

FERAL SWINE

Sus scrofa



Identification/Origin

While feral swine may look similar to domestic pigs, they are much more destructive. Over time, some domestic pigs have either escaped or were released intentionally, creating free-ranging feral swine populations. Wild boars were introduced to the landscape to create hunting opportunities, where some boars escaped confinement allowing them to interbreed with other wild or domestic pigs. As prolific breeders, feral swine can produce on average four to eight offspring per litter. Feral swine are highly adaptable but prefer habitats with an abundant supply of water and dense cover.

They are aggressive and pose serious ecological, economic, and health threats.

Montana Status

Feral swine are not currently established in Montana. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) has been working in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), and the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA -APHIS) to respond to reports of potential feral swine in Montana. To date, all reported potential feral swine were confirmed as domestic pigs.

Pathways



Spread by
Wildlife



Non-native
animal or plant
release



Livestock or
contaminated
feed





Reporting

Montana state law requires mandatory reporting of feral swine sightings to the Montana Department of Livestock. The DOL's Squeal on Pigs hotline is (406) 444-2976.

Impacts

Feral swine are destructive animals that can cause significant damage to fields, fences, and facilities, causing water muddying, crop loss, and transmitting diseases and parasites to domestic pigs, wildlife, and humans. Furthermore, feral pigs are predatory and have been known to kill pets and livestock and injure humans. The destructive behavior of feral hogs causes up to 2.5 billion in damages annually in the United States.

More Information

More information about Feral Swine can be found on the Montana State University Extension website or squealonpigs.com.

