

## Leschenault Biosecurity Group Summer 2021-2022 RHDV1-K5 Virus Release INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

By participating in this program, you will need to undertake work on your property leading up to the virus release. This includes several nights of pre-feeding oats and liaising with LBG.

### Assessment of site and estimation of rabbit numbers



- Population numbers and control should be recorded via the FeralScan App, via My Pest Guide Reporter "Leschenault Biosecurity Survey" or reporting to LBG.
- Check for kittens (baby rabbits). Do not release RHDV1-K5 into breeding populations i.e. when baby rabbits are observed. Baby rabbits may develop an immunity to future outbreaks/releases of the virus.

### Pre-feeding

- Perform Pre-feeding over at least 3 consecutive nights leading up to the virus release night. Pre-feeding of non-treated oats is an essential step to allow rabbits to become accustomed to eating the virus vector. Several spots can be trialled, and the most visited site(s) should be selected to lay the virus infected oats.
- Distribute pre-feeding by laying the oats in furrows (see image below) or in shallow trays.
- Oats can be purchased from farm supply stores such as Wight and Emmett and Donnybrook Farm Supplies.

### Placement of virus-treated oats

- Virus treated oats will be supplied by LBG at pre-arranged collection locations, LBG will contact you closer to the date of release with detailed information.
- The virus-treated oats should be laid as soon as possible after preparation. *The virus only stays viable on the oats for 24 hours.* It is preferable to lay oats in the evening before dusk.

### Cost

- Participants will be responsible for purchasing a bag of oats to carry out pre-feeding. A small bag of oats should cost around \$20. The oats treated with the virus will be provided.
- Landholders who receive the Declared Pest Rate (those within our operational area on properties 1 hectare or larger) will be able to participate in the program fully subsidised at no cost.
- Landowners inside the LBG operational area but on properties smaller than 1 hectare, may still participate at a cost of \$45.



*Left:* Furrows should be located near rabbit activity but not next to established faecal piles. Using a garden trowel, scrape a furrow into the dirt to disturb the soil. Furrows should be 50-70cm long. Each night re-do the furrow to turn over the soil before laying fresh oats. Lay oats along the furrow. This needs to be done for a minimum of three nights, however longer may be required to establish the best locations.  
*Right:* Example of oats required. Sometimes called 'clipped', 'whole' or 'dressed' oats.



Contact LBG:

[info@lbginc.org.au](mailto:info@lbginc.org.au)

Kate 0488 021 344

[www.lbginc.org.au](http://www.lbginc.org.au)

# The "K5" Release Steps - 14 Day Process

