

Hopping feral hog wreaks havoc on feeders

I have researched information on feral hogs for many years and have studied them in the wild and in captivity, but I have never seen one hop up on a platform 38" high.

One of my game cameras photos seem to have a fairy looming to granting him a wish, as he crouches his hind legs and jumps to the feeders bottom platform.

He returns several nights until all the corn is gone and then again, several days later, just to make sure it was still empty. He virtually destroyed the feeder and we had to bring in for repairs.

My husband and I are designing a corral catch pen as I type. We plan on using cattle panels, (cut them down in size to slide in my Teryx ATV), several T-Posts and a gravity sliding door trap.

They can jump over fences less than 3 feet high and have "climbed" out of pig traps with walls 5 to 6 feet high because the pigs tend to pile up in that corner and literally climb over each other.

Therefore, traps with 90-degree corners must be covered on top and the corner gives enough leverage for them to go over the top.

Therefore, we plan to have a circular or oval layout. The boar hog is the most difficult to catch because they tend to be loners and are very leery of entering in to small closed up places such as catch pen.

While planning bait concoctions of many wild combinations of possibly old maple syrup over corn, old fish grease, catfish "stink" baits and maybe some old V&M Bass Baits that smell of Anis Oil, since the fish are biting them. Even though shelled corn is often used, landowners have also been successful by fermenting corn, milo, rice, oats, etc. to increase the odor attraction.

Research by Dr. Tyler Campbell with USDA-APHIS/WS suggests that wild pigs are attracted to baits that have a sweet pungent odor, such as strawberry

or berry flavorings. So, you will see several commercial "pig baits" that contain some type of strawberry flavoring based on this research.

Many baits will, and have worked, and landowners are encouraged to switch baits among traps to find out what pigs find most attractive at a particular location or season.

Some recent research in the southeast

Texas has indicated that catch rates were no different between shelled corn and soured corn. We all know from experience that non-target species (e.g., raccoons, deer, crows) use of shelled corn will be much higher than a soured grain product. However, the more abundant the food supply, the more difficult it is to attract pigs to these baits.

Although boars seem to be loners, a "sounder" is a family group of pigs made up of sows (typically related via about three generations) and their piglets. Some research supports the idea that sounders can become territorial but not the individual pigs.

A wives' tale is that sows will abandon their babies but really within a few days of giving birth, a pregnant sow will leave the group in order to furrow. They may remain apart for two to four weeks then rejoin the group.

They really don't "abandon" their litter over time. Pigs are completely weaned by about three months of age, although they have been observed eating solid food (e.g., corn) at as young as two weeks of age.

About 80 percent of the yearling females remain with the sounder and the rest disperse.

Young males disperse from the sounder at about 16 to 18 months of age. Can you believe that wild pigs can run up to 30 mph?

Of course, this deer hunting season, if I see any hogs, they scheduled for the freezer.

I hope you can get the chance, to get out there and enjoy the outdoors.



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS



Citizen photos by Rene Hatten

A HOPPING feral hog is shown above cleaning out Citizen columnist Rene Hatten's deer feeder recently at her residence.

Teams take honors in LDWF redbfish series

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation recognized Wednesday the top ten Team of the Year anglers for the 2013 Louisiana Saltwater Series Redfish Series. The competition was very close throughout the year, and the final standings came down to the wire at the final tournament of the year, held last weekend at the Delta Marina in Empire. The 2013 top ten teams are listed from 1st place to 10th place: Steve Smith & John Garrison, Nash Roberts, IV & Luke Landry, Jacob Leininger & Jeff Rogers, Joe Barcelona & John Barcelona, Tony Grose & Sal Fontana, Matthew Whitman & Ryan Schellhaas, Michael McElveen & Rob Folsom, Gary Wilson & Gus Wilson, Brandon Treadaway & Ryan Doles/ Kevin Bergeron, Charlie Howell & Hunter Howell/ Benjamin Behel.

In order for teams to be considered for the Team of the Year top ten standings, they must have registered for all six of the redbfish series events. Points are awarded to teams depending on their placing during each regular season event. Points from each team's best five finishes are calculated to count toward the Team of the Year standings, which

allows each team to drop their lowest score.

"My sincere congratulations to the Team of the Year anglers and all of our LASS anglers for another successful year, as they are the key to success of this tournament series," said LDWF Assistant Secretary Randy Pausina. "The information the Department gathers from citizen scientists is truly invaluable."

Cash payouts for the Team of the Year top ten are generated solely from sponsorship support including Shimano, PowerPro, Coors Light, Academy Sports and Outdoors, Daybrook Fisheries, Omega Protein, Plaquemines Parish Tourism, Dockside Marine, Mercury, Conserva-

tion Force, Standard Mapping, Marsh and Bayou, Faux Pas Prints, Swamp Swatter, Frabill, Stick It Anchor Pins and YETI Coolers.

The next scheduled LASS event is our inaugural tarpon tournament scheduled for August 24 and 25 in Venice at Venice Marina. The Redfish Series Championship will be held on October 18 and 19 at Venice Marina, and the public is invited to attend and find out which team will take home the 2013 title. Our next LASS youth event is scheduled for November 2 at Myrtle Grove Marina.

For complete information, including rules, regulations and registration, visit www.lasaltwaterseries.com.

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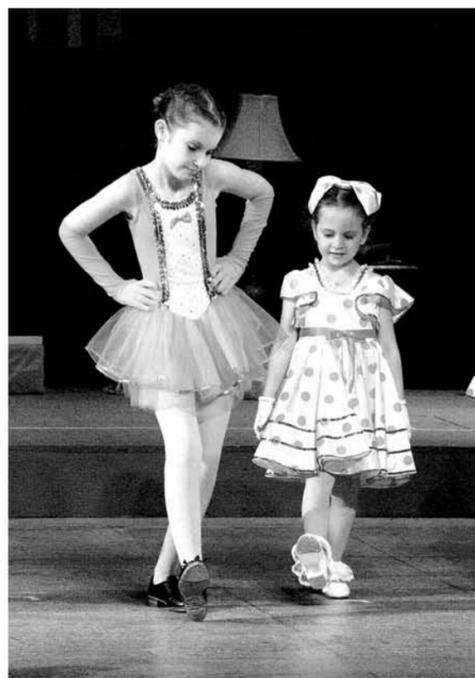


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