

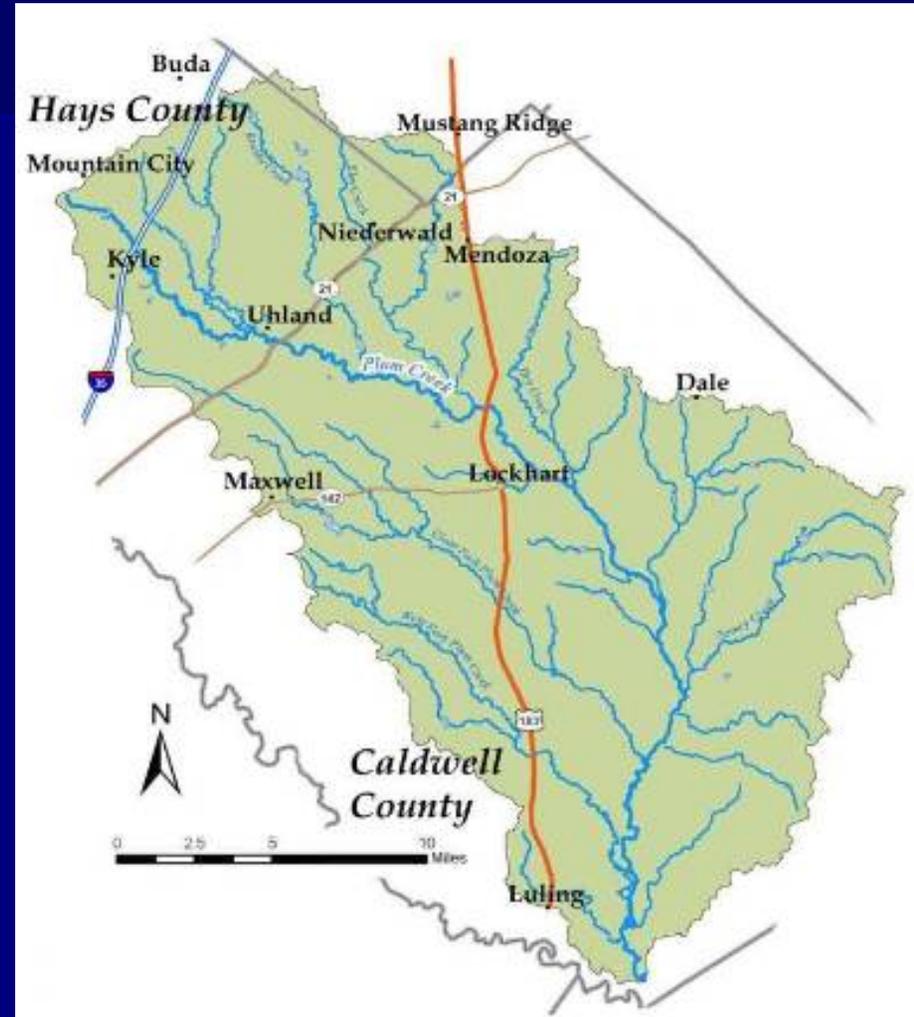
# Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership

Jared Timmons  
Extension Assistant



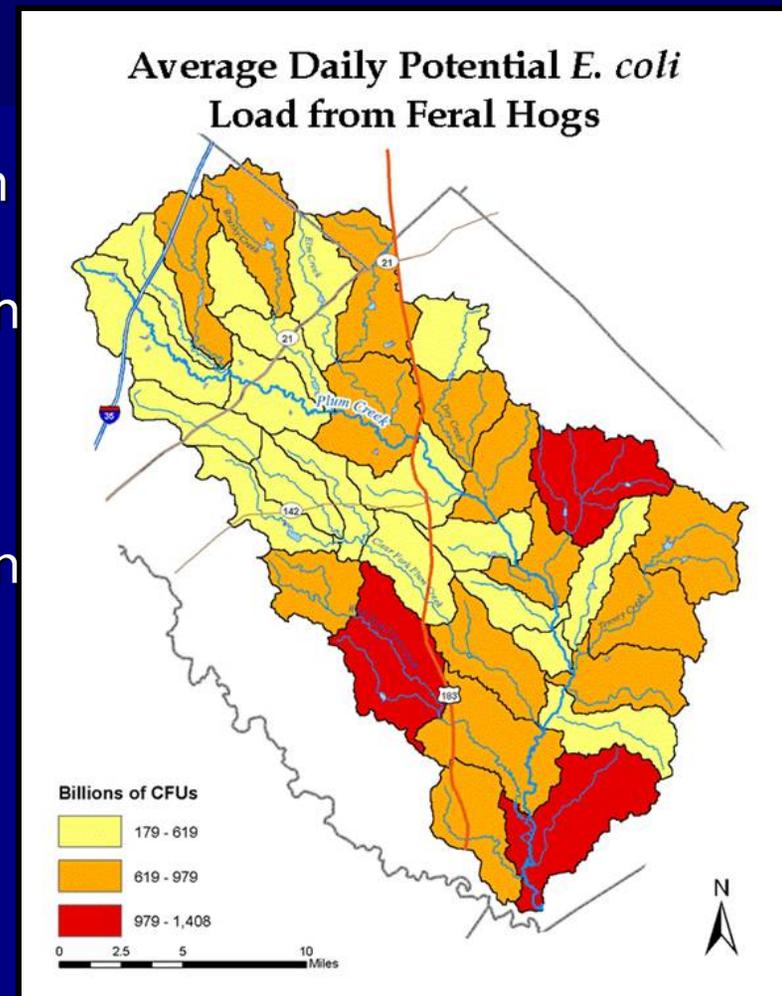
# Plum Creek Watershed

- Covers approximately 400 square miles in Hays, Caldwell, and Travis counties.
- Drains into the San Marcos River.



# Bacteria in Plum Creek

- Wallowing increases sedimentation
- Feces increases bacteria loads such as *E. coli*
- Some stretches of Plum Creek do not meet bacteria limits for recreation



# Cooperating Partners

- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Citizens
- State and regional agencies



# History (U.S.)

- 1539 – Hernando de Soto brought pigs to Atlantic Coast of Florida
- 1890 – Austin Corbin brought Russian boars into New Hampshire

# History (Texas)

- Late 1600s - 1700s Spanish missionaries brought in pigs.
- 1830s – Colonists abandoned homes during war with Mexico.
- 1920s – 1930s Depression forced farmers to leave their land for jobs in cities.

# History (Wild boar in TX)

- 1930s – Released/escaped in Aransas Co.
- 1939 – Released in Calhoun Co.
- 1940 – Bexar Co. released on ranch and floods destroyed fences.





# Biology

- Generalist Omnivores – switch diet as food availability changes.
- Lack sweat glands – wallow, more active nocturnally



# Biology (cont.)

- Have 4 continually growing incisors (tusks)



# Biology (cont.)

- Boars have shield on shoulder that is made of thickened skin and tissue.
  - Serves as protection



# Reproduction

- Avg. 1-2 litters/yr
- Avg. 4-6 young/litter
- Age:
  - < 1 yr ~ 4/litter
  - 1-2 yr ~ 5/litter
  - > 2 yr ~ 6/litter



# Disease

- Pseudorabies
  - Spread directly/indirectly
  - Causes abortions in sows, death in piglets, and flu-like symptoms in older animals.

# Disease

- Swine Brucellosis
  - May appear healthy or show sign
  - Short term / permanent sterility
  - Abortions / weak piglets
  - Lameness
  - Undulant fever in humans

# Disease

- Anthrax

- Caused by a bacteria in soils.
- Signs include: Staggering, trembling, convulsions, or bleeding from openings, followed by death.

# Disease

- Foot and Mouth Disease
  - Caused by virus
  - Direct or indirect contact
  - Foot lesions and high mortality of piglets

# Damage

- Water Pollution
- Crops
- Pasture
- Fences
- Livestock



# Sign

- Tracks



# Sign

- Scat



# Sign

- Wallows



# Sign

- Rubs



# Control Methods

- Trapping
- Hunting
- Snaring
- Exclusions

# Trapping

- Trap location should be where trails converge and be upwind of travel route.



# Trapping

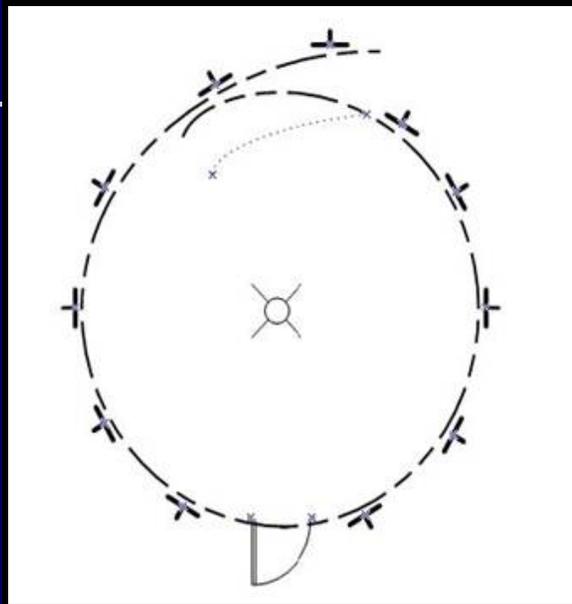
- Always pre-bait
- Bait types:
  - Soured corn
  - Strawberry gelatin mix
  - Livestock cubes
  - Carrion
  - Many others

# Trapping

- Corral Trap



# Corral Trap Designs



# Trapping

- Box trap



# Trapping - Gates



# Trapping - Gates



# Hunting

- Dogs



# Hunting

- Traditional



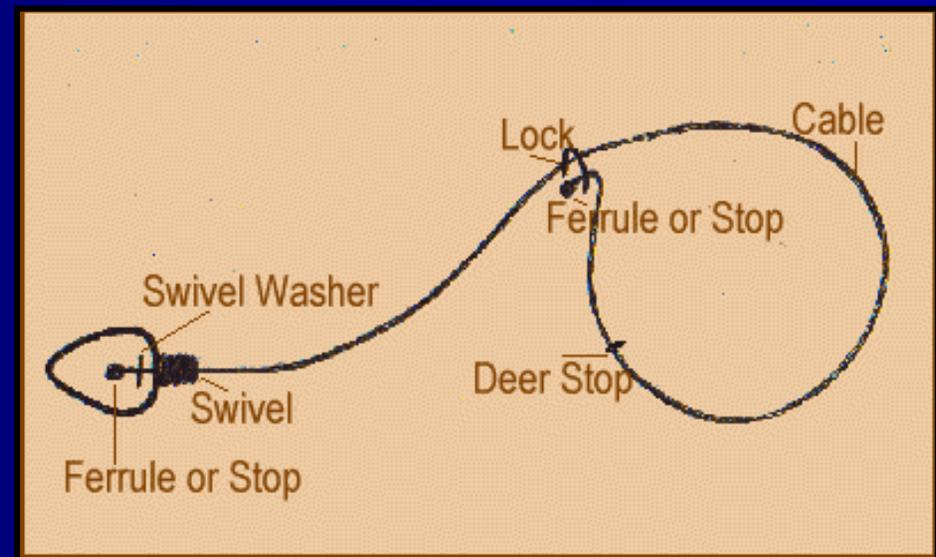
# Hunting

- Aerial



# Snaring

- 1/8 or 3/32 inch cable
- 42 inches long or longer
- locks made with angle iron or heavy duty washers
- Caution – Snares will also catch non-target species



# Exclusion

- Netwire
  - More costly and more permanent
- Electrified fence
  - Less costly and can be used seasonally

# Toxicants

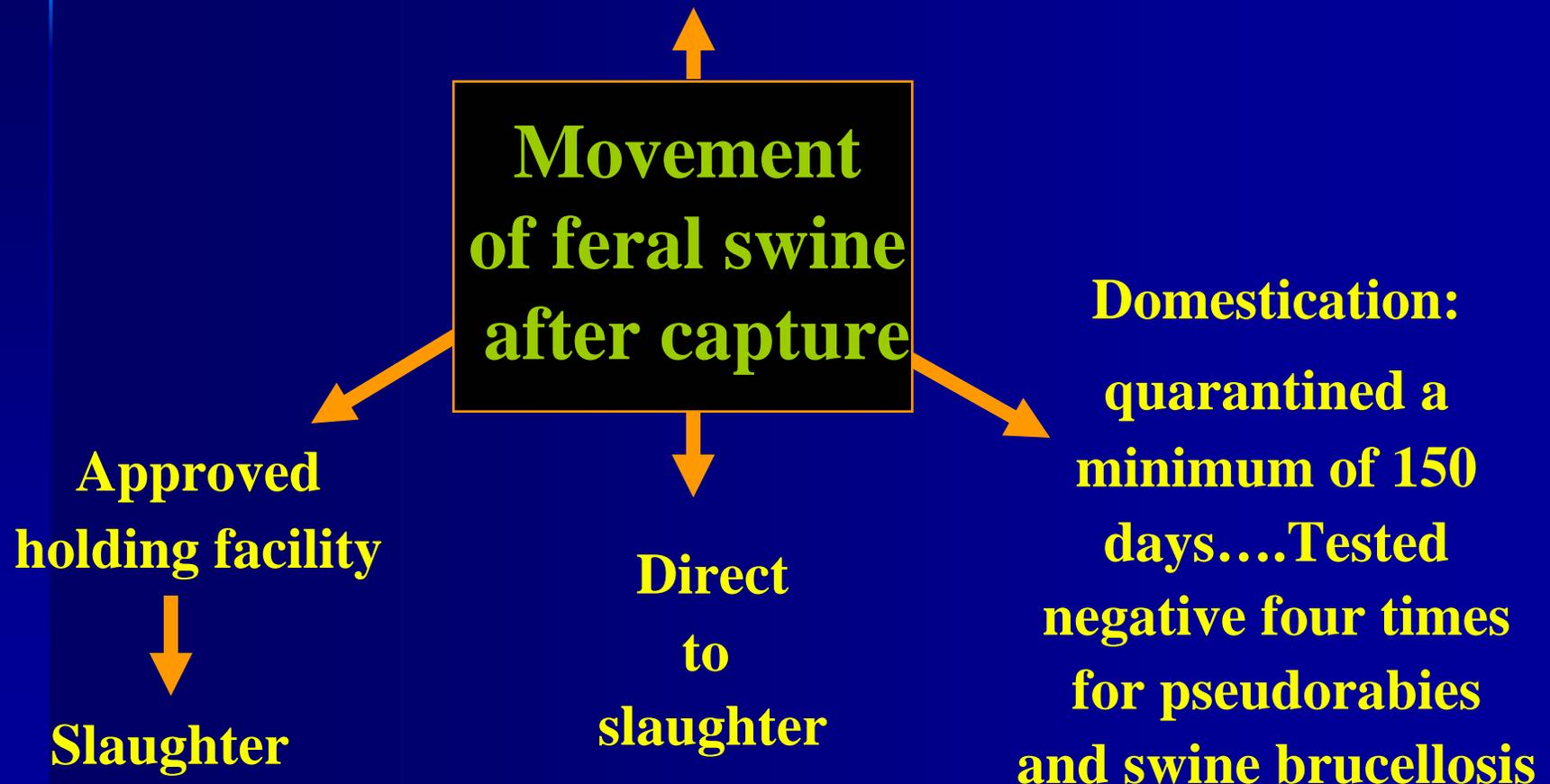
- None are currently legally registered for use in the U.S.



# 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



# **New Feral Swine Regulations**

**Effective October 1, 2008**

## **Why restrict sows and gilts?**

**Nearly 3 million feral swine in Texas—  
more aren't needed!**

**MORE FERAL SWINE =**

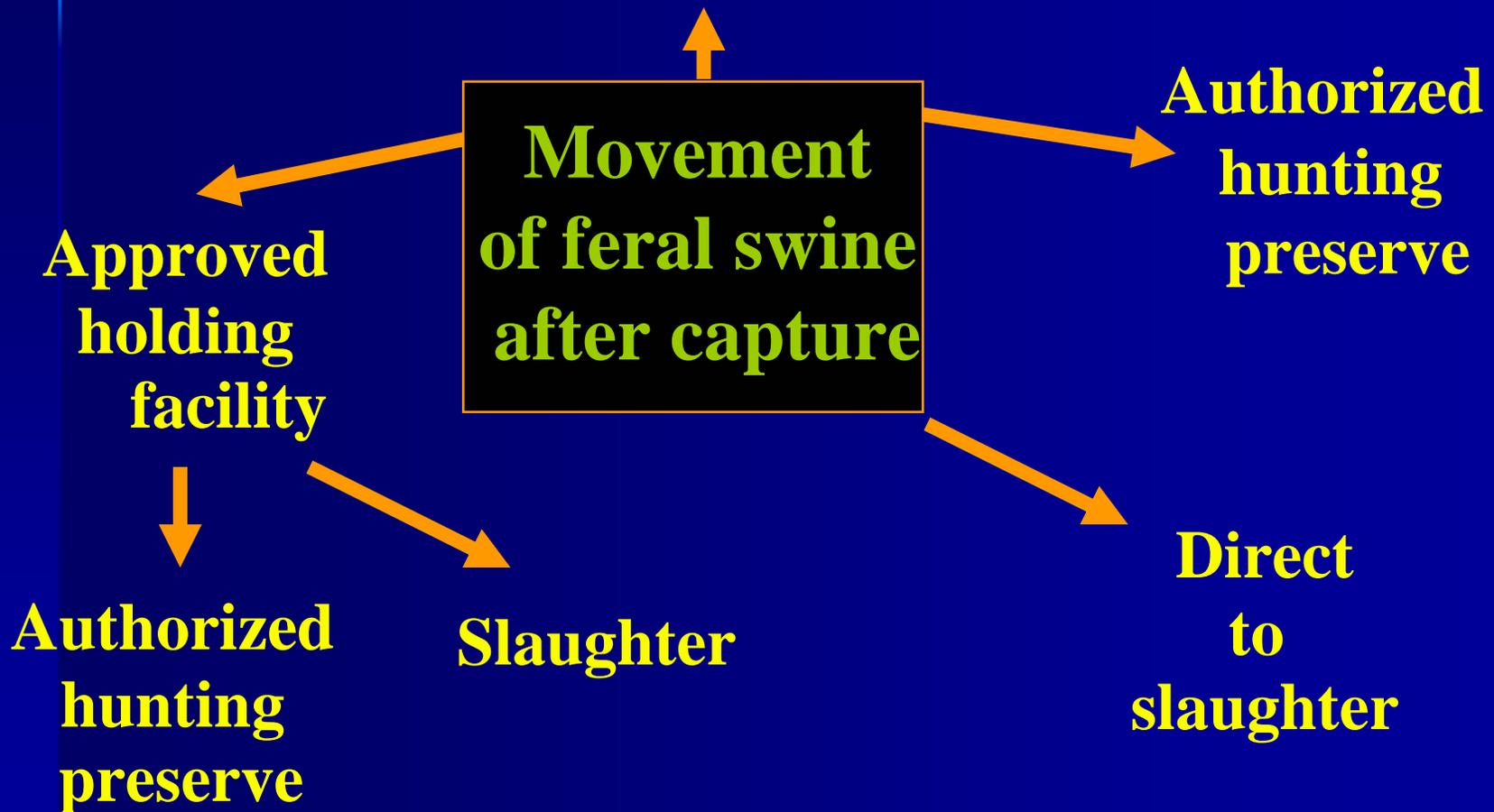
**More chance of disease transmission**

**Domestication of sows and gilt is not encouraged.**

# Feral Swine Regulations

## **BOARS AND BARROWS**

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





**Approved holding facilities:**

**> 200 yards from domestic swine**

**Operator is to apply with TAHC**

**No fee, but TAHC inspection required**

**Records must be maintained on animals in/out of facility**

**“Escape” or release is a violation of the rule**

# **New Feral Swine Regulations**

**Effective October 1, 2008**

**Provides for BOARS and BARROWS to be identified and moved to a hunting preserve with swine-proof fence.**

**Hunting preserve operators shall have TPWD “Hunting Lease License,” keep records on animals in /out, identification, maintain fences, and prohibit garbage feeding.**

**Wild hogs hauled to slaughter DO NOT need to be individually identified.**

# How we can help

- <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/>
- Publication links
  - Recognizing Feral Hog Sign
  - Snaring Feral Hogs
  - Building a Feral Hog Snare
  - Placing and Baiting Feral Hog Traps
  - Box Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs
  - Corral Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs
  - Door Modifications for Feral Hog Traps
- Site visits for landowners
- Presentations for groups such as WMAs

# Landowner Report

- Landowner gives monthly report of:
  - Amount (dollars) and type of damage
  - Control methods used
  - Number of animals removed

# Landowner report

Landowner Report - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://pcwp.tamu.edu/Feralhogs/LandownerReport.aspx

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**Contact Us**

- Project Overview
- Meetings
- Feral Hog Project
  - Public Report
  - Landowner Report
  - Calendar
  - Feral Hog Links
  - Capture Techniques
  - Map
  - Trapping Effort
- Water Quality
- Outreach and Education
- Publications
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Links
- Partners



## Landowner Report

*Information is confidential and will only be accessed by project staff for feral hog management purposes*

Select a report month and year.

September 2009

Have you observed feral hogs on your property this month?

Yes  No

Please mark all of the areas in which feral hogs had negative impacts on your property in the past month.

<input type="checkbox"/> Growing or planting commodity crop losses	<input type="checkbox"/> Fences, water troughs, or other improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing or planting specialty crop losses	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment or vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Stored Commodities	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal injuries
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastures	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner or employee time
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of land value
<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock (injury, deaths, diseases)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of lease value, damage to food plots/feeders

Please estimate your total economic losses due to feral hogs in the past month on all your property(s). This includes items marked in the question above.

\$  (Dollars only)

Please mark all of the control methods you used on your property(s) this month and the number of hogs taken using each.

Control method	Number of hogs
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and destroyed	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and sold	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lease hunting	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and moved from premise	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Employee hunting	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Use of dogs	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (snares, aerial gunning)	<input type="text"/>

Done

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# General Public Report

- Made more for incidental sightings/or for nonlandowners
- Report:
  - Location
  - Date
  - Type of damage
  - Number of animals seen
  - Closest waterway

# General Public Report

Public Report - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership - Mozilla Firefox

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http://pcwp.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/PublicReport.aspx

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**Project Overview**

**Meetings**

**Feral Hog Project**

- Public Report
- Landowner Report
- Calendar
- Feral Hog Links
- Capture Techniques
- Maps
- Trapping Effort

**Water Quality**

**Outreach and Education**

**Publications**

**Watershed Protection Plan**

**Links**

**Partners**



Information is confidential and will only be accessed by project staff for feral hog management purposes

Your name:

Your phone number:

Your email address:

When did you observe feral hogs?  
 Tip: format date as MM/DD/YYYY, or select from the calendar.

In which county did you observe feral hogs?  
ANDERSON

What was the nearest intersection to the feral hogs?  
Zoom then click a point on the map below, or enter the latitude and longitude coordinates:



Lat:

Lon:

What was the nearest stream or waterway?

Number of feral hogs observed.

Juveniles:

Adults:

Describe the damage.

Done

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# Questions