

Dear Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force Supporter,

On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to thank you for your support and interest of our programs. In just two years, our efforts have contributed to the reported harvest of 7,617 feral hogs in the Caldwell County with an estimated 24-month total harvest exceeding 10,500 individuals. This number is noteworthy as we have now crossed over \$2 million in estimated economic impact relief from feral hogs for the residents of Caldwell County.

OUR MISSION: To monitor and reduce the economic and biological impact of feral hogs on the land, water and wildlife species of Caldwell County.

From our humble beginnings in 2013 as an ad hoc group of concerned citizens and local landowners, our stability and influence has grown significantly. We have established a Leadership Committee, implemented a first-of-its-kind *Caldwell County Feral Hog Action Plan* and received designation as an official County Task Force with a 5-year commitment of resources from the Caldwell County Commissioner's Court. In addition to direct feral hog abatement, over 700 local citizens have attended feral hog education events coordinated by the Task Force since September 2013.

As a result of Task Force program success in the fall of 2014, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. This along with generous financial support from local landowners, civic organizations, businesses and the Caldwell County Commissioner's Court has allowed us to continue to maintain a county-wide feral hog bounty and to provide innovative feral hog management services that set the standard for the State of Texas. Please see the attached sheet for a list of services and programs now available to you, courtesy of the Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force. You can also find a wealth of information on our redesigned and almost complete website, www.feralhogtaskforce.com, launched this summer. Finally, stay up to date by "liking" us on Facebook and following us on Twitter **@hobusters6000**.

Remember, when it comes to feral hog management, if you're not part of the solution, you are more than likely part of the problem. We would like to thank you for making a positive difference.

Sincerely,



Nick Dornak



2015-16 CCFHTF LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Nick Dornak, Administrator; Dawn Tschirhart, Treasurer; Comm. Eddie Moses, Caldwell Co. Pct. 2; Phyllis Hillhouse, Member; Fredrica Kinnard, Member; Val Ramirez, Member

CALDWELL COUNTY FERAL HOG TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

\$150 TOWARD NEW FERAL HOG TRAPS AND/OR EQUIPMENT

Thanks to a grant from the TX Dept. of Agriculture we are providing a total of \$3,000 toward new feral hog traps and/or equipment for Caldwell County with the goal of putting 20 new traps into action. If you have completed a 2015 Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Damage and Control survey, you should have received a special *Priority Access Voucher* enclosed with this newsletter.

Who's eligible? Approved Caldwell Co. bounty participants and Caldwell Co. landowners

Total awards available: 20 – First come, first served starting Dec. 1, 2015 (Priority Access ONLY –Nov 2015 – *must present "Priority Access Voucher"*). Limit 1 per participant.

Where to claim: Smith Supply Company – 1830 S. Colorado Street – Lockhart, TX – 78644

or

Smith Supply Company – 1150 N. Magnolia Avenue – Luling, TX - 78648

STANDARD AND CELLULAR GAME CAMERAS AVAILABLE

Ever decided not to set a trap because you didn't have time to keep checking it? Trapping at multiple locations... how great would it be if you could check them with the touch of a button?

Who's eligible? Approved Caldwell Co. bounty participants and Caldwell Co. landowners

How to claim: Email the Task Force at ccfhtf@gmail.com or call us at (512) 213-7389.

\$500 TOWARD AERIAL CONTROL ON YOUR PROPERTY

Want relief fast but a little apprehensive about the cost to bring in a helicopter? This winter we will be providing up to \$500 (approx. 45 minutes of flight time) of aerial feral hog control from Helicopter Tactical Operations Training per eligible Caldwell County landowner. HTOT is stationed in Fentress, TX and has been a partner of the Task Force from the beginning. Owner/pilot, Steve Van Buren, has extensive experience in this highly specialized field. Shooters are required to complete a rigorous safety program and shooting qualification. To learn more about HTOT and Operation Dustoff, their non-profit supporting retired military veterans, go to their website at <http://helitourstx.com/>

Who's eligible? Caldwell Co. landowners who have completed or will complete a TPWD Landowner Agreement. Minimum 500 acre block. (Eligible participants may partner with other landowners to meet 500 acre requirement.)

Total awards available: 12 – First come, first served starting immediately. Priority will be given to landowners who have not utilized aerial control on their property in the previous 3 years. Limit 1 per participant/group.

How to claim: Email the Task Force at ccfhtf@gmail.com or call us at (512) 213-7389.

CALDWELL COUNTY FERAL HOG TASK FORCE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS CONTINUED

2015/16 CALDWELL CO. FERAL HOG BOUNTY PROGRAM

Bring your feral hog tails or certified Texas feral hog buying station receipts to a Task Force volunteer from 9am to 1pm on the first Saturday of the month. Current rate is \$5 per hog with free corn just for showing up. Bounty program will run until funds are exhausted.

Who's eligible? Participants must complete or have completed a *Bounty Participation Form*

Where to claim: Caldwell County Farm and Ranch Parking Lot – 519 N. Colorado Street – Lockhart, TX – 78644

LANDOWNER COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

CALDWELL & HAYS COUNTY WIRELESS "SMART" TRAPS

This is one of our first and most popular ongoing programs. Currently two 30' corral traps are available to Caldwell County landowners and one 17' corral trap is available to Hays County landowners. Over 2 dozen landowners have already utilized this program with an estimated 300 feral hogs captured. The largest catch so far is 29... think you can top that? This program does require the use of a free and easy-to-use smartphone app. Many folks are able to get going on their own; however, the Task Force will provide the simple training and can assist in the relocation and set up of the system.

Who's eligible? Approved Caldwell Co. bounty participants, Caldwell Co. landowners and Hays Co. landowners

How to claim: Email the Task Force at ccfhtf@gmail.com or call us at (512) 213-7389.

NEW: CONNECTING LOCAL EXPERTS WITH LANDOWNERS IN NEED

Do you offer a unique skill to help us in our quest to reduce the feral hog population in Caldwell County? Night vision hunting...experienced trapper...something else? If you would like to be listed as a local resource on the Task Force website (averaging 1,000+ hits per month), call us at (512) 213-7389 to find out more.

WWW.FERALHOGTASKFORCE.COM

Want to find out more about Task Force programs? Looking for a new wild pig recipe? Trapping not as successful as it used to be? Be sure to check out our redesigned website to find out all you ever wanted to know about our feral hogs! You can also follow us on our Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force Facebook page and on Twitter **@highbusters6000**.