



Feral Swine Prevention

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM

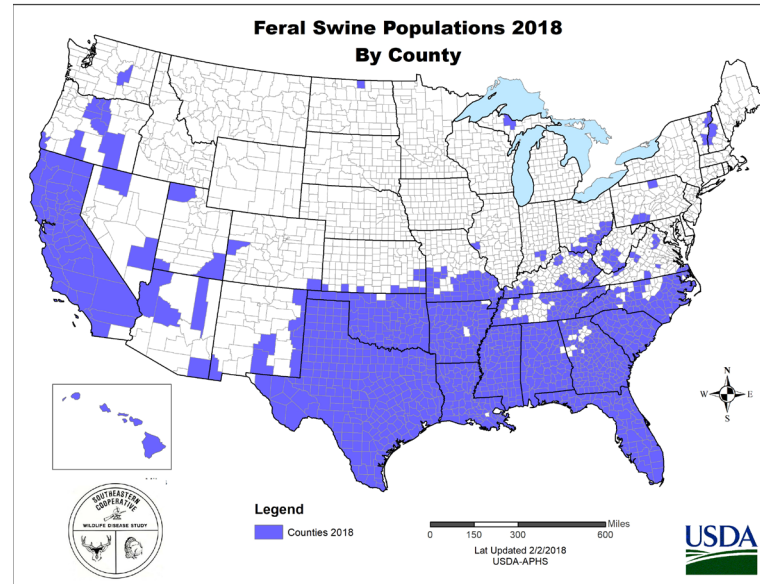
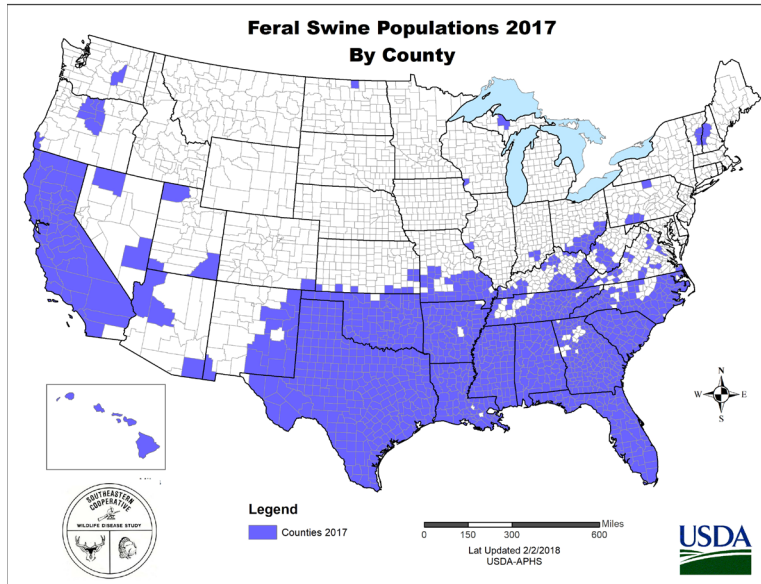
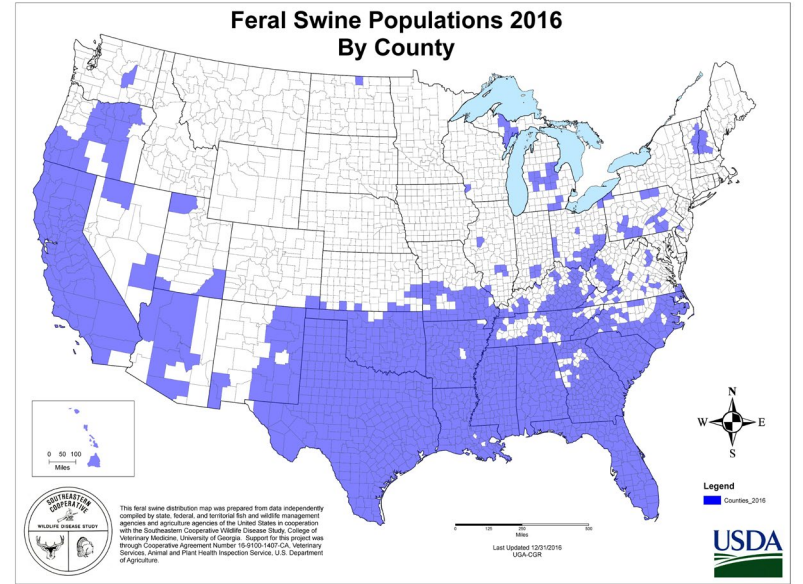
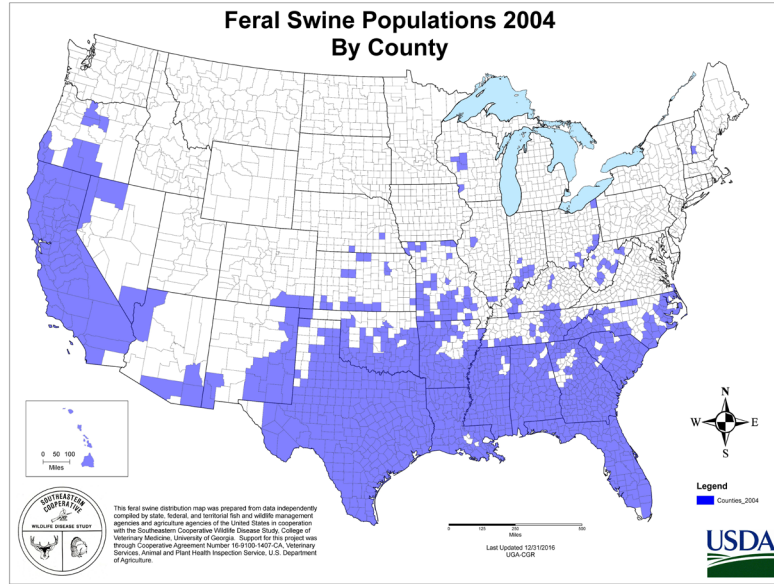
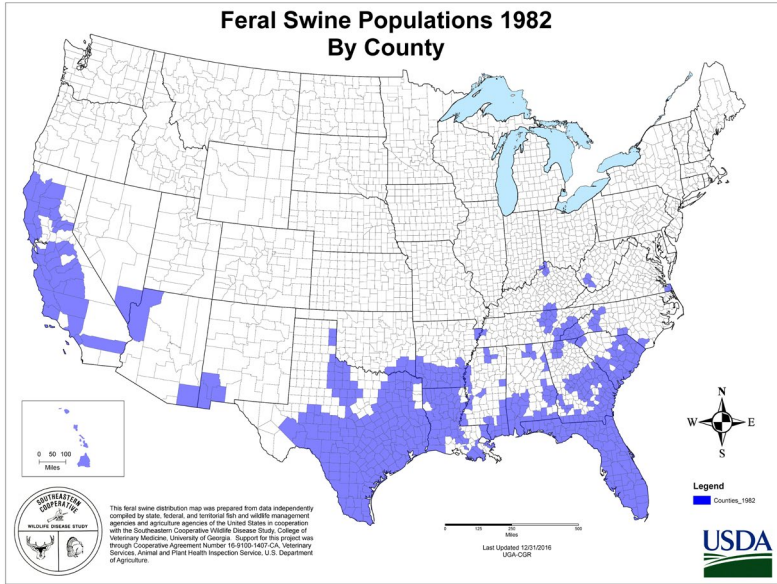
Montana Department of Livestock

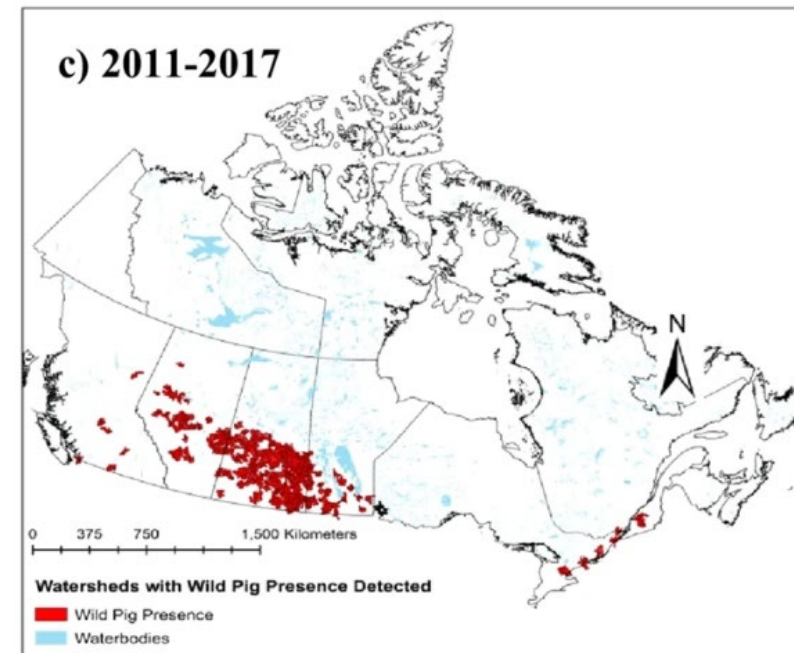
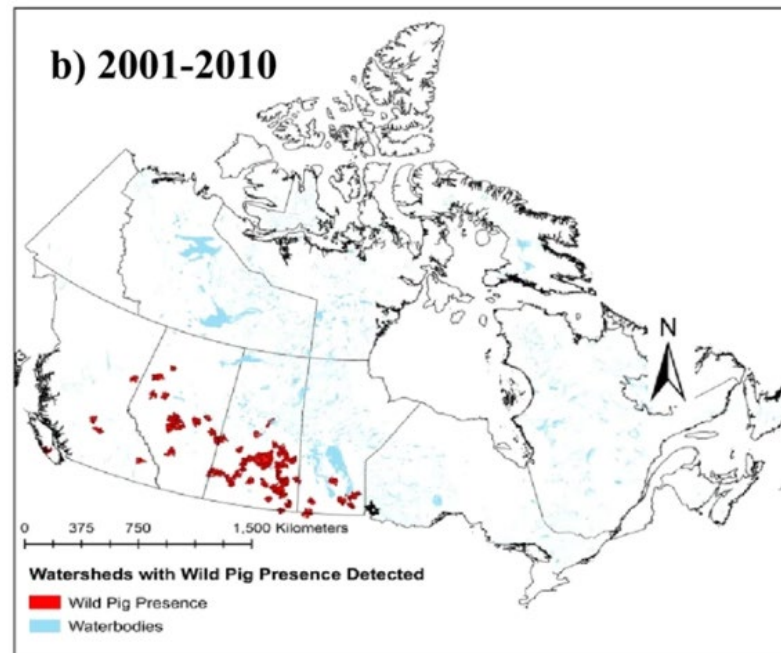
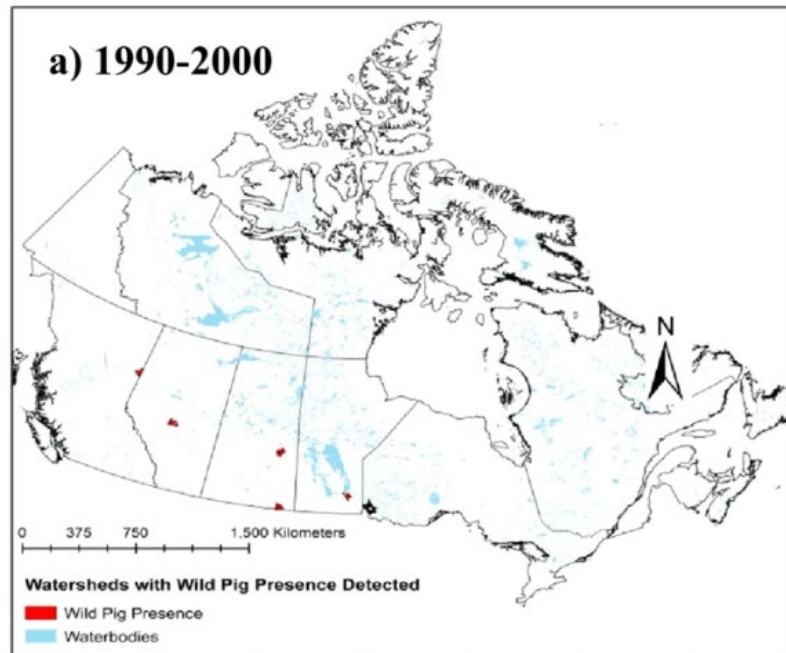
Key Features:

- Our Concerns
- History of Feral Swine Issues
- Montana Code (MCA)
- Partnership with FWP, WS, and MISC



Source: MDOL Staff





Concern

Invasive species:

- Property damage
- Erosion to river/Habitat damage
- Predatory
- Consumption and destruction of field crops
- Damage to natural resources
- Able to carry or transmit 30 diseases and 37 parasites transmissible to livestock, people, pets, and wildlife



Diseases Carried by Feral Swine

- Swine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*)★ 9.8%
 - Pseudorabies
 - PRRSV
 - Swine influenza virus 14.1%
 - Porcine circovirus-associated diseases
 - African swine fever
 - Foot and mouth disease
 - Classical swine fever
 - Tuberculosis★
 - Trichinellosis★ 3.5%
 - Leptospirosis 48.9%
 - Hepatitis E★
 - Q Fever★
 - Tularemia★
 - Toxoplasmosis★ 9%
- ★ *Zoonotic*



Montana Code Annotated

MCA 81-29-101-106



Definition



- “Feral swine” – a hog, boar, or pig that appears to be untamed, undomesticated, or in a wild state or appears to be contained for commercial hunting or trapping.

Notifying the Dept. of Livestock

- A person who knows or has reason to believe feral swine are present on private or public property must notify the DOL.
- A person who encounters feral swine on property owned or leased by that person may immediately eradicate the feral swine if the feral swine:
 - Pose an immediate threat of harm to a person or property; or
 - Will expand its range without immediate eradication.
- A person who eradicates feral swine on property owned or leased by that person shall notify DOL as soon as practicable.
 - Feral swine must be reported to the DOL by phone within 24 hours.

Prohibitions



Source: MDOL Staff

The following actions are prohibited:

- Importing, transporting, or possessing live feral swine
- Intentionally, knowingly, or negligently allowing swine to live in a feral state
- Hunting, trapping, or killing feral swine or assisting in hunting, trapping, or killing feral swine
- Intentionally feeding a feral swine
- Expanding the range of feral swine
- Profiting from the release, hunting, trapping, or killing of feral swine

Why Isn't Hunting Allowed in Montana?

- Due to their reproductive efficiency, and movement behavior, swine cannot be effectively controlled by simple hunting practices.
- Hunting pressure that fails to eliminate all animals in a group (sounder) can result in further dispersion of animals.
- Feral swine that have been hunted learn behaviors to avoid hunting pressure making them harder to eradicate.



Source: Missouri Department of Conservation

FERAL SWINE RESPONSE

- 1 Dept of Livestock is the authority for feral swine per MCA 81-29-101.
- 2 Only those entities authorized by Livestock may take feral swine on public lands.
- 3 Private land landowners or private land lessees may take feral swine on private lands they own or lease.
- ...
- 7 Livestock personnel will deploy to reports of feral swine to ensure that swine are not owned animals.

Response to reports of feral swine will vary depending on the type of initial report (feral swine hauled into Montana for release/hunting, escaped domestic swine, or ingress of feral swine from an adjacent state/province).

FERAL SWINE REPORTING

SQUEAL ON PIGS!

FERAL PIGS IMPACT:

- WATER**
Digging causes erosion.
- FISH**
Trampling damages our waterways where fish and salamanders live.
- BIRDS**
Ground nesting bird habitats are destroyed.
- CROPS**
Rooting damages farmland.
- LIVESTOCK**
Carry diseases that can spread to cattle and domestic pigs.
- ENVIRONMENT**
Habitats are diminished in their quality and quantity.

IF YOU THINK YOU SEE A FERAL PIG CALL:
406-444-2976

PROTECT MONTANA FROM FERAL PIGS

MISC Montana Invasive Species Council

FERAL SWINE FACT SHEET

What are they?

While feral pigs may look like domestic pigs, they are much more destructive. Over time, some have escaped or were released intentionally, creating free-ranging feral swine populations. Prolific breeders, they can produce four to eight babies 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.

Species like the Russian or European boar were brought to the United States as domestic pigs from Europe and Asia and are considered the traditional species of feral pigs. Both species, as well as hybrids thereof are prohibited species under Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM).

Domestic swine species can also revert to a feral state in just a few generations. Because of this, Montana's laws pertaining defining feral swine do not include a phenotypic or genotypic definition. Instead feral swine in Montana includes any hog, boar, or pig that appears to be untamed, undomesticated, or in a wild state or appears to be contained for commercial hunting or trapping.

Who is responsible for the management of feral swine in Montana?

The 2015 Legislature gave authority over the control of feral swine to the Department of Livestock. Since that time, DOL has worked closely with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, the United State's Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, and the Montana Invasive Species Council on preventing their introduction into Montana.

Why are feral swine prohibited in Montana?

Because of the invasive and destructive nature of feral swine and the potential for feral swine to carry and spread disease to domestic pigs, other livestock, wildlife, and people, DOL worked with FWP, USDA-WIS, and industry to pass laws prohibiting their presence in Montana. The laws were written recognizing the hunting constituency that rapidly builds after feral swine are established and the difficulty in eradicating populations once established.

Why did the Montana Legislature outlaw recreational hunting of feral swine in Montana?

The 2015 Legislature passed a bill banning hunting of feral swine based on the following facts:

- A group of feral swine is called a sounder. If a sounder is detected and not all of the swine are killed, the ones that escape become very smart and hide. Feral swine are also prolific breeders, so by not killing the entire sounder it can grow exponentially, which has been documented in states and provinces that allow recreational hunting.
- Experts in other states and Canadian provinces attribute the severity of their feral swine issues on recreational hunting.
- Feral swine carry at least 30 diseases and nearly 40 parasites that may be transmitted to humans.

PROTECT MONTANA FROM FERAL PIGS
406-444-2976

MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES

COORDINATION • MANAGEMENT WHAT CAN I DO? NEWS • EVENTS MISC UC3 CONTACT US

SQUEAL ON PIGS!
Protect Montana from feral swine.

Squeal on Pigs! Call 406-444-2976
Protect Montana from feral swine.

Next Meeting
July 25, 2019
DNRC Headquarters,
Helena

Useful Links

- About Us >
- Meeting Schedule >
- Reports + Publications >
- Contact Us >

Mailing List

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

Why?

Feral swine are highly destructive and potentially dangerous animals. Biologists describe feral swine as any swine not confined in fences. Their spread is blamed for an estimated \$1.5 billion worth of damage to crops, wildlife, and the environment. These swine can carry over 30 diseases and parasites that pose a threat to livestock and humans, including swine brucellosis and pseudotuberculosis.

Lloyd Loope, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

Feral swine tend to forage in areas around rivers and streams, and their trampling and destructive rooting behavior - often compared to rototilling - causes erosion, spread of noxious weeds, loss of crops, and harm to fish habitat. To prevent the introduction of feral swine into Montana, the 2015 Legislature prohibited the transportation, possession, and hunting of feral swine.

There are no known established populations in Montana, although there are populations as close as North Dakota and Saskatchewan. Early detection and rapid response are the keys to success. Eradicating small populations and minimizing the impacts of these invasive species are important to protect the economy and natural resources of the region. If you see a feral swine, report it immediately.

Resources

- U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library
- USDA APHIS national feral swine damage and management program
- Feral Swine Resources and Outreach Materials
- Montana Field Guide



Pigs, Russian Boar Piglets - \$250

image 1 of 7



REPORTS OF FERAL SWINE





REPORTS OF FERAL SWINE

- 9 in past 12 months
- Pondera, Jefferson, Garfield, Wheatland, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, and Flathead Counties

CARCASS REPORTED JULY 30, 2022

- National Forest Rd 228 on West Side of Lake Kooconusa
- Hair and tusk similar to feral swine breeds
- Closest known ownership of pigs is approx. 12 miles
- Canvassing of individuals in owner revealed no known owner
- USDA WS is conducting genetic testing of carcass

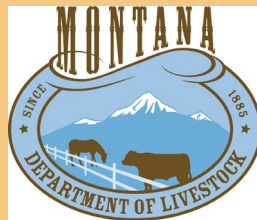


NEXT STEPS

- MOU Creation with statewide partners, each national park, wildlife refuge, and tribe.
- Feral Swine Response Plan
- Glacier (National) Park Considerations
- Create Annual Report, number of reports per year, response planning, and other activities.
- Adopt Colorado's Database Submittal Sheet to collect uniform information on reports.
- MSU Extension take lead on feral swine training/education component (with input from Tahnee and Dalin).
- Conduct another round of public meetings educating the public on feral swine with consistent messaging.

QUESTIONS!

Tahnee Szymanski, DVM
(406) 444-5214
tszymanski@mt.gov



Source: www.beefcentral.com