

how to show proof of kill has yet to be decided. The state estimates 2.5 million hogs in Texas and 1.6 million need to be harvested each year to maintain current numbers. Who knows how many need to be eliminated to reduce the numbers. Current estimates place annual damage to natural resources and crops to be \$52,000,000 per year. Those counties and ranchers that wish to participate should contact the state and refer to the "2013 County Hog Abatement Matching Program" other wise known as CHAMP.

As most of you know, exotics still play a huge role in Texas hunting. Since the Oryx, Addax and Gazelle were placed on the endangered species list last year, the ranchers that raised these amazing animals, have gotten rid of most of them. This is a shame because these animals were doing great in Texas. They are almost extinct in their native countries & the only place where they were growing in numbers was here. Since we can no longer harvest these animals, the incentive to feed and raise them is gone. So much for the good intentions of the animal activists because they did not foresee that their actions would cause the demise of these animals in the wild.

Other exotics such as Axis, Fallow, Sika and Black Buck Antelope are also very popular. Texas also has a good population of Elk and Red Deer (Red Stags) that are not regulated by the state of Texas or federal government. Hopefully, we can keep these from the well intentioned animal activists.

**Other Tidbits**

I was asked the other day if a person with a CHL could carry a gun in church. You can if the individual church says it's ok. If the church posts a notice prohibiting a gun then you must comply.

Congratulations to the state of Illinois. They are the last state to approve a Right To Carry Law. It is somewhat restrictive, but a step in the right direction.

FYI: I read a news release from the American Vegan Society that says it is ok to eat venison and still maintain your Vegan profile. According to the news release, venison is now considered an organic meat. I am not sure what that means but I think these folks are just getting hungry for something good! Veggies are ok for salads, but lets have some meat for the main course.



*Too Close for Comfort! This photographer got a little close even with her zoom lens while capturing these two hogs enjoying the coolness of a stock pond with their youngsters late last spring in central Coke County.*

*Photos by Morgan McCutchen*



*Should Coke County be a candidate for the CHAMP Program?  
Each year, wild hogs become more prevalent within our county's borders.*

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