

## AL401 / PRE-FABRICATED TRAP

The Feral Swine population and range has made a dramatic impact in Alabama. They vary in color, shape, and size. Feral Swine can reproduce and populate an area very quickly. They have become a nuisance in Alabama by consuming agricultural crops, trampling agricultural land, preying on newborn livestock, causing timber damage by rubbing intensely on the bark layer making the trees more vulnerable to harmful insects, destroying native plants and causing water quality and erosion issues. They are known to carry diseases that can be transmitted to livestock and humans. Trapping has become the preferred method of reducing the Feral Swine population.

### **Scouting and Identifying**

After identifying that feral swine are located on your property causing damage, spend time scouting the property for their activity areas. Locate the heavy use areas where the feral swine travel, are rooting, wallowing or trampling and locate their bedding areas. Mount a game camera in the area to help determine how many groups and the number of feral swine that will need to be removed from the property. Monitoring the site daily is important for success.

### **Conditioning and Trapping**

Once the feral swine area has been identified, select the best site to build, bait and attract the feral swine. It is important to consider several factors when choosing a trap site including:

1. Level ground,
2. Partial or full shaded area,
3. Easily accessible by vehicle or UTV.

Before building or placing the trap, the next step is pre-baiting. Actual pre-baiting time will depend on whether the entire sounder is entering the area. Be patient: this could take up to 2 weeks. If pre-baiting after the trap is placed, the gate will need to be wired or locked to stay open. This will allow the feral swine to get comfortable with coming into and leaving the trap area. One or two panels can also be pulled open and left open a few feet on one end to facilitate quick bait access by pigs. Open panels can gradually be closed over several days after all pigs begin to access the bait in the trap. Do not place the bait close to the trap entrance. Instead spread the bait near the back of the trap. The object is to allow as many feral swine to enter the trap as possible and give time for the trap door to close.

### **Monitoring**

If the entire sounder was not trapped and dispatched or if other sounders are on adjacent land, the feral swine population will begin to grow damaging land or crops.

Therefore, it is important to monitor targeted locations for any sign of feral swine activity. Upon noticing any new activity repeat the removal steps.

### **Eligible Element Components**

- Trap door and door frame
- Prefabricated Trap panels
- Trigger Mechanism
- Steel T-post
- Trailer
- Solar panel
- Rechargeable battery
- Directional Antenna
- Mounting or Telescoping pole for directional antenna
- Game Camera with cellular data service



***Example: Big Pig Trap***

### **Trap Panels**

The prefabricated trap consists of panels and drop trap door. The number of panels and gates may vary depending on length of panel but should allow for the assembly of a trap with a circumference of at least 60 feet.

The trap panel frame material should be built with 14 gauge, 1" steel tubular members and 60" total height. The trap panel should be made from at least 6-gauge galvanized wire. In the first 24 inches from the ground the wire openings should be no larger than 8 inches wide and 3 inches tall. Panels should be joined to each other via thick pins and sleeves or other acceptable manner.

### **Trap Gate**

The prefabricated trap shall have at least one minimum 6' wide guillotine trap gate. The gate shall open to a height of 36" minimum and shall be at least 60" total height. Minimum gate panel frame material: 14-gauge, 1-1/4" steel tubular members. The wire openings and gauge are the same as the trap panels.



### ***Example: Boar Buster Trap***

Specifications for this style of trap are a minimum of 57 inches in height and minimum of 12 feet in diameter. Wire openings and gauge are the same as with the panel traps.

### **Trap Camera, Antenna, Solar Panel and Battery**

The trap shall have a control system that provides remote monitoring of the trap in rural areas. The control system shall include a game camera to detect motion at the trap and shall provide video or photo notifications of activity inside the trap through a mobile phone app. The control system shall provide operation of the gate through alternative methods or a mobile phone app.

- The camera shall be provided with a cellular data package for a minimum of one year. It is important to get a camera with cellular data service that works well in the location you plan to run the trap. The camera must be suitable for outdoor operation and provide video or still photos in low light conditions. The camera must provide a detection range of a minimum of 50' and a field of view of 40 degrees. The trigger speed for the camera must be a maximum of 1.2 seconds. Cellular components must be enterprise class and designated for long term use in extreme conditions.
- The antenna may be either a directional antenna in the case of poor or limited cell service or omnidirectional. The antenna should have a minimum of 10' of cable to connect to the camera.
- The solar panel shall be a minimum of 120 W with charge controller to power the camera. The rechargeable battery shall have a 20-hour rating minimum with >200-minute reserve capacity.
- The camera, solar panel and antenna shall all easily mount to a single T-post.

### **Trap Trailer**

The prefabricated trap may come with an integrated trailer. The trailer shall be a maximum length of 12' and maximum width of 6'. The trailer shall be DOT certified with highway rated 12" radial tires or equal, 2" ball system that allows any vehicle, ATV or UTV to transport trap.

### **Round Drop Trap Option**

Several manufacturers make round drop style traps that can be very effective for catching pigs. Larger diameter round traps can catch even the largest sounders. The smallest of this trap style, however, has a diameter of only 12 feet. This is too small to catch large sounders but can be an effective tool for catching trap shy pigs and small to medium sized sounders.

### **State Laws, Permits and Carcass Disposal**

It is important to contact your local conservation officer before trapping during hunting season if hunting will take place on the property. Since food type baits are placed to attract pigs, this action has potential to violate Section 9- 11-244, Code of Alabama, which prohibits the baiting, feeding and simultaneous hunting of protected game animals and birds. Your local conservation officer with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources can evaluate your situation, such as distance, terrain, visibility, species being hunted, etc.

Traps should be checked daily. Trapped pigs should be euthanized immediately. It is illegal to move live feral swine (wild hogs, wild pigs, feral hogs) in Alabama.

Contact your local Alabama Department of Conservation Law Enforcement Officer for details. ***Under no circumstances should wild pigs be moved and released. This practice violates Alabama law.***

Pig carcasses should be disposed of properly. Wild pigs in Alabama carry many diseases that can be transmitted to humans and domestic animals. The State Veterinarian with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is responsible for approving methods of dead animal carcass disposal. Burial is an effective way of disposal.

### **REFERENCES**

A Landowner's Guide for Wild Pig Management: Practical Methods for Wild Pig Control. Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Publication ANR-1397. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/wildlife/landowners-guide-wild-pig-management/>

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. <https://gadnr.org/feralhogs>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, <https://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>

### **NOTE:**

***It is illegal to move live feral hogs in Alabama. Contact your local Alabama Department of Conservation Law Enforcement Officer for details. Under no circumstances should feral hogs be released. This practice violates Alabama law.***