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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Feral Hog Management Program Kicks off in Guadalupe County**

**SAN MARCOS, TEXAS – July 11, 2018** – A new program to help reduce the feral hog population in Guadalupe County has officially begun. The County recently was awarded a grant from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Wildlife Services to assist County residents with feral hog management efforts.

The County has partnered with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership to deliver feral hog abatement and educational programming including: a bounty program, a Feral Hog Workshop and webinar, a countywide damage assessment and financial assistance to selected landowners who wish to trap hogs.

Feral hogs are a problem in Texas that impact water quality in our creeks and rivers, as well as causing financial loss to agricultural production. Texas is home to an estimated 3 million feral hogs. Lacking sweat glands, hogs seek out shelter along Texas creeks and rivers, which can result in contamination of those waterways, such as Geronimo Creek. Also, hog rooting and feeding behaviors impact agricultural production across the State and nation. The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan identified feral hogs as a significant potential source of bacterial contamination to the creeks.

“The 2018 feral hog program in Guadalupe County has a great opportunity for sustained success as we have received both the funding and support to coordinate on a regional scale with projects in Caldwell County and Hays County,” said Nick Dornak, Watershed Services Coordinator with the Meadows Center.

The Guadalupe County bounty program will begin July 16 and run through August 23, 2018. All tails and forms must be submitted by Thursday, August 23, 2018. During that period, individuals can bring in feral hog tails and/or certified buying station receipts to the Guadalupe County AgriLife Extension office, 210 E. Live Oak Street, Seguin on Tuesdays and Thursdays only during regular business hours. Tails and/or receipts must be from feral hogs harvested in Guadalupe County. Participants will be required to complete a participation form and a W-9. The property owners name and contact information where the hogs were harvested are required on the form. A copy of the form can be obtained from the Guadalupe County Extension Office or on the Guadalupe County Extension website. Forms will be submitted to the Guadalupe County Auditor’s Office in a timely matter for payment.

Participants in the program will be able to accumulate points that will make them eligible for a voucher program to purchase hog trapping equipment. A scoring system will be derived to determine eligible participants for the drawing at the end of the program. At least eight \$500 vouchers will be awarded. The more you participate in the bounty and educational programs, the better chance you have to be selected.

“This program should serve as an incentive to area landowners to trap and harvest feral hogs on their properties,” said Jeff Hanselka, County Extension Agent for Natural Resources in Guadalupe County.

For more information, visit the project website, <http://www.feralhogtaskforce.com/guadalupe>. If you still have questions you can contact the Guadalupe County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at 830-303-3889 or the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at 512-245-6697.

#### **About The Meadows Center**

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University was named following a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation in August 2012. The Meadows Center inspires research, innovation and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity, and is led by Executive Director Andrew Sansom, Ph.D.