



## FERAL HOG TRAPS

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## TRAPPING

- **Trapping** is often the first line of defense in the control of **feral hogs**. There are several types of traps that are useful in different situations.
- **Box Traps**
  - One of the more common traps is the **box trap**. The box trap is typically 4 by 8 ft in size and can be transported in the bed of a truck.
- **Advantages**
  - 1. Can be transported easily.
  - 2. Not labor intensive for setup.
  - 3. Can be bought commercially.
- **Disadvantages**
  - 1. Catches small numbers of hogs and can cause for untrapped hogs to become trap-shy.
  - 2. Can catch non-target species.
  - 3. Typically more expensive than other trapping methods.

- **Corral Trap**
- Another popular trap is the **corral trap**, which is typically constructed of livestock panels and T-posts. These may or may not have head gates, depending on needs of trapper.
- **Advantages**
  - 1. Catches entire sounders (groups) of feral hogs.
  - 2. Reduces non-target captures.
  - 3. Relatively inexpensive to construct.
  - 4. Highly adaptable to terrain.
- **Disadvantages**
  - 1. Labor intensive to construct.
  - 2. Permanent and/or difficult to move once constructed.

## BOX TRAPS



## CONSTRUCTION

- Box traps come in a variety of designs and shapes. Most are built from livestock panels with steel pipe or angle iron frames. Because most traps are built by the users, they differ greatly in size, portability, door configuration, flooring, and roofing. In some areas, ready-to-use box traps with several different styles of gates can be purchased. A common design is a 4- by 8-ft, heavy-duty cage, typically 3 to 4 ft tall. A top is recommended to keep the hogs from crowding in the corners and climbing out. If the trap is fully enclosed with a top and a floor, the trapper may be able to transport a live hog without removing it from the trap. However, all box traps—particularly those without floors—require T-posts to anchor them, adding materials that increase trap cost.

## ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES

- The trapper should be prepared for this and make appropriate arrangements to minimize impacts on non-target animals. Feral hogs cause damage to the environment, impacting water quality, landscapes, crops, livestock, and wildlife. Box traps can be used; however, other trapping and control techniques should also be adopted. There are some advantages to box traps. For instance, they can be easily moved, located, and set quickly. They also fit easily in the bed of a pickup truck or on a small trailer, and a person can handle the effort by themselves. One disadvantage is that box traps typically catch only 1 or 2 adult hogs, and sometimes a litter of young hogs at a time. Pre-baiting traps is required to be effective, which can be expensive and time consuming. Because of the low number adult hogs trapped, multiple box traps are often needed to have much of an effect on feral hog populations. It is also important to remember that box traps can catch non-target animals such as deer, calves, and other wildlife and livestock.

## Placement and Baiting

- Place the box trap near a creek, pond, or other watering location, particularly if these are near bedding or feeding areas. Areas with brush are also good. Feral hog trails are ideal locations for trap placement. To attract the animals to the bait, set the trap upwind of areas frequented by hogs. A game camera can help determine hog behavior in the area and identify optimal locations for trap placement. Trapping feral hogs is a process, not an event. Box traps must be pre-baited to attract feral hogs. Place the bait inside the trap near the gate, and set the trap once feral hogs are acclimated to freely traveling in and out of the trap.

## CORRAL TRAPS



### Advantages

- • Corral traps are effective for capturing entire **sounders** (groups) of hogs.
- • Deer are able to escape the open top.
- • Can be located in areas with ongoing hog use.

### Disadvantages

- • Can be expensive and time-consuming to construct.
- • Not easily moved and are more permanent than a box trap.
- • Pre-baiting can be costly both financially and in time.

### Materials

- Lifting head/rooter gate
- 13 T-posts (6-ft)
- 4 utility panels, 16 ft long by 52 inches tall
- Roll of tie wire (bailing wire)
- T-post driver
- Lineman's pliers or fencing tool
- 4 ft long 2-by-4
- Hook and eye latch (4-inch)

### Steps

- Set the head gate. The head gate can be secured with steel T-posts on each side of the entrance and attached to the gate with doubled bailing wire to provide additional strength. Make certain the T-posts are set flush and securely against the side of the head gate.
- Attach a panel to each side of the head gate T-posts with doubled bailing wire.
- Then, wire the utility panels together with bailing wire, overlapping each panel by one square.
- After the panels are wired together shape the trap, the number of T-posts needed depends on the number of panels and the shape of the trap.
- Once the trap is shaped, use T-posts to anchor the trap at 4 ft intervals. If the trap is set in a wooded area the panels can be wired to trees for extra support. The number of T-posts may seem excessive, but feral hogs are extremely strong and can escape from poorly built traps.

## ROOTER HEAD GATE



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [http://www.extension.org/category/feral\\_hog\\_traps](http://www.extension.org/category/feral_hog_traps)
- <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>