



## Result Demonstration Report

### Feral Hog Trap Comparison

Cooperator: Jasper County Airport, Gary Richardson, Rusty Smith, Dr. Aaron Sumrall

Author: Chadd Caperton

**Summary** Feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million damage to agricultural enterprises in Texas each year, with landowners spending an additional \$7 million dollars to reduce the hog numbers present and/or correct the damage they cause. For most landowners, trapping is the first line of defense in order to manage damage caused by feral hogs. Unfortunately, most landowners do not follow “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) necessary in their trapping efforts to be successful at removing hogs in order to prevent/abate damage. As a result, landowners often become frustrated after a few days of trapping effort and give up--or worse, simply educate the feral hogs to the point that they become even more difficult to capture in the future. AgriLife Extension has established a BMP trapping protocol of: 1) determining the sounder size, 2) selecting the proper trap site, 3) using/constructing the appropriate size trap based on the number of hogs in the sounder and 4) pre-baiting/monitoring to increase the efficiency of trapping efforts. To be successful, landowners must adopt a strategy -- feral hog trapping is a process involving several steps—it is not a single event.

Trapping demonstrations were done using a corral type trap with a saloon door type gate in baiting and trapping feral hogs. A box trap was also used in comparison on two of the three locations.

**Objective** The objective of this demonstration was to show the proper procedures for trapping feral hogs using a corral type trap with a saloon door type gate and to compare the effectiveness of the corral trap compared to a traditional box trap. To compare and demonstrate the results, a corral trap was placed on three different locations. A box trap was also placed on two of those same locations. The three locations were: Jasper County Airport, Rayburn Valley Hunting Club, Ebenezer Hunting Club.

### **Materials and Methods**

For this demonstration we selected sites that had recent signs of feral hog activity, including rooting damage, tree rubs, tracks or other signs. A corral trap with a saloon door gate was then placed in the area along with a box trap for comparison. The corral trap consisted of 5 cattle panels, 24 t- posts and the saloon door gate. The gate was put up first with the cattle panels then being installed in a circle. The circle made a funnel with the gate being located at the end as to funnel the hogs towards the opening of the trap through the saloon gate.

1. Infra-red remote-sensing camera (\$250) (units range in price from \$80 to > \$800)
2. Saloon door style gate (\$300)
3. 5 livestock/utility panels-5 feet by 16 feet with 4” x 4” mesh (8 @ \$45 = \$360)
4. 24- six foot t-posts (\$95)-To support trap panels every 4’- 5’ around trap perimeter
5. Tripwire-40 feet of braided nylon string (\$10)



Completed trap consisting of 5 panels

We then began pre-baiting the trap using soured corn with the majority of the bait outside the trap. The trap was monitored for activity by a game camera placed on a small tree at the back of the trap facing the gate to determine the size, number and frequency of the feral hogs visiting the trap.

After checking the cameras we then began to move the majority of the bait inside the trap eventually ending up with the majority under the trip mechanism. The trip mechanism was a long string attached to two rebar stakes driven into the ground as close to the back of the trap as possible. The other end was attached to a bar that was holding the door open. When the hogs bumped the string it pulled the bar holding the door thus allowing the door to close.



Sounder feeding outside the trap.

Bushnell

03-04-2011 18:00:02

Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.



Bushnell

03-04-2011 18:03:06

Sounder feeding further inside the trap.



Bushnell

03-04-2011 18:11:03



Entire sounder eventually moves into the trap.

Bushnell

03-04-2011 18:15:53

After the majority of the hogs were found consistently coming into the trap the trip mechanism was set.



Trip mechanism was set at a height above the piglets so that the entire sounder including the adults moved into the trap before it was tripped.

Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.

## **Results and Discussion**

The trapped hog counts were recorded by myself and the respective cooperators for a period of approximately 4 months beginning in April and continuing through the middle of August with a break in July. The total number of hogs harvested from the three corral traps totaled 34 with only 3 being boars. Two of the three boars were trapped single but the third was trapped with 3 other sows.

The box traps were not pre-baited but were baited with corn and set. The box traps yielded only two hogs of which one was a boar. The heavy hunting pressure using the box style trap by the majority of the local hunters could be a contributing factor for the lack of success with the box trap. Another contributing factor could be the size of the box trap in that it does not allow for as many hogs to be in the trap at one time. The lack of room and wire floor could keep the hogs more uncomfortable than the corral trap which has more room and no floor.

### **Hogs captured**

	Corral Trap	Typical Box Trap
Jasper County Airport	21	1
Rayburn Valley Hunting Club	7	0
Ebenezer Hunting Club	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>

Two field days were held at the trap located at the Jasper County Airport in which a total of 14 participants attended a 1 hour program that covered BPM's for trapping and baiting hogs, as well as instruction on set up and materials needed.



Several classes were held to demonstrate trap set-up, how to choose the location, baiting practices and finally removal options.

**Conclusions** The objective of the project was met. The corral style trap was more successful in trapping multiple hogs. To improve future trials it would be beneficial to trap in more locations. It would also be beneficial to trap in late winter months when native food sources are less available.

**Acknowledgements** Special thanks to Gary Richardson, Lisa Wall, Dr. Aaron Sumrall, and Rusty Smith for helping me setup and move the two traps to their respective locations. Thanks to Gary Richardson, Jasper County Airport, and Rusty Smith for allowing the use of the property. Thanks also to Dr. Aaron Sumrall for the use of two sets of traps for this result demonstration. And thanks to those who attended the field days.



Completed trap at Jasper County Airport location.