



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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### WARFARIN FERAL HOG BAIT QUICK FACTS

#### WHAT IS WARFARIN HOG BAIT?

- Warfarin (Coumadin) is an FDA approved prescription medication commonly used by humans to prevent blood clots.
- Vitamin K counteracts the effects of Warfarin.
- Warfarin hog bait is only 1/5 the strength of over the counter rat bait.
- Warfarin hog bait has little effect on all other animals, including house pets like dogs—to be fatal, the average dog would have to consume 176 pounds in 1 day, or 13 pounds of bait daily, for 5 days.
- Warfarin hog bait cannot be spread on the ground—it can only be sold and distributed to licensed users.
- While TDA supports trapping and hunting, this bait is intended for use in extreme cases of overpopulation where those options do not provide results to prevent the millions of dollars in damage that hogs cause to crops and property, as well as hog attacks on small animals and other wildlife.

#### HOW DOES WARFARIN AFFECT HOGS, HUMANS & OTHER ANIMALS?

- Hogs are extremely susceptible to warfarin: only 5 pounds or less will kill a hog.
- After consuming the bait, a dye in the bait causes the fatty tissues inside the hog to turn visibly bright blue.
- A predator or scavenger that eats a baited hog has little risk of exposure because warfarin levels are too low to be toxic, except under extreme circumstances.
- A warfarin exposed hog carcass that is discovered in a water supply (stream, lake, pond, or stock tank) will not leach warfarin into the water.
- Warfarin does not dissolve in water and is non-toxic to aquatic life.

#### APPROVAL & LICENSING

- Warfarin hog bait was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for general use without restrictions.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) adopted *stricter* rules to prevent over the counter purchase and use by non-licensed and untrained persons.
- A warfarin dealer selling the bait for hog treatment must be licensed by TDA.
- Only a licensed, trained applicator may purchase and use the bait in strict compliance with labeling directions.
- Failure to comply with rules, regulations and label requirements is a violation of state and/or federal law subject to penalties.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR USE

- Warfarin bait should only be used in fenced areas, if possible.
- Bilingual signage must be posted at all property entry points to notify about the treatment areas.
- Bait must be placed in special secured feeders which have heavy lids that weigh at least 8-10 pounds. This prevents access by non-target animals.
- During the baiting period, and for at least 90 days after feeders are removed, grazing is prohibited.
- Licensed hog bait users must monitor treatment areas and ensure the removal and burial or disposal of hog carcasses.

#### RULES

- Temporary emergency rules in the Texas Administrative Code were adopted by TDA to designate warfarin as a “state-limited-use” pesticide so that restrictions could be added for use. They are in effect until June 5, 2017.
- Increased protections created by TDA to prevent accidental human consumption of warfarin-exposed hogs and the risk of secondary exposure of other animals.
- TDA will propose permanent rules welcome public input during the 30-day comment period. All comments will be taken under consideration prior to the adoption of final rules.