TDA Feral Hog Control Efforts

by

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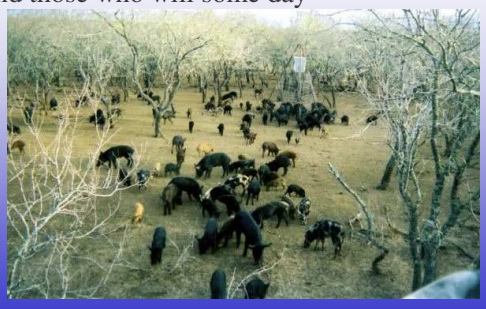
Texas has the distinction of being the feral hog capital of the United States, with an estimated 1.5 million to 2 million hogs.

"There are two kinds of Texas landowners—those who have feral hogs on their property, and those who will some day"



The average litter size of a feral hog may be four to five pigs, but eight survive."

Damages

- Feral hogs are very fond of domestic agricultural crops such as corn, milo, rice, wheat, soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, watermelons and cantaloupe
- Feral hogs are omnivorous, and also prey on young lambs, kid goats, shellfish and even fish.
- They have also been known to kill and eat ground-nesting birds, such as turkey and quail

Diseases

Another negative is that feral hogs are carriers of a number of diseases that can be transmitted to livestock, including pseudo rabies, hog cholera, swine brucellosis, tuberculosis, and anthrax. They are also potential carriers of FMD (food-and-mouth disease).

Monetary Damage

Texas Cooperative Extension estimates that statewide annual economic damage caused by feral hogs is **$51.7 million**.

Unholy Alliance

TDA Awards $500,000 for Feral Hog Research

- **Funds for the pilot program were appropriated to TDA by the Texas Legislature during the 79th legislative session in 2005.**
- **TDA awarded $390,500 to Texas A&M University**
- **TDA awarded $109,500 to Texas Tech University**

Texas A&M Grant

- **To assess feral hog damage to crops**
- **Evaluate current control efforts and,**
- **Measure economic impact**.

A Group of landowners in three different ecological regions were selected to participate in an aggressive pilot program that involved various forms of trapping technologies

- East Texas,
- Central Texas, and
- the Coastal Bend

The efforts will be conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension's Wildlife and Fisheries Unit and Wildlife Services

The results will be distributed to landowners and the general public through workshops and field days following the project's completion.

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- To develop pheromone and odor combinations that can be used to attract feral hogs to traps and other control locations.
- The grant will also be used to research reproductive control methods.
- The long-term goal is to apply these methods on a large-scale basis in Texas.

Hogs prefer bottomlands such as rivers, creeks, and sloughs when available. Hogs are generally found in dense vegetation cover often associated with water

Whiskey is for Drinkin',
Water is for Fightin' Over