

I would like to write about the feral hog invasion in Texas and the implications surrounding their damage and proposed extermination. It is estimated nearly 2 million feral hogs roam Texas. They are a scourge on Texas' wilderness and must be removed. They are aggressive animals that travel in sometimes quite large packs and will decimate crops and out-compete native mammals like deer and javelina. They are also known to root and cause soil erosion in pastureland¹. These hogs also reproduce at an astonishing rate, making them even harder to contain². The value of damage to urban and rural property has exceeded hundreds of millions of dollars, fueling the authorities to find ways to rid the States of them³.

1. Mapton ME. 1997. Feral Hogs in Texas. Texas A&M University. [accessed 2023 Jul 6].
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2. Taylor RB, Hellgren EC, Gabor TM, Ilse LM. 1998. Reproduction of Feral Pigs in Southern Texas. *Journal of Mammalogy*. 79(4):1325–1331.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.2307/1383024>.
3. Tian N, Gan J, Holley G. 2023 Jan 12. Assessing feral swine damage in the western gulf region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02994-1>.