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Building a Feral Hog Snare

Chancey Lewis, Matt Berg, James C. Cathey, Jim Gallagher, Nikki Dictson, and Mark McFarland
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System

Statewide populations of feral hogs appear to be increasing, and it is believed that this is also the case in the Plum Creek Watershed. Often, associated damage to agriculture and water quality accompany a rise in feral hog numbers. Snaring can be a handy, inexpensive part of a feral hog management strategy to minimize these negative impacts. Due to their ease of assembly, many landowners choose to construct their own. When building a feral hog snare, it is very important to remember that the cable used to make snares has a natural lay to it. This natural lay of the cable is called memory. When working with snares, you should never go against the memory of the cable.

To build a hog snare, you will need the following tools and materials (Fig. 1):

- needle-nose pliers
- hammer
- cable cutters
- tape measure
- 10 feet of ⅛" steel cable
- 2 x ⅛" single ferrules
- 1 x ⅛" double ferrule
- 1 x swivel
- 1 x ⅛" snare lock

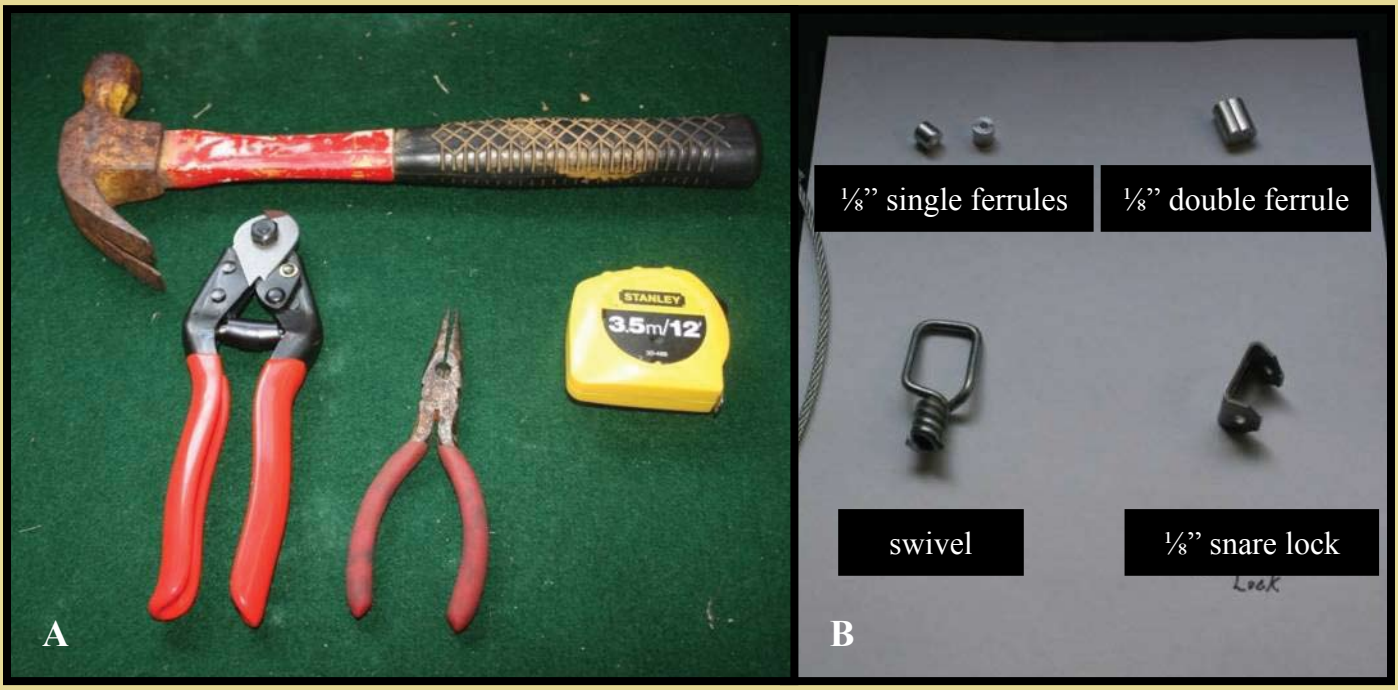

Figure 1. Tools (A) and materials (B) for creating a feral hog snare.

To begin, take the cable and run it through the snare lock (Fig. 2). For this example, a ⅛" snare lock is used. There are many different lock designs, and some individuals choose to make their own.

Figure 2. Begin by running the cable through the snare lock.

Next, take a single ferrule and crimp it to the end of the cable (Fig. 3). This can be accomplished by using a hammer and sturdy surface or with the aid of fencing crimpers.

Figure 3. Single ferrule crimped to end of snare cable.

Using needle-nose pliers, make a reverse bend in the cable just beneath the ferrule (Fig. 4). This will be the only time that the cable is bent against the memory. The reverse bend helps to secure the lock.

Figure 4. Reverse bend above single ferrule to secure snare lock.

Now it is time to load the snare. This serves two purposes: 1) it gives the snare a more circular shape, which is important to capture animals with large pointy ears like hogs, and 2) it causes the snare to close much more easily and freely. Simply find a durable round object such as a pipe or handle on a vice. For this snare, the trailer ball on a receiver hitch was used. When loading the snare, it is critical that the natural memory of the cable is followed. Only 8-10" beyond the ferrule stop needs to be loaded. Move the snare back and forth applying firm pressure near the stop while gradually lessening pressure down the cable near the 10" mark (Fig. 5).

Figure 5. Load the snare by applying pressure as the cable is moved back and forth.

As seen below, an unloaded snare has a teardrop appearance, while a loaded snare has a much more round and circular shape (Fig. 6).

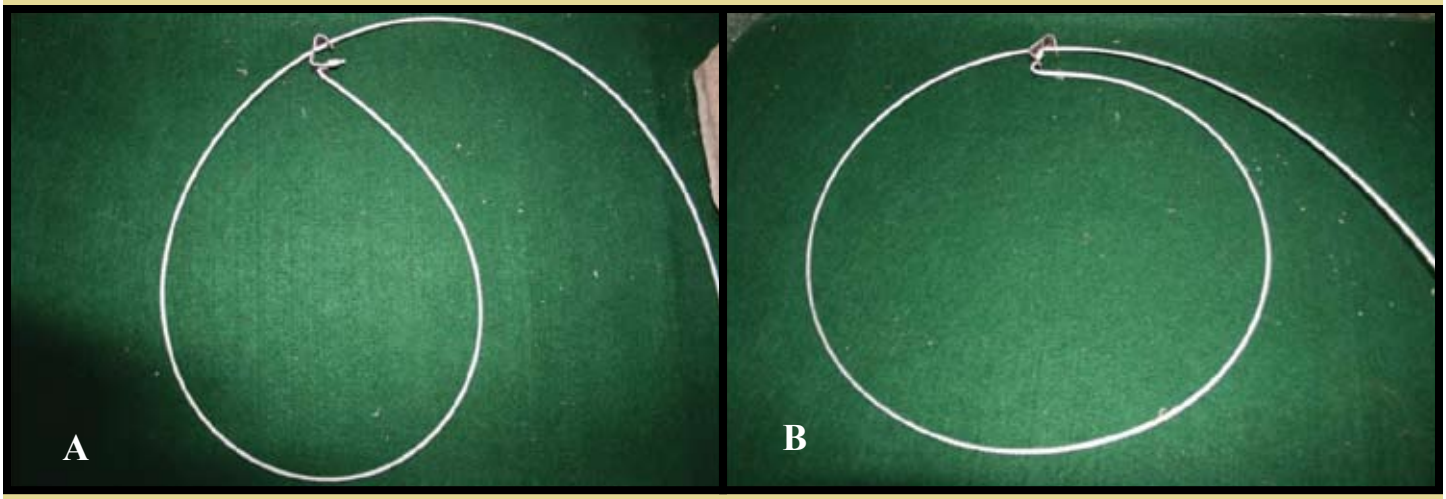

Figure 6. A constructed snare before (A) and after (B) loading the cable.

Next, construct the end so that the snare can be attached to a tree, post, or drag. For this example, an adjustable end was made. An adjustable end can be adjusted to loop the end around various size objects; however, it will not swivel. To make an adjustable end snare, start by sliding a double ferrule over the end of the cable (Fig. 7A). Then run the cable back through the double ferrule (Fig. 7B).

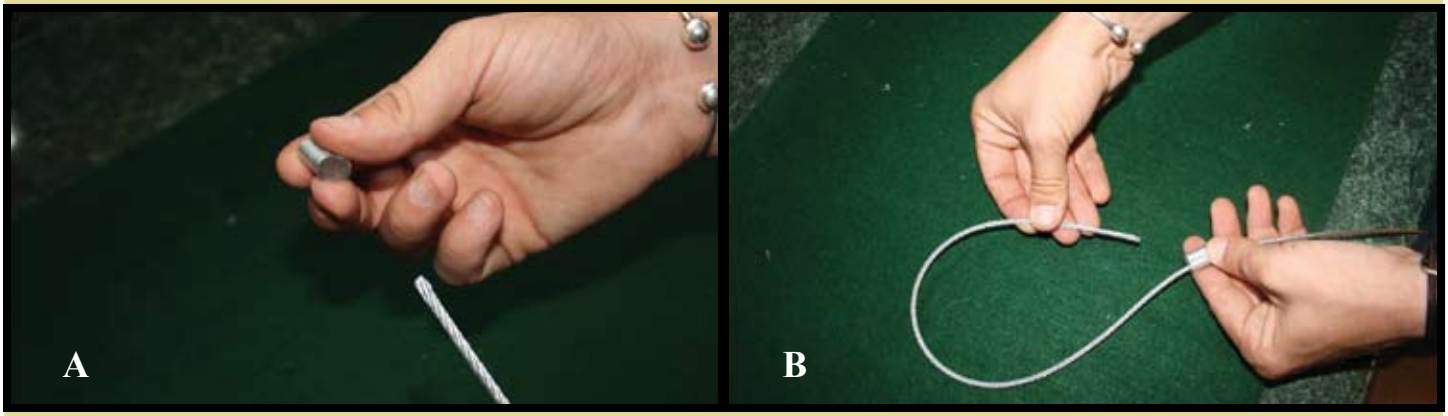

Figure 7. Create an adjustable end by sliding a double ferrule over the cable (A) then feeding the cable back through the double ferrule.

Use a hammer or crimpers to attach a single ferrule to the end, creating the desired configuration (Fig. 8). A swivel end may be attached with two single ferrules for strength. An adjustable end is advantageous when setting snares on rubs or trees. The end can be opened, and the snare loop can be wrapped around the rub or tree and then back through the snare end, attaching the snare to the rub or tree.

Figure 8. Attach a ferrule to the end of the cable (A). The snare can be designed with a swivel end (B, left) or an adjustable end (B, right).

Utilized as a complement to other approaches or in areas where larger traps are not practical, handmade snares can be a helpful tool in feral hog management. With simple tools and minimal hardware, snares can be created quickly at low cost, increasing their appeal in situations involving the capture of a single animal.

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