

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER



An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain Conservation District

WILD PIG MANAGEMENT

PART 2

The source of this information is "A Landowner's Guide for Wild Pig Management" by Mississippi State University and Alabama Cooperative Extension Services. A copy of the guide is available by request for more detailed information.

In the previous issue of the "Polk County Grazer" [polk_county_grazier_ewsletter_20sep2021](#) we discussed the problems and signs of wild pigs. Now we will focus on some of the control options available to landowners in this area. First and foremost in any control option is scouting and monitoring to determine where the pigs are. As we have observed, the pigs seem to be very nomadic in this area and tend to move a lot and not spend much time in one place. They may move into an area, spend a few days rooting up a hay field, and then move on not to be seen again for months. It is important to continually monitor your property for this kind of damage so you can respond quickly before they move on to your neighbor's place. Tracks, rooted/wallowed areas, and tree/post rubs are all common signs that pigs are nearby and a good indication that the area should be monitored with game cameras.

Control Options:

 **TRAPPING** – Trapping wild pigs is generally considered the best option for control but must be done correctly to be effective. If you know where the pigs are you need to begin baiting them to a trap site. Pre-baiting (with corn) and monitoring (with cameras) a trap site should last several days before even setting up the trap and then the trap should be baited for another 1-2 weeks to condition the pigs to enter the trap. Because wild pigs are very intelligent some of the older pigs need time to get comfortable before they will enter the trap. The most important thing here is to **HAVE PATIENCE**. There are several different types of traps styles available such as box traps and cage traps, but a corral trap with a "live" camera and remote tripping mechanism seem to be the most efficient. This system allows the pigs to be monitored continuously and allows the trapper to trigger the trap with the push of a button on their smart phone. This way, the trapper can wait until all of the pigs in the sounder are in the trap before triggering it. Once the pigs are trapped, it is important that they be killed in the trap. It is important that they not be released somewhere else and it is actually a state law in Arkansas that wild pigs can't be released (\$5,000 per pig and/or jail time) or even transported on public roads (fine up to \$1,000 per pig and/or jail time).

 **HUNTING** – Sometimes hunting is an effective strategy for dealing with wild pigs. Pigs can be shot over bait, still hunted, or hunted with dogs but it is rare that all of the pigs in the sounder will be killed. This typically just spooks the ones that survive and moves them on to a neighbor's place; which is a temporary fix but they will multiply and be back soon. Hunting is probably a good option for some of the older and wiser pigs that are "educated" and will not go into a trap.

 **POISONING** – There are currently no poisons approved for use in the United States so **don't do this**. There are too many other wild animals that will be attracted to the poisoned bait such as deer, turkey, bears, raccoons, etc. and these animals will be killed too. Researchers are working on different poisons but they are not available to private landowners yet.

 **NOTHING** – Do nothing and hope the wild pigs will just go away is probably the easiest solution except it is not really a solution at all. As we have seen, wild pigs pose a significant economic and environmental threat. They are very adaptable and will keep multiplying and becoming a bigger problem if we do nothing.

Wild pigs trapped near Vandervoort using the Rich Mtn Conservation District trap.

WHO TO CONTACT:

 **Rich Mtn Conservation District** – RMCD has a trap (shown in the picture above) that is available to landowners in Polk County. The trap was generously donated by the Polk County Farm Bureau. Landowners can use the trap but are responsible for pre-baiting the site, baiting the trap, and killing/disposing the trapped pigs. RMCD staff will deliver the trap to the site, set it up, and take it down. This trap does have a "live" camera and allows for remote tripping from a smart phone so Verizon phone service in the trapping area is a must. Call RMCD at 479-437-6054 to discuss using their trap.

 **USDA / APHIS Wildlife Services** – This federal agency specializes in helping with wildlife problems on private land, especially wild pigs. Their biologists can provide on-site assistance to landowners and can even do the trapping for the landowner. The local biologist that can assist in Northern Polk County and Montgomery County is Joe Richmond from Waldron and he can be contacted at 479-227-0015; or in South Polk County call Jacob Slaton from Lockesburg at 870-200-3985.

 **Arkansas Department of Agriculture** – J.P. Fairhead is the Feral Hog Program Coordinator for the state of Arkansas and he can be contacted at 870-253-3721. To report wild pig kills or sightings go to their web site: www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-service/feral-hog/.

 **University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service** – UAEX is conducting on-going research on damages and control methods. Publications can be found at www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/wildlife/feral-hogs.aspx.

 **Arkansas Game & Fish Commission** – Information on hunting wild pigs can be found at www.agfc.com/en/hunting/feral-hogs. Or call them at 501-223-6359.

Plant your winter annual pastures now!



No-till Pasture Seed Drills for Rent

The Rich Mountain Conservation District has two drills that are available to Polk County landowners for rent. The rental rate is \$10/acre with a \$50 deposit and a 5 acre minimum. The drills are available for use on established pasture or hay fields only since rough or newly cleared land damages the drills. Only use quality seed that has been screened for rocks or other debris that will also damage the drills. A 75 hp tractor is recommended and a 50 hp is minimum size needed.

Advantages of using a no-till seed drill

The main advantage is that you control nearly every aspect of the planting such as seeding rate seed depth. The drill opens a small furrow in the soil, drops the seed, and then covers/packs it to protect it from the sun, wind, and birds. Placing the seeds below the surface also gives them access to soil moisture so they can germinate and begin growth. Not enough seed to soil contact is one of the most common problems with poor germination in seeding projects. No-till planting does not disturb the plants/soil or cause erosion like disking does and planting can usually be made with one pass over the field. No-till planting also provides for a more uniform stand of forage across the field.

Please contact the Rich Mountain Conservation District office at 479-437-6054 or come by the office at 508th Street, Mena to make a reservation for using the drills.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

- **October 7, 2021 - Demystifying Regenerative Grazing and Soil Health in Arkansas (10AM-3PM—online seminar)** This is the first part of a 2 part training provided by National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). Part 1 is October 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST (break from 12-1 pm): NCAT Agriculture specialists Linda Coffey, Nina Prater, and Justin Morris will lead an interactive virtual event that will include information on regenerative grazing, soil health, monitoring, and peer-to-peer sharing. Arkansas graziers Jeremy Prater and Rick Crunkleton will share about their real world experience implementing adaptive grazing management strategies. Part 2 is optional on-farm workshops on October 12th & 14th. Click here for more information and to register: [Events | The National Center for Appropriate Technology \(ncat.org\)](https://www.ncat.org).
- **October 12, 2021—Annual Ryegrass Facts and Establishment (1PM—online seminar)** you are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to see it on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. There are sessions normally every Tuesday at 1pm so [see the attached flyer](#).
- **October 19, 2021— Tall Fescue and Clover Facts and Establishment (1PM—online seminar)** the next week's online grazing seminar.

WE'VE STILL GOT NUTS!!!!!!!

The Rich Mtn Conservation District is now taking orders for our annual nut sales to benefit our conservation scholarship fund.

There is a variety of nuts to pick from. We are offering pecan halves and pieces, praline pecan halves, white chocolate pecan halves, chocolate amaretto pecan halves, dark chocolate pecan halves, milk chocolate pecans, deluxe mixed nuts roasted/salted, double dipped chocolate peanuts, chocolate almonds, whole cashews roasted/salted, English walnuts, chocolate raisins, and gourmet pecan log rolls. There is also a conservation sampler option that includes 1 lb bags of pecan halves, cashews, honey roasted peanuts, chocolate raisins, chocolate amaretto pecan halves, chocolate peanuts, chocolate almonds and walnuts. This year we have added flavored peanuts they come in a 10-ounce tin. You can get Dill Pickle, Jalapeno, Salt & Vinegar and Southern Heat peanuts. These make great stocking stuffers.

All proceeds from the nut sales go towards our annual scholarship that is awarded to a Polk County student who will be going into an ag-related field in college. With your support we were able to fund \$3000 in scholarships to four local high school and college students this last year.

Orders will be taken until October 15, 2021 and will be ready by Thanksgiving!

Please help to support this worthy cause by purchasing some of these items. By doing so you are supporting our local youth with the opportunity to continue their education.

Attached is an order form; or, you can pick up an order for at the office at 508th St. in Mena or you can call and request one to be mailed, faxed or emailed to you at 479-437-6054. There is also an order form on our website www.rmcd.org or you can email richmountainconservation@gmail.com.

Rich Mountain Conservation District Email: richmountainconservation@gmail.com Web: www.rmcd.org
Phone: (479)437-6054
Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953



Take a picture with your cell phone to visit the RMCD website →

DID YOU KNOW?

- 🐷 Wild pig damage in Arkansas is estimated to be \$19 million annually.
- 🐷 Wild pigs are found in every county in Arkansas.
- 🐷 Wild pigs can transmit a minimum of 45 animal diseases and parasites.

Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District. Thanks for your interest in grazing management and conservation.

Steve Swall
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USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)
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