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

- With a feral hog population of at least 2.6 million, Texas has the largest feral hog population in the U.S.
- Their 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 correction of damages.

Extension’s Response

- Utilizing Texas Department of Agriculture funds (2006-2010), the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Wildlife Services implemented two strategies: direct control and indirect control/education.
- Direct control involved assisting agricultural producers and landowners with the abatement and removal of feral hogs using individual and multiple integrated control strategies.
- Indirect control consisted of providing these producers and landowners with the tools necessary to facilitate feral hog abatement through legal control methods via educational outreach and technical assistance.
- More than 59,000 producers and landowners attended 1,511 educational events that focused on feral hog behavior, control options, and procedures, or contacted AgriLife Extension directly to learn more about feral hog abatement.
- Information was also disseminated through 323 mass-media efforts (television, newspaper, radio and Internet), and the Coping with Feral Hogs website (feralhogs.tamu.edu) which has had 124,429 unique visitors and 296,414 pages accessed to date.

Economic Benefit

- Economic benefit was measured in terms of the reduction in crop, livestock, and agricultural property damages caused by feral hogs.
- From 2006 to 2010, the project directly assisted landowners in removing 101,000 feral hogs from more than 12.5 million acres, leading to an economic benefit of $20 million.
- The removal of feral hogs via indirect control resulted in an economic benefit of $9.6 million, leading to total (direct and indirect control) economic benefits of $29.6 million since 2006.