

# Assessing the Pig Brig Trap System as a Tool to Control Feral Hogs

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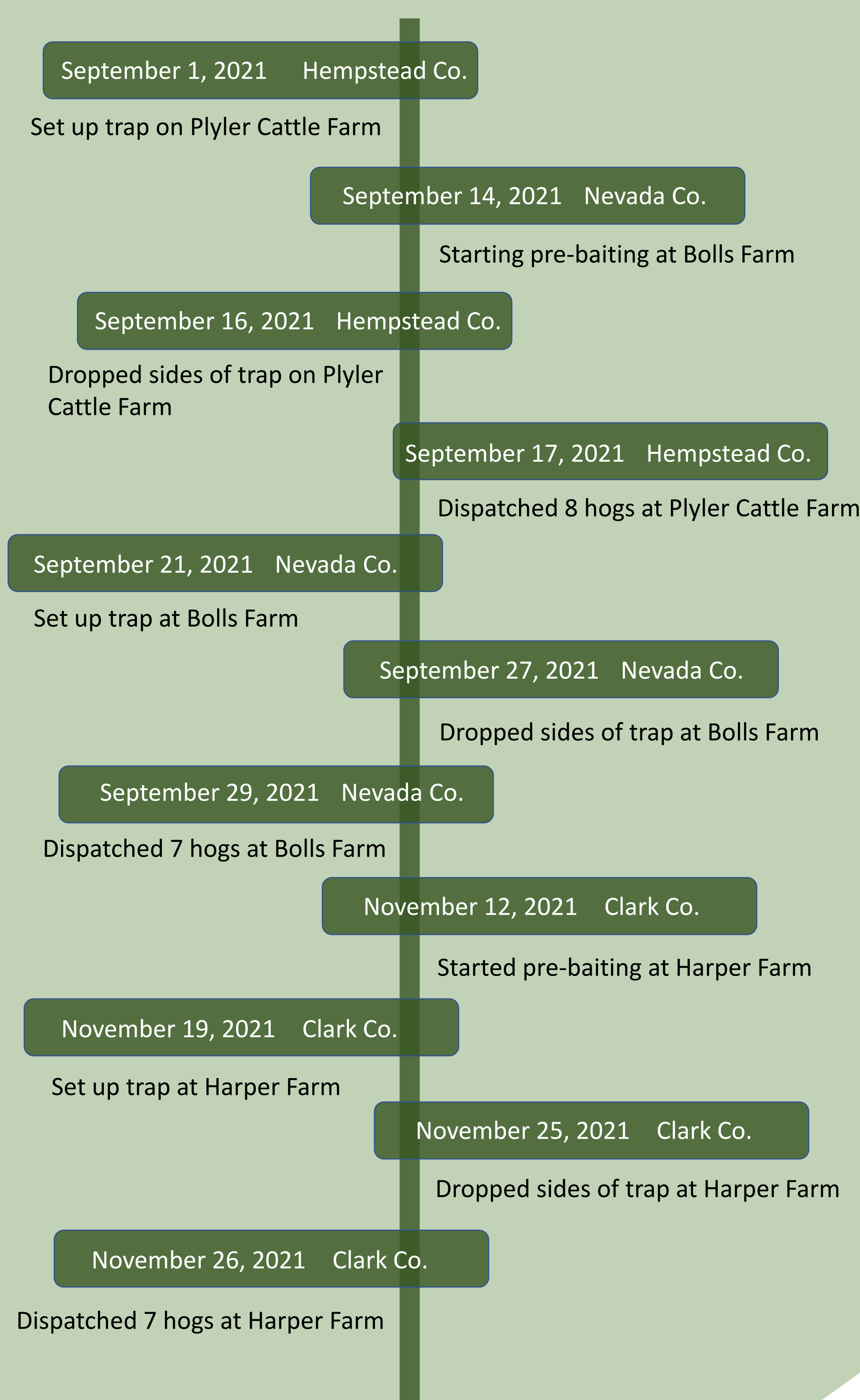
## Goal:

To assess the effectiveness and ease of use of the Pig Brig Trap System in controlling feral hog populations as requested by county producers and to share that information with them.

## Background:

- Feral hogs are a growing problem across Arkansas and many other states.
- Feral hog agricultural and ecological damage is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion each year.
- In Arkansas, the damage is estimated at \$19 million annually.
- The impacts on producers include loss of crops, injury and disease transmission to livestock, and property damage.
- Trapping systems like Game Changer and Boar Buster work well but require a cellular signal to drop the gate or trap remotely and are expensive and heavy.
- UADA agents and wildlife specialist were asked by producers to test the effectiveness of the Pig Brig Trap System.

## SWAR Pig Brig Trap Demo Timeline



## Methods:

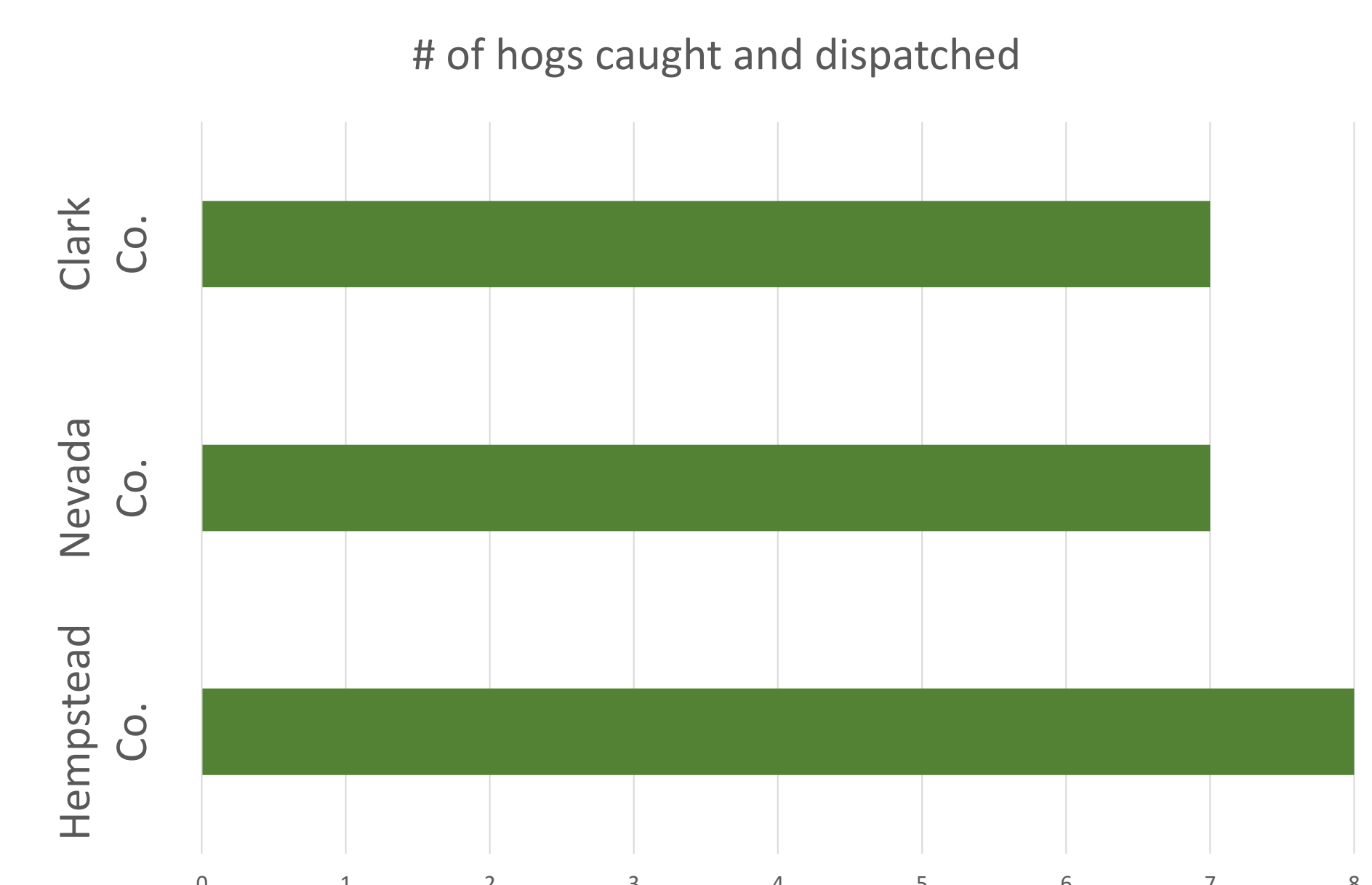
- Three farms with known feral hog damage in Hempstead, Nevada, and Clark Counties were identified to use as demonstration areas.
- Pre-baiting and monitoring with game cameras is advised to assess number of sounders and the number of hogs in each sounder.
- Trap was installed by a group of agents once sounders were consistently coming to bait.
- Two sides of the trap net were suspended up to allow the hogs to become conditioned to the trap rubbing their back when they came to the bait.
- Once entire sounder consistently started entering the trap, the sides of the net were dropped.
- The sounders entered the trap to eat the bait and trapped themselves inside the net.

## Results:

The agents involved determined the following pros and cons of the Pig Brig Trap System:

Pros	Cons
More economical than other trapping systems	T-posts are difficult to drive into hard ground
Lightweight	Unknown longevity of net & parts
No cellular service needed	Noisy to set up-drives away hogs?
Most of trap stores in a tub	Time required to remove & reset
Pigs trap themselves, no need to stay up to drop gate/trap	

At each demonstration site, the entire sounder that had been captured on camera was caught. All three sounders consisted of sows and shoats.



## Summary:

This group determined that the Pig Brig Trap System is easy to set up, lightweight to carry, and an economical choice for producers looking to use a trap. It is also a useful tool in controlling feral hog populations in areas that have poor cellular service. However, the effectiveness of this trap on large boars or multiple sounders was not tested during these demonstrations. Other considerations are the longevity of the net and parts, the noise of setting up, and difficulty of driving posts into hard ground. To date this information has been shared with producers at the 2022 Four States Ag Expo in Texarkana, AR, to fellow agents at a 2022 Feral Hog In-Service Training, and at Row Crop Production Meetings.