

TALKS

Kaput feral hog bait with 0.005% warfarin: product development, efficacy, non-target, human safety and politics

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Destruction of crops and landscape in the United States by wild pigs amounts to \$4 Billion each year. Kaput Feral Hog Bait (with 0.005% warfarin) was approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2017 for use against wild pigs in the U.S. Field studies conducted in northern Texas from 2015-2017 using 0.005% warfarin resulted in efficacy averaged >95% with no issues related to primary or secondary toxicity to domestic animals or wildlife. Additionally, laboratory and pen studies were conducted on with warfarin on wildlife species to examine the potential for primary and secondary toxicity to wildlife. Over a 10-year period, non-target risk assessments were conducted for magpies, American alligators, mallard ducks, European ferrets, and bobwhite quail to assess primary and secondary dietary exposure to 0.050, 0.025, or 0.005% warfarin baits. Warfarin-induced morbidity and/or mortality never occurred during any of the studies. Studies have also been conducted to evaluate the ability of the delivery system (HogStopper® feeder) to deter access by non-target wildlife. Feeder modifications have since been made (thickness of metal lids, weight of doors, etc.) to limit access by black Bear and raccoons. Studies have also been conducted to evaluate the usefulness of the blue dye, and indicate the dye is evident at 3 hours after bait consumption and will remain for at least 14 days even if the animal eats >200 g bait, deterring potential human consumption. This bait is a US federally-registered product which, when used properly in conjunction with the HogStopper, reduces feral hog numbers in the United States and elsewhere, while presenting little to no risk to humans and non-target wildlife.