

## Request for County Feral Hog Grant

### Statement of Purpose

Pursuant to the Texas Legislature, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Wildlife Services (WS) program hereby requests applications for County Feral Hog Abatement Grants (Grant). The Grant program ("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 throughout the year. Successful applicants will receive grants to initiate or continue feral hog abatement activities in their county. This document ("RFGA") sets forth Program requirements and procedures.

Current abatement methods in Texas vary depending on the geographic terrain and vegetation. WS recognizes that the responsibility for management rests with landowners and local constituents who 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, conducting aerial gunning and addressing public safety hazards related to feral hogs.

### Projected Timeline of Events

August 16, 2019	Applications Available
September 16, 2019	Applications Due
October 1, 2019	Anticipated Award Date
August 31, 2020	Project End date

### 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 as well as documentation for other provisions included in the application (e.g. receipts for purchases, trap loan numbers, etc.) for the eligible period September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020.

### Grantee Responsibilities and Accountability

Selected Applicants (grantees) will be responsible for conducting a project supported by the Program and for achieving the results described in the application. 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 must carry out the activities described in the approved scope of work.

The grantee will be accountable for documenting the use of grant funds and must ensure funds are used solely for authorized purposes. 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 and regulations.
- 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 seven (7) years after the conclusion of the project.

### **Funding Parameters**

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

WS 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 \$100,000 is available. WS anticipates awarding up to 15 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each. Applications will be reviewed through a competitive evaluation process.

Bounty programs may be included in a county's proposal, however WS will limit State funding of bounties to 50% of the amount actually paid out.

To receive grant funds, counties that are awarded Program grants must enter into a written agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Grant funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis after awarded counties submit proof of allowable expenditures.

WS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications submitted. WS is under no legal or other obligation to execute a grant award on the basis of a response submitted to this RFGA.

Public announcements and written notifications will be made to all applicants and their affiliated agencies, organizations, or institutions. Favorable decisions will indicate the amount of award, duration of the grant, and any special conditions associated with the project.

### **Term of Funding or Duration of Projects**

A Notice of Grant Award is *anticipated* to be made in October 2019. However, it is the intention of the legislature that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service continue to make available a level of funding similar to previous grants administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Counties may have continued feral hog projects following the conclusion of the TDA program. Therefore, approved projects may claim expenditures which have occurred since September 1, 2019. Projects under this funding request must be completed by August 31, 2020. No expenditures incurred after August 31, 2020 will be reimbursed.

### **Application Requirements**

To be considered, applications must be complete and include all of the following information.

*Grant Applications*—Interested applicants must include all of the following information:

A narrative including:

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

- *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.
- *Previous Participation.* For counties which participated in the Feral hog grant program, a copy of the final report is required.
- *Description of Activities.* Include information on:
  - i. Description of the proposed program including abatement activities supported or used;
  - ii. Type and number of county-sponsored education program(s) about feral hog abatement technologies proposed; and
  - iii. A proposed budget (total cost for educational and operational activities, county share of bounty if proposed);
- *Certifications.* The authorized official must sign the application.

### **Evaluation and Selection Information**

WS will conduct an administrative review to determine whether the applicant was responsive to the requirements of this RFGA. WS will take into consideration the status of any continuing project's progress.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criterion:

- The degree to which the proposal meets or supports established watershed or agricultural protection programs (*a maximum of 30 points will be awarded to those county proposals which are consistent with watershed protection plans or agricultural protection programs*).
- The estimated contribution of the proposal to removing feral hogs from the landscape (*a maximum of 30 points will be awarded for aspects of the project which contribute to fewer hogs, including trap loan programs, aerial hunting contracts, equipment purchased for control and bounties. NOTE: WS will only reimburse counties 50% of actual bounties paid. Counties planning on bounty programs need to state the total bounty pool and the county commitment to the remaining 50%. Programs which remove feral hogs but contribute to perpetuation of hogs as a resource may not receive full points.*)
- The number of landowner outreach events planned or conducted from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 which include at least 1 hour of feral hog management topics, including biology, management strategies and damage assessment (*a maximum of 5 points per event planned and 10 points per event conducted up to 20 points per application will be awarded*).
- The degree to which the county project conducts a formalized damage and control assessment (*a maximum of 10 points will be awarded if the county project records numbers of feral swine removed and up to 10 additional points will be recorded for a formalized county level damage assessment*).

WS will include outside reviewers in evaluating proposals. County Primary Point of Contact may be queried during the evaluation process to clarify proposals.

## **Deadline for Submission of Responses**

**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Only materials actually received by WS by 5:00 pm CDT on application due date will be reviewed as part of the application. Applicant will not be allowed to supplement the application after the application deadline.**

One complete application package, including narrative and final reports (if applicable) must be **received** by WS before close of business (5:00 p.m. CT) on Monday, September 16, 2019. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the timely delivery of all required materials.

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

Preferred:

Electronic Version

Email: Michael.J.Bodenchuk@usda.gov

**Email subject line must contain the program and applicant name (Ex: 2019 Feral Hog Grant– Travis County).** The respondent is solely responsible for ensuring that their complete electronic submission is sent to, and actually received by, WS in a timely manner and at the proper destination server.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** 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.

WS takes no responsibility for electronic bids that are captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by any anti-virus or other security software. WS will send an acknowledgement receipt by email indicating the application was received.

**Hard Copy Submissions.**

All applications must be **received** by WS (P.O. Box 690170, San Antonio, TX 78269) by closing date and time. Applications will be documented with a date/time stamp for receipt documentation purposes.

For questions regarding submission of the application and/or WS requirements, please contact WS at (210) 472-5451, or by email at

Michael.J.Bodenchuk@usda.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 WS'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,  
<https://fmx.cpa.texas.gov/fmx/pubs/spaproc/appendices/appa/index.php>; and
  6. 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 50% of the bounty paid and 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.

It is important to ensure that all costs meet the criteria, of allowable, allocable, and reasonable.

## **General Information**

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

WS reserves the right to fund projects partially or fully. WS reserves the right to negotiate individual elements of any application and to reject any and all applications. Where more than one application is acceptable for funding, WS may request cooperation between grantees or revisions/adjustments to an application in order to avoid duplication and to realize the maximum benefit to the state. Selected projects will receive funding on a cost-reimbursement basis.

WS 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 costs incurred by the Applicant prior to the effective date of grant agreement.

### *Right to Amend or Terminate Program*

WS 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 WS deems any such action to be in the best interest of WS and of the State of Texas. The decision of WS will be administratively final in this regard.

### *Proprietary Information/Public Information*

If it is necessary for Grantee to include confidential, proprietary, trade secret or privileged information (Proprietary Information) in its application or other submitted information, Grantee must clearly mark and label all Proprietary Information in 14-point or higher bold font on each page as it appears, and identify the specific exception to disclosure in the Texas Public Information Act (PIA) for each specific piece of Proprietary Information. Additionally, all Proprietary Information must be segregated in a separate and discrete section of the application or other submitted information, which must be able to be conveniently separated and detached from the other sections of the application.

Failure to properly label, identify and segregate any Proprietary Information in the application or other submitted information may result in all such information or material being disclosed as public information.

Unless specifically exempt from disclosure under the PIA, all applications and materials submitted under this program are subject to release under the PIA.

### *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 any resulting grant agreement.

## **General Compliance Information**

1. Grantees must comply with WS'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 WS and shall not relieve the Grantee of its responsibilities to WS 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 seven (7) years after the completion of the project, or as otherwise agreed upon with WS. WS 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 WS. WS 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 WS, upon request, WS 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) and 2 CFR Part 200.

Application must be received by: **Monday, September 16, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**County Information**

County Name: Clay

Mailing Address: 214 North Main  
*Street Address*

Henrietta TX 76365  
*City State Zip Code*

Physical Address: 214 North Main  
*Street Address*

Henrietta TX 76365  
*City State Zip Code*

**Contact Personnel**

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

Full Name: William Holcombe  Mr.  Dr.  
*First Last*  Ms.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: Clay County Extension Agent, Ag and Natural Resources

Email Address: wcholcombe@ag.tamu.edu

Phone: (940) 538 - 5042 Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Alt #: (940) 538 - 4651

**(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: Mike Campbell  Mr.  Dr.  
*First Last*  Ms.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: County Judge

Email Address: Mike.campbell@co.clay.tx.us

Phone: (940) 538 - 4651 Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Alt #: (940) 538 - 6423



## Program Information

### Previous Participation

- Has your County previously participated in the feral hog abatement grants?  Yes  No
- If yes, what years? \_\_\_\_\_ 2011, 2012, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_
- Has your County previously received a grant through any TDA or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service feral hog abatement program?  Yes\*  No
- If yes, what years? \_\_\_\_\_ 2011, 2012, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_

### Quantifiable Information and Description of Activities

Please provide a narrative describing the feral hog abatement program and your use of the funds. Include as much detail as necessary for the reviewers to evaluate your proposal against the evaluation criteria. Include budget, past final reports and bounty pool commitments as appropriate.

*(Additional sheets may be attached if more space is needed.)*

Based on records and conversations with previous organizers of hog abatement programs, Clay County has participated in past programs, most notably, was the Hog Out program. Tyler Garrison has provided information and data that indicates the programs were successful. His reports include the following data:

There were 1675 pigs eradicated. The methods used and number taken were primarily by three primary means during the months of the program, the most popular way is trapping. One thousand three hundred sixty-six pigs were captured by trapping. The second most significant amount of pigs killed was by shooting. Two hundred fifteen pigs were killed by shooting from the ground with none being reported for aerial attack. The last control method reported for controlling hog numbers was capture by dogs with 94 hogs reported.

There was one educational course held on Monday, October 24, 2011, which 72 people attended. Randy Smith, District Supervisor with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, was the speaker of the evening. He focused his presentation on the History, Biology, Damages and Control Methods for Feral Hogs. Control Methods discussed included: trapping, snaring, shooting, aerial shooting, catching with dogs and fencing.

Previous funding was used for:

- Purchasing local ads in newspapers to explain the importance of controlling feral hogs.
- They sent flyers to every home in Clay County, encouraging hog eradication and abatement technologies.
- Toured of properties damaged by feral hogs and displayed traps and demonstrated best methods of trapping.

- They purchased educational booths at local events to educate the public about the importance of feral hog abatement.
- Purchased traps were purchased and used as door prizes at seminars
- Articles in the local newspaper were published included
  - Recognizing Feral Hog Signs
  - Corral Traps for Feral Hogs
  - Box Traps for Feral Hogs
  - Placing and Baiting Feral Hog Traps
  - Snaring Feral Hogs
  - Making a Feral Hog Snare
- Cooperated with the Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District
- Collaborated with local 4H members and leaders to provide county outreach and education
- Provided corn vouchers to hunters that committed to using the corn to bait traps

The 2013 budget included:

A. Outreach education--	\$9,000.00
B. Salary--	\$5,000.00
C. Office Supplies--	\$1,000.00

#### Future Plans

As a landowner, I have personally experienced the destruction caused by feral hogs. We have lost hay bales and coastal Bermuda fields to the wild pigs. We were unable to bale coastal fields because the ground was too rough to drive over with a tractor to even mow. Landowners in Clay County have spent thousands of dollars to mitigate the damage caused by feral hogs.

This grant will provide funding so that we will be able to:

- Resume our efforts to educate the landowners concerning the dollar amount of damage caused by the feral hog population and the importance of a coordinated effort
- Purchase hog traps that will be placed in each Commissioner's Precinct so that landowners would be able to borrow the traps as needed
- Lease meeting room space in three of our local communities so that landowners would not be required to travel as far to attend each of our two hour presentations. These presentations would be a total of six hours of formal training in the following Clay County communities.
  - Vashti Community Center
  - Henrietta Senior Citizens Center
  - Petrolia Senior Citizens Center
- County Agriculture Agent, Bill Holcombe will organize and provide training in cooperation with the following agencies, organizations, and businesses.
  - Clay County Flood Plain Management
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - Texas Department of Agriculture
  - Nobile Foundation
  - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension
  - KFDX-TV3; KAUZ-TV6; Clay County Leader, Times & Record News
  - Clay County Commissioner's Court
  - Executive Outdoor Adventures, Inc.
  - Montague, Jack and Archer Counties
  - Petrolia, Henrietta, Midway, and Bellevue ISD's
- Utilize social media to share information about the feral hog problems and solutions
- Collect data from Clay County Sheriff's office to determine damage to vehicles from hitting hogs on Clay County roads

- Develop a database of hunters who specialize in hog hunting
- Organize and develop competitive activities to encourage wild hog eradication
- Encourage landowners to use hog hunting as an additional revenue stream
- Publicize local hog buyers so that hunters and landowners will be aware of marketing resources
- Develop both an online and written form to collect data on the number of hogs abated

We will accomplish with the following budget:

**Outreach Education**

Conference Room Rental	\$1,200.00
Printing	\$2,500.00
Postage	\$500.00
Traditional Advertising	\$1,000.00
Online & Social Media	\$1,000.00

**Abatement Resources**

Hog Traps	\$6,000.00
Feral Hog abatement tracking program	\$1,000.00
Corn for traps	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total	\$14,200.00

For additional information regarding this grant, contact Mike Campbell, Clay County Judge