



Landowner:		Farm #:
Field/Stand(s):	Acres:	Tract #:
Map(s):		County:
Designed By:		Contact Information:
Date:		

DEFINITION:

Monitoring in feral swine pest management has two functions. The first is to provide the necessary information regarding resource concerns and population information that may be used to develop a plan of action. Second, continued monitoring and surveillance will indicate whether a management strategy is achieving its objectives. *To be eligible for the program, the producer must have a working corral type trap on their property. (200 acres or less 1 trap is required; more than 200 acres, more than 1 corral trap is required for eligibility).*

PURPOSE: (check all that apply)

- Assess Resource Concerns caused by feral swine
- Assess the population of feral swine, numbers, size, and preferred locations
- Manage or reduce feral swine that impact the resources or environment

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Examine property for potential habitats being used by feral swine
- Establish several bait sites to entice feral swine into a viewable area
- Set up camera surveillance to collect information regarding feral swine movement, numbers, age class, sex ratios
- Summarize data sheets and keep all field sheets, images, and maps so a feral swine management plan can be developed to assist the landowners in managing, reducing or eliminating feral swine on the property



- Document feral swine removals on the data sheet.

Like other survey methods, careful consideration needs to be given to the study design and interpretation of data, but this can influence, and also be affected by, the type of camera chosen (Meek 2012). Like all observation methods, various events can cause loss of data with cameras such as technological malfunctions, full or malfunctioning memory cards, and drained batteries, which can be exacerbated by extremes in temperature. Weather can also cause data loss, even if the camera is “weatherproof”; photos can be lost or uninterpretable by obscuring the lens with condensation, snow, or splashed water (or mud). Regular maintenance and calibration of the camera traps remains essential.

Baiting the camera set will likely provide better results than just setting a camera out on a game trail. Use bait favored by feral swine and bait not preferred by other wildlife species to minimize the use of the bait by non-target species. If you are unsure about potential bait to attract feral swine, information can be provided. Follow state laws regarding baiting for feral swine.

NRCS Requirements:

- Assist the participant with appropriate maps
- Assist the participant with information of properly baiting feral swine
- Review the data sheet with the participant

Participant Requirements:

****Must have a feral swine corral type trap of sufficient size to capture at least 8 swine at one time on the property. (200 ac or less, 1 trap; more than 200 ac, more than 1 trap required). The corral trap must have a wire mesh size no larger than 4” x 4”.**



Identify camera location – complete the Camera Data Sheet

Pre-bait the selected area for several days (if allowed by state law)

Set out the camera(s)

Check the camera site within a week to see if additional bait is required

The camera should be a Wireless Security Trail Camera or similar that sends a photo as a text message to your phone.

*****Summarize Data Sheets for an Annual Report***** The annual report should detail labor hours, images, images of feral swine, swine removals, etc.. The details are on the data sheets.

Document any removals on the removal data sheet provided.

Partners and their contribution to this project:

There are various partners that will be working on feral swine projects like APHIS Wildlife Services, US Fish & Wildlife Services, State Wildlife agencies, the Nature Conservancy, local conservation districts, private groups, etc.

Contributions may include assisting with monitoring, trapping, and/or removing feral swine from the property.

Describe partner(s) and activity:

MAINTENANCE: (check all that apply)

- Maintain Camera(s), check batteries, lens, etc.
- Keep data sheets completed after each visit
- Keep bait at the selected bait stations
- Maintain corral traps in good working order.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Landowner

NRCS personnel

Date

Date

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Literature Cited:

Meek PD (2012) Refining and improving the use of camera trap technology for wildlife management and research in Australia and New Zealand. The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia, Canberra

Meek PD, Ballard G, Fleming P (2012) An Introduction to camera trapping for wildlife surveys in Australia. PestSmart Toolkit publication. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra

Photo Credits:

USFW/Aransas NWR

Dan Clark, USDA National Park Service, Bugwood.org