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## News Release

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### **SARA'S FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CATCHES TRACTION**

*Feral Hog Program ends year one with success*

**SAN ANTONIO** –Feral hogs are no stranger to the state of Texas. According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, it is estimated that in one year feral hogs cause \$52 million of damage to the Texas agricultural industry. In 2015, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) launched the Feral Hog Management Program as a way of limiting some of the damage caused by feral hogs within SARA's four county jurisdiction – Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties.

"I had a lot of damage on my property because of feral hogs," said property owner Pete Muntz. "The hogs destroyed 20-30 acres of my property and parts of my fence, on top of creating water quality issues in my pond."

Since the Feral Hog Program was first adapted, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) trappers have caught over 1,000 hogs using various trapping techniques including ground level gunning, aerial gunning, snares, cage traps, and corral traps. Skilled WS trappers work with individual landowners to determine which technique works best on their land. Currently, trappers have worked on 35 properties totaling 83,812 acres.

"The San Antonio River Authority's Feral Hog Program is a great service that is free to landowners! In the past year, the trappers have caught over 100 pigs on my property alone," said Muntz. "The trappers are conscious of what they are doing and very respectable to the landowners."

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For landowners interested in setting traps themselves, SARA also offers a gate loaner program that includes 20 systems. Each system includes a three-panel roofer gate, 6-foot panels, t-posts, and a game camera.

The Feral Hog Management Program is free to landowners. To learn more about the program, landowners are encouraged to call their local Wildlife Services Office.

- **Kerrville District Office: Bexar & Wilson County** (*North of Highway 97*)  
(830) 896-6535
- **Corpus Christi District Office: Wilson** (*South of Highway 97*), **Karnes & Goliad County**  
(361) 299-1176

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*The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Watershed. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA, visit our website at [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org).*