



Feral Swine

Feral Swine (*Sus scrofa*) also known as wild boar, Russian boar, and razorback, feral hogs, Eurasian boar are from the Suidae family. They are considered to be invasive species that can cause significant damage and destruction to property, land, and people.

How to Identify Feral Swine

- Widespread digging and rooting of land, which cause damage to crops and property are good indicators that feral swine are around. As they search for food they dig into farm and residential lands to find food to eat.
- They also like muddy, water areas where they can wallow and root.
- Extensive rubbing and scratching on trees.
- Noticeable passageways and paths running through dense vegetation.
- Pig hoof traces in the muddy areas surrounding water regions
- Animal and plant remains that they have eaten.



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Cooperative Extension Program

Agriculture and Natural
Resources

Prairie View A&M University's Cooperative Extension's Program (CEP) Agriculture and Natural Resources (AgNR) unit seeks to empower farmers and ranchers to achieve their goals through education and technical assistance. AgNR's aim is to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap facing many Texans in areas of crop production and utilization, livestock production, and economics and management for sustainable agriculture.

To learn more about how you can implement an Agriculture and Natural Resources program in your area, contact your local AgNR professional.

For more information contact

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Sustainable Agriculture Programs



Controlling Feral Swine

Topics

- History of Feral Swine
- How to Identify Feral Swine
- Eradication Methods
- Types of Traps and Equipment use to Control Feral Swine
- Cost of Feral Swine Damage
- Resources for Farmers, Ranchers, Homeowners and Landowners



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Feral Swine Population is Increasing and Causing Significant Damage Each Year to People, Agriculture, and Property.

Feral Swine: An Overview

History of Feral Swine

• Feral Swine were brought to United States by early explorers and settlers during the 1500s and was used for food. The large Feral Swine population that now exist in the United States is due to their release, escape and free range animal operations.

• Feral Swine were also introduced and used for sport hunting purposes in the 1900s. The Feral Swine population that currently exist include domestic pigs that escaped as well as Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids.

Photos courtesy of Ft. Bend County Agent, Mr. Derrick Banks.

Fig1. Feral Swine damage to soil/land



Fig 2. Feral Swine wallow in water



Feral Swine Damage

• Feral swine can be very destructive and may cause significant damage to property, agricultural land, crops and animals. They may also cause damage and destroy indigenous species, ecosystems, as well as cultural and historic sites.

• It has been estimated that the invasive Feral Swine species have costs the United States over one and a half billion dollars per year in damages and control related costs.

• In addition to the damages to property and land, they also are a threat to human, livestock, pets, wildlife and other animals. They are also known to carry and spread zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis.

Fig 3. Feral Swine damage to soil/land



Program Details

- **Target Audience:** Farmers, ranchers, homeowners and Landowners.
- **Program Format:** Seminar, workshops, farm visits and demonstrations

Program Objectives:

To provide education and outreach on how to control and eradicate Feral Swine across the state of Texas. To assist farmers, ranchers, homeowners and landowners in the development and implementation of effective damage control and eradication methods. To reduce damage and destruction of land and property.

References

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