

What You Can Do

- Work with your neighbors.
- Remove hogs on a sustained basis.
- Use multiple techniques at the same time.
- Seek private assistance from reputable trappers.
- Access public assistance.
 - Technical assistance
 - Informational material
- Use the on-line reporting tool
 - Report damage
 - Report sightings
 - Report removal efforts

Reports can be filed at:

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/feralhogs/>



Be Persistent. Like brush control, feral hog control is a process.....not a project.

In Texas, feral hogs may be taken at any time of the year by any legal means. Contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for questions related to feral hog hunting regulations.

Contact the Texas Animal Health Commission concerning regulations for transporting live wild hogs.

Additional information on feral hogs in Texas is available at <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>

Additional information on feral hog abatement methods is available at <http://ws.tamu.edu/>



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Feral Hogs, Plum Creek, and You.

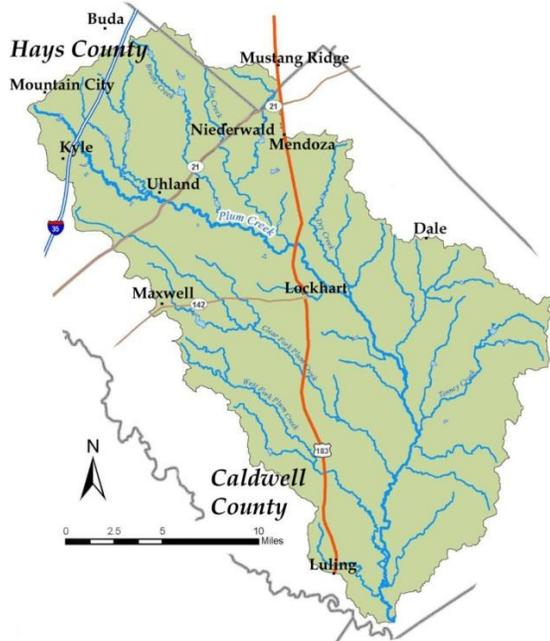


Texas AgriLife Extension
Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/feralhogs/>

Pollution Within Plum Creek

In 1998 and 2002, water quality data in Plum Creek indicated high levels of nutrients and *E. coli* bacteria, respectively. By 2004, some stretches of Plum Creek in both urban and rural areas were identified as not meeting the bacteria standard for recreation (swimming and wading). High levels of bacteria suggest fecal contamination and the possible presence of pathogens which pose a health risk to humans. Through analysis of watershed data, feral hogs were identified as a significant potential contributor of pollutants to Plum Creek. To focus efforts on restoring water quality to the stream, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Water Conservation Board assembled a group of local landowners and citizens, city and county officials, and, state and federal agencies to form the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership.



Most of Caldwell County and parts of Hays and Travis Counties are in the Plum Creek Watershed.

Hogs...What's the Big Deal?

Feral hog numbers have increased over the last 15 years and their destructive habits cause an estimated \$52 million of damage on a yearly basis in Texas. Feral hogs, a non-native species, cause various kinds of agricultural and habitat damage, mostly by rooting, wallowing and depredation. They also compete with wildlife and livestock for habitat, harbor endemic and exotic diseases, and transmit parasites to domestic livestock and humans. Due to their numbers, distribution, and behavior, feral hogs can increase the levels of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in streams. As feral hog populations continue to expand, their damage will also increase across Texas and in the Plum Creek watershed. Due to these impacts, the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership recommended that efforts to control feral hogs be undertaken.



Feral Hog Control Methods

With an integrated approach, we can limit the size of feral hog populations and keep damage to an acceptable level. However, once feral hogs have become established in an area, it is difficult to remove all of them.

Hogs can be managed with proper fencing, live traps, and lethal techniques like snares, shooting, and aerial hunting. There are no toxicants, repellents, fertility agents or biological control agents registered for use against feral hogs in the U.S.

Help Us Help You

Through a grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, AgriLife Extension has created a new position dedicated to feral hog management within the Plum Creek watershed. This new Extension Assistant is available to answer questions, provide technical assistance, and educate interested individuals concerning feral hogs and their management.

Landowners in Hays and Caldwell counties are taking serious steps to work together in order to abate feral hogs. To document these efforts, AgriLife Extension will work to track physical damage and financial loss due to hog activity in the watershed, but we need your help!

To better serve you, AgriLife Extension has developed an on-line reporting tool that landowners and citizens may use to report both feral hog sightings and damage. While feral hogs are often associated with crop losses and erosion impacts, they can also cause damage to livestock, pets, vehicles, lawns, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and other aspects of both rural and urban landscapes. The number of animals removed or killed on your property and the control method used should also be reported with this on-line tool. This information will be used to focus efforts in areas of high feral hog density and will allow us to document and quantify our successes in controlling feral hogs across the Plum Creek watershed.

