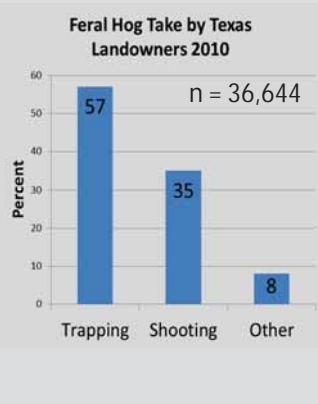


# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences Unit

## Responses to the Feral Hog Problem



Potential Feral Hog Habitat



### The Feral Hog Problem

Approximately 2.6 million feral hogs occupy 79% of Texas' landscape. Feral hogs are an invasive, exotic species that cause approximately \$52 million in damages to Texas agriculture producers annually. This estimate does not include damage to habitat used by native wildlife or suburban areas. Feral hog damage can be significantly reduced through effective education and outreach to private landowners. This document is a snapshot of the Wildlife & Fisheries Extension Unit's feral hog education and outreach efforts from 2009–present.

### Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Response to the Feral Hog Problem

- [Feral Hog Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#)
  - The Feral Hog CoP will concentrate on the control, adaptive management, biology, economics, disease risks, and the human interface of feral hogs across the United States
  - 15 Leaders and 50 members representing 23 states, several state and federal agencies, numerous academic institutions and NGOs
  - [103 FAQs](#) and [54 articles published](#)
  - [Feral Hog CoP Facebook](#) (1,146 Likes)
  - [Ask an Expert](#), [4 National Webinars](#)
  - Launched – May 2012
- [Plum Creek Watershed Feral Hog Project](#) (Travis, Hays & Caldwell counties)
  - 65 site visits
  - 30+ presentations in the tri-county area and 3,792 participants
  - 376 feral hogs reported removed via online reporting tool
  - Radio and newspaper interviews
- [Feral Hog Abatement Project \(2006-2012\)](#)
  - Mass Media Contacts: 172
  - Educational Programs: 138 for 19,924 clientele
  - Economic Value of Information Received by Program Participants: \$8,849,741
  - Benefit to Cost Ratio of Extension Outreach Efforts: 26.52 to 1.00 or \$26.52 return for each \$1.00 invested in outreach
- **Feral Hog Related Publications, Videos & Websites**
  - [26 publications in print with 7 translated into Spanish](#)
  - 2,838 online and 10,960 print copies shipped from [Texas AgriLife Extension Bookstore](#)
  - 18,866 online views from [Scribd](#)
  - 12 [YouTube](#) videos with 75,886+ views
  - Several webinars (Biology, Control, Diseases, Current Research) : [TWA](#), [Feral Hog CoP](#)
  - [Coping With Feral Hogs](#): 50,000+ unique visitors, 108,000+ pages accessed
  - [Wild Wonderings Blog](#): 30,000+ unique visitors, 49,000+ pages accessed
  - Widespread social media presence
- **Feral Hog Take Study**
  - 700 landowners were surveyed statewide and asked to characterize their feral hog control efforts for 2010. There were 36,644 feral hogs removed from 1.8 million acres. Trapping was responsible for 57% of the hogs removed, shooting and hunting 35%.
  - Data from this study were used to calculate an annual hog harvest of 754,000 by all legal methods of removal.

## Extension Demonstrations and Translational Research

- **Impact of Northern Bobwhite Quail Nest Success**
  - Dr. Rollins of Wildlife and Fisheries Extension conducted research in 1993 which determined feral hogs had an 11.4% negative impact on nest success.
  - Populations have increased significantly since that time, likely increasing the impact.
- **Techniques for Excluding Feral Hogs from Wildlife Feeding Stations**
  - Research conducted which determined ideal methods of fencing wildlife (i.e. deer) feeding stations to minimize feral hog utilization while allowing continual desirable wildlife use of some 300 million pounds of supplement fed annually.
- **Trap Designs for Increasing Catch Rates of Feral Hogs**
  - Research conducted produced six publications to provide the public with effective, proven methods of trapping and snaring feral hogs to maximize take. Additional research to maximize trapping efficiency is on-going.



Feral Hog Consuming Rio Grande Wild Turkey Nest



Feral Hog in Corral Trap



Pasture Damaged by Feral Hog Activity



Feral Hog Fixed with Tracking Collar

## Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Feral Hog Online Resources

- **Feral Hog Reporting**
  - [Feral Hog Reporting](#)
- **Feral Hog Publications**
  - Recognizing Feral Hog Sign: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Placing And Baiting Feral Hog Traps: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Corral Traps For Capturing Feral Hogs: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Box Traps For Feral Hogs: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Making A Feral Hog Snare: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Snaring Feral Hogs: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - Door Modifications for Feral Hog Traps: [English](#) [Spanish](#)
  - [Using Fences To Exclude Feral Hogs From Wildlife Feeding Stations](#)
  - [Feral Hog Population Growth, Density And Harvest In Texas](#)
  - [Feral Hogs Negatively Affect Native Plant Communities](#)
  - [Feral Hog Approved Holding Facility Guidelines In Texas](#)
- **Feral Hog Fact Sheets**
  - [Feral Hogs Impact Ground Nesting Birds](#)
  - [Feral Hogs Laws and Regulations In Texas](#)
  - [Feral Hog Transportation Regulations](#)
  - [Feral Hogs And Disease Concerns](#)
  - [Feral Hogs And Water Quality in Plum Creek](#)
- **Feral Hog YouTube Videos**
  - [History, Biology, and Population Dynamics of Feral Hogs](#)
  - [Feral Hog Impacts on Agriculture and Wildlife in Texas](#)
  - [Excluding Feral Hogs From Wildlife Feeders](#)
  - [Control Techniques and Regulations for Feral Hogs in Texas](#)
  - [Strategic Shooting Of Feral Hogs For Population Control](#)
  - [Improving Feral Hog Box Trapping Efforts](#)
  - [Constructing a Figure-C Feral Hog Trap](#)
  - [Constructing a Corral Trap for Feral Hogs](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Using Remote Cameras](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Laws and Regulations](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Non-Target Species and Trigger Type](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Time of Year](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Corral Trap Designs](#)
  - [Trapping Feral Hogs: Gates And Bait](#)
- **Wild Wonderings Blog**
  - [Wild Wonderings](#)
- **Wildlife and Fisheries Extension Social Media**
  - **Facebook**
    - [Wildlife and Fisheries Extension](#)
    - [Feral Hogs Community of Practice](#)