



FERAL SWINE PROGRAMS

Feral swine carry diseases that pose a direct threat to domestic swine, cattle, humans, and other species. In order to control the spread of and mitigate the risk of exposure to disease, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) regulates the movement of live feral swine.

MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FERAL SWINE

The TAHC feral swine movement requirements apply to anyone who traps and moves live feral swine from the premises or location where they were trapped or captured.

Acceptable movement includes:

- The feral swine are moved directly from the premises where they were trapped to a recognized slaughter facility;
- The feral swine are moved directly from the premises where they were trapped to an approved holding facility or authorized hunting preserve;
- The feral swine are moved from an approved holding facility to a recognized slaughter facility;
- The feral swine are moved from an approved holding facility to an authorized hunting preserve;
- The feral swine are moved from an approved holding facility to another approved holding facility; or
- The swine that have been trapped and are being held for transportation to an authorized location, as provided by Title 4 Texas Administrative Code §55.9, may be held in an escape-proof cage on the vehicle or trailer that transported them from their original premises, or held within the transport trailer itself for up to seven (7) days.

APPROVED HOLDING FACILITIES

An approved holding facility serves as a temporary place to hold feral swine pending their movement to a recognized slaughter facility, an authorized hunting preserve, or another approved holding facility.

A holding facility must meet the following criteria:

- The facility must maintain a swine-proof fence capable of preventing existing feral swine from escaping or other feral swine from entering;
- The facility must be at least two hundred yards from any domestic swine pens;
- The facility may only house feral swine;
- The facility owner/operator must meet stringent record keeping requirements;
- Feral swine shall not be intentionally co-mingled with domestic or exotic swine;
- Garbage feeding shall not occur; and
- Dead animals must be removed from the approved holding facility and disposed of in accordance with any state or local requirements, ordinances or direction received from TAHC personnel.



[Applications](#) for approved holding facilities are approved and renewed by the TAHC, and expire two years after date of issuance unless re-authorized. There is no fee for applying to become a facility owner or operator. Prior to approval, holding facilities must be inspected by TAHC personnel. If you are interested in applying to be an approved holding facility contact your [TAHC region office](#).

To find an approved holding facility near you visit https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/swine/FeralSwineFacilities.pdf.

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AUTHORIZED HUNTING PRESERVES

An authorized hunting preserve is a TAHC approved premises where feral swine are authorized to be released for the purpose of hunting.

Authorized hunting preserves must meet the following criteria:

- Only male swine (boars and/or barrows) may be trapped, moved, and released to a hunting preserve;
- All released swine must be individually identified using [agency approved forms of identification](#);
- The facility owner/operator must meet stringent record keeping requirements;
- The owner must have a Hunting Lease License, in good standing, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as provided for in [Chapter 43](#) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code;
- The facility must maintain a swine-proof fence capable of preventing existing feral swine from escaping or other feral swine from entering; and
- Garbage feeding shall not occur.



[Applications](#) for authorized hunting preserves are approved and renewed by the TAHC, and expire two years after date of issuance unless re-authorized. Prior to approval, hunting preserves must be inspected by TAHC personnel. There is no fee for applying to become a preserve owner or operator. If you are interested in applying to be an authorized hunting preserve contact your [TAHC region office](#).

FERAL SWINE RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Records shall be generated and maintained for at least 5 years from date of generation. All records shall be provided to an authorized agent of the commission upon request. Records must include the following:

- The number of swine placed in and removed from the facility and/or preserve;
- The approximate weight, size, color, sex and any applied identification for each feral swine;
- Dates feral swine were placed and/or removed from the facility;
- The physical location where feral swine were trapped; and
- The physical location that feral swine were moved to, including any unique identification number.

PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

Any person violating the regulatory or statutory requirements related to feral swine shall be subject to enforcement and penalties as are allowed under Chapter 161 of the Texas Agriculture Code, including facility revocation, administrative penalties up to \$5,000 each day, criminal prosecution, and/or injunctive relief. The TAHC may also establish additional quarantine or testing requirements or take any other permissible action to protect the health of Texas livestock.