

## Feral Pigs are more than a hunting prey.

The United State Department of Agriculture describes them as "...a destructive, invasive species that causes extensive damage to natural ecosystems, croplands, pastures, livestock operations. The USDA estimates that feral swine are responsible for \$2.5 billion in damage to U.S. agriculture annually." <sup>1</sup> "Feral swine have been reported in at least 35 states," as reported in "[History of Feral Swine in the Americas.](#)" <sup>2</sup>

The geographic expansion and population growth over the last 41-years is shown in the "[Maps: Feral Swine Populations by County.](#)" <sup>3</sup> The effort to harvest them if to put the meat in a freezer is a popular, if not beneficial, past time enjoyed by many. It is sport. But "a sport" with additional benefit. The USDA committed \$75 million for a "[Feral Swine Eradication and Control Project.](#)" The results of their study were reported in the article titled "[No panacea attractant for wild pigs...](#)" My (Justin's) interest is from that of a hunter, but there may be more to learn from these efforts.

1. USDA Climate Hubs, U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Feral Swine Bomb](#)
2. USDA Animal and Plant health Inspection Service
3. [Maps: Feral Swine Populations by County.](#)

*The information was collected by Justin Edwards, Operations Manager of [Cervicide](#), a nationwide hunting community known for its focus on culture, education, and camaraderie. Justin's passion for hunting includes understanding what tools are available to create a more enjoyable and successful experience for all hunters. His experience hunting hogs in FL includes opportunities to "fill the freezer" as well as to support the difficult efforts of landowners and farmers to reduce the damage done to their property by feral pigs, inspired him to complete a very thorough review of the new scents.*

## HOG HUNTING - TRYING SOMETHING NEW

Let me start off by saying, I have always been anti-scent spray/attractants for as long as I can remember. I was raised to hunt the wind. People get lucky from time to time, but when I was younger hunting with my uncles and grandpas, if the wind wasn't right, you were not staying out very long. They were all very successful, so I never questioned it. I never judged those that did utilize these tools, it was just never a play in my playbook.

As I grew older and wiser in my hunting experiences, I honestly still never really gave it much thought until I started hunting feral pigs heavily just a few short years ago. I love to spot & stalk hunt them and that is mainly all I did. But I started noticing certain groups of wild pigs staying in certain areas, just lingering for thirty minutes to hours at a time. It piqued my interest on why they were there so long as I had always seen them moving and eating. Never really hanging around unless in a wallow. Then I figured out there were strong smells of various fruits, nuts, berries, vegetation, and roots around those specific areas that they just couldn't resist. It made sense. It appeared to be worth the risk to put themselves in danger in hopes of special treats.

I live in Florida. We are blessed to have winter crops such as oranges, tangerines, kumquats, and clementines dropping while the weather is cooler. This annual "cocktail" brings those nightly devils out more during the daytime hours which is how I like to hunt them. I noticed they typically wanted to go for the "good stuff" as opposed to corn or other popular feeds as their primary food source. Also, baits can only be used on private land while hunting pigs. Even though we have some winter crop trees on public land naturally, there aren't many. And the "old heads" have put the work into scouting it over decades will almost always beat you there. Pinpointing pressured, weary animals can be difficult and time consuming when having an uncontrolled environment.

I pondered these questions as many of us do that work too much and don't hunt as much as we'd like. How can I take more feral hogs more efficiently during the day? So, I began trying scent sprays. I tried close to half a dozen different sprays, and they seemed to bring them in fine at first, but because of some of the ingredients used, I was nervous taking anything of the sort to public land. I hunt small tracts of private property, so I used them there. But public is where my heart leads me. Those who successfully hunt public land know what I mean. You never know what you will see or what you may come upon.

As we started laying down the hogs, they wised up fast with the sprays I was aware of and using at the time. Spots burnt out quickly. I began to worry about them being deterred by the scents I had used in the past. It could have been paranoia, but they seemed to go nocturnal very quickly. I knew I had to find something else before we began hunting them heavily again; typically, around November/December. People say feral pigs are dumb, but I have come to find out they are far from dumb with one of the best senses of smells out there. I wanted to use that very trait to my advantage.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES

If you have stayed with me this far, then you made it! The moment when I discovered Odin's Innovations, the developer of the scents used for my study.

A friend, guide, and fellow Cervicide brother brought it up to me while talking one day. He told me the success he had with it on pigs and the happy clients it helped him with. I was honestly confused about how it worked. There isn't a company out there I could really compare because it wasn't something you sprayed or poured out. All their products are 100% synthetic. They contain no salt or food additives. It has zero nutritional value and animals do not eat the biodegradable polymer. It consists of two different types for dispensing the scent. One is a "bead" the size of sesame seeds and the other, a gel like liquid you dripped out or sprayed on foliage. The best part of the beads, in my opinion, is it is reported to last 30 DAYS! The complementary liquid lasts for one week. I knew I had to give this a full breakdown.

I waited until I had some real evidence before presenting this in-depth report. It has always been annoying to me to see people fanboy on products that they haven't really used intensely. I made sure I tested it in different types of terrain, scenarios, and put it through the ringer with everything on public and private land. I was not disappointed. We successfully harvested multiple pigs, with 15 yards being our furthest shot. I could easily have taken more but decided to film content and take others to experience an exciting, heart pounding hunt while continuing to field-test the product.

I have collected detail, recording the scents I used over the seven-month span, different applications for use, and how the pigs reacted. But a main takeaway is, the hogs continued to come back even after witnessing high powered rifles and shotgun slugs picking them off within 10 yards and less. I have seen this happen before, especially in big bait areas. But not this much without turning them nocturnal or having them only coming out at dusk. We had so many successful hunts in such a short period of time. Not to mention saving me \$8 a bag for 50 lbs. of corn that must be dumped every day... and the wear & tear on my back. The beads come in 3 oz or 12 oz bottles and the liquid is in a 4 oz bottle with a directional squirt cap. Definitely, a "work smart, not hard" opportunity.

This write up is merely one of a few different parts associated with the trials from the first week of August 2023 up until the last weekend in February when our public lands close for hogs. I will go over how I applied the scents over a few months' time; the results, patterns documented, trail camera photos to show timelines, and the harvest.

## ORANGE SCENT TRIAL - LIQUID VERSION

- **Date:** Sep 25, 2024- Oct 25, 2024
- **Weather:** High 70s during the dark hours, Mid 80s-90s during the day
- **Location:** In between area to a field and swamp bottom (West-Central Florida)
- **Application:** No Bait used, only liquid scent. Applied once a week for one month. ¼ of the 4-oz bottle applied each time the area was refreshed. Applied to the leaves of plants around the location. (knee high level) Also on a fallen tree. (high high level)
- **Game attracted to scent:** Feral Hogs, Coyotes, Bobcat, Raccoons, Squirrels

### Conclusion:

My conclusion of the Orange Scent after a month of use is that the smell is familiar to them and makes them want to visit the area a lot more. I hunt this area often and they are daylighting a lot more frequently. I have never seen them daylight twice a day this late in the summer/early fall. The scent is bringing them out since there is zero bait in the area with very little natural food sources since they wiped the naturally occurring oranges in August and the beginning of September. I would like to see how they react to this when the oranges begin to drop during the late winter.



All and all, this is a scent I would 100% buy for feral hog hunting in Florida. During these trials I used a very small amount of scent to get good reads on how they reacted. Using more in an area could add to the results.

I would also recommend this for guides, bow hunters, trappers, and thermal hunters. We positioned our trail camera directly beside our blind; the scent is bringing them in as close as 15-20 yards. This is a perfect bow range for a bowhunter or a guide wanting to make the

experience a little more up close and personal for their client. I mainly day hunt so my tests are centered around the lighted hours of the day. There was not a single night that they didn't show up so a huge win for anyone using thermals or trapping them.

## NEW BERRY SCENT TRIAL - LIQUID VERSION

- **Date:** Nov 1, 2023- Nov 26, 2023
- **Weather:** Low 60s at night and High 60s during the day
- **Location:** An area in between a field and swamp bottom (West-Central Florida)
- **Application:** No Bait used, only liquid scent. Applied twice, ½ of a 4-oz bottle on 11/1 and the other half on 11/15. Applied to the leaves of plants around the location. (knee high level). Also on a fallen tree (thigh high level).
- **Game attracted to scent:** Feral hogs, bobcat, raccoons, coyotes

### Conclusion:

After almost a month, I concluded that the pigs seem to like the smell of the New Berry, but they did not frequent the area as much as what they did with the Orange Scent. I tried something new, that I didn't do with the Orange; I applied more of the scent, but only twice. I feel that may have been a mistake, as opposed to applying a little at a time every week. At least with the orange liquid, that seems to work the best. It also seemed to bring in the coyote more frequently, which could have deterred the pigs from coming in.



Even though this scent didn't have them coming in like the Orange, I think it is worth another test this fall. When they did come in, they came right before dark and, for the style of hunting I do, that is important. They don't normally come out during the daytime during that month, so it shows they had interest in it. Not to mention, they walked up to the scent each time.

The good thing about the scent bringing in some predators such as the coyote and bobcat is that it gives you a great opportunity to take them out via hunting or trapping them.

## PEAR SCENT TRIAL - LIQUID SCENT

- **Date:** Nov 27, 2023- Dec 27, 2023
- **Weather:** Low 50s during the dark hours and mornings, up to the high 70s during the day
- **Location:** In between area to a field and swamp bottom (West-Central Florida)
- **Application:** No Bait used, only liquid scent. Applied once a week for one month. One-fourth (1/4th) of the 4 oz bottle applied each time the area was refreshed. Applied to the leaves of plants around the location. (knee high level) and on a fallen tree (thigh high level).
- **Game attracted to scent:** Bobcat, Feral Hogs, Squirrels, and Raccoons

### Conclusion:

My conclusion of the Pear; (compared to the Orange used in October and New Berry used in the beginning of November) it is the most effective scent for feral hogs that I have used so far. I feel this way because of how much daylight activity there was during the trial. Even

though they spaced out their appearances a little after we harvested one of them, they still would daylight. The two days prior to taking one out, they were non-stop coming in to figure out where the smell was coming from. Having the large dominant boar show up was also a huge win. He has been in that area for a few years but hadn't come around very often.



Typically, they don't daylight this much until January and February even when the weather is cooler. The scent is unfamiliar to them, so I was surprised by the results. We mainly have citrus crops in the area, not pear trees. They obviously liked it enough to risk coming to our known "Kill Area". I won't say feral hogs are the

smartest animals in the world, but they are not dumb and know how to survive. Especially when in large groups like they were. The boars also always seem to be more timid so as not to risk putting themselves in danger. The pear, though, was worth that risk to them.

Just like the Orange and New Berry, I feel this scent would be solid for gun hunters, guides, trappers, and bow hunters. It is bringing them in very close, within 20 yards and less. I was in the blind a few different times and was able to film them coming in during these daylight hours. One of the days I was out there watching them, one winded me and tried to run off. The others just kept coming and then he followed. They didn't seem to care that I was there. The day we harvested one, the wind was all over so they would catch our scent, get on edge for a few moments, then continue to look around for the source of the smell.

I am going to continue testing more scents, but the Pear is most likely going to be one of my top go-to scents. I would be interested to see this in the bead form; these last longer and require application only once per month. The next time I use the liquid, I am going to apply more after shooting a hog, in hopes to make them more at ease.

## BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES - LIQUID VERSION

- **Date:** Jan 5, 2024- Jan 10, 2024
- **Weather:** Mid 50s during the night and early morning. High 60s/low 70s during the day
- **Location:** In between area to a field and swamp bottom (West-Central Florida)
- **Application:** One- half (½) of a 4oz bottle dripped onto live tree leaves and some drops on the ground then the other ½ of the bottle 5 days later, also applied to live tree leaves and then some drops around the blind.
- **Game attracted to scent:** Feral Hog, Raccoons

### Conclusion:

My conclusion of the Blackstrap Molasses is that it is a solid scent and will be a top go-to, as it is a very strong scent. I still think Pear is the top dog, but this Molasses was extremely potent and is by far the strongest smelling liquid that I have tried so far. Even the friend I had with me mentioned multiple times how strong it is.

This go round, I tried ½ the bottle on live tree leaves to cover that mid-level area. In my opinion it lasts longer if applied off the ground onto branches, tree bark, or live leaves. I also like to pour a few drops around the blind and my killing area. Being as it is such a strong smell, why not use it also as a cover scent, especially with two human scents in the blind as opposed to one. Remember, hogs have one heck of a nose.

During the hunt as Carl was preparing to shoot, the big boar was behind us with our wind blowing right in his face. There was no doubt in my mind, he smelt us by the grunts he was making and his attitude. Yet I think that Molasses also had his nose confused just long enough for us to get that trigger pulled. The other hogs that came in approached from the east so they could care less as they rooted around looking for the source of the smell.

I truly believe this scent gave us the time we needed to get the bead on the pigs. That lead boar was weary, but the others were not. Any feral hog hunter knows, those extra seconds makes such a difference when taking out multiple pigs during the daytime. They are always on the move and the wind must be hunted right. This allowed us to be successful with the wind not in our favor. It took about two days for the feral pigs to come into it, but once they did, they immediately started daylighting. This gave me time to get my hunter set up during this period. I think reapplying it the day we hunted was also a good tactic to conceal our scent and attract them back in.

This scent would do well for guides, bow hunting, thermal hunting, gun hunting, and honestly, since it is so overpowering I think it could do well in Hog Traps. Like I previously stated, this will be a top contender for sure. It brought them in close and helped to distract their nose similar to how vanilla does with whitetail.



## PEANUT BUTTER - BEADS AND LIQUID VERSIONS

- **Date:** Jan 24, 2024
- **Weather:** 50-60s at night, 70-80s during the day
- **Location:** In between area to a field and swamp bottom (West-Central Florida)
- **Application:** No bait used, only liquid and bead scents. Applied ½ of a 12-oz bottle of beads sprinkled in a 20 yard by 10-yard area. Applied drops of liquid to the leaves of plants around the location. (½ a 4 oz bottle knee high level) and on a fallen tree (thigh high level). I poured ¼ of the beads into a mesh bag and hung it about 5 feet off the ground from a branch. I applied the remaining beads the day we took a hog from the herd. (2/11)
- **Game attracted to scent:** Feral Hogs, Raccoons

### Conclusion:

Wow! I just knew I would love the Peanut Butter beads and liquid! Just had a gut feeling. After some further research and a little more education on the product, it seems the addition of beads was a great pairing to the liquid. The liquid does well alone, don't get me wrong, but these beads were next level. Plus, they last way longer and can be applied less! Win, win. I still want to pair the two, to cover the ground and air, but I think the beads alone would do just as well. I say this because the beads last up to 30 days and the liquid is a week or two. (Give or take, depending on the elements, weather, etc.)

Pear still holds the most daylight appearances during a time of season when they don't normally light, but this Peanut Butter had the overall most appearances. I had hogs showing up in droves almost every single day, multiple times of the day. Even had two sows feel it was safe enough to bring their baby piglets mid-day! In my opinion, that says a lot about the way the scent soothes them.

I was with a fellow Cervicide member. We saw others, be we decided to wait for better



opportunities. I am glad we did because he took a 120 lb. sow.

As far as what keep them hanging around so long rooting around, I really think the beads had the effect that a mineral block does for deer. The beads got wet from dew and light rains, was smushed into the ground daily by the hogs passing through, and they slowly spread the scent around, causing the hogs to constantly want to stick around for hours at a time rooting around in search of the smell. My overall conclusion for the Peanut Butter Beads and Liquid is that paired together, they make the pigs come in nonstop! Beads on the ground, bag of beads hanging from a branch, and some liquid drops on the leaves seemed to do the trick. I love it and it is a solid scent to use for a lot of potential shot opportunities.

Like the other scents I have used, I am recommending it for all types of feral pig hunting, especially the up-close style of hunting with shotguns, bows, and trapping. It seems to put the pigs at ease and makes them comfortable. This is a top 3 go-to scent along with Pear and Blackstrap Molasses.

As I wrap up these trials for now, I have a few takeaways from what I have learned through this experience that I will always keep top of mind. And I recommend you do to increase the odds for success.

1. You can't trick a pig's nose, but you can distract and attract it. Use these beads and liquids to keep those hogs interested in coming back and try to place in areas that the wind can help you, not hurt you.
2. A little bit of moisture seems to activate the beads. I am not sure if it is the air pressure difference or water touching the beads, but after a light rain or a heavy dew, the beads seem to attract hogs faster.
3. Corn is fine but that is honestly all it is. I am not saying I won't use corn because feral hog hunters know, they don't have a ton of fat on them. Corn helps to get that fat for better ribs and a chance at some bacon. Nevertheless, when you start dropping pigs, they can get educated and come out during times when you may not be there. Not to mention, a 50 lb. bag of corn is gone in one night if you have hogs in the area. I would much rather use a liquid or some beads that weigh a few ounces as opposed to daily feed pours.
4. Don't just sprinkle the beads, put some in a mesh bag and hang it. I have been doing this with the citronella and earth scent beads. The citronella for my blinds and the earth scent for my cloth storage and vehicle. I also used it on this most recent trial with the Peanut Butter. It lasts a little more than the 30 days and helps to keep the scent mid-level which is exactly where a pig's nose sits.

These products have 100% secured me as a lifelong customer. I plan to try different scenarios, terrains, and states with this for the upcoming hunting season, but one thing is for certain, it brings the pigs in, has a solid price, and I am yet to see anything else that compares to it. **You have a hog problem, hunt them for food or sport, or guide/outfit, then you need some scents from Odin's to save you not only money, but precious time.**

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