

Did You Know?

Lone star tick larvae have 6 legs, whereas the adults have 8 legs.

The bottlenose dolphin is one of the most commonly found cetaceans occurring along the Texas Coast. (Mammals of Texas, W.B. Davis and D.J. Schmidly, Texas Parks and Wildlife)

internship program. In conjunction with his conservation and research efforts, Charlie oversees a commercial hunting, lodging, and cattle business. Charlie is married to Randa, and they have one son, Harrison.

Two New CKWRI Publications

CKWRI's *South Texas Natives* is proud to announce the release of the *Restoration Manual for Native Habitats of South Texas*, edited by **Paula Maywald** and **Diana Doan-Crider**. The purpose of the manual is to encourage landowners and land managers to restore native plant communities in South Texas. Restoration of native plant communities is a challenging endeavor. This restoration manual will provide instructions for various methods used to restore South Texas rangelands. A preview of the manual and order form can be found on the CKWRI web site at <http://www.ckwri.tamuk.edu>.

In July, the CKWRI released its 7th Wildlife Management Bulletin, *The Value of Live Oaks*. The bulletin was authored by CKWRI researchers **Timothy Fulbright**, **David Hewitt**, **William Kuvlesky, Jr.**, and **Tom Langschie**. The bulletin provides an overview of the value of live oaks to the South Texas ecosystem and includes information for the conservation and management of this important resource. It is available via the CKWRI web site (<http://www.ckwri.tamuk.edu/publications>) as a downloadable PDF file or it can be requested by contacting the CKWRI office at 361-593-3922. ~

Recent Range Expansion of Invasive Feral Hogs

by *Tyler Campbell and Joe Corn*

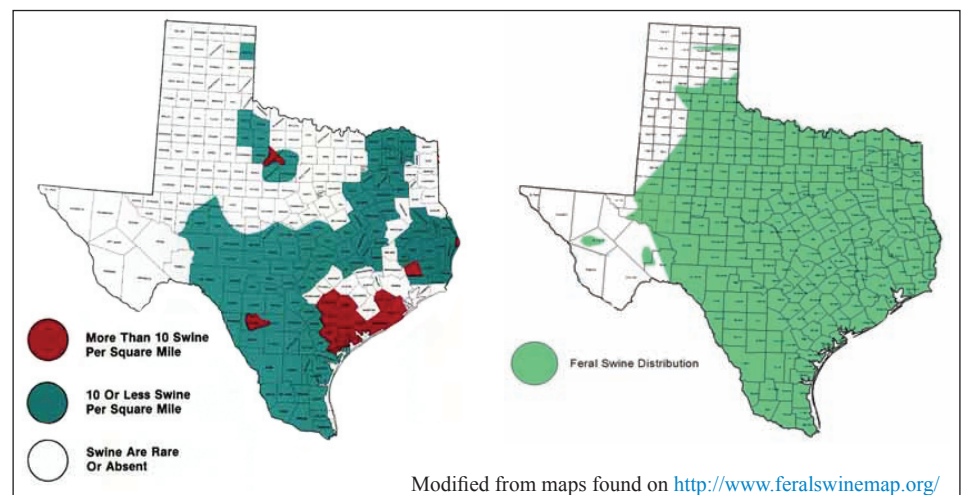
Feral hogs (A.K.A. feral swine, feral pigs, piney woods rooters, razorbacks, wild boar, wild hogs, and woods hog) have ancestors that originated in Europe and Africa and share their scientific name, *Sus scrofa*, with domestic and wild counterparts worldwide. Free-ranging feral hogs have occupied portions of Texas since the mid-1500s, being first introduced by European explorers. As such, feral hogs are not native to South Texas or any portions of the New World, where they are an exotic species, more often than not displaying invasive characteristics.

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS),

Editor's Note: Dr. Tyler Campbell is a Research Wildlife Biologist with USDA APHIS at the Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center Texas Field Station at CKWRI in Kingsville and Dr. Joe Corn is a Public Service Associate with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia.

a unit of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, began producing maps on the distribution of feral hogs in the United States in 1982. These feral hog maps were produced in 1982, 1988, and 2004 with data provided by the state and territorial natural resources agencies of the United States and with funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS). During the past 3 decades, the distribution of feral hogs has expanded dramatically in the United States. For example, in 1982, 17 states reported feral hogs in 475 counties, whereas in 2004, 28 states reported feral hogs in 1,014 counties. Furthermore, the distribution of feral hogs in the United States is no longer limited to southern-tier states. For example, at the 2008 National Conference on Feral Hogs held in St. Louis, Missouri, it was reported that 61 Michigan counties have feral hogs and that isolated populations also occur in Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

This year, the National Feral Swine Mapping System (NFSMS) was implemented through SCWDS. The NFSMS is an interactive data collection system being used to collect and display real-time data on



The map on the left depicts the estimated feral hog distribution and density in Texas as of 1982 and the map on the right represents the estimated feral hog distribution in Texas as of 2004.

the distribution of feral hogs in the United States. Data are provided by state and territorial natural resources agencies and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services personnel. Distribution data submitted by agencies are evaluated on a continual basis, and the distribution map is updated with verified additions on a monthly basis. Feral hog populations and/or sightings are designated on the map either as established (i.e., breeding) populations, or simply as sightings. The NFSMS can be accessed by anyone who is interested at <http://www.feralswinemap.org/>.

Feral hogs are included as one of only 14 mammals on the World Conservation Union's list of "100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species" because of their severe impact on biological diversity and human activities. As feral hog populations continue to expand across the United States, wildlife biologists, state agriculture agencies, and policy

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute provides leadership in all aspects of our work. We are indebted to them for their commitment to CKWRI and its mission.

T. Dan Friedkin David Garza Lagüera Henry R. Hamman George C. "Tim" Hixon Karen Hunke A. C. Jones, IV	David Winfield Killam Stephen J. "Tio" Kleberg Kenneth E. Leonard James A. McAllen Barry Coates Roberts	Diane Scovell Stuart W. Stedman Arthur "Buddy" Temple, III <i>(Chairman)</i> Ben F. Vaughan, III Charles A. Williams
--	---	---



© Larry Ditto

Expanding feral hog populations are a concern for agribusiness as well as wildlife and natural resource enthusiasts.

makers from other states where feral hog damage is an emerging problem are looking to Texas (given

its rich history of feral hog damage management) for guidance relating to effective management tools and techniques. To this end, the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center and the CKWRI are committed to developing innovative feral hog damage management tools. For example, new studies involving attractants, baits, exclusion devices, fertility control agents, and aerial (from helicopter) control have recently been initiated or completed in collaboration with CKWRI scientists, including Drs. Randy DeYoung and David Hewitt. Our ultimate goal is to develop new tools to curb feral hog damage in South Texas and slow or prevent feral hog range expansion into wild places beyond their current distribution. ~

Visit our web page at
<http://www.ckwri.tamuk.edu>

What Do They Eat?

Eastern moles forage on earthworms, various other invertebrates, and vegetation. (Mammals of North America, F.A. Reid, Houghton Mifflin Co.)

Burrowing owls mainly eat insects, but have been known to eat small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 5, Lynx Edicions)



Caesar Kleberg Wildlife
 Research Institute
 700 University Boulevard
 MSC 218
 Kingsville, Texas 78363-8202

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Kingsville, TX 78363
 Permit #172

Editor: Alan Fedynich, Ph.D.

SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE is printed on recycled paper

