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Hog Out Competition Prize Winners Announced

By: Nick Dornak, Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator

2012 marked the first year for Hays and Caldwell County to compete in the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Hog Out County Grants Program. The program is designed to encourage counties across the state to make a concentrated and coordinated effort to reduce the feral hog population and damage caused by these animals during the months of October (Hog Out Month) through December<sup>1</sup>. Participating counties will be awarded a share of \$60,000 in grant funds allocated for approved 2013 feral hog abatement projects. Grant awards are based on a county's overall performance including education and eradication. TDA is expected to announce grant recipients this month.

To encourage participation from local hunters, trappers and landowners Hays and Caldwell County each offered a \$2 per hog bounty and partnered with local volunteer groups, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership to provide administrative and educational support to carry out the program. Local businesses chipped in with over \$1,000 in prizes. This year's winners are invited to stop by the Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force booth at the Caldwell County Junior Livestock Show in Lockhart on Friday, March 1 to collect their prizes. Please contact Nick Dornak at (512) 213-7389 if other arrangements need to be made to pick up your prize.

2012 Results are as follows:

Hays County – 110 feral hogs harvested and 57 individuals participated in feral hog educational workshops.

Caldwell County – 1,025 feral hogs harvested and 68 individuals participated in feral hog educational workshops.

With the exception of grand prize winners (most feral hogs harvested), individual winners were selected randomly from all participants. One entry was given for each feral hog harvested.

<b>Winner</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Walter Elias	Hays County Grand Prize Winner – Commemorative plaque and Maurader Hog Light by Hawglite	Hays County, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership (plaque); Cabela's (Hawglite)
Jacob Hohertz	Caldwell County Grand Prize Winner – Commemorative plaque and Maurader Hog Light by Hawglite	Caldwell County, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership (plaque); Cabela's (Hawglite)
David Cowey	\$100 McCoy's Gift Card	McCoy's Building and Supply
Scott Mondin	2 – 50# bags of deer corn	Triple S Feed
Ben Metcalf	2 – 50# bags of deer corn	Triple S Feed
Mark Gohlke	1,000,000 CP Performance Tool Spotlight	C&J's Auto Supply
Kirstin Barnes	50# bag of deer corn	Harwood Farm and Ranch

Phil Wilhelm	50# bag of deer corn	Harwood Farm and Ranch
Billy Willenberg	50# bag of deer corn	Harwood Farm and Ranch
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Billy Willenberg	\$10 City Market Gift Card	Luling City Market
Don Frohock	\$10 City Market Gift Card	Luling City Market
David Kinsey	\$10 City Market Gift Card	Luling City Market
Pat Muckelroy	\$10 City Market Gift Card	Luling City Market
Cody Tumlinson	\$10 City Market Gift Card	Luling City Market
Kyle Boedeker	4# Hog Wild, <i>The Ultimate Hog Bait</i>	Caldwell County Farm and Ranch
Gerald Anton	4# Hog Wild, <i>The Ultimate Hog Bait</i>	Caldwell County Farm and Ranch
Brent Ramirez	4# Hog Wild, <i>The Ultimate Hog Bait</i>	Caldwell County Farm and Ranch
Rhett Crawford	6.5 gal Photocell Hanging Feeder Kit	Caldwell County Farm and Ranch
Don Frohock	Tomahawk Digital Wildlife Feeder	Salt Flat Feed and Mercantile
Brent Ramirez	\$25 Academy Gift Card	Caldwell County Farm Bureau
Chris Sommerlatte	\$25 Academy Gift Card	Caldwell County Farm Bureau
Bruce Wittig	\$25 Academy Gift Card	Caldwell County Farm Bureau
Eddie Perez	\$25 Academy Gift Card	Caldwell County Farm Bureau

Texas is home to nearly 2.6 million feral hogs, the largest feral hog population in the U.S. Their numbers are continuing to increase because of their high reproductive potential and the lack of natural predators. Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimates that statewide annual economic damage caused by feral hogs is \$500 million<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> From the Texas Department of Agriculture website <http://www.texasagriculture.gov>.



Jacob Hohertz (center) is presented with the Caldwell County Hog Out Grand Prize by Caldwell County Commissioner, Alfredo Munoz (left) and Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator, Nick Dornak (right)