

# AL403 / NET TRAP

## **Overview**

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 erosion and water quality 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. Mounting a game camera in the area will help determine how many groups and the number of feral swine that will need to be removed from the property.

Before selecting a site to build the trap, pre-bait several likely trap areas with buckets that have been partially filled with corn and topped off with water. The area that gets the most use is where the trap should be built. Monitoring the area daily is important for success.

## **Conditioning and Trapping**

Once the feral swine area has been identified, and the best area to build selected, it is important to consider several additional factors when choosing a trap site including:

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

After 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 trap. Be patient: this could take up to 2 weeks. During pre-baiting the net will need to be wired or tied to stay completely up. After the feral swine get comfortable with the area then position the netting to a height that will touch the feral swine's backs as they enter and leave trap. Place the bait close to the trap center. The object is to allow as many feral swine to enter the trap as possible.

Once the feral swine are comfortable entering and leaving the trap, drop the netting to the trapping position. Additionally, during pre-baiting and trapping period, do NOT shoot at or otherwise harass pigs.

## **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 again 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**

- Steel T-post
- High Quality Netting that follows the minimum specifications listed below.
- Game Camera with or without cellular data capability and service
- Antenna, Solar Panel, and Rechargeable Battery

## **Trap Material Details**

The main body of the trap should be built using a minimum 60 inches in height and a minimum of 20 feet in diameter. The netting openings should be no larger than 3-inches by 3-inches. To maintain durability and strength, netting should be made of high-quality material that meets minimum specifications listed below.



Solid steel T-posts can be used to support the netting. The T-posts should be a minimum density of 1.25 pounds per linear foot and be at least 6.5 feet long.

### **Trap Construction**

Assemble net trap per manufacturer guidelines.

The traps should be in an area with all day shade covering most of the trap. Hogs do not have sweat glands and cannot regulate their temperature very well in full sun. They can die quickly and inhumanely without shade.

***Pig Brig Net trap***

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

The trap does not require a control system, although a game camera should be used for remote monitoring of the trap.

The camera shall detect motion at the trap and shall provide video or photo notifications of activity inside the trap through a mobile phone app or other methods. If purchasing a game camera that requires cellular service, 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.

## **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/>

### **Feral Hog Trapping Checklist**

#### *Minimum Specifications*

NET: All net segments must be constructed of no smaller than a #30 cord diameter (2.5mm) of a UV protected high tenacity fiber such as nylon, polypropylene, or an equivalent material. Must include a trap cap, main body, and skirt or apron. Maximum mesh size of any segment may be no larger than 3in.

TRAP CAP: 2ft minimum width, made of same materials as stated above.

TRAP SKIRT: Should be anchored to the ground in at least four points to prevent escape, using a minimum of four stakes or anchors. Net materials should match general net specifications as above.

Trap diameter shall be a minimum of 20ft when fully constructed.

Minimum Trap Height 60in.

Trap must be constructed in round shape without corners.

Use heavy, solid steel (1.25lb/linear ft) construction 6.5ft or longer T-posts to support trap exterior. T-posts must be placed no more than 8ft apart to secure net in place. Trees no smaller than 8in diameter may be used in place of T-posts where terrain precludes their use. If trees are used, they must be no further than 8ft apart or must be supplemented with same T-posts as above to maintain correct spacing.

Net traps shall include a minimum 4-year limited warranty. Warranty should cover replacement or repair of net in case of a breach, tear, or excessive damage from normal use.

#### **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.***