar for the rest of 2012.

Graham Blines

## **SE Queensland Report**

The regular Stewartdale monthly feral control program has been well attended over the summer period with additional visits to the property being organised. A big effort by the SSAA to control noxious weeds on and around the lagoons and dams on the property has been successful. This has contributed to an increase in bird numbers and activity around the waters edge and may be a reason for the increased sightings of foxes on our last 3 trips. However, this species have proved elusive and only one animal has been taken. They appear to be very wary of the use of a fox whistle or calling device. Our afternoon and evening walk around revealed recent fresh pig sign but none have been taken so far.

The regular Stewartdale monthly feral control activity includes camping overnight Saturday afternoon walk, night spotlight session, and Sunday morning walk. Find out more go to:  
<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/projects/project-stewartdale.html>  
This is great way to get familiar with CWM and meet fellow members.

Owen McIntyre – Sthn Qld Co-ordinator, Stewartdale Project and Accreditation Officer

### **Burbank Fox Project**

The European Red Fox (*vulpes vulpes*) continues to be a significant pest animal in Australia. Quite apart from environmental and social impacts the continued economic cost is estimated to be 227.5 million dollars per annum.\*



The European Red Fox (*vulpes vulpes*)

CWM has received a request for assistance with the control of several animals in the Southern Brisbane peri-urban area. A commitment has been undertaken with CWM members setting up trail cameras to assess the patterns of the animal behaviour. Work is ongoing to see whether shooting and or trapping is the most appropriate method of control.

Reference - McLeod R (2004) "Counting the Cost: Impact of Invasive Animals in Australia 2004" : Cooperative Research Centre for Pest Animal Control, Canberra.

Bob Michael

### **Coming up in March - Action packed SEQ Training weekend**

We have a cracker of a SEQ training weekend coming up in March. This will be the start of a new format using SSAA field rifle style shooting activities. Field Rifle has a large following at SSAA clubs throughout Australia and is designed around the most commonly utilised hunting positions. This will test and improve your shooting skills and you can keep a score card to track how you are going for next time.

Also on the program Brett Robertson will present a session on first aid for field activities. These are must have skills and knowledge for field work.

Our June training weekend will feature field butchery skills. A guest presenter will take you through the finer points and demonstrate with several goats.

Most importantly we have a number of new projects coming up that you can hear about and get organised to participate in. All SEQ members are urged to come along:

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March  
Location: Stewartdale

For more info or directions if you haven't been before contact:

Damien Ferguson - 0402 424 424  
[damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)  
Mark Woods - 0438 098 469 or  
[markwoods2@bigpond.com](mailto:markwoods2@bigpond.com)

### **The Stewartdale Property**

Stewartdale is a 1200 hectare property 40 minutes west of Brisbane and is owned by S.S.A.A. (QLD) Inc. The property features a number of shooting facilities and ranges and is also highly bio diverse. It contains three threatened ecosystems (2 endangered & one of concern) and several rare and threatened species

On the Stewartdale property CWMs base of operations is a hill with a camping area that we share with the Logan cadets and other groups. The camp features a large fig tree, a storage shed incorporating drop

toilets and another undercover area for cooking and dodging showers.



CWM campsite on 'the hill'

The road into Stewartdale goes past the Bundamba lagoon and during rain events became impassable and prevented access to fig tree hill. With the help of CWM member Brett Marais the road was upgraded and is now gives all weather access.



The old and new access road

The views from the top of "the hill" are forever changing depending on the time of year. Sitting around the camp fire at night and seeing satellites going across the clear sky is great. Although, being so close to home most people don't stay over and miss out on a great camping location.



An ever changing landscape

From this camp CWM conducts the monthly cull including spotlighting for foxes, hares and cats. At daylight we often split into groups and hunt up different valleys to remove pigs. In the process we see many of the native birds and animals that abound on the property.



Hares and foxes are target species

We have also helped improve the property by doing track clearing and thinning out the blue gum saplings clumps so

that they can grow straight and strong. We have done maintenance work on the main shooting range to put a little bit back into our sport. With about 15 members getting into it we were done in a short time and even worked during some cease fires.

Ken Payne

### ***November 2010 training weekend hunt report***

By 4pm the training weekend's activities and the heat had zapped the energy from most of us, but the possibility of pigs coming out into the open in the fading light was too good to resist. Rifles in hand, we headed out on foot for the likely spots.

While moving between locations, I heard the three quick clicks on the radio meaning game had been sighted. About 80m ahead of us four pigs were feeding, oblivious to our presence. I was keen to take the opportunity they presented immediately, however, Damien Ferguson showed his experience by correctly predicting that they would continue feeding straight toward us.

As the pigs passed 15m in front of us, the rifles barked, the muzzles flashed and two pigs hit the deck.



Author with one of the pigs taken at the training weekend

An attempted reload in which my bolt failed to strip a round from the magazine ensured that at least one pig got a reprieve until the next Stewartdale Project.

Greg Moloney

### ***Notes from the Feral Animal Control Workshop at Tenterfield***

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I found this workshop very informative. When chasing feral animals you can never have too much information. The more you know about their behaviour, their preferred food types and how weather patterns affect the animals the more successful your hunting trips will be. I urge you to attend these when you see these and similar workshops in your area. Most of them are run by NRM or Catchment bodies. Here is a summary of some interesting points

**Dogs** - In an 18 month period, from 2009 onwards, some 2000 wild dogs were taken, trapped and shot in the Charleville area alone.



Wild dogs

Researchers put forward good evidence to show that the “meso-predator” theory does not work in heavy timbered or mountain areas. Camera

evidence showed that once a dog had passed and scent-marked an area then a fox come along an hour or so later and marked that same area following the exact same trail as the dog. This was shown on many occasions and on some occasions even a cat would join in on this as well.

In areas where dog numbers are quite prevalent there has been an 80% decline in koalas. The connection appears to be heat. On the hotter days the koalas come down to ground level to be cooler, this then makes them more susceptible to dog attacks.

Wild dogs carry a pathogen that is confidently suspected to cause cattle to spontaneously abort their foetus. This sometimes goes unnoticed by farmers or just put down to a bad year but research is showing that it is on the increase.

**Pigs** - The pig's home range increases in winter. On average a male in western NSW will cover 2,500 to 2,900 hectares and in coastal NSW, 350 to 1650 hectares. A female in western NSW will cover 1,200 to 2,000 hectares but in a coastal/mountain area they only cover 375 to 1375 hectares.

Pigs need about 15% protein in their diet to breed well or breed above sustainable recovery levels. During winter and in drought times is when controls are most effective. This reduces numbers below natural recovery levels so the harder you hit them the more effective it is. Flood times are another good time to implement controls as they tend to be pushed onto flood created

islands. There have been recorded instances of 100 plus pigs on a small island. Helicopters are best for this kind of control.



When trapping pigs take the trap to the pigs and put a camera on it to see how many you have coming in to the trap while pre-feeding. This enables you to determine when you have got the lot. It will also tell you if your trap is working properly or effectively.

**1080 Poison** - 1080 got its name from being the 1,080<sup>th</sup> poison in a trial to find suitable bait poisons and the name stuck. Fluoro-acetate doses biodegrade over time and moisture also decreases its potency.

It will take around 4 hours to kill a full grown dog as it works on the animals' energy receptors by stopping the brain from talking to the muscles and vice versa. When the animal is in its last stages before death the body can have quite a lot of spasms and vocal noises but it is believed that the animal is not feeling any pain because of the way it cuts off the brain from the muscles.

Cheers Mark Woods

#### References

[http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity\\_Environment\\_alPests/IPA-Heart-Leaf-Poison-Bush-PP51.pdf](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity_Environment_alPests/IPA-Heart-Leaf-Poison-Bush-PP51.pdf)

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## **CWM Contacts**

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## ***Our Supporters***

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The businesses listed below support us in different ways, whether it is through direct discounts to members, donations to the Christmas Shoot, or items loaned for field use.

When purchasing items from these businesses please be sure to mention you are a Hunting & Conservation member for discounts where applicable.

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Fax: 3391 8835  
<http://www.rebelgunworks.com/>

## Upcoming Activity Dates –2012

Be sure to mark the dates below in your diary and plan to come along. You never know – you might just be free on that date. We have kept this page separate so you can put it up on the fridge too!

**Hunting Activities** - Attendance at activities **must** be arranged with the Team Leader (Contact) as most activities will have a safe operating limit.

<b>March</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
10 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
<b>April</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
20 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
<b>May</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
<b>June</b>			
9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
<b>July</b>			
13 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
<b>August</b>			
11 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
TBC	Collinsville	Northern	Graham Blines
<b>September</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
<b>October</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
TBC	Hughenden	Northern	Randle Irvin
13 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>November 2011</b>			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
TBC	Townsville Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBC	Collinsville	Northern	Graham Blines
10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
<b>December</b>			

1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
TBC	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes

For both the new Townsville project and the existing Collinsville project either contact the relevant project leader or keep a close eye on the email traffic for trip dates as they will be at short notice at this stage

### **Project Target Species**

Avocet – Primary - Foxes, Cats, Dogs. Secondary – Rabbits, Pigs

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs

Gympie – Primary – Wild Dogs. Secondary – Feral Pigs, Foxes, Feral Cats and European Hares

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, Foxes, Cats, Dogs. Secondary – Pigs

Townsville – Primary – Pigs