

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Outreach Education Effort Summary-Feral Hogs
Department of WFS-Extension Project Group
2006-2009**

Background

Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million dollars in damage to Texas agriculture each year. Landowners spend an estimated \$7 million annually on their control and/or correction of damage.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service provides quality, relevant outreach and continuing education programs and services to the people of Texas. These outreach and educational efforts, relative to feral hog damage abatement were delivered to the public by county Extension agents at the county, multi-county, regional and state levels with the support of Extension Wildlife Specialists and Associates via direct contact (i.e., phone, e-mail, publications, one-on-one), mass media, group meetings and applied research/result demonstrations.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is the only state agency uniquely positioned to address the educational/outreach (indirect control) and technical assistance aspects (direct control via Wildlife Services) of feral hogs and their damage to Texas agriculture.

Outreach Program Impacts

109 programs surveyed statewide
9,969 program participants
4,369 surveys (44% return rate)

Damage Reported (% of respondents)

Pastures-75%
Fences, water troughs or other improvements-40%
Owner/employee time-39%
Commodity crops-31%
Loss of hunting lease value, wildlife food plots/feeders-24%
Wetlands-23%
Loss of land value-23%
Equipment/vehicles-21%
Specialty crops-18%
Livestock-11%
Stored commodities-5%
Personal injuries-3%

Landowner-Initiated Control Efforts (% of respondents)

Trapped and destroyed-53%
Owners/Employee hunting-51%
Use of catch dogs-19%
Trapped and sold-15%
Trapped and moved from premises-13%
Lease hunting-10%
Other (snares/aerial gunning)-6%

Practice Adoption (% of respondents)

Use larger traps-53%
Pre-bait traps to encourage consistent feral swine visits-47%
Scout for feral swine-47%
Market trapped feral swine to offset economic impacts-40%
Use baits with scent appeal-37%
Set traps whenever fresh sign appears-35%
Vary/change baits used in traps at different locations-30%
Use protective eyewear/gloves during field dressing as a disease precaution-15%

Mean number of management practices to be adopted per respondent-3.0

Knowledge Gains

Increases in knowledge based on specific subjects (before vs. after a program):

- Feral hog biology-75%
- Legal control options-69%
- Efficient trap/bait techniques-69%
- Types/extent of hog damage-47%

Respondents increasing knowledge of feral hogs and their control-98%

Economics

Previous year's total damage estimates by respondents (pre-program)-\$15.3 million

Value placed on outreach information provided at educational events -\$5.1 million

Outreach Education Benefit/Cost Ratio: 18.03 : 1.00 or \$18.03 return per \$1.00 invested

Customer Satisfaction

Likelihood that program participants would recommend Texas AgriLife Extension Service to family, friends and colleagues as a source of information on feral hogs and their control: 9.0 on a 0 - 10 scale (0 = unlikely and 10 = likely)

Net Promoter Score-54.2 % (NPS scores >50% indicate high degree of customer satisfaction)

Website Statistics (<http://feralhog.tamu.edu>)

Unique visitors: 81,214
Pages Accessed: 185,277

Applied Research/Result Demonstration Projects

Use of Remote-Sensing Cameras to Improve Trapping Efficiency
Baiting/Scouting Protocol to Enhance Damage Abatement Efforts
Excluding Feral Swine from Native Wildlife Feeding Stations
Enhancing the IPM Approach Toward Feral Hogs through Efficient Trapping/Baiting
Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

AgriLife Extension Publications

Statewide Feral Hog Abatement Project, 2006-07. Final Report.
Statewide Feral Hog Abatement Project, Phase II-2008-10. Final Report.
Recognizing Feral Hog Sign
Corral Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs
Box Traps for Capturing Feral hogs
Building a Feral Hog Snare
Snaring Feral Hogs

Feral Hog Demonstration Site-Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton

Demonstration site for the public featuring:

- *Gate designs
- *Tear-drop shaped trap
- *Feral hog exclusion fencing around deer feeding stations

(Statistics compiled on behalf of the Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Project Group-
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences-TAMU and Texas AgriLife Extension
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