

**Project Summary:  
Feasibility of delivering oral liquid vaccines or  
contraceptives to feral pigs.**

**Project number: 1WEDPP04**

**Project Synopsis**

This project aimed to develop a field liquid delivery system for vaccines or contraceptives being delivered to feral pigs. Critical to ensuring vaccination of feral pigs in the field is consumption of sufficient active liquid. The project initially involved a series of pen trials at Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre (Queensland) to establish iophenoxic acid as a quantitative biomarker.

The aim was to produce a dose response-decay model to which field elevations of blood iodine levels can be compared to assess the volume of 'vaccine' ingested.

Simultaneously, five prototype liquid delivery vehicles were tested on captive feral pigs, to assess uptake of liquid iophenoxic acid and thus the best delivery system in terms of liquid volume consumed.

All blood iodine analysis was performed by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in Brisbane.

The project proceeded to field trials in the state forests near Inglewood, Queensland, and Kingsville, Texas.

The principal investigator was Dr Stephen Lapidge.  
For further information, see the related article:

Cowled, B, Lapidge, S, Smith, M & L Staples. Vaccination of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) using iophenoxic acid as a simulated vaccine. *Aust Vet J* 2008; 86(1&2): 50-55

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