



Feral Hog Management

The New & Old Technologies for Population Management

David Riley
Staff Biologist II, AWB, RPTC

HELLO & WELCOME!

Objectives:

- Where did the feral hog problem begin?
- Population density and ecological impacts
- Rules of feral hog management
- What are your options
- How to respond

WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

1500 – 1700's

- Early Spanish explorers brought European hogs to Texas

Mid 1800's – early 1900's

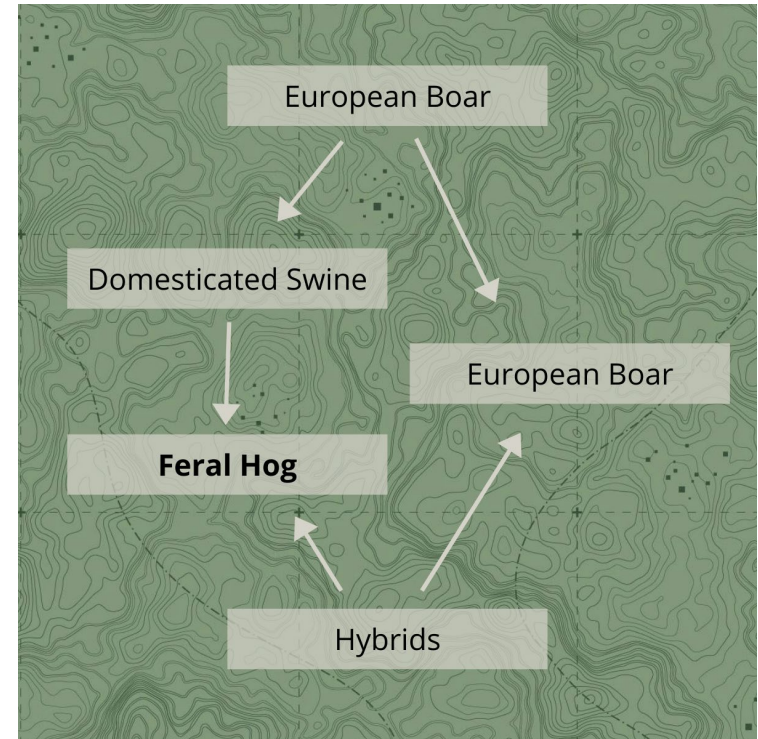
- Russian Boar introduced to Texas for sport hunting

Late 1900's

- Common to catch and release

Present day

- 1.8 – 3.4 million feral hogs in Texas



POPULATION DENSITIES & GROWTH

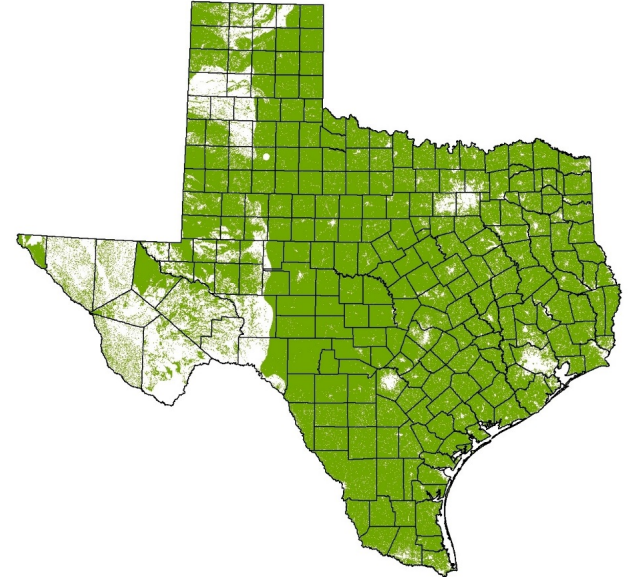
Feral hogs are adaptable – 79% of Texas is suitable habitat

Reproduction rate:

- Average 1.5-2 litters per year
- Average 5-13 piglets per litter

Texas A&M Agrilife Study

- 8.9-16.4 hogs / square mile
- Average 21% annual population growth
- **Harvest implications:**
 - Average harvest in 2010 – 29% of population
 - 60-70% of population harvested to maintain current population



Credit: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

WHAT IS THE CONCERN?

Ecological impacts

- Water & soil contamination
- Riparian and ecologically sensitive areas
- Erosion damage

Agriculture loss

- Crop production loss

Disease

- Wildlife / cattle risk
- Human risk

Urban & suburban damage

- Texas population growth and expansion



Photo Credit: Beryl Armstrong



Photo Credit: Ben Woodland

FERAL HOG SIGNS

- Crop damage
- Residential damage
- Wallows
- Rooting
- Rubs
- Scat
- Tracks

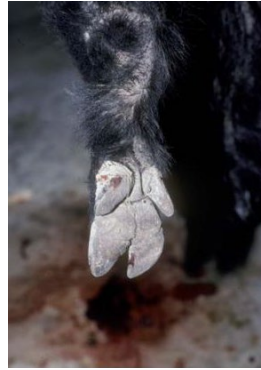


Photo Credits: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension & USDA APHIS

RULES OF FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT

- Multi-level approach to management – no silver bullets
- Feasibility – both economically and environmentally
- Patience – you're not going to change everything in one night
- Altering your management techniques based on results
- What are your different options for management?



Photo Credit: Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

SNARES



Advantages

- Cost effective (can make yourself)
- Easy to set up and monitor
- Target area of high traffic

Disadvantages

- Only targets one hog at a time
- Non-target species
- Can be time consuming

SHOOTING TECHNIQUES

- Difference between recreational hunting and targeted shooting techniques
- Pre-bait, pre-bait, pre-bait!
- Advantages and disadvantages to the targeted shooting method
- **Aerial shooting method**
 - Can be very successful
 - Expensive, feasibility and hazardous



Photo Credit: Texas Wildlife Services

TRAPPING METHODS – PRE-BAITING YOUR TRAPS



Photo Credit: Mississippi State University Extension

- The importance of pre-baiting and how it can make trapping more successful
- Choosing a location for your trap and bait
- What type of bait to use
- Using game cameras to be more successful



Photo Credit:
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

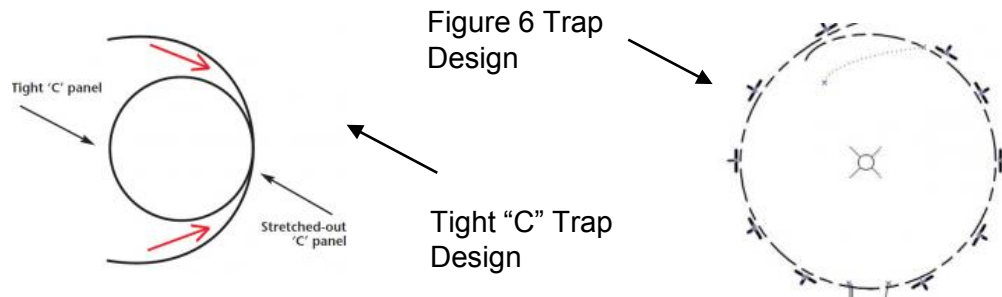
TRAPPING METHODS – DESIGNING YOUR TRAP

Questions to ask before building trap:

- How big is the sounder?
- Will you be removing hogs via trailer?
- What type of trap door do I want to use?
- What materials will I need?

Box vs. Corral trap design

Mechanical vs non-mechanical door designs



REMOTE GATES & TRAPS

Remote game cameras

- Cell phone and/or computer

Automatically triggered gates

- Compared to traditional root and trip wire gates

Trap designs

- Drop traps
- Moveable trap designs



Photo Credit:
Lonestar Trapping



Photo Credit: Boar buster Website



Remote camera to see inside trap



Remote camera to see trap entrance



View from computer/cell phone



Gate that can be remotely triggered

I TRAPPED HOGS, NOW WHAT DO I DO?

- Ethical dispatching
- Transfer to approved hunting preserve
 - Males only
- Transfer to a qualified feral hog holding facility
 - Sold to processing facility
 - Sold to approved hunting preserve
- Some Texas counties offering bounty on feral hogs



Photo Credit: Evan McCoy, TPWD

FERAL HOG TOXICANTS

Not Available in Texas

Warfarin based toxicant, also known as Kaput®

- February 2017 – approved by Ag. Commissioner
- Pulled product registration in Texas
- Serious risks for landowners, hunters and feral hog industry

Sodium nitrite toxicant, also known as Hog-Gone®

- What is it? And how is it different than a warfarin based toxicant?
- Field trials with USDA-APHIS

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND

Be proactive

No “silver bullet”

What works best for you and your property?

Integrated, multi-level approach to feral hog management:

- Designing a feral hog control management plan
- Considered a qualifying wildlife management activity for your wildlife management valuation
- Working with surrounding landowners – Wildlife Co-op

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TAX VALUATION

1 of the 7 different activity categories is predator control

Developing a feral hog management plan and documenting your activity:

- Log of hunting/trapping days
- Log of harvested/trapped feral hogs
- Photos of harvested/trapped hogs
- Receipts/documents of trapped and sold hogs

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David Riley

Staff Biologist II, AWB, RPTC

P: (512) 894-3479

E: DRiley@plateauwildlife.com

plateauwildlife.com

plateau@plateauwildlife.com