

Feral Hog Problem in Texas and Elsewhere

- Many articles and info such as:
 - The Feral Hog in Texas
 - <u>Texas War On Feral Hogs Is Only Getting Worse (wideopenspaces.com)</u>

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 inten- tional releases, improved



habitat, increased wildlife management, and improved animal husbandry such as disease eradication, limited natural predators, and high reproductive potential.





- Traps can be effective
- Shooting can be ineffective
- Poison (e.g., Warfarin) can be effective when approved (Austin newspaper Oct 27, 2023)
 - 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









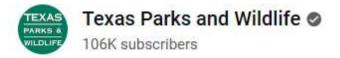




"Dealing With Feral Hogs" by TPWD

Major problem in Texas and elsewhere

https://youtu.be/xF5wKcYHE3c?si=03xQTlubu2WK1BJ3











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564,962 views Jan 23, 2020 #feralhogs #urbanwildlife #feralpigs

Feral hogs are a spreading through Texas, and fast! This invasive species has many negative effects on our native plant and animal species, and their populations can triple in just one year. They also create problems in urban areas by causing erosion and degrading water quality, which is costly for local municipalities. This video presents some tips on how to effectively manage feral hogs in your area. For more help on creating a feral hog management plan for your community, contact your local Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist: https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land...

#feralhogs #feralpigs #urbanwildlife

Feral Hog Traps can Simultaneously Serve as "Indicator and Cure" for a Hog Problem

- Catching (or not) hogs in a hog trap in a suitable location provides clear evidence of extent of possible feral hog problem
 - Game or cellular cameras can be used for recording information and using trap
- Analogy: Colonoscopy provides diagnosis and treatment for colon cancer and related problems <u>Colorectal Cancer Screening - NCI</u>
- Removal of hogs using a trap is generally agreed as the most effective approach for reducing the number of feral hogs

Hog Trap Installed Jan 6, 2024

- Installed at Kovar Ponds Ranch as first site
- 20' diameter corral with T posts every 6' and 16' Feedlot panels
- Installed near area recommended by research and TX Parks and Wildlife Rep
- Will include a "Saloon door Gate" and later the "Rooter gate" by Bastrop HS
- Will bait with corn and Jello or other "inducer" for some weeks before setting trap gate to acclimate hogs.
- Need to add gate release (pressure plate, battery, and electric latch) before use
- Also have racoon leg trap to deal with racoons
- Have Moultrie cellular game camera for activity monitoring

Feral hog nearby rooting



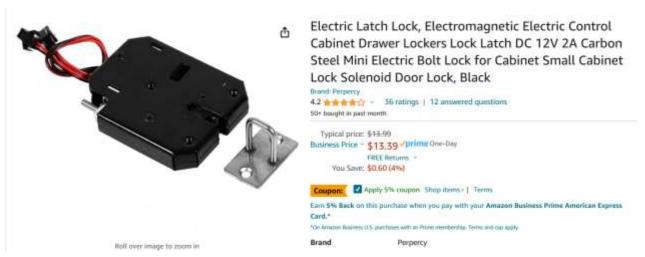


Design Review at Bastrop HS Ag Mechanics/Metal Shop on January 7, 2024

- Review to discuss plans and approach for first feral hog trap gate to be produced at Bastrop HSD Ag Mechanics shop
- Attended by Dustin Schultz (BHS teacher), Norman Jones (Sponsored project customer), and Dakota Kempken (Bastrop County AgriLife Extension Office)
- Approach and plan was agreed upon
- This process is also useful for BHS HS entry in Stock Show competition events
- Dustin and his students are very enthusiastic about this project to support a real world problem in Bastrop County and elsewhere

Pressure Plate Controlled Switch for Gate

- Very strong
- Import to use the switch to protect from burnout of latch
 - Connect black to yellow wire. Connect battery through "crush plate switch to" red and white wires
- Protect from rain by sealer bag



Gate can be closed to catch initial hogs who than can enter Rooter gate for "successive hog catches"
Simpler than mechanical trip wire

"Pressure "Crush plate Switch" to active gate latch

- When stepped on by hogs, the "Crush plate" deflects on a bottom steel plate to close the circuit for the latch
- Uses "Crush plate" square of thin aluminum flashing above a bottom steel plate
- Area of 20' diameter trap is 314 sq ft. Crush plate of 1 sq ft is .3% of area
- The crush plate and bottom plate are separated by separated some form of insulator



Planned Steps

- Bastrop HS Ag Mechanics Shop/FFA make a "Rooter Door" and probably also a "Box trap" as a "sponsored project" for customer(s) starting with Norman Jones for feral hog problem at KPR
- Planned 2nd customer is City of Bastrop to deal with feral hogs in residential/park areas
- Have BHS entry in Stock Show(s) starting in March 2024
 - Prior "sponsored projects" by Norman won Blue ribbons in major stock shows
- Support possible Bastrop County AgriLife "Feral hog program" including "rental hog traps" and advice

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 "Homestand Rescue" TV Show
 - Here <u>Stormy and Raney in Texas</u> | <u>Homestead Rescue</u> | <u>Discovery</u> CASTING@ALL3A.COM
- Opportunity: High School for Ag Mechanics, FFA, Culinary Arts, BBQ team

Planned Approach

- Design and build a feral hog trop which is both effective for feral hogs and cost effective to allow deployment when and where needed
- Use "Subject matter experts" such as *Texas AgriLife*, County Extension Agents, *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, Internet, and seminars for design and consultation
- Design shall be non-proprietary and based up readily available inexpensive materials to allow replication by any farmer, ranchers, or property owner
 - "Corral trap" (approx. 20' diameter) based upon T posts, cattle/utility panels (4'x20') and gate/door which allow caching of multiple hogs
 - T posts and cattle panels may be already on hand and can be repurposed
- Work with Bastrop HS High School "Ag Mechanics/metal shop" and FFA for design and fabrication especially of the gate (e.g., rooter)
 - Show in a Stock Show(s) as a "project" for a customer and community service
 - Document with summary report of results and lessons learned
 - Business opportunity for students
- Install at Kovar Ponds Ranch for test and use
 - Will be portable for use elsewhere
- Share results and design with Wildlife Management Associations, TX Parks & Wildlife, Rotary Club, Lions Club, etc. for replication
- Possible support of Bastrop AgriLife Feral Hog Trap program

Collaboration With Bastrop ISD Ag Mechanics/ FFA and Events

- The Bastrop ISD "Ag Mechanics" and shop and FFA is planning to design and make the gate which is the critical element of a feral hog trap
- The design will be reviewed by the customer and "Experts" (e.g., Texas AgriLife and Texas Parks and Wildlife): Design Review Jan 5
- Can be an entry in a Stock Show



Prior Blue ribbon winners for "sponsored projects" in major stock shows



"CNC Plasma cutter"

"Wildlife Support System"

Trap Designs and Approaches

Hog Trapping 101 | Great Days Outdoors





Figure C TAMU https://youtu.be/oiMiM46ylcU?si=aCgOSZib2cfQzK_7







Spiral trap https://youtu.be/jf-IF3blh_Q?si=CzY0sEZE3Thu4ZUx



- https://youtu.be/yx6h-TXWwSw?si=IIDpV bvQOvZ2hVF
- Uses "rooter gate" for multiple hogs with no human actions

Home > Trapping Systems > Hogg Boss Gate w/Corral System







Trap Configuration

- Corral in circle approximately 20' in diameter (circumference 63') with overlap and integration with door/gate
 - If using four 20' long using panels 48-50' high with allows good overlap and
 - 4' high should allow mature deer to jump out but contain most hogs
 - If using five 16'x50" long panels 5 panels
- Install T posts (7') every 4': need 16
- Optionally reinforce with a loop of stainless steel cable
- Have Rooter door/gate with trip wire or electric control
- Use cellular game cameras for monitoring
- Optional: for climbing have a stand of electric fence wire at top



Trap Approaches

- Drop gate: trap is monitored remotely by a cellular game camera and tripped remotely by a human operator or a trigger initiated by hogs
- Successive entry/catch
 - Hogs are enticed by food to freely enter the trap but not escape
 - Social behavior can encourage multiple hogs to enter trap
 - Examples: Rooter trap, Saloon Door, spiral, net (e.g., Pig Brig)
 - Advantages: (1) passive without human interaction for door release (but monitored remotely), (2) simple, (3) can allow catching more hogs

DIY Feral Hog Corral Traps

Texas Parks and Wildlife: The Feral Hog in Texas

How to Build a Corral Trap for Feral Hogs – Feral Hogs (extension.org)

<u>Corral Trap Designs for Feral Hogs – Wildlife</u> <u>Damage Management (extension.org)</u>

AUGUST 30, 2019 BY WILDLIFE-DAMAGE-MANAGEMENT

Corral Trap Designs for Feral Hogs

Corral traps are a popular and effective method of controlling feral hogs. They are capable of catching entire **sounders** (groups of hogs) in one capture. Most corral traps are made of 20- by 5-ft utility panels with 4- by 4-inch square mesh and steel T-posts.

Some corral traps use head gates, while others use the panels themselves to create a funnel. These can be beneficial as head gates are typically expensive to purchase. This is the type we will discuss here.

Trap designs

There are several different **funnel type traps**. One is the "Figure 6" type in which the panels are shaped into the shape of the number 6 (Fig.1). This design has the outside panel stationary and the inside panel loosely laid against it allowing hogs to push their way in but not out.

Good info: Door modification on feral hog traps (agrilife.org)



The Cattle Panel Hog Trap with Easy Door Design (huntinghog.com)

The Cattle Panel Hog Trap with Easy Door Design





Gates/Doors

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



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).





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

L-5527

02-11



A %-inch metal drill bit was used to drill t

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

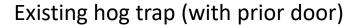
Could use cattle panel rather than square steel tubing for interior of door

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



Materials for Feral Hog Trap

Cattle panels and T posts may already be on hand and multipurpose





Feral Hog Trap Materials			
ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Panels, 5'-x20' with 4" squares	\$29.99		
Panels, Feedlot 50"'x20'	\$22.00	5	\$110.00
T post, 7' (every 4')	\$7.19	15	\$107.85
gate door, Rooter	\$170.00		\$0.00
Gate door, Rooter material	\$84.38	1	\$84.38
Corral panels (optional)			
Misc.	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
		TOTAL w tax	\$353.41

	/ \		_		_		
	Feral Hog Rooter Trap Door Materials				Tx AgriLife design Dc		
	ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL			
	Panels, 5'-x20' with 4" squares	\$68.95	0.5	\$34.48	Smith Supp	oly	
	T post, 8'	\$8.95	2	\$17.90	Smith Supp	oly	
	Square steel tubing, 2", 24'	\$45.00		\$0.00	DDM Meta	als	
	Square steel tubing, 1.5", 24'	\$32.00	1	\$32.00	DDM Meta	als	
•	Misc.	\$75.00		\$0.00			
			TOTAL	\$84.38			
	T Posts and panels are frequently ava	ilable by fa	rmer/ranchers				
0	Size is approximatly 4'w x 5' high						

Example of Feral Hog Trap Use and Success

Small Trap: generally not be as effective as corral traps



ALE:

Deer caught but released Corral traps allow deer to jump out

- Multiple hogs trapped
- Used "Guillotine door



Box trap



PERAL HOG TRAP WITH KOOTER GATE 1. Cattle / Utility Panels used for sides And top 2. TRAP DOOR EYE CONNECTS TO PORT FOR TRAP GOOK Variation of TX AgriLife Design

Hog Trap Door/Gate

Design a variation of Texas AgriLife

Make frame of 2" square steel tubing

Utility panels used for sides, door, and top

Make two doors



TexasHogTraps.com

FRONT

Hog Trap Door/Gate Fabrication and Details

- Plan is to have 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 study, appropriate weight (allow pushing open but not out), and two doors for hog entry with limited opportunity for escape

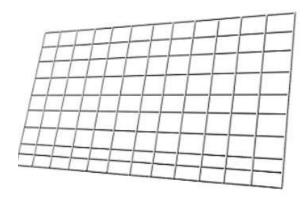
Variation of TX AgriLife Design





Corral Materials

- 20" diameter circle has circumference of 63 ft door of 4'-= 59'
- 5*16=80 which allows lots of overlap
- 16 ft. x 50 in. Max 50 Feedlot 10-Line Galvanized Cattle Fence Panel
- **Tractor Supply** SKU:3502077 **\$29.99**



- 7 ft. Studded T-Post, 1.25 lb. per ft. with anchor plate
- Tractor Supply SKU:360913899 \$7.19
- Spacing every 4' required 59/4=14.75: 5*\$719=\$108
- Probably have all or most needed T Posts



- OK Brand 8 ft. x 50 in. Handy Panel Max 50 10-Line Cattle Feedlot Fence Panel
- Tractor Supply KKU:1022018 \$22.00
 - 50" height should allow mature deer to jump out if caught but contain hogs
 - Optional if needed for climbing pigs add a single stand of electric fence wire

Rooter Door Design Considerations

- Two doors (approximately 3'x1.5') allow addition of hogs and less chances of escape
- Door mounted at top to allow pivoting to close door
 - Could use 4+' piece of rebar in center of 2" square steel tubing and welded to frame
- Door should withstand assault by feral hogs
 - Assault will involve hogs pushing the door into the ground
 - 14 gauge 2" square steel tubing at a 30 deg angle should have sufficient strength
- Door should light enough to allow additional feral hogs to enter after the door is released
 - Weight is mainly the 3' sides
 - 9' of 1" square steel tubing ("x" lbs./ft for 14 gauge) weighs "Y" lbs.

Saloon Door Gates (available)

- Use springs for closing and successive admission of hogs
- No hum actions needed other than monitoring



Zimmerhanzel gate



Howard gate

Feral Hog Trap Info

Saloon Doors

Saloon Doors open into the trap and close against each other when activated. They are held closed in a V shape by a pair of springs and will allow continuous catching. I sell more saloon doors for corral traps than any other style because of their ability to be continuous. The opening on our saloon doors is a little shorter than the guillotine door so you're less likely to have deer or cattle go into the trap through the door. Since they aren't positively closed with a latch, there is always the possibility that a smart pig will figure out that it can hold the door open and allow the other pigs out or that it will find a way to open it from the inside. I've never had a situation like this reported to me with the corral traps however, I have had people tell me that they've seen sows hold open the swing doors on box traps



to let their piglets go in and eat the corn and then exit unider the mother. I don't personally believe that this is happens frequently enough for it to be a real concern but, I mention it anyway in the interest of full disclosure. While my preference is the guillotine door, I wouldn't hesitate to set a trap up with a set of saloon doors if that's what I had available.





3-Door Hog Trapping Gate, 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 3 ft. ***** 38(30) 500. 513849499 \$249.99 \$42/mo.** suggested payments with 6 Months Financing Learn Marx Available Promotions Free standard delivery on most items when spending \$85 online. Some __Learn More This item will be delivered for \$179.99, Learn More Free standard delivery to your local TSC Store when spending \$29 or __Learn More Online Only Available to purchase online only

Ship To Store: Bastrop TX Select a Different Store

Oversize Items Shipped To Store may incur freight charge.

Home Delivery

5138484 Man1.pdf (tractorsupply.com)

"The hog trapping gate is a free standing frame that contains three individual root type doors that require no trip wires or latches so the trap is always set and always trapping."

This Voorhies RTG44-3 Hog Trapping Gate allows you to build traps of any size. Incorporate into existing feeder pens to trap and remove hogs from your property. The hog trapping gate is a free standing frame that contains three individual root type doors that require no trip wires or latches so the trap is always set and always trapping. Feeder pens or just feeder setups make excellent locations if hogs are already visiting. Keeping hogs out with feeder pens does nothing for the rising population on your property. Placing a non-lethal hog trapping gate in your feeder pen will give you the opportunity to remove the hogs. A hog trap is the only way to control the population and protect your property from damage and your game feed being lost to hogs. Whether you add to an existing feeder pen or build a pen on your property this hog trapping gate will give you the ability to catch large numbers of hogs at once.

- Dimensions: 48 in. x 36 in. x 48 in.
- Weight: 80 lb
- Placing a non-lethal hog trapping gate in your feeder pen will give you the opportunity to remove the hogs
- Material- 1.5 in. x 1.5 in. x .125 in. steel angle
- 6 gauge 4 in. x 4 in. welded wire mesh panel
- Hog trapping gate has 3 individually hinged root type doors for hogs to enter from multiple sides
- · Hog trap has an all welded construction for durability



Hinge for Door/Gate



Roll over image to zoom in















HOSOM 6 Pack Rounded Door Hinges 4 Inch 5/8" Radius Corner, Satin Nickel Exterior & Interior Door Hinge for Entryway, Patio, Playhouse & More





Size: 6 Pack













Color: Brushed Nickel-4 Inch-5/8 Radius















Fencing for Interior of Traps

- Prevent escape of piglets
- Install on lower 3' of traps

Building Supplies / Fencing & Gates / Rolled Fencing

IRONRIDGE 50-ft x 3-ft Gray Steel Welded Wire Rolled Fencing with Mesh Size 2-in x 3-in

Item #45459 | Model #033650S







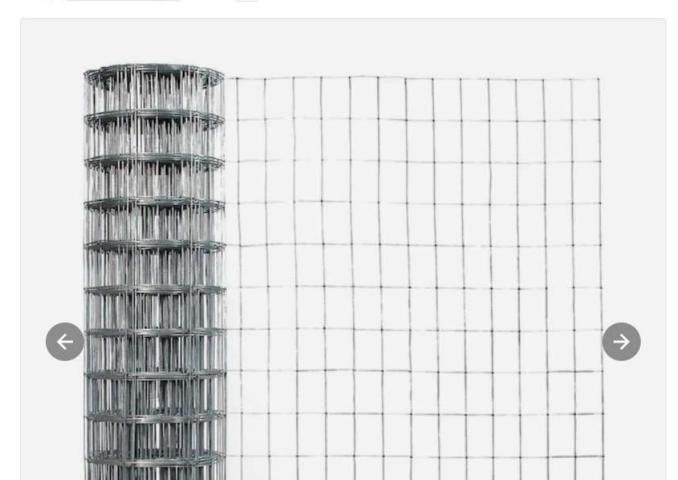


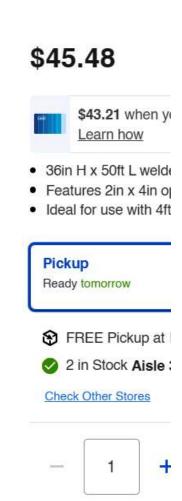












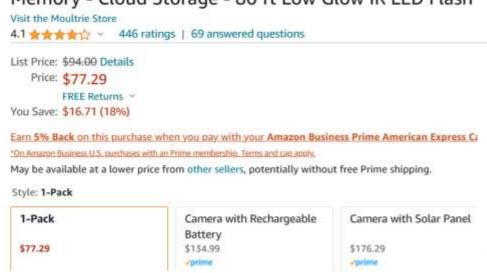
Cellular Cameras for Monitoring

Provides "push" notifications by email which is important for timely response to caught hogs



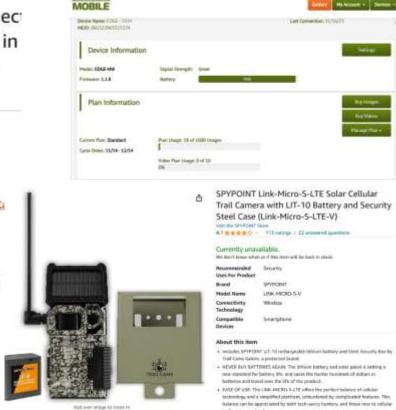
k to results

Moultrie Mobile Edge Cellular Trail Camera -Auto Connector - Nationwide Coverage - 720p Video with Audio - Built in Memory - Cloud Storage - 80 ft Low Glow IR LED Flash



"great" signal strength 11/16/2023 which is valuable

MOULTRIE



Cellular Game Camera Works Well for Monitoring

• It is important that the cellular game cameras work to allow notifications of possible caught hogs or animals and subsequent dispatching of the hogs

Setup on Nov 17, 2023

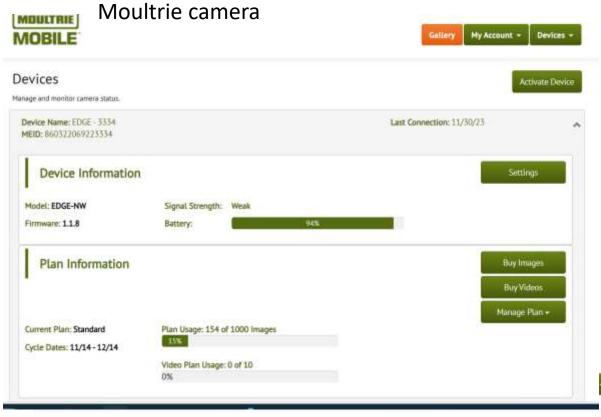
Results are promising and show deer

Should work for hogs or other animals



Cellular Cameras

Moultrie cameras moved to racoon site Nov 30, 2023







Door/Gate Control Approaches

- Latch mechanism
 - #1: Mechanical trip wire
 - #2: Pressure plate with microswitch, 12V battery, and electric latch
- Control approach
 - Triggered directly by hogs
 - Pro: no human interaction is required
 - Con: probably will not capture maximum number of hogs
 - Human activated based upon cellular game camera images
 - Pro: allows human decision making for best catch
 - Con: requires human interaction, probably in middle of night when hogs are active



Actions after Capture

- Shoot (e.g., .22) move carcasses, and leave for buzzards/coyotes (relocation is illegal)
- Shoot or load live onto cattle trailer and process for meat
 - Smithville Food Locker will skin/clean, package feral hogs freshly killed (or alive) for \$40 for two if brough in a batch (e.g., 12)
 - Can be cooked <u>A Beginner's Guide to Sous Vide for Wild Game, Part 1</u>
 <u>MeatEater Wild Foods (themeateater.com)</u> or possibly sold or given to a charity

Sous Vide for Wild Game (e.g., Feral hog, racoons, deer)

MEATEATER

Search gear, recipes, shows and more

One of the number one complaints I hear about eating wild game is that it is dry or tough. Anyone who has ever cooked a wild animal has experienced this, and that is because they are athletes! They migrate long distances, climb mountains, and do whatever it takes to survive. They are lean machines and their muscle tissues are well developed. Wild game lacks the protective fat barrier and cooks faster than their domestic counterparts, so there isn't a lot of wiggle room for mistake. This is where the magic of sous vide comes in.

With traditional cooking, you have a small margin for error because you are cooking with high, direct heat from the outside. This makes it hard to determine internal temperature without the use of a thermometer. Sous vide cooks evenly all the way through, meaning the meat is cooked to the same temperature from the edge to center. This is very important to remember because the doneness of meat is determined by the maximum internal temperature reached during the cooking process.

For example, if you are cooking something you want to be served medium-rare (venison backstrap or duck breast), you will program the device to the exact temperature you want the final result to be. It will never cook beyond medium-rare if the temperature of the water does not rise. You have to cook it for a certain length of time in order to reach pasteurization, but you can cook it for hours past that time and the

Trapping, Shooting, and Cooking

https://youtu.be/RdrfW5_ACns?si=Jx1U46fLu9eYYHIO

Shooting with .22 can be satisfactory

Trip for gate



Trapping Wild Pigs In Louisiana (Catch*Clean*Cook) Huge Pork Gravy For 150 People



ing Wild Pigs In Louisiana (Catch*Clean*Cook) Huge Pork Gravy For 150 People











Download

5.5M views 10 months ago

In this video, I show setting the trap and then catching six perfect size pigs the next day. I cleaned and quartered the pigs at the camp.

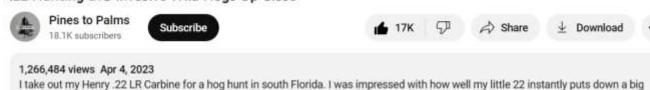
Back at my house, I cut up the four pigs with my meat saw and seasoned all the meat with KFRED Seasoning. A couple days later, I cooked for 150 people at Whitco Supply. We had a huge pot of wild pork gravy, served with white beans, smoke sausage and corn ...more

Use of .22 for Shooting



.22 Hunting BIG Invasive Wild Hogs Up Close

boar hog.

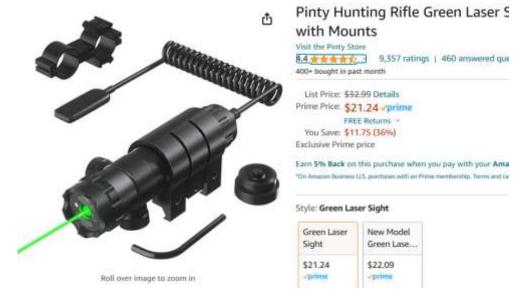


https://youtu.be/WMdvQjcOods?si=y9qsc7ChkwEEpYi8

One I have: Sig Sauer .22







Feral Hob Rooting and Picture at Kovar Ponds Ranch

Rooting example from Nov 18, 2023

Have other examples

Probable feral hogs near racoon traps Nov 26, 2023



Other Gates/Doors



Good design (trap too small)



Which type of hog trap door is best? - Texas Hog Traps



Box Traps

- Simple for transport (e.g., pickup truck) and setup
- Can catch at least j hog but not large quantities
- Could use for assessment or to augment corral trap at another location

BoxTraps.pdf (tamu.edu)

















Figure 4. Box traps with spring-loaded swing gate entries (A and B). This door design allows for additional captures as hogs push their way into the trap. Box traps with lifting gate entries (C and D). These two traps have doors designed with only one panel. Consequently, escape of trapped animals may occur while hogs moving into the trap lift the door to gain entry. Box traps with lifting gate entries and multiple panels (E and F). Multiple door panels allow additional hogs to enter the trap while preventing escape of previously captured hogs.

Feral Hog Bait

Raspberry Jello Mix

The sweet smell of raspberry jello mix will lure hogs in from all over. When mixed with corn, it makes for the per wild hog bait attractant to put in your feeder. If you're just trying to get a quick hunt in, then you can sprinkle proof raspberry jello mix around an area to attract them. It is generally best if the mix is baited along with someth has more substance for them to eat, such as corn. Otherwise they are still likely to root the area to recover as many property jello mix as possible.

In order to keep hogs coming back, time and time again, we recommend digging a hole a couple feet deep and dumping several packets of raspberry jello mix, then filling the hole back with dirt. The hogs can smell the mix despite it being buried and will come back in the future to root the ground and eat as much of the wild hog ba attractant as possible.

Soured Corn

Deer are not fans of sour corn, but hogs are. If you are looking for ways to be more efficient with your feeding strategies, soured corn as your wild hog bait attractant may be the best fit for you. Here's a **soured corn recipe for your next hog hunt:**

- 1, 50 lb bag, whole shelled corn
- 2. Dump 50 lb bag in 5 gallon bucket
- 3. Top bucket off with water
- 4. Let mixture sit for 6-8 days to sour
- 5. Put sour corn out and wait for hogs to show up.

Dumping sour corn on the ground is one of the most common methods of baiting wild hogs, but if you put it in a sack and tie it to a tree 4-5 feet above the ground, then the scent will travel much further. This is a great method to attract hogs that are further away. In addition, if holes are dug and filled with sour corn to give the hogs something to work for, they are more likely to come back in the future or stay at the bait location for longer durations. Some corn can be laid on the ground as well. Combine all 3 of these together and you should have hogs in no time.