



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES**

COUNTY HOG OUT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Guidelines and Request for Application

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2014 Application

GTBD-131 Application	1
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Please read all materials before preparing and submitting the application. Failure to follow the instructions and requirements described in this Request for Application (RFA) may result in the disqualification of the application.

Statement of Purpose

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is administering the County Hog Out Management Program (Program). The Program is designed to encourage counties across the State of Texas to make a concentrated and coordinated effort to reduce the feral hog population and the damage caused by these animals during the three month period of September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014, and propose activities to continue abatement throughout the year. This document sets forth Program requirements and procedures.

Current abatement methods in Texas vary depending on the geographic terrain and vegetation. TDA believes landowners and local constituents know the surrounding land and waterways, as well as the potential challenges to combating feral hogs. Through this program, the highest ranking counties will receive assistance to continue local activities which may range from educating the landowners on abatement methods, coordinating trapping and hunting programs, to conducting aerial gunning and addressing public safety hazards related to feral hogs.

Projected Timeline of Events

August 2014	Program announcement
Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2014	Participating counties conduct education and abatement activities
October 2013	Feral Hog Awareness Month
December 15, 2014	Deadline to submit applications with required resolution and documentation
January 2015	Results and award notification
Mar. 1, 2015 – Feb. 28, 2016	Grant term for awarded applicants

Eligibility.

To be eligible for an award under the Program, the applicant must be a Texas county. The county must have or develop a method to accurately track the number of feral hogs taken in the county during the period of September 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014.

Counties that have received, or are currently receiving, grant funds from TDA for feral hog abatement are eligible to receive another award in 2014; however, results submitted in the application must not be funded by a TDA grant or related matching funds, if applicable.

Grantee Responsibilities and Accountability.

The grantee has full responsibility for the conduct of the project and for the results achieved. Each grantee shall monitor the day-to-day performance of the grant project to assure adherence to statutes, regulations, and grant terms and conditions. The grantee will carry out the activities described in the scope of work to achieve project goals, objectives, and desired outcomes.

The grantee will be accountable for all grant funds and must ensure all funds are used solely for authorized purposes. Selected projects will receive funding on a cost-reimbursement basis.

The grantee must ensure:

- Funds are used only for activities covered by the approved project.
- Funds are not used in violation of the restrictions and prohibitions of applicable statutes.
- All budget and performance reports are completed in a timely manner.

Each grantee must ensure they have an adequate accounting system in place and good internal controls to ensure expenditures and reimbursements are reported and maintained for a minimum of three years after the conclusion of the project.

Funding Parameters

TDA will make awards after all applications are processed. Grant funds will be available on a cost reimbursement basis for county use on feral hog abatement expenditures during the grant term. A total of \$90,000 is available for this funding opportunity. TDA anticipates making 8 awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$5,000 each.

To be eligible to receive grant funds, counties that are awarded Program grants must enter into a grant agreement with TDA. Grant funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis after awarded counties submit proof of allowable expenditures.

Awards are subject to the availability of funds. If funds are not appropriated or collected for this Program, applicants will be informed accordingly.

Term of Award

A Notice of Grant Award is anticipated in January 2015. All approved projects have an anticipated grant start date of March 1, 2015 and must be completed by February 28, 2016.

Application Requirements

To be considered, applications must be complete and include all of the following information. Application and information can be downloaded from the “Grants Office” section under the “Grants and Services” tab at www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

Application Form GTBD-131.

Section A:

- *County Information.* This is the name and address for the county.

Section B:

- *Primary Program Contact.* This is the individual who can answer questions about the county’s activities and performance.
- *Authorized Official.* This is the person legally able to bind the county in contracts or agreements, generally the county judge.

Section C:

- *Previous Participation.* Answer questions regarding previous participation and TDA awards related to feral hog abatement.
- *Quantifiable Information and Description of Activities.* Include information on:
 - i. Number of feral hogs taken in the county, as certified by the county;
 - ii. Cost to the county for abatement activities;
 - iii. Description of abatement activities used;
 - iv. Number of participants at county-approved education program(s) about feral hog abatement technologies;
 - v. Cost to the county for educational activities; and
 - vi. Description of educational activities.

Section D:

- *Future Activities.* Describe the activities planned in future months, including but not limited to key stakeholders, timeline of activities and sustainability of the project.

Section E:

- *Budget Summary.* Provide a high level budget of the funds requested to continue abatement activities in counties.
- *Budget Narrative.* Provide details about the use of grant funds if the partnership is selected to receive funding.

Section F:

- *Certifications.* The authorized official must agree to all certifications and sign the application.
 - a) *Approved County Resolution.*

Application Evaluation.

Applicants must certify the number of hogs taken and the number of participants in county-approved educational programs conducted in the county from September 1 through November 30, 2014. Hogs taken and educational programs conducted during this period must have been for the purpose of the County Hog Out Management Program.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criterion:

- Number of feral hogs taken in the county, as certified by the county. A feral hog is taken if it is killed during the period of September 1 through November 30, 2014, or if it is trapped, snared, or captured during this period for purposes of immediate slaughter. Hogs that are trapped, snared, or captured for any other purpose (such as transfer to an approved hunting area) are not considered to have been taken. Hogs taken using funding, including applicable matching, from current Program grant awards will not be considered. *(Maximum of 50 points will be awarded based on the percentage of hogs taken compared to all applying counties.)*
- Number of individuals participating in county-approved educational courses addressing feral hog abatement technologies, as certified by the county. Educational content related to feral hogs should be at a minimum of 60 minutes. *(Maximum of 30 points will be awarded based on the percentage of persons attending education events compared to all applying counties.)*
- Written narrative describing future activities. Include a detailed budget, work plan and expected measurable outcomes. Applicants should consider cooperative efforts among partners, local involvement of businesses and/or landowners as well as potential for sustainability. *(Maximum of 20 points scored on details provided, potential impact, established partnerships, anticipated results, and sustainability.)*

NOTE: Transporting a live feral hog to an authorized hunting preserve does not reduce the feral hog population and cannot be counted toward the county's certification of the number of feral hogs taken during the activity period.

Deadline for Submission of Responses.

The complete application packet including the proposal with signatures must be **RECEIVED** by **5:00 p.m. (Central Time) on Monday, December 15, 2014.** It is the applicant's responsibility to submit all materials necessary for evaluation early enough to ensure timely delivery. *Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.*

TDA will send an acknowledgement receipt by email indicating the application was received.

Contact Information.

Complete application with signature must be submitted to:

Physical Address:

Trade & Business Development
Grants Office
Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Mailing Address:

Trade & Business Development
Grants Office
Texas Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, Texas 78711

Electronic Versions:

Email: Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov

Fax: (888) 223-9048

The e-mail subject line must contain the program and applicant name (Ex: 2014 CHOMP – Travis County). The respondent is solely responsible for ensuring that their complete electronic submission is sent to, and actually received by, TDA in a timely manner and at the proper destination server.

IMPORTANT NOTE: TDA recommends a limit on the attachments to 10MB each. This may result in sending multiple e-mails for the submission of all documentation contained in a response. All submissions must be sent in Microsoft Word or other Word compatible format or as .PDF files. Unreadable submissions may be deemed unresponsive and will not be reviewed for funding consideration.

TDA takes no responsibility for electronic bids that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by any TDA anti-virus or other security software.

For questions regarding submission of the application and/or TDA requirements, please contact TDA at (512) 463-6908, or by email at Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Successful Application Requirements.

Reporting. Selected applicants will be required to submit periodic performance reports. Reporting timelines will be provided in the grant agreement. As part of TDA's ongoing monitoring of grant funds, grantees must show both a strong progress of work completed on all projects as well as financial progress. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in the withholding of a request for reimbursement and/or termination of the award.

Budget Development Information.

- A. Payment. Selected grantees will be paid on a cost reimbursement basis. Grantees will be required to submit payment requests quarterly, but no more frequently than monthly in order to show significant financial and programmatic progress. Payment requests must include sufficient detail and supporting documentation. Backup detail may include, but is not limited to, documentation of personnel expenses, or copies of invoices.

- B. Payment Schedule.** Up to 90% of the total grant award may be reimbursed provided the work for which payment is requested has been completed and proper documentation has been submitted. The remaining 10% will only be disbursed once all reporting requirements have been met, including, but not limited to, the final performance report.
- C. Eligible Expenses.** Generally, expenses that are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the project are eligible. Examples of eligible expenditures include:
1. Personnel costs – including salary and benefits related to temporary or event staff, grant funds may not be used to pay for existing employees in the performance of their day-to-day duties;
 2. Direct operating expenses that directly relate to project activities, this may include facility rental or other workshop related expenses (note: meals, food, or beverages of any kind are not considered an eligible expense);
 3. Supplies that cost less than \$5,000, such as office supplies, printing services, and materials needed to accomplish the proposed project;
 4. Contracts – agreements made with a third-party to perform a portion of the award;
 5. Controlled Assets are defined as certain items valued \$500.00 - \$4,999.99 which must also be inventoried, link to [Controlled Property Listing](#).
 6. Capital Expenditures – equipment that has a useful life of more than one year or a cost of more than \$5,000. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO TDA PRIOR TO EXPENDITURE / PURCHASE. Failure to secure written approval from TDA will result in disallowance of the cost.
 7. If grant funds are proposed to be used to fund bounty efforts, Grantee must have a written policy implemented to prevent the intentional breeding and raising of feral hogs for the purpose of meeting bounty requirements. Bounty-related grant fund reimbursement is limited to a maximum of \$5.00 per feral hog.
- D. Ineligible Expenses.** Expenses may be prohibited by state or federal law or determined to be ineligible by program guidelines. Examples of these expenditures include, but are not limited to the following:
1. Alcoholic beverages;
 2. Entertainment;
 3. Contributions, charitable or political;
 4. Expenses falling outside of the contract period;
 5. Items not listed in the project budget or an approved amendment;
 6. Expenses that are not adequately documented;
 7. Travel, including but not limited to mileage reimbursement, meals and lodging; and
 8. Meals, food or beverage costs of any kind, including those associated with an educational workshop.

General Information.

Selected applicants will receive a Notice of Grant Award (NGA) letter and an official Grant Agreement from TDA. The NGA is not legally binding until a grant agreement is fully executed.

TDA reserves the right to fund projects partially or fully. Selected projects will receive funding on a cost-reimbursement basis. TDA reserves the right to reject all applications and is not liable for costs incurred by the Applicant in the development, submission, or review of the application, or for costs incurred by the Applicant prior to the effective date of grant agreement.

Right to Amend or Terminate Program

TDA reserves the right to alter, amend, or clarify any provisions, terms, or conditions of this program or any grant awarded as a result thereof, or to terminate this program at any time prior to the execution of an agreement, if TDA deems any such action to be in the best interest of TDA and of the State of Texas. The decision of TDA will be administratively final in this regard.

Public Information

All applications submitted under this program are subject to release as public information, unless the application or specific parts of any such application can be shown to be excepted from disclosure subject to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Government Code.

Conflict of Interest

The Applicant is required to disclose any existing or potential conflicts of interest relative to this grant program. Failure to disclose any such relationship may result in the Applicant's disqualification or termination of agreement.

General Compliance Information.

1. Grantees must comply with TDA's reporting requirements and financial procedures outlined in the grant agreement. Any delegation by the Grantee to a subcontractor regarding any duties and responsibilities imposed by the grant award must be approved in advance by TDA and shall not relieve the Grantee of its responsibilities to TDA for their performance.
2. All grant awards are subject to the availability of funds appropriated and authorized by the Texas Legislature.
3. Grantees must remain in full compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Non-compliance may result in termination of the grant or ineligibility for reimbursement of expenses.
4. Grantees must keep a separate bookkeeping account with a complete record of all expenditures relating to the project. Records shall be maintained for three (3) years after the completion of the project, or as otherwise agreed upon with TDA. TDA and the Texas State Auditor's Office (SAO) reserve the right to examine all books, documents, records, and accounts relating to the project at any time throughout the duration of the agreement and for three years immediately following completion of the project. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action is initiated prior to the expiration of the retention period, then the records must be retained until authorized by TDA. TDA and the SAO shall have access to the physical locations related to project activities.
5. If the Grantee has a financial audit performed during the time the Grantee is receiving funds from TDA, upon request, TDA shall have access to information about the audit, including the audit transmittal letter, management letter, and any schedules in which the Grantee's funds are included.
6. Grantees must comply with Texas Government Code, Chapter 783, Uniform Grant and Contract Management, and the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS), 2 CFR 215, 2 CFR 220, 2 CFR 225, and 2 CFR 230, if applicable.



COUNTY HOG OUT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

[FOR TDA USE ONLY]

File No. _____

Date Rec. _____

GTBD-131

2014 Application

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY:

Monday, December 15, 2014

Section A. County Information

County Name Caldwell

Mailing Address: 110 S. Main Street
Street Address

Lockhart TX 78644
City State Zip Code

Physical Address: 110 S. Main Street
Street Address

Lockhart TX 78644
City State Zip Code

Section B. Contact Personnel

(1) Name of Primary Program Contact *(This person can answer day-to-day questions about the project.)*

Full Name: Nick Dornak ☒ Mr. ☐ Dr.
First Last ☐ Ms. ☐ Other _____

Position Title: Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force Administrator

Email Address: ccfhftf@gmail.com

Phone: (512) 213 - 7389 Ext. _____ Alt #:(_____) - _____

(2) Name of Authorized Official *(This person is authorized to enter into legal agreements on behalf of the organization. This person's name will appear on the grant agreement for signature.)*

Full Name: Tom Bonn ☒ Mr. ☐ Dr.
First Last ☐ Ms. ☐ Other _____

Position Title: County Judge

Email Address: Tom.bonn@co.caldwell.tx.us

Phone: (512) 376 - 1779 Ext. _____ Alt #:(512) 398 - 1808

Section C. Program Information

Previous Participation

- Has your County previously participated in the Hog Out challenge? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, what years? ☐ Oct 2010 ☐ Oct – Dec 2011 ☒ Oct – Dec 2012
- Has your County previously received a grant through any TDA feral hog abatement program? ☒ Yes* ☐ No

*By initialing, you certify that the number of hogs taken and educational programs in the county during September – November 2014, as listed below, does not include hogs taken using funding from your current grant award or related matching funds, if applicable.

 ☐ N/A
Initial Here

Quantifiable Information and Description of Activities

By initialing, you certify that the number of hogs taken and educational programs in the county during September – November 2014 were conducted for the purpose of the County Hog Out Management Program.

 ☐ N/A
Initial Here

- Total certified number of feral hogs taken in the county September 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014. 1,360
- Total cost to the county to implement programs for hogs taken. \$ 12,744
- Provide detailed information about the methods used and number taken by each method. (Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed.)

Trapping = 704

Hunting = 139 (Rifle / Shotgun / Bow)

Aerial gunning = 110

Professional trapping/hunting = 27

Other = 56 (dogs / snares / unknown)

Tapping / Hunting / Other = 324 (participants did not specify by number)

- Total number of participants at all county-approved educational programs about feral hog abatement technologies September 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014. 509
- Total cost to the county to implement feral hog education programs. \$ 7,483

- Provide a detailed description of the county-approved educational programs conducted and types of abatement technologies discussed. Include dates and number of participants at each event. Sign-in sheets will be accepted. *(Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed.)*

At total of 10 county-approved educational programs (at least 1-hour in length) were conducted between 9/1/14 and 11/30/14. The long list of programs was the result of a dedicated effort to provide more opportunities in a variety of settings to accommodate the schedules and preferred learning method for a diverse array of participants. Technologies discussed included: smart traps (video, motion sensor, drop traps), corral trap design and gates, box traps, snares, drop nets, night vision equipment, hunting dogs, GPS, toxicants, baits and baiting methods. *As an added incentive, attendees of county-approved education programs were eligible to receive \$10 per hog harvested through 11/30/14.*

9/17/14 – Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Task Force (CCFHTF) Education Program Meeting / Conference Call, Lockhart, TX (10 attendees) – Discussion included a review of CHAMP grant program successes/failures/challenges; CHOMP grant components and planning including hunting and trapping methods, bounty program, aerial control; CCFHTF leadership structure and volunteer opportunities. *This was the first of 2 programs held on 9/17 (noon & 6pm).*

9/17/14 –CCFHTF Education Program and Business Meeting, Lockhart, TX (21 attendees) – Discussion included a review of CHAMP grant program successes/failures/challenges; CHOMP grant components and planning including hunting and trapping methods, bounty program, aerial control; presentations by Helicopter Tours of Texas and Ortiz Game Management . *This was the second of 2 programs held on 9/17 (noon & 6pm).*

10/7 and 11/24/14 – CCFHTF Youth Education Program (301 attendees) – In-class education program for students enrolled in agriculture education classes at Lockhart High School (162) and Luling High School (139). Students were introduced to a number of topics including feral hog impacts to agriculture and the environment; disease concerns; laws and regulations; pro/con of various hunting and trapping methods; trap design; and new technologies. *With more Caldwell County youth involved in feral hog hunting and trapping this group has become a larger focus for outreach and education.*

10/11, 11/10, 11/17 and 11/30/14 – CCFHTF Mini Workshop Series, Lockhart, TX and Luling, TX (16 attendees) – Four mini workshops were held in conjunction with bounty claim times and locations. The focus of this series was to allow feral hog hunters, trappers and landowners to discuss preferred methods, successes and failures. The CCFHTF Administrator guided these 1-hour workshops but the real education resulted from local collaboration and the sharing of experiences in a casual atmosphere.

10/16/14 – Educational Program Presentation to the MidTex Chapter of the Independent Cattlemen's Assoc. of Texas (35 attendees) – The CCFHTF Administrator was the invited speaker for the meeting to educate members on up-to-date local, state and federal approaches to feral hog management. Topics included feral hog impacts to agriculture and the environment; disease concerns; laws and regulations; pro/con of various hunting and trapping methods; trap design; and new technologies. *ICA became a new financial partner with CCFHTF in September 2014.*

11/11/14 – CCFHTF Veterans' Day Salute (126 attendees) – Event recognized veteran contributions to feral hog management at both the local and statewide level. Catering included "boar" burgers and wild pig carnitas. Entertainment was provided by the Lockhart High School Band. Educational program included presentations from the CCFHTF Administrator, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist and the nonprofit, Operation Dustoff. Numerous topics were discussed including local feral hog management, toxicant research, laws and regulations as well as the efforts of groups such as Operation Dustoff that utilizes statewide and local donors to provide aerial operations safety training and aerial gunning opportunities for military veterans at no cost. *20 attendees received 1 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CEU.*

Section D. Proposed Activities

Provide a detailed description of the program/activities to be conducted in the future. If applicable, describe the rolls, level of involvement and participation by the following groups: Landowners, Private businesses (aerial service, for-profit trappers), Hunter or trapper associations, County Extension Agents and/or Wildlife Services.

Provide details about the timeline of activities proposed (add additional lines as necessary):

ACTIVITY	WHO IS COMPLETING THE ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	
		START DATE	END DATE
Management of the Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Action Plan, Year 2/3 (Dynamic and comprehensive plan incorporating adaptive management strategies, guided by local stakeholders; designed for a 2-year period of high intensity population reduction followed by sustainable local management and continued analysis)	<u>Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Task Force</u> (Stakeholder driven group including a Leadership Committee with representatives from state and local government entities, local WMAs, landowners, trappers and other managers. Activities and finances guided by a dedicated local Administrator, elected Treasurer and overseen by Caldwell Co. Commissioners.)	3/1/2015	2/28/2016
Outreach and Education (4 CCFHTF Meetings, 2 Workshops including <i>Feral Hog Community of Practice Program</i> , 2 nd Annual CCFHTF Veterans' Day Salute, landowner site visits, local and statewide speaking engagements, advertising, surveys and technology transfer)	<u>Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Task Force</u> and <u>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</u> (CCFHTF will continue to hold regular meetings, host the 2 nd Annual Veterans' Day Salute and work with Extension to provide local and regional educational programs. The CCFHTF Administrator maintains an expanding database for distributing educational content through direct mail, email and social media. Management of the current website www.feralhogtaskforce.com will be assumed and redesigned by the CCFHTF. Lessons learned will be communicated to other groups across the state)	3/1/2015	2/28/2016
Countywide Bounty Program (Incentivizes local participation. To date, 182 individuals have participated in the bounty program and completed an approved "Bounty Participation Form". Over 5,000 documented feral hogs have been removed from Caldwell Co. through this program since Oct. 2012. Future rates will be determined by the CCFHTF Leadership Committee.)	<u>Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Task Force</u> , <u>Caldwell Co. administrative staff</u> , and <u>local businesses</u> (CCFHTF will continue to oversee a countywide bounty program, periodic jackpot competitions and other incentive programs)	3/1/2015	2/28/2016
Landowner Cooperative Program (Programs will include: [1] continuation of "smart trap" sharing program providing approved landowners with the opportunity to	<u>Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Task Force</u> , <u>Caldwell Co. administrative staff</u> , and <u>local businesses</u> (CCFHTF will work with county staff and private	3/1/2015	2/28/2016

ACTIVITY	WHO IS COMPLETING THE ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	
		START DATE	END DATE
utilize the latest technology in feral hog trapping at no cost to the participant; [2] <u>landowner cost-share program</u> – new program to encourage feral hog abatement activities in the county through <i>subsidies that will offset landowner costs for aerial gunning, professional trapping, purchasing trapping equipment and supplies</i> . This program is critical to establish long-term sustainability of the County's approach to feral hog management. Transitioning from “free” programs to cost-sharing encourages public-private partnerships and allows limited state and county financial resources to be expanded to more participants. The program will continue to evolve as additional partnerships are developed among the state, county, hunter/trappers, landowners and private businesses.	businesses to implement and oversee cost-share program. A competitive bidding process will be utilized to ensure the responsible purchase of supplies, services, and equipment.)		

Project Results. Provide a detailed description of how quantifiable results will be demonstrated by the project/activities, including the estimated number of hogs to be taken during the project period.

Management of the Caldwell Co. Feral Hog Action Plan, Year 2/3 – Bylaws for the CCFHTF Leadership Committee and a calendar of events will be established. Adaptive management strategies will be discussed and incorporated into a revised Feral Hog Action Plan which will be made available online. The Bylaws will specify roles for Committee members and reporting requirements to quantify and demonstrate results for the O&E, bounty and landowner cooperative programs. Meeting agendas, minutes and reports will be provided to the TDA and stakeholders.

Target number of hogs to be taken = n/a

Outreach and Education – **The primary purpose of the O&E component is to enhance participation in the bounty and landowner cooperative programs for Caldwell County, as such, a 20% increase in abatement program participants is the goal for the O&E component.** Total contact hours will be reported from all workshops and meetings. Database and website statistics will be provided. Quarterly reports will include agendas, presentations and sign-in sheets for meetings and workshops. Landowner surveys will be distributed through direct mail to all rural Caldwell County. landowners (as information is available) and results will be compiled and reported. (This is a critical time period for directed landowner surveys as local awareness of feral hog management programs has increased substantially. Further, coordinated management by the County and CCFHTF has been in place with documented results for 27 months. Survey results will track harvest numbers, damage estimates/losses for pre and post implementation will provide insight into the success of current feral hog management activities in Caldwell County.) Technology and information transfer will be documented.

Target number of hogs to be taken = n/a

Countywide Bounty Program – **Results, including number of feral hogs harvested through this program, will be provided quarterly and in the final report.** Geographic distribution tracking has improved since September 2014 and will continue to be refined. GIS software will be used to analyze report these results. (While an increase in hogs harvested and number of participants may, in some cases, be considered a successful program result, if previous management has resulted in feral hog population decreases, a drop in feral hogs harvested through the bounty programs might signify overall program success.)

Target number of hogs to be taken = 2,500

Landowner Cooperative Program - Results, including number of feral hogs harvested through this program, will be provided quarterly and in the final report. The new cost-share program will be evaluated based on interest and participation. To receive cost-share, participants in this program will be required to complete a pre and post implementation survey to track results and lessons learned. Professional services providers, including aerial gunning and contracted trapping, will be required to report results to the CCFHTF. The CCFHTF will continue to work with Texas Wildlife Services to provide free aerial control for landowners who have completed and LOA. Results from future flights will be compared to previous operations to determine possible trends in feral hog populations and damages.

Target number of hogs to be taken = 1,500

Sustainability. What are the long-term goals of the partnership? Will cooperation continue after the grant term?

Goal #1: Maintain an effective and sustainable CCFHTF to assist and serve the feral hog management needs of Caldwell County residents and landowners.

Goal #2: Significantly reduce the Caldwell County feral hog population and resulting agricultural, economic, social and environmental impacts from feral hog activity.

Goal #3: Work with local stakeholders to implement, maintain and enhance feral hog management programs covering 70% of the total Caldwell County land area.

Caldwell County Commissioners have budgeted \$500 per month through August 2015 to secure the employment of a part-time CCFHTF Administrator. Fundraising efforts and volunteer drives will continue for the CCFHTF. Ongoing CCFHTF marketing and fundraising programs have already taken in over \$60,000 in Caldwell County cash and "in-kind" contributions as well as 1,000+ volunteer hours since September 2012. The funds have been leveraged with several grants received from the TDA and HEB. Local participation in programs has increased due to new incentives and an *adaptive management approach* to local feral hog control. The CCFHTF will continue to seek additional funding from existing partners and to expand our network to new financial partners and participating stakeholders. The success of Caldwell County fundraising efforts can be greatly attributed to the potential for financial supporters to maximize their investment with additional grant funding through the TDA.

*Efforts of CCFHTF have received the attention of numerous organizations and government agencies across the State of Texas as well as an unexpected level of national media attention. Various elements outlined by the Caldwell County Feral Hog Action Plan are now being utilized by over a dozen Texas counties.

Section E. Budget

Provide a summary of the funds being requested. A detailed description will be required in the narrative.

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>TDA Funds Requested</u>
Personnel	\$0
Supplies	\$5,000
Contractual	\$2,000
Other	\$18,000
Equipment	\$0
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$25,000

Please provide detail about the items to be purchased in each of the budget categories listed above. The grant may not be used to supplant funds already allocated by the county, but should instead be used to supplement and extend feral hog abatement activities.

Personnel: Provide the name or position title of the person(s) that will be paid from grant funds. Is this an existing position, or would it be created to accomplish the project?

n/a

Supplies: Provide an itemized list of any materials needed to accomplish the project. Be sure to include quantity of items and the total dollar amount for each item.

\$5,000

Trapping supplies – participant cost-share program (\$3,000) The CCFHTF will purchase \$3,000 in supplies for 20 new corral traps to be installed throughout the County. The intent would be to provide the basic materials for these traps with participants given the freedom to customize each trap for their particular needs. Participants in this program will be required to document the construction and placement of the completed trap. Feral hog harvest numbers from this project will be reported to the TDA. The CCFHTF may work with local Agriculture Science Instructors (shop and welding classes) to assist in this project. Supplies to be purchased may include: t-posts, panels, trap door mechanisms and other materials, as needed. There are numerous individuals in the county that utilize under-sized traps or simply cannot afford to add a feral hog trap even though they would desire to. This program will address these needs.

Cellular trail cameras (\$2,000) The CCFHTF will purchase 5 to 10 trail cameras (and service plans) with cellular connectivity. These supplies are anticipated to be directed to the more serious feral hog trappers in the county and landowners that reside in adjacent counties. Cellular trail cameras allow standard corral and cage traps to remain engaged and monitored daily without the need to physically drive to the location. These cameras will save users' fuel cost and allow traps to be baited and run continuously without having to consider in-person daily monitoring. The CCFHTF will determine eligibility requirements for hunters/trappers/landowners.

Contractual: Provide a description of the services each contract covers. This may include aerial service providers, trappers, etc.

\$2,000

Professional Feral Hog Trapping and Game Management Services (\$2,000) The CCFHTF will contract with a professional feral hog management service provider to assist landowners in need of immediate, short-term, specialized feral hog damage abatement. Efforts will be made to provide this service to individuals/families without the reasonable means to manage their particular feral hog problem. It is envisioned that this service will be provided to small acreage landowners, absentee landowners, the elderly, disabled or others. This service will be provided to local citizens requesting assistance and evaluated by the CCFHTF on a case-by-case basis. *Additional local funds may be directed toward this effort.*

Other: Provide detailed descriptions of other costs such as conferences or meetings, communications, speaker/trainer fees, publication costs, and data collection, and other budgeted costs associated with the project.

\$18,000

Countywide Bounty Program (\$10,000) Program will cover bounty payments for feral hogs submitted and verified by the CCFHTF beginning March 1, 2015. The "Spring 2015" bounty will be paid at a rate of \$5 per hog; however, participants in the fall 2014 county-approved education events will be eligible to receive an additional \$5 per hog bonus;

Jackpot Programs (\$2,000) The CCFHTF will host at least 2 weekend-long tournaments with cash and other prizes for longest "stringer" of hogs, heaviest "stringer" of hogs and largest hog;

Professional aerial gunning services - landowner cost-share program (\$6,000) The CCFHTF will provide up to \$500 per participant to at least 12 landowners seeking professional aerial eradication services from approved aerial gunning service providers. The funds will offset costs for local landowners and provide incentives for new participants who have not before utilized this proven method for feral hog abatement. The CCFHTF will determine eligibility requirements for landowners;

***Locally generated funds will cover outreach, education, publication, and other costs

Special Purpose Equipment: This category includes items of property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more. If the cost of equipment is under \$5,000, include those items under SUPPLIES. List each item of equipment, its intended use, and its cost separately. The special purpose equipment must solely enhance the intended purpose of feral hog abatement activities. TDA must grant written approval prior to the expenditure/purchase of capital equipment.

n/a

Section F. Certifications

By signing below, Applicant:

- (1) Certifies all information provided in connection with this application is true and correct to the best of Applicant's knowledge;
- (2) Acknowledges any misrepresentation or false statement made by Applicant, or an authorized agent of Applicant, in connection with this application, whether intentional or not, will constitute grounds for denial of this application;
- (3) Acknowledges acceptance of funds in connection with this application acts as an acceptance of the authority of TDA and the State Auditor's Office (SAO) or any successor agency to conduct an investigation in connection with those funds, and Applicant further agrees to cooperate fully with TDA and/or SAO or its successor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including allowing TDA and/or SAO to inspect Applicant's premises and providing all records requested;
- (4) Acknowledges this application and any payments owed to Applicant in connection with this application may be reduced or denied because of Applicant's owing any debt to the State of Texas; and
- (5) By submission of this application, Applicant acknowledges as a condition of receipt of grant funds under this program the Applicant will be required to execute a grant agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture, and further acknowledges that failure to timely execute the grant agreement will result in withdrawal of any grant funds awarded, and those funds will be redistributed to other qualified applicants in accordance with state law and TDA rules.

Notice of Penalties: The penalty for knowingly making false statements or false entries, or attempts to secure money through fraudulent means, may include fines and/or incarceration and/or forfeiture of funds under applicable state law.

Authorized Official:

X

_____/_____/____

Printed name from Section B(2)

Signature

Date

This application becomes public record and is subject to disclosure. With few exceptions, you have the right to request and be informed about the information that the State of Texas collects about you. You are entitled to receive and review the information upon request. You also have the right to ask the state agency to correct any information that is determined to be incorrect. (Reference: Texas Government Code, Sections 552.021, 552.023, and 559.004.)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION
County Hog Out Management Program

A RESOLUTION OF THE (County of) _____, TEXAS (the "Applicant"), DESIGNATING (an) OFFICIAL(S) AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ("TDA"), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN TDA's COUNTY HOG OUT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (the "Program") AND CERTIFYING THAT THE APPLICANT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE.

WHEREAS, the Applicant is a Texas county and is fully eligible to receive assistance under the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant acknowledges the County Hog Out Management Program is designed to encourage counties across the state to make a concentrated and coordinated effort during the three month period of September 1, 2014 thru November 30, 2014 to reduce the feral hog population in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant acknowledges that if the county is awarded funds, such funds must be used for the sole purpose of continuing feral hog abatement activities within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant wishes to authorize an official to represent the Applicant in dealing with TDA concerning the Program;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE APPLICANT:

SECTION 1: That the Applicant hereby certifies that it is eligible to receive assistance under the Program.

SECTION 2: The undersigned official is authorized to execute on behalf of the Applicant any agreements, licenses or other documents required by TDA for Applicant's participation in the Program.

Introduced, read and passed by the affirmative vote of the Applicant on this _____ day of _____, 201_.

Signature of Authorized Official

Typed Name and Title

NOTE: All information shown in this resolution must be included in the resolution passed by the governing body of the applicant requesting program funds. The Authorized Official must be County Judge or other designated official who has the authority to legally bind the applying county.