



SSAA Farmer Assist Program

Program Rules & Code of Practice

1. Introduction

The SSAA Farmer Assist Program provides a structured pathway for farmers to access skilled, ethical, and insured SSAA members to assist with wildlife and pest management. Participation in the program requires strict adherence to the rules, responsibilities, and code of practice outlined in this document.

These rules ensure safe firearm use, strong landholder–hunter relationships, high animal welfare standards, and responsible data collection to support long-term wildlife management outcomes.

All participants **must read, understand, and agree** to this Program Rules & Code of Practice document before engaging in any activities under the SSAA Farmer Assist program.

2. Program Purpose

2.1 Vision

To build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between farmers, land managers, and SSAA members.

2.2 Mission

To support agricultural productivity and sustainability through ethical, responsible, and proficient wildlife management provided by accredited SSAA members.

2.3 Objectives

The program aims to:

- Provide farmers with competent, insured hunters for wildlife management.
 - Strengthen connections between rural communities and SSAA members.
 - Improve environmental and agricultural outcomes by reducing impacts of overabundant wildlife and predators.
 - Collect accurate management data to support property-level and regional decision making.
 - Demonstrate hunting as a humane, effective wildlife management tool.
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3. Program Structure

3.1 The Farmer Assist Jobs Board

A digital platform connecting farmers with SSAA members who meet program requirements. Farmers request assistance (place jobs), and members respond if they can meet the expectations and requirements.

3.2 Promotion and Collaboration

SSAA promotes the program to farming bodies, members, and regional stakeholders. Partner organisations may assist in community awareness and program development.

3.3 Insurance

All participating SSAA members are covered by SSAA's **\$20 million Public Liability Insurance** for lawful shooting activities.

Farmers gain peace of mind knowing all participants are appropriately insured.

3.4 Data Collection

All members will be required to enter job data on the [SSAA Activity Log](#) website so SSAA can monitor program performance.

4. Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the SSAA Farmer Assist Program, members must:

1. Be a current financial member of the SSAA.
2. Hold valid firearm licences and any required hunting or mitigation permits.
3. Demonstrate required marksmanship proficiency (Section 5).
4. Adhere to all program rules, the Code of Practice, animal welfare standards, and safe firearm handling requirements.
5. Submit accurate activity log for every activity.

6. Always conduct themselves professionally while representing the SSAA.

Failure to comply may result in suspension or removal from the program.

5. Firearm Proficiency Requirements

To ensure ethical and humane outcomes, participants must demonstrate a level of marksmanship equivalent to professional macropod harvesters.

Assessment Requirements

- **Rimfire:** 5-shot group within the assessment zone at **50 m** or
 - **Centrefire:** 5-shot group within the assessment zone at **100 m**
 - Shooting position: any supported field position **other than benchrest**
 - Assessment must be signed by an authorised SSAA Range Officer
 - Signed assessment target must be retained and produced to the landholder upon request
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6. Program Code of Practice (Mandatory)

All participants **must** comply with the following rules. Breaches may result in immediate program exclusion.

6.1 Firearm Safety Requirements

Participants must always practice safe firearm handling, including:

- Treat every firearm as loaded.
 - Carry only unloaded firearms into houses, camps, or vehicles.
 - Keep barrels clear of obstructions.
 - Always control muzzle direction.
 - Never point a firearm at anything unintended.
 - Never climb fences/trees with a loaded firearm.
 - Never shoot at hard surfaces or water.
 - Never combine firearms and alcohol/drugs.
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6.2 Legal Compliance

Participants must:

- Follow state and federal firearm laws, hunting regulations and landholder instructions.
 - Comply with relevant Codes of Practice, including the National Code of Practice for Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies (non-commercial).
 - Ensure the landholder holds all required destruction/mitigation permits for protected species.
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6.3 Permission to Hunt

- Access is permitted **only with direct landholder approval**.
 - Members may only cull in the areas and species approved by the landholder.
 - Access may be revoked at any time at the landholder's discretion.
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6.4 Target Identification

Under no circumstances may a shot be taken unless:

- The target is clearly identified.
 - The shot poses **no risk to people, livestock, infrastructure, or neighbouring properties**.
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6.5 Animal Welfare Standards

Participants must ensure:

- Every shot aims for a rapid, humane death (head or chest kill zone).
- Firearm and ammunition are sufficient for the species targeted.
- Shots are taken only within the firearm's effective kill range.
- Dependent young of lactating females are located and humanely euthanised.
- Wounded animals are immediately followed up and dispatched.

Shot Placement Guidance

- **Preferred:** Chest kill zone
- **Alternative:** Head kill zone (only when conditions allow or mandated)

Detailed diagrams are included in the Appendix.

6.6 Wounded Animal Procedures

If an animal is unintentionally wounded:

- Follow up immediately.
- If collapsed but conscious → administer a head kill-zone shot.
- If fled → track, locate and dispatch using chest kill-zone shots.

6.7 Use of Dogs

- Only permitted with landholder approval.
- Must comply with all state animal welfare and POCTA legislation.

6.8 Biosecurity Responsibilities

Participants must:

- Follow all landholder biosecurity instructions.
- Clean boots, equipment, and vehicles where required.
- Avoid spreading pests, diseases, or weeds.

7. Record-Keeping Requirements

To support adaptive management:

- Participants must submit activity log for every visit that records species seen, species taken, hours spent, and other data.
- SSAA may use aggregated data for research and reporting purposes.

8. Property-Based Wildlife Management Plans

Farmers and SSAA members may jointly complete a Property Wildlife Management Plan, which outlines:

- Property details
- Objectives and responsibilities
- Species requiring management
- Approved culling methods and firearm types

- Scheduling and seasonal planning
- Property rules and access conditions

A full template is provided in the Appendix.

9. Behaviour Expectations

Participants must:

- Act professionally, respectfully, and responsibly.
 - Follow all landholder rules regarding camping, vehicles, gates, livestock, fires, and movement around the property.
 - Report safety concerns, unusual observations, or suspected illegal activity to the landholder.
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10. Suspension and Removal from the Program

Any of the following may result in suspension or permanent removal:

- Unsafe firearm handling
- Animal welfare breaches
- Illegal activity
- Disrespectful behaviour towards landholders
- Failure to supply required data
- Misuse of land access or program systems

SSAA reserves the right to remove participants at its discretion.

11. Acknowledgement and Agreement

All participants must formally acknowledge that:

- They understand and agree to all program rules.
- They accept responsibility for their conduct while undertaking activities.
- They understand access can be revoked at any time by the landholder.
- They recognise that failure to comply may result in removal from the program.

Members at time of Sign-up must acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by the Program Rules and Code of Practice.

12. Appendices Section

1. Shot Placement Diagrams

Humane Hunting Principles and Proper Shot Placement

When hunting with firearms, a humane and rapid death is the highest priority. This is achieved through correct shot placement into one of two primary target areas: the **head kill zone** or the **chest kill zone**. Both regions contain vital organs, major blood vessels, or structures that, when disrupted, result in swift loss of consciousness and insensibility.

Firearm projectiles kill through several mechanisms. Upon impact, they cause direct damage to bone and soft tissues, disrupt blood flow to vital organs, and transfer concussive kinetic energy that affects the animal's central nervous system.

Head Kill Zone

Projectile impact to the head kill zone delivers intense concussive energy directly to the brain. This instantly renders the animal unconscious while causing fatal damage to bone, tissue, and major blood vessels. Because the brain is immediately incapacitated, this method results in a rapid and highly humane death with no perception of pain.

Chest Kill Zone

A projectile strike to the chest kill zone also results in rapid unconsciousness. The hydrostatic shock created by projectile energy can cause an instant fatal stroke through a sudden spike in blood pressure that damages sensitive brain vessels. Death typically follows quickly due to extensive blood loss from critical organs such as the heart and lungs, leading to rapid loss of consciousness and insensibility.

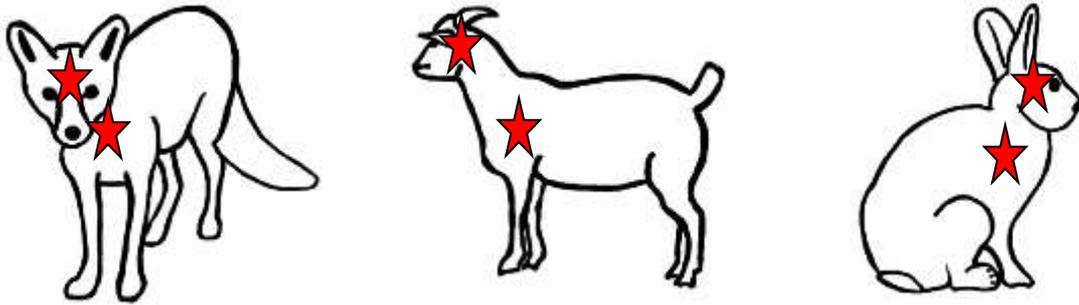
In most situations, **the chest kill zone is the preferred target**. It provides a larger aiming area, reducing the likelihood of wounding. Because an animal's head moves unpredictably, a small misalignment at the moment the trigger is pulled can result in severe facial injury—a potentially slow and painful outcome if a swift follow-up shot cannot be made.

Chest Kill Zone: Key Aiming Points

- **Side view:** Aim mid-chest, directly behind the shoulder joint. This area contains the lungs and heart and offers the largest vital zone.
 - **Front view:** Aim at the base of the neck, centred between the forelegs.
 - **Quartering (from behind):** Aim so the projectile's path will pass through the heart and exit near the far shoulder.
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Head Kill Zone: Key Aiming Points

- **Side view:** Aim at the base of the ear.
- **Front view (head angled down):** Visualise two imaginary lines from each eye to the opposite ear; aim at their intersection.
- **Front view (looking directly at you):** Aim just above the centre of the nostrils.



Illustrations displaying the kill zone areas on several problem species.

2. Property Wildlife Management Plan Template

SSAA Farmer Assist

Property Based Wildlife Management Plan

All parties must recognise that this management plan is not a legally binding document. The owner or manager of the property reserves the right to withdraw permission to access and can cancel or alter any part of this management plan at any time and without notice.

Property Management and Description

Owner's/Manager's Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

PO Box: _____

Property Name: _____

Property Location: _____

Property Size: _____ (ha) Principal Use: _____

Permitted Members

Member's Name (Primary Contact): _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ SSAA Membership Number: _____

Member's Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ SSAA Membership Number: _____

Member's Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ SSAA Membership Number: _____

Member's Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ SSAA Membership Number: _____

Landholder’s Objectives and Responsibilities

Member’s Objectives and Responsibilities

Existing Impacts and Location on Property (Briefly describe)

Wildlife Requiring Management

| Species | Current Population Status (High, medium or low density) | Current Impact Status (High, medium or low impacts) | Management Strategy (Methods of control required) | Preferred Outcome (Population or impact level) |
|------------|--|--|--|---|
| Rabbits | | | | |
| Foxes | | | | |
| Goats | | | | |
| Pigs | | | | |
| Feral Dogs | | | | |
| Feral Cats | | | | |
| Other | | | | |

Current and Approved Management Activities (Please tick)

- Use of poison
 - Trapping
 - Exclusion fencing
 - Night-time hunting (spotlighting)
 - Day-time hunting (various methods)
 - Other non-lethal options: _____
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Approved Firearm Types (Please tick)

- Shotgun
- Rimfire rifle
- Centrefire rifle
- Air rifle

Harvest or Off-take Monitoring

After each culling activity, members must submit an activity log. Data collected will enable any changes in animal populations to be recorded.

Property Rules (Camping locations, campfires, fishing etc allowed?)

Licence and Permit Requirements

All members who undertake culling or hunting activities must hold the appropriate firearm licences and hunting permits (if applicable). These may be asked to be viewed prior to the commencement of any activities.

Any protected species to be controlled must have valid mitigation or destruction permits from appropriate agencies approving such activities.

Game species may be taken during a declared season if this activity has been approved by property owner or manager, and members must hold appropriate hunting permits (if applicable).

Acknowledgement of SSAA Member Insurance Cover

The SSAA provides its members with Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance cover to give property owners peace of mind and to protect members from legal negligence while hunting on both public and private property anywhere in Australia.

Property Manager and Member Signatures

The follow section enables all parties to accept the conditions of this plan as it stands.

I have read the above Property Based Wildlife Management Plan and approve all listed activities and conditions within the plan. I understand that I have the right to cancel, change or alter any part of the plan when needed, at any time and without explanation. I also understand that I can remove permission of access of any or all members named, at any time and without explanation. I only approve access to those members of the SSAA that have been listed and any others subject to prior notification of entry and approval. I understand that SSAA members are covered by the association's \$20 million liability insurance policy while undertaking activities on my property.

Farmer's Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

I/we have read the above Property Based Wildlife Management Plan and agree to abide by all conditions and property rules set out in the above plan. I/we will continue to support and promote the SSAA's role in ethical wildlife management and sustainable utilisation.

Primary Member's Name: _____

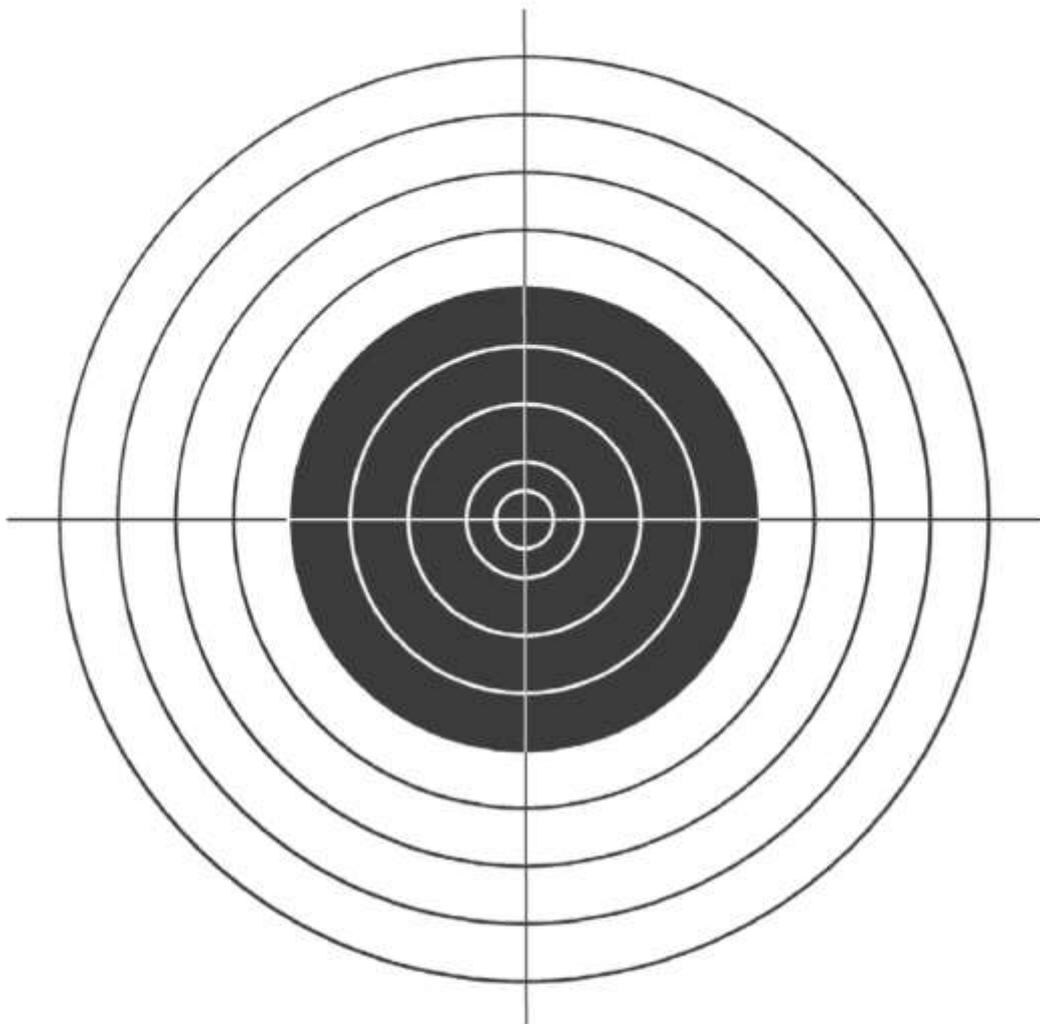
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional SSAA Members

Member's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. Firearm Proficiency Assessment Target



SSAA Farmer Assist Assessment Target

Member name.....

Member ID

Range Name

Range Officer Name

Range Officer Signature.....

Date

Rimfire @ 50 metres, or

Centrefire @ 100 metres

Participants must group 5 shots within the Central Assessment area of the above target.

The central assessment area must be no larger than 80mm in diameter to be compliant. Only valid for 3 years from assessment date.

Please print clearly