

Feral Hog Control Sponsored Project for Bastrop High School Ag Mechanics Shop/FFA

Technical details

February 2, 2024

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These slides



Feral Hog Problem in Texas and Elsewhere

- Many articles and info such as:

- [The Feral Hog in Texas](#)
- [Texas War On Feral Hogs Is Only Getting Worse \(wideopenspaces.com\)](#)



There is currently an estimated population in excess of **1.5 million feral hogs** in Texas. The increase in population and distribution is due in part to intentional releases, improved habitat, increased wildlife management, and improved animal husbandry such as disease eradication, limited natural predators, and high reproductive potential.



The Feral Hog in Texas

By: Rick Taylor
Wildlife Biologist



- Traps can be effective
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 - [Blood thinner shows promise in battle against feral hogs](#)

Excellent Summary of Problem by Texas Parks and Wildlife

https://youtu.be/xF5wKcYHE3c?si=dUQvTqJ_T8xrl_A4



Example of corral trap with rooter door

Dealing with feral hogs



Texas Parks and Wildlife

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Hog Trap Door/Gate Fabrication and Details

- Bastrop High School Ag Sciences/metal shop and FFA make the Door/gate as a “sponsored project” using materials (e.g., square steel tubing, steel utility panel, gate release) provided by Norman Jones
- Design a variation of Texas AgriLife
- Make frame of 2” square steel tubing
- Utility panels used for sides, door, and top
- Make sturdy, appropriate weight (allows pushing open but not out), and two doors for hog entry with limited opportunity for escape

Variation of TX AgriLife Design



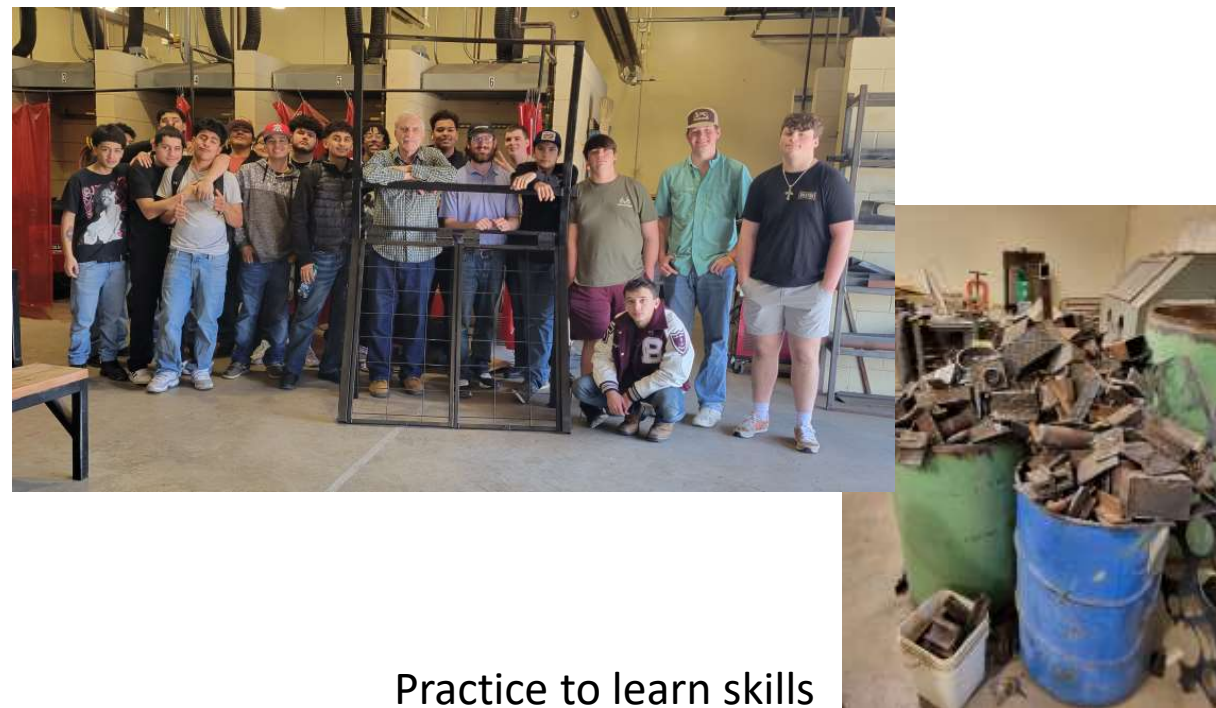
TexasHogTraps.com



Benefits of a “Sponsored Project” to Meet a Real Texas Need

- Students learn and apply skills including welding but also “business” and planning

Real world “Sponsored project”



Practice to learn skills



Project Summary and Goal



- **Support Career and Technical Education**
- Bastrop HS “Ag Mechanics shop” (and FFA) design and produce one or more gates/doors for a feral hog trap as a “sponsored project” and for entry into competitions such as Stock Show (e.g., [Bastrop Area Livestock Show \(BALS\) - Bastrop \(agrilife.org\)](http://Bastrop Area Livestock Show (BALS) - Bastrop (agrilife.org)))
 - the “gate” is a critical element of a feral hog trap
- First customer will be Norman and Janet Jones for use at their “Kovar Ponds Ranch”
 - 105-acre ranch with a goal of supporting wildlife in Flatonia
 - Feral hogs (and racoons, etc.) are predators of desired wildlife (birds, etc.) for Texas Ag 1-d-1 (wildlife)
- Demonstrates BHS producing a useful product to meet a significant need in Texas
 - Could result in awards and/or scholarships
 - Norman Jones is the Rotary Club president; Bastrop County “Vocational Chairman”
- Process
 - Customer defines goals and possible approach to address the problem
 - BHS describes their approach in a formal preliminary “Design Review” on January 5, 2023
 - The design will be reviewed by the customer and “Experts” (e.g., Texas AgriLife and Texas Parks and Wildlife)
 - Inputs from experts or landowners with relevant experience are invited
 - Meeting offered a Zoom for remote participation and recording of meeting
 - Jones’ provide the major materials (2” square steel tubing and cattle panel) and Ag Mechanics Shop produces the first gate/door
- **Feral hogs are a problem but can also be a “Food Opportunity”**
 - “Wild game” food for Culinary Arts and/or BBQ Competition team

Two Prior Winning Entries by Smithville High Shops and FFA in Major Stock Shows

- Comparable “Sponsored project” could work at Bastrop HS Ag Mechanics Shop
- Prior Blue ribbon winners for “sponsored projects” for Norman and Janet Jones in major stock shows



“CNC Plasma cutter”



“Wildlife Support System”

Probable Other Customers and Process

- Feral hogs can be an issue in suburban/residential areas as well as farm/ranches
- Approach for Bastrop HS Ag Mechanics class:
 1. Have design review and make gate/door #1 for use by Jones at their ranch and document results
 1. If successful, gate/door will be obviously “used & abused” is good entry for FFA competition
 2. Make 2nd gate/door for: (1) another customer, (2) entry at Stock Show for Ag mechanics, and/or (3) sale
 1. Other Bastrop area communities with feral hog problem exist
 3. Offer gate/door as a product to serve a need
 1. Remainder of feral hog trap is T posts and cattle/utility panels
 4. Bastrop County might create a “feral hog trap loaner/rental” program
 1. Travis and Fayette County have such a program

Possible CTE Scholarship Opportunities

[District Career Technical Education Scholarships | Rotary District 5870](#)

District Career Technical Education Scholarships



District 5870 will be sponsoring seven District CTE Scholarships for the 2024-25 Rotary Year. Scholarships will support CTE students who live in one of the 23 counties that comprise District 5870 and are planning to study credit or non-credit career technical education and training programs, not requiring a 4-year degree, at a community college or technical school located in one of these 23 counties or an adjacent county.

Each District CTE Scholarship will be \$5,000, funded with District Designated Funds (DDF) received from TRF and sponsoring clubs will be expected to contribute at least another \$250 towards the student's expenses. Scholarship applications for one student per club will only be accepted from clubs who are fully qualified to receive Foundation Funds.

This is an excellent time for your club to review the CTES Handbook, appoint a scholarship sponsor, identify potential candidates and interview them. A sample application to assist you with this process is available online. Qualifying clubs should submit the actual online application no later than April 1, 2024. Scholarship interviews are held virtually on April 27, 2024 and applicants must be able to participate.

For more CTES scholarship requirements, how to get started, and timelines, please review the CTES Handbook available at the District 5870 website under Foundation - Scholarships- Career & Tech Ed (Vocational) Scholarships, link District Vocational Scholarship | Rotary District 5870

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Gates/Doors

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

L-5527
02-11



Door Modifications for Feral Hog Traps

Figure 4



A bolt attaches the bracket to the door frame (A). Once attached, rope or chain provides support to the bracket (B).



Could use cattle panel rather than square steel tubing for interior of door



C-clamps secure two T-hinges to the bracket (A). Once secured, a welding machine is used to tack hinges into place. A small piece of angle iron is attached to the other side of the hinges to construct the trigger mechanism (B).

Figure 3



A 3/8-inch metal drill bit was used to drill t

Figure 5



A two-by-four is used as a bracket on a rooster type door (A).



Once in place, the hook and eye latch set holds the panels up (B).

Feral Hogs as Both a Problem and an Opportunity for Food

- **Problem:** Feral hogs can degrade farm/ranch or homestead operations to raise food
 - Feral hogs can damage fields/pastures by rooting or eating planted crops
 - Feral hogs can degrade livestock (e.g., poultry) by direct attack or their pens
 - Feral Hogs can be attracted to livestock food
- **Opportunity:** Feral Hogs also present a “Food opportunity”
 - Can be a source of free protein
 - An advantage of trapped hogs is they can be selected for processing and potentially transport alive for processing
- Feral Hogs are a common aspect (problem and opportunity) of the informative “Homestead Rescue” TV Show
 - Here [Stormy and Raney in Texas | Homestead Rescue | Discovery](#) CASTING@ALL3A.COM
- **Opportunity:** High School for Ag Mechanics, FFA, Culinary Arts, BBQ team

Status February 2024

- Rooter gate completed at Ag Mechanics Shop
- Installation started for operational use at *Kovar Ponds Ranch*



Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) and Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Technology

- CNC recommended as next major step on capabilities
- Learn CAD/CAM skills
- Make custom products

CNC Plasma machine



Ty Carter: Medal of Honor recipient living in Bastrop

