

LIVING AT BABCOCK RANCH

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ISSUE 2

An Informative Blog for Residents

This issue:

FERAL HOGS: UNINVITED GUESTS AT BABCOCK RANCH



A Feral Hog Trap Ready for Capture

Help Us Help You — and Our Environmentally Sensitive Lands

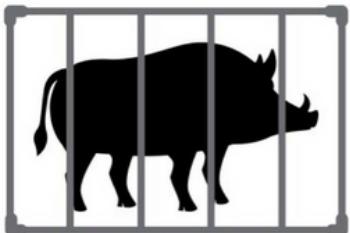
BY CHRISTINA KONTOS
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MANAGER

Florida, including Babcock Ranch, is home to many non-native animal species. Among them are feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*), which roam throughout our preserve areas and sometimes onto golf courses and residential areas. For several reasons, these wild hogs are regarded as a nuisance species. Wild hogs were introduced to Florida in the early 1500s and breed year-round, producing up to two litters of about 26 piglets per year, according to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Hogs are omnivores and use their snouts to "root" for food beneath the soil's surface. Such activity results in a plowing effect, which results in major

⚠ CAUTION

Please Do Not Approach



**Wild Hog Trap
Please Stay
Back
200 FT**

**This Temporary Hog Trap is
being monitored daily.**

If you have any questions, please call:
(239) 922-3972

Warning Sign on Hog Traps

Learn More About Wild Hogs

FWC HAS EXTENSIVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

You can learn more about feral hogs in Florida from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission by [visiting their website](#).

To learn what Babcock Ranch governance documents say about non-native species, see the [Residential Charter](#) (page 66.).

resource impacts and property damage. Resource impacts include the competition for food with native wildlife such as white-tailed deer and wild turkey, destruction of native vegetation in sensitive wetland habitats, consumption of agricultural crops, livestock feed, tree seeds and saplings, and predation of nests and young of ground-nesting birds, turtles, mammals, and young domestic livestock.

Not only are hogs destructive to the environment, but they are also dangerous if approached by humans. They are carriers of parasites and diseases including pseudorabies and swine brucellosis, which can be transmitted to livestock, pets, people, and wildlife.

The Babcock Ranch community is surrounded by beautiful wildlife corridors to the north, south, east, and west. By design, those corridors enable habitat connectivity, but also provide hogs the ability to travel miles at a time.

Because they are so well established here in our native lands, it is unrealistic to attempt to eradicate this species completely. However, the management of hogs through various control efforts can aid in reducing human-wildlife conflict and the negative impact that hogs create on our nature preserves, private properties, landscaping, lawns, and golf courses.

To mitigate these negative impacts, my team and I provide an adaptive hog management plan with efforts and resources including a licensed hog trapper to aid in controlling the population here at Babcock Ranch.

If you see a baited hog trap along our trail systems, do not approach the trap. I'm also asking for the assistance of our community in refraining from releasing any captured hogs. Not only are hogs very intelligent and will learn to avoid traps once released, but they can be very aggressive, and the safety of the residents is my number one priority. These traps are monitored daily for the health and safety of the animal with care taken to provide shelter and shade in Florida's environmental elements.

It is imperative that our hog management efforts continue to be successful for the sustainability of our environmentally sensitive lands and community.