

AL404 / TRAPPING ASSISTANCE PRACTICE STANDARD

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. Trapping efforts can begin once the feral swine are comfortable entering and leaving the trap. Additionally, during pre-baiting and trapping period, do NOT shoot at or otherwise harass pigs. The goal of trapping is to trap the entire sounder of 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 Activities

The feral swine trapping assistance practice allows producers to hire pre-approved trapping businesses (trappers) to assist in the trapping and euthanization of feral swine in traps. Eligible activities include:

- Scouting for pigs and pig damage.
- Establishing monitoring stations with cameras.
- Baiting pigs.
- Constructing traps and trapping pigs.
- Euthanizing pigs within the trap.
- Disposing of pigs.

Requirements for Payment

Trapper must conduct a minimum of one trapping event. A trapping event includes scouting, baiting, monitoring, and trapping an entire sounder of pigs. To verify that the trapping event has occurred, three photos of the sounder must be provided. This practice will only be allowed twice per application. The photos must include:

- Sounder during scouting
- Sounder in trap
- Sounder after being euthanized.

On occasion, a trap-shy pig or boar that is part of the targeted sounder may not be trapped in the trapping event. The trapper should use its professional judgement to either complete an additional trapping event to capture the swine or dispatch of the swine in another manner. In no circumstances shall the cost of stalking or night shooting of the trap shy pig or boar be including in the cost of this practice or as a part of the Conservation Incentive Program. All expense related to stalking or night shooting must be born by the property owner.

Additionally, the trapper shall provide a table for each trapping event to include following as a minimum:

Date	Location	Juveniles Trapped	Adults Trapped	Number in Sounder	Number Euthanized

Pre-Approval Trapping Assistance Requirements

The following information shall be submitted to the Conservation District prior to engaging a trapper in trapping assistance for the Conservation Incentive Program:

- Business License of trapping company
- Proof of Liability insurance
- A summary of a minimum of one year's professional trapping experience
- Three professional references for trapping assistance
- Background check

The Conservation District will review this information and will provide notice of approval of the trapping company within 30 of receipt of information.

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.