

Crop, Livestock, and Agricultural Property Damages Climb to \$52 Million

- Texas has the largest feral hog population in the United States—at least 2.6 million.
- Feral hog numbers and range continue to increase because of high reproductive rates and lack of natural predators.
- Feral hogs cause significant damage to crops, livestock, pastures, fields, fences, roads, ponds, and other agricultural property, with damages (losses) conservatively estimated at \$52 million annually.
- Landowners spend an estimated \$7 million annually on feral hog control and damage mitigation.

AgriLife Extension's Response

- Using funding from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, eXtension, Renewable Resources Extension Act, and the San Antonio River Authority, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Extension Wildlife Services implemented two strategies for conducting educational outreach in targeted areas: (1) direct control and (2) indirect control through education and technical assistance.
- Direct control involves assisting agricultural



producers and landowners with the abatement and removal of feral hogs, using individual and multiple integrated control strategies.

- Indirect control consists of providing producers and landowners with the tools necessary to facilitate feral hog abatement through legal control methods via educational outreach and technical assistance.
- More than 14,375 producers and landowners either (1) attended one or more of the 250 educational events from 2012 to 2015 that focused on feral hog behavior and control options and procedures or (2) contacted AgriLife Extension directly to learn more about feral hog abatement.
- Information was disseminated through mass media and social media and on the *Coping with Feral Hogs* website (feralhogs.tamu.edu), which reached 1.26 million contacts from 2012 to 2015.

Economic Impacts

- Economic benefit was measured in terms of the reduction in crop, livestock, and agricultural property damages caused by feral hogs.
- From 2012 to 2015, the project directly assisted landowners in removing 82,000 feral hogs from more than 43.8 million acres, creating an economic benefit of \$20.9 million. The removal of feral hogs through indirect control resulted in an additional \$4.9 million in benefits, for a total economic benefit of \$25.8 million since 2012.