

QUOTATION

FOWL ATTACK FORCE

An elite force of more than 700,000 ducks and chickens, trained to search and eat insects at the sound of a whistle, has been deployed in the locust-plagued fields of China's Xinjiang Province. The birds have been trained for their deadly mission by learning to associate feeding with the whistle command. An official with the Xinjiang Locust and Rat Control Office said, "We release them on the grassland, blow the whistles and they eat the locusts." Officials estimate that the new attack force has gobbled up more than 100 million locusts in the latest effort to control the swarms of insects. The density of locusts in some badly hit regions has reached as many as 5,000 insects per square yard.

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