

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria)

A fair go for responsible people.



October 13, 2016

Help at hand for busy farmers

A program new to Victoria is connecting farmers with accredited and insured volunteer shooters who can control pest animals on their properties.

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) is encouraging land managers to visit the SSAA Farmer Assist program website and get involved.

“Feral and pest animals cost our primary industries hundreds of millions of dollars every year,” SSAA Victoria Conservation and Pest Management manager Rhys Coote said. “These animals also cause considerable damage to the environment and kill native species.

“With farmers working in excess of 12 hours a day during busy periods they have limited resources for managing pests on their own properties. Having an extra pair of hands or a group that you can trust coming on to your property and controlling pests can relieve a huge burden.”

The SSAA Farmer Assist program has been developed as an online platform, which allows farmers to post job ads when they require help with pest and feral animal control.

Farmers only need to complete a quick registration process and then post a pest control job that explains the details of a specific problem and how they would like assistance.

SSAA members who have completed the approved marksmanship test can then apply to fill the positions through the online portal.

Farmers can log on to the website at any time and read through the applications, strike up online conversations with applicants to get to know them better or approve them to attend their property.

“Our national body designed this program to suit the lifestyles of farmers, who can’t always be on the phone during business hours, or attend businesses in person,” Mr Coote said. “The program allows farmers to work to their own schedules, with people who understand their struggles and want to help.”

All members who participate in the program are covered by the Association’s \$20 million public liability insurance.

The program has been successfully rolled out across Queensland, NSW, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania since 2014.

For details, visit the SSAA Farmer Assist program website (www.farmerassist.com.au) or contact CPM Manager Rhys Coote on 03 8892 2777.

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Media enquiries: Caitlin Pearson, Marketing and Communications Manager, on 0477 22 77 02