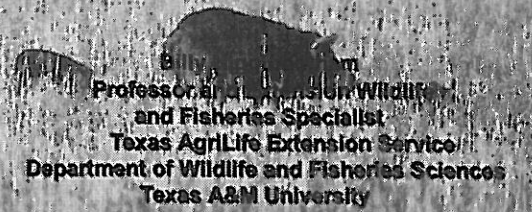


AgriLIFE EXTENSION
The A&M System

FERAL HOGS:

The Good, The Bad or The Ugly?



Bill Hamm
Professional Extension Wildlife
and Fisheries Specialist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Texas A&M University


Hogs Are Beautiful



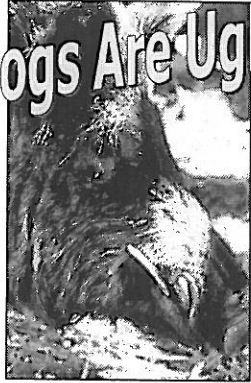
**INCOME
POTENTIAL:**

**Hunting
Leases**

**Marketing
Live Hogs to
Processors!**



Hogs Are Ugly







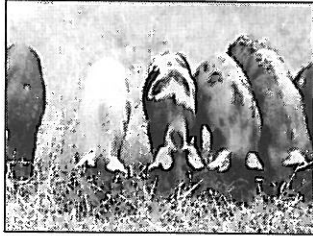
Hogs were first brought to the U.S. mainland by:

- a. Hernando de Soto in 1539
- b. Christopher Columbus in 1492
- c. A disillusioned wildlife biologist in 1937



Feral hog populations with domestic ancestry are the most common morphotype found in the United States.

True
or
False?



The first pure "Russian" wild boars were brought into the United States in:

- a. New Hampshire
- b. Texas
- c. California



THE RUSSIAN WILD BOAR

* Eurasian (Russian) wild boars native to the Ural Mountains in Russia, also native to Poland and Germany.



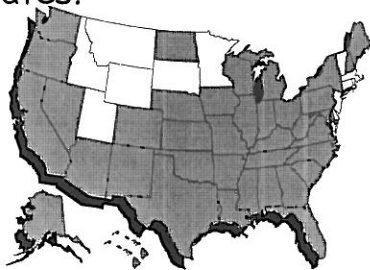
Feral hogs, Russian wild boars and their crosses exist in how many states?

- a. 12
- b. 45
- c. 40



Feral hogs, Russian wild boars and their crosses exist in how many states?

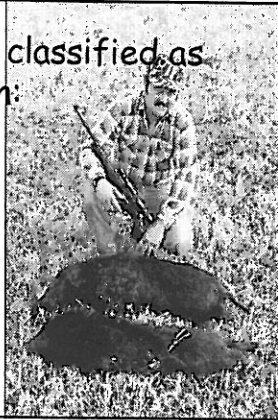
- a. 12
- b. 45
- c. 40



Feral hogs are classified as game animals in:

- a. Texas
- b. California
- c. New Mexico

So, does that mean I don't need a hunting license in Texas?



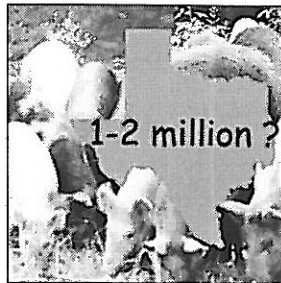
The state with the largest feral hog population is:

- a. Texas
- b. Florida
- c. California

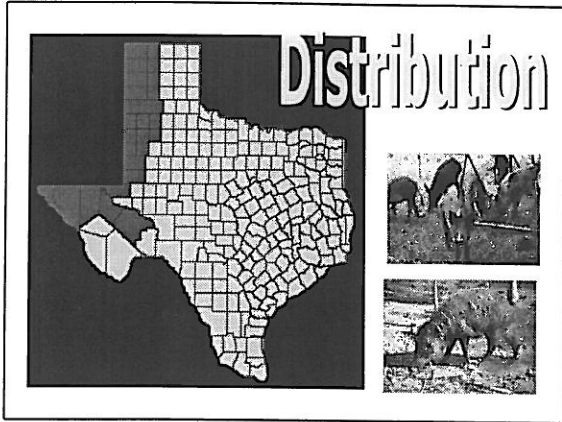


The state with the largest feral hog population is:

- a. *Texas*
- b. Florida
- c. California



(U.S. population = 4-5 million?)



Hogs in Texas

Mid 1500's - de Soto introduced hogs

1565 - Spanish colonists drove swine north across the Rio Grande to avoid Indians

1670 - Hogs brought north to Texas as a food source for missions

1685 - LaSalle brought hogs to coast

1850 to 1950's - Domestic swine allowed to free range across east, central and south Texas

"At this camp (near Crockett) we were annoyed by hogs beyond all description. At almost every camp we were surrounded by them; but here they seemed perfectly frantic and delirious with hunger. These animals proved indeed, throughout Texas, a disgusting annoyance."

Frederick Law Olmstead
- mid 1800's



"Vast herds of hogs, estimated at 18,000 head, roamed the woods and lived off bountiful acorn crops"

History of Cherokee County-circa 1850



"They have a HUGH wild hog problem here in the area.....Pigs have destroyed some farmers crops and are wreaking havoc all over the countryside by even going into people's houses. Needless to say because of security reasons, the farmers can't go out and use their guns to shoot the pests, so right now they are kind of at the mercy of the pigs."

Wendy Flatt
PRT-Ag Advisor
Kirkuk, Iraq-2009

FERAL HOG EXPANSION

- 1988—462 U.S. counties had feral hogs
- 2004—1,042 U.S. counties had feral hogs
- Increase of 125% !!!
- 39 states and 4 Canadian Provinces as of 2006

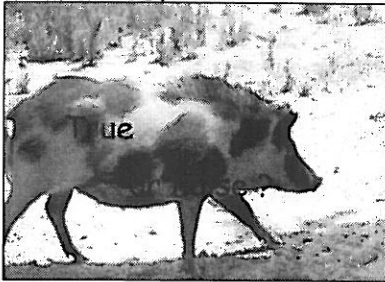


How Did We Get So Many So Fast?

- Generalist omnivores
- Intelligent
- Indiscriminant stockings
- Supplementally fed
- High reproductive rates



Feral hogs are carriers for both swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.



Average litter size for feral hog sows is:

- a. 4-6
- b. 8-10
- c. 10-12



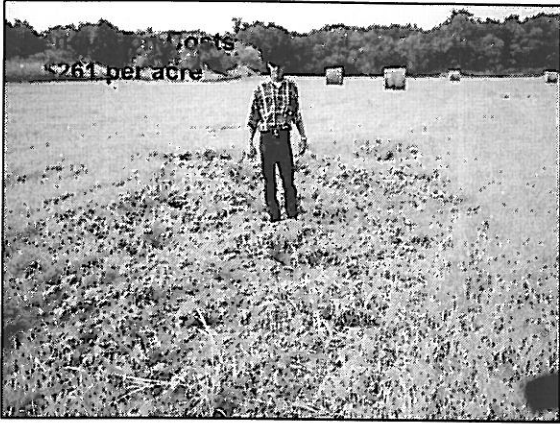
The best developed sense in feral hogs is:

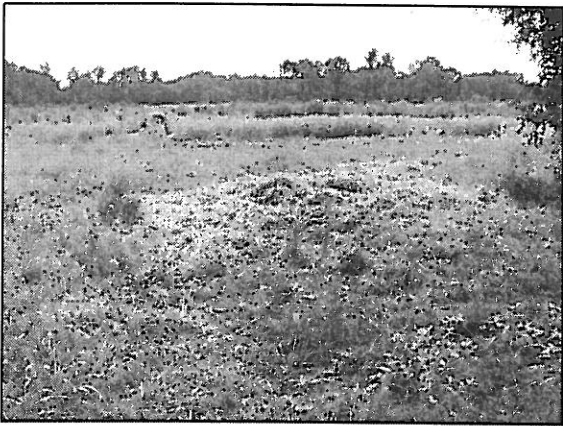
- a. Sight
- b. Hearing
- c. Smell













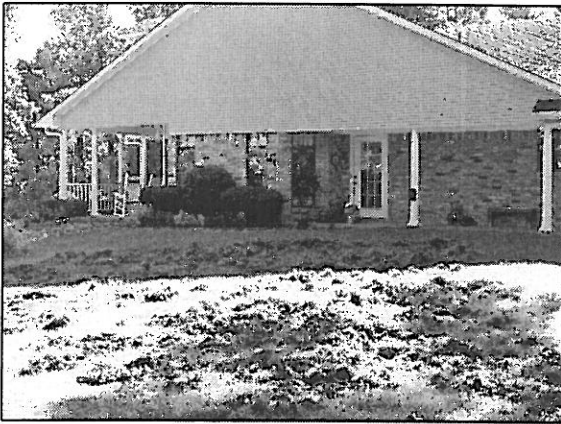




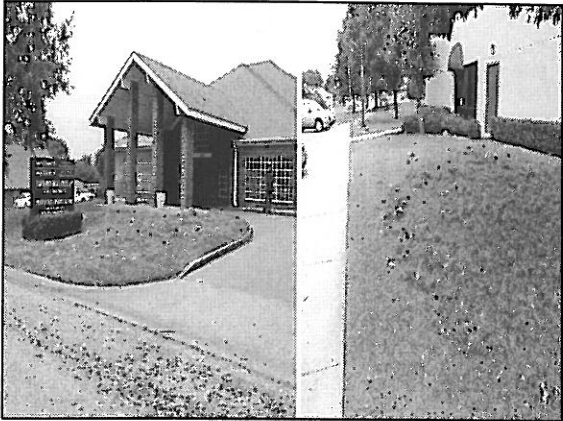


Urban/Suburban Landscape Damage











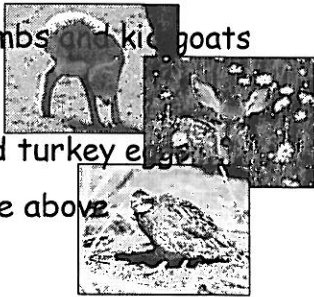




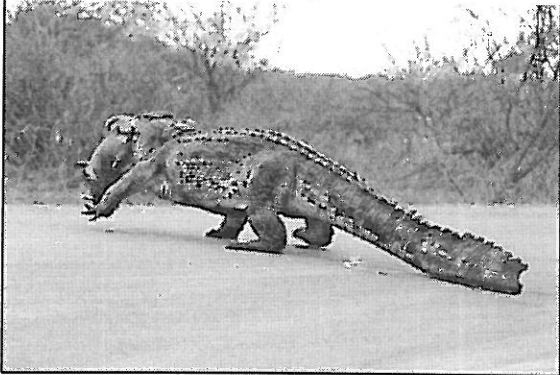


Feral hogs have been known to feed on:

- a. Young lambs and kid goats
- b. Fawns
- c. Quail and turkey eggs
- d. All of the above



Control Options



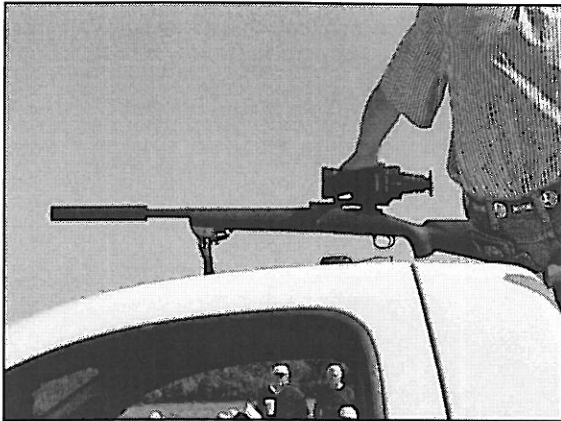




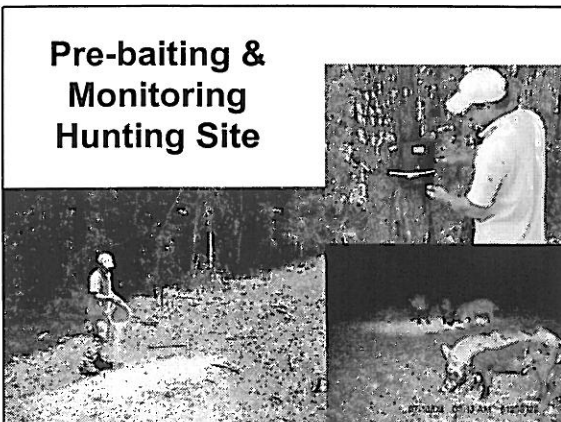


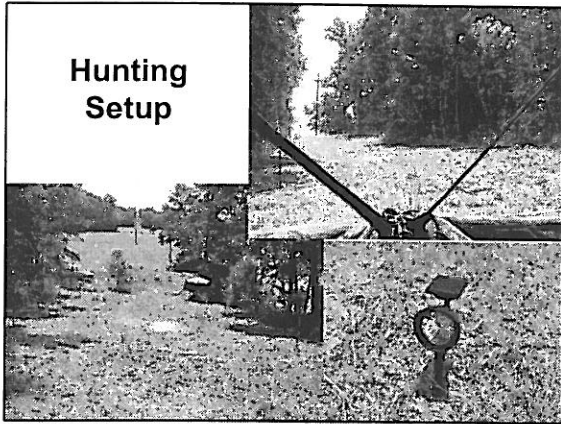




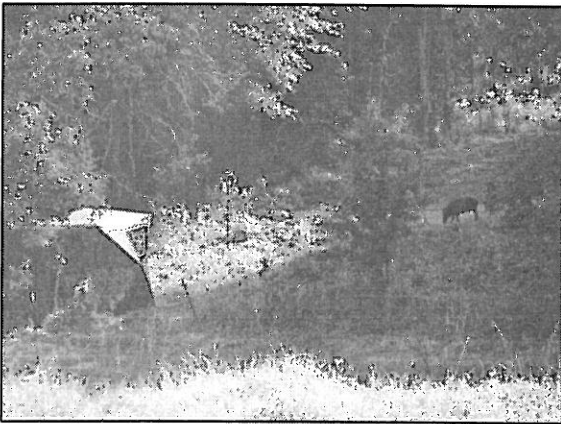


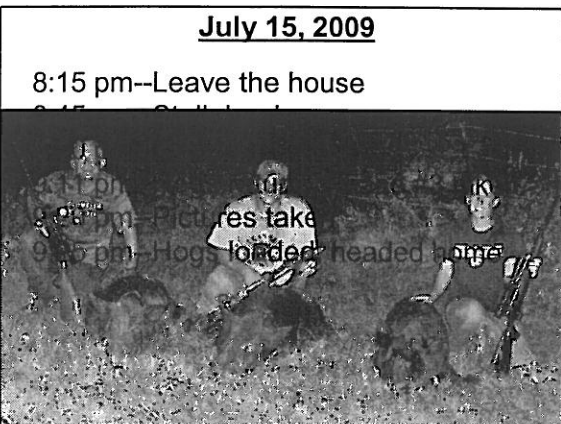






Hunting Setup





July 15, 2009

8:15 pm--Leave the house

8:45 pm--Set traps

8:55 pm--Hogs loaded

9:05 pm--Hogs loaded, headed home

Aerial Hunting

Advantages:

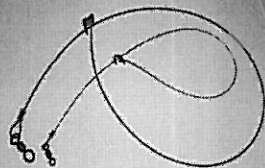
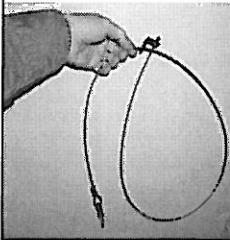
Effective

Disadvantages:

- Expensive
- Low Success In Brush
- Hazardous



Snares



Trapping Tips

- Small traps vs large traps
- Target juveniles for population reduction
- Multiple traps
- Pre-bait/Monitor
- Vary baits
- Fall/Winter
- Don't give up!



What are some good baits to attract feral hogs to traps?

- a. Corn and milo
- b. Horse and mule feed
- c. Strawberry Jello and Jello
- d. All of the above



South Texas Bait Trial

- August 2006 Trial Evaluated 11 Baits
- 10 Liquid Feed Additives (anise, bubblegum, butterscotch, berry, strawberry, caramel, apple, pig frenzy, blended cheese and banana)
- 1 Attractant-Boarmate Pheromone Used
- Liquid Berry and Strawberry Visited 2X More than Other Attractants and 4X More Than Control-Strawberry = fewer non-target species using bait

Source: Campbell et al 2006; APHIS-WS, TAMU-K

HOG BAIT RECIPE

- * 40-50 gallon metal trash can
- * 150 pounds of corn
- * 8 pounds of sugar
- * 1 packet of yeast
- * Fill can with water 3-4" above corn
- * Place trash can in direct sunlight-1 week
- * Optional: 5 packets of grape, strawberry or raspberry flavored Jello

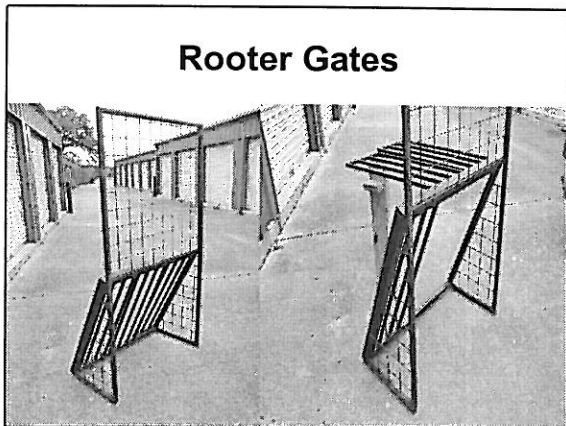
OTHER BAITS

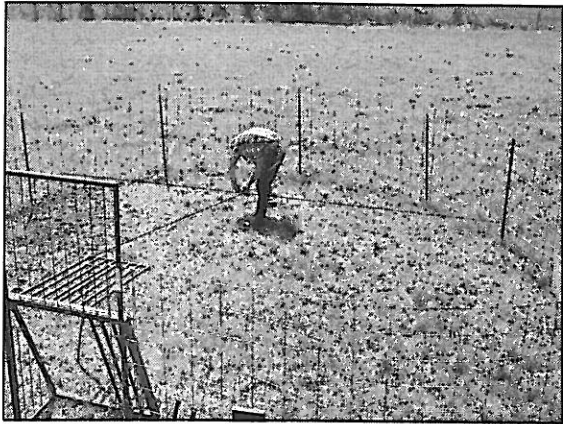
- Corn/milo/rice fermented in water/beer/milk
- Used fish grease or sardines and corn
- Bread fermented in water or beer
- Spoiled produce
- Dry dog food
- Commercial baits
- Ripe fruit (peaches, bananas or plums)
- "Freshen" other baits with berry spray

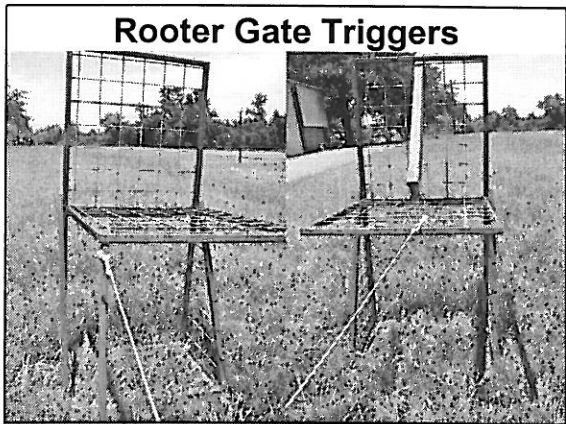












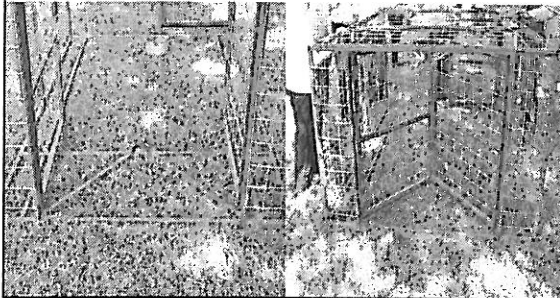


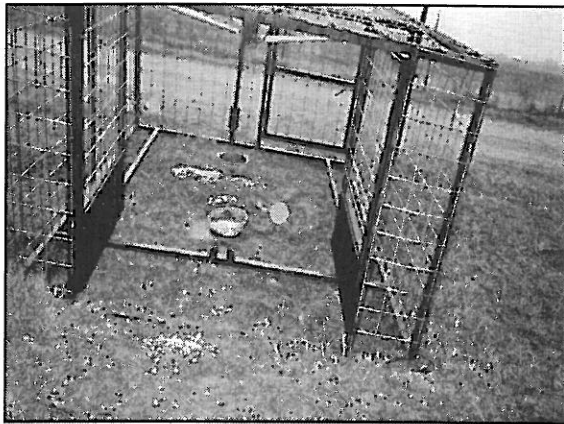


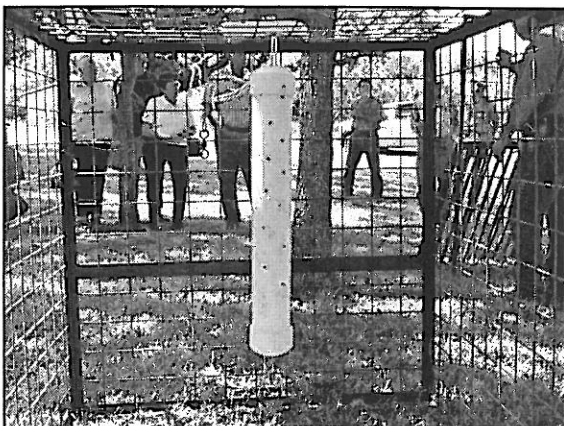


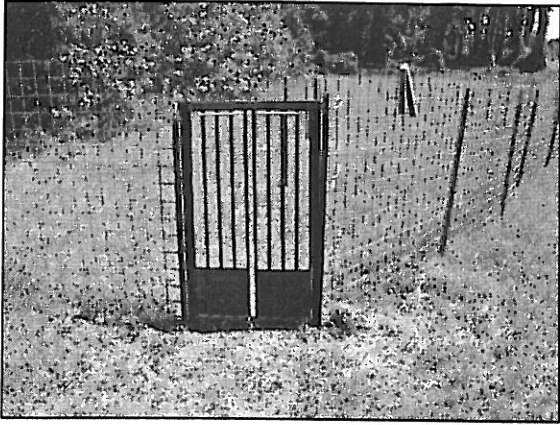


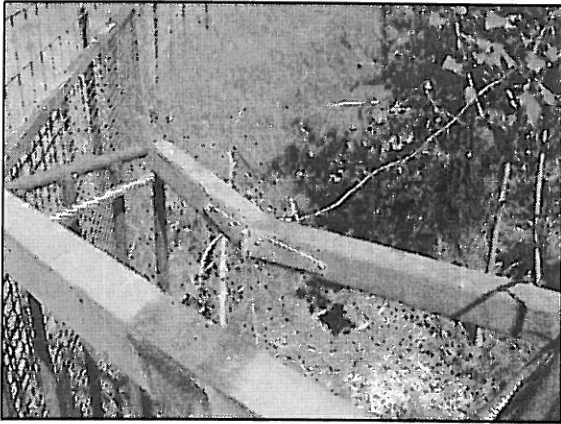
Funnel Shaped/Spring Loaded Gate



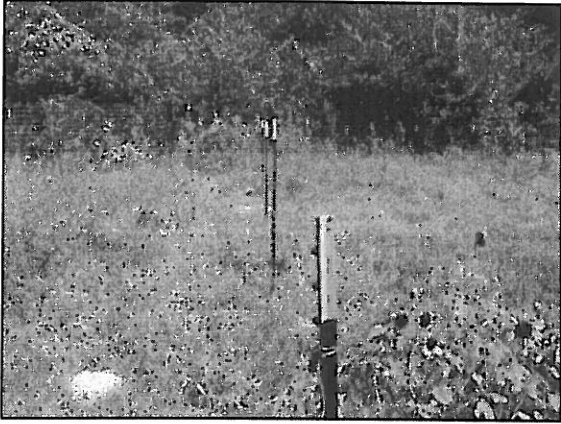


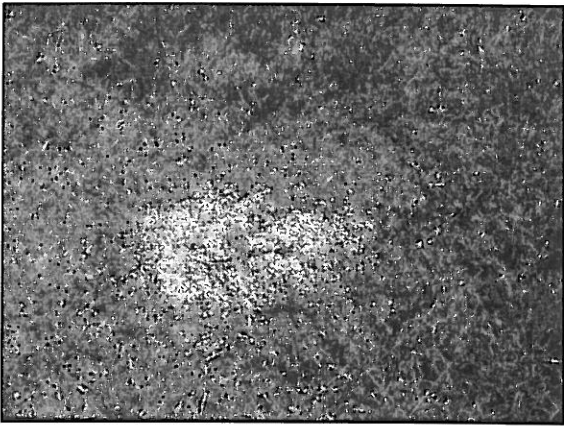












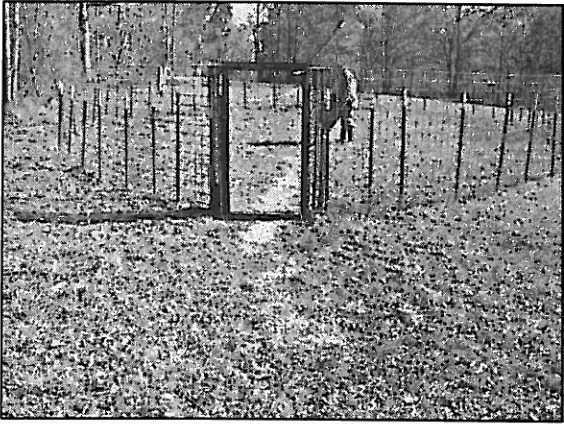






































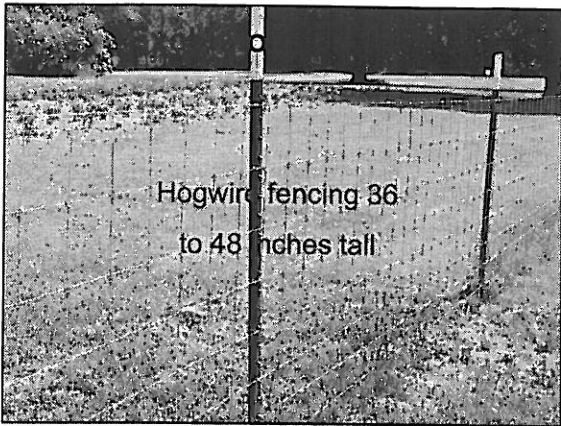




Successful Trapping

- Use bigger traps
- Use small (4" x 4") mesh
- Pre-bait, Pre-bait, Pre-bait !!!!!
- Monitor by camera



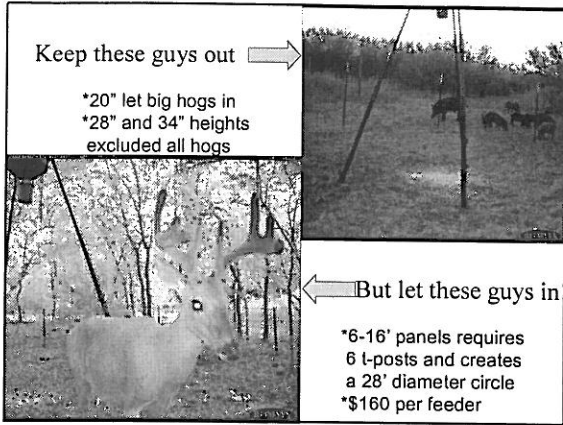


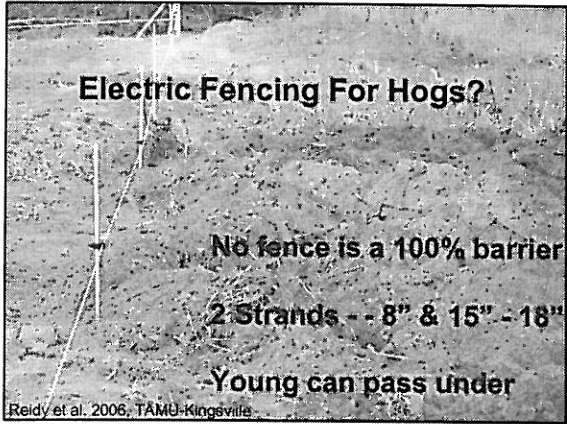
Welder Wildlife Foundation
Excluding Hogs from Feeders

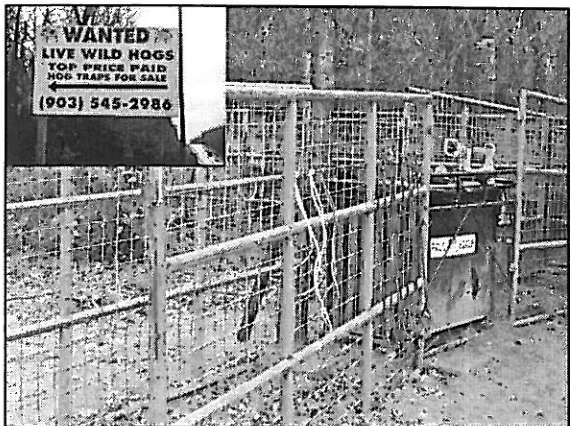


How High is High Enough to Exclude Hogs but Admit Deer?



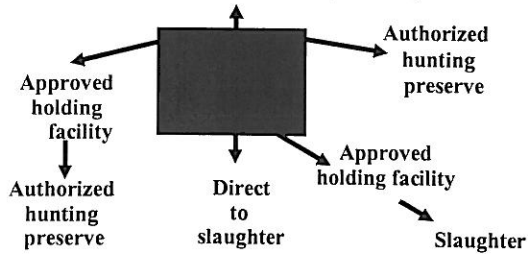






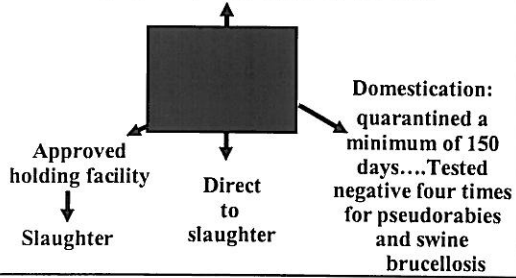
Feral Swine Regulations BOARS AND BARROWS

While waiting transport, can be held
in escape-proof pen on trailer up to 7 days

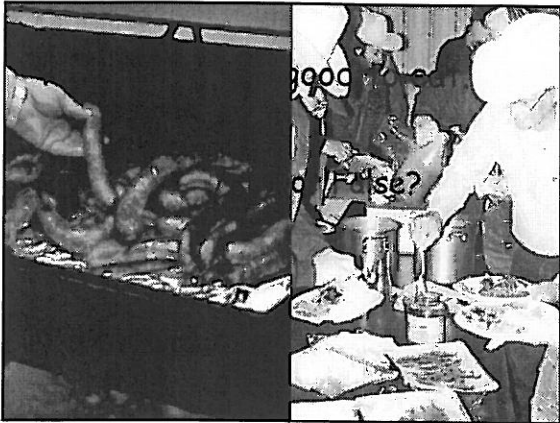


Feral Swine Regulations - Oct. 1, 2008 SOWS AND GILTS

While waiting transport, can be held
in escape-proof pen on trailer up to 7 days



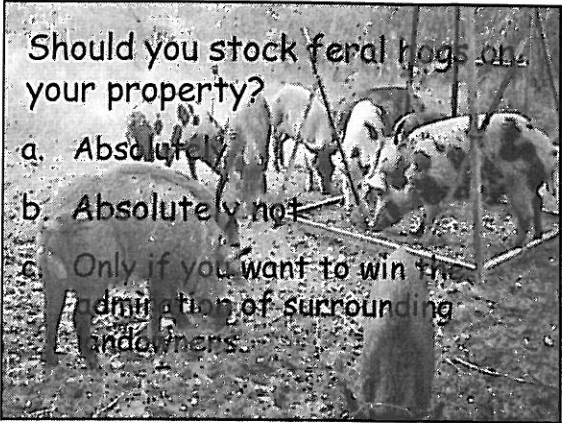






What is a hog shield?

- a. A hog's family composed of hogs
- b. A thick brush hide built for protection
- c. Tough shoulder tissue



Should you stock feral hogs on your property?

- a. Absolutely
- b. Absolutely not
- c. Only if you want to win the admiration of surrounding landowners.



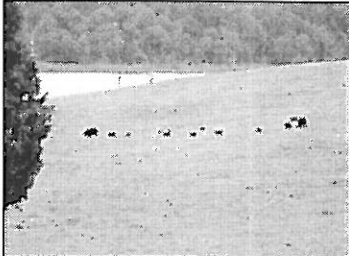
<http://feralhog.com/>

True
or
False?

BONUS QUESTION:

What is a family group of feral swine called?

Sounder





- So What Do We Do??**
- Trap Efficiently on a Sustained Basis
 - Work Cooperatively With Neighbors
 - Don't Stock Hogs!!!!
 - Private Assistance
 - Public Assistance