

# Feral Swine (*Sus scrofa*) in the Upper Midwest

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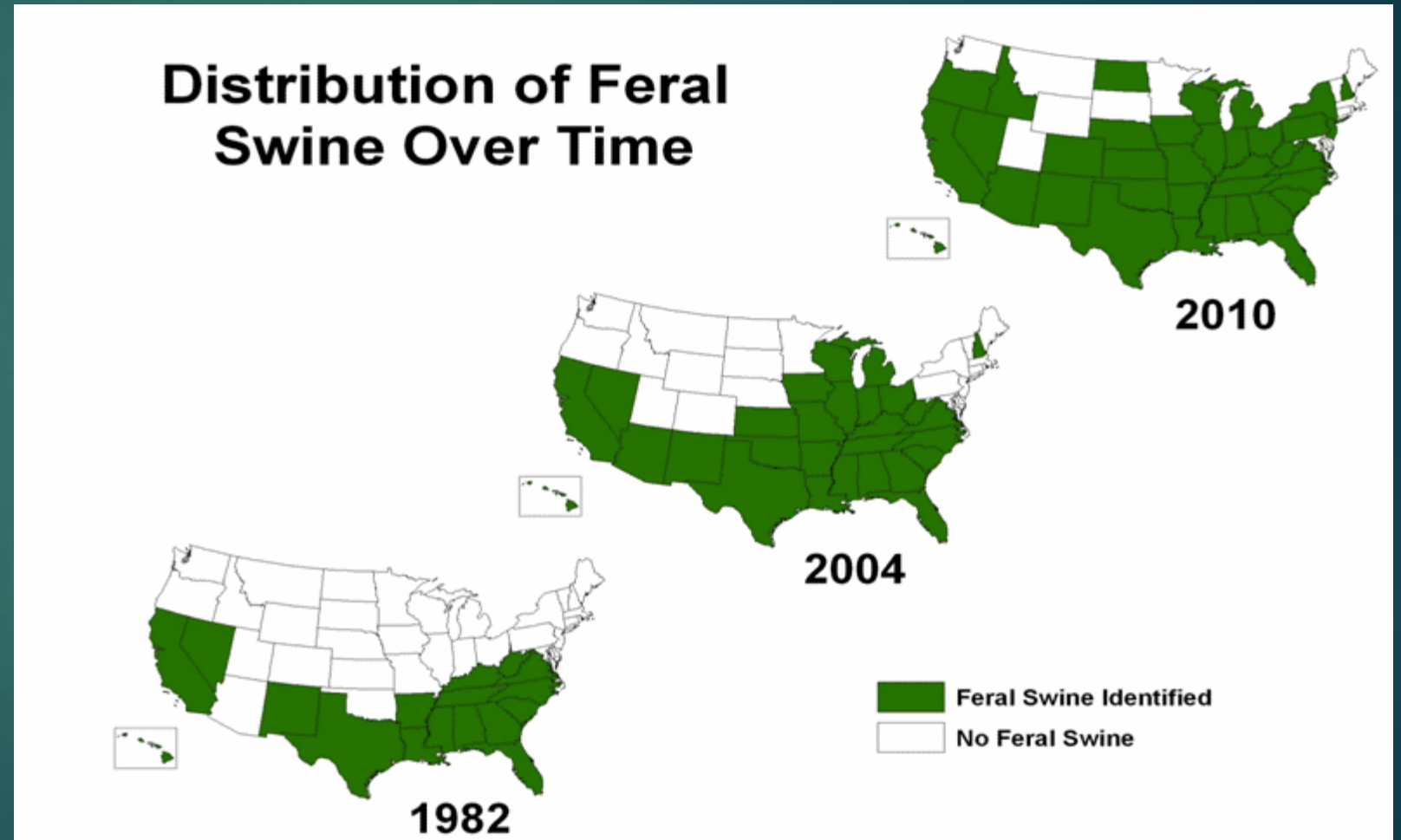
Feral Swine/Disease Technician



Manage the Damage  
Stop Feral Swine

# Feral Swine: An invasive species on the rise.

- ▶ Feral swine have been reported in at least 35 states
- ▶ Population is currently estimated at over 6 million
- ▶ Recent range expansion is due to a variety of factors



# History

- ▶ Not native to the Americas
- ▶ First brought to the US in the early 1500s by explorers and settlers as a food source
- ▶ Free ranging livestock management practices
- ▶ Intentional introduction of Eurasian/Russian wild boar for sport hunting (1900s)
- ▶ Feral swine today are a combination of escaped domestic pigs, Eurasian/Russian wild boars, and hybrids of the two

“Since their introduction to North America, wild pigs have become one of the more serious wildlife problems in the United States”

-Conover 2002

# National Feral Swine Damage Management Program

\$20 Million appropriated by congress to the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for the creation of a collaborative, national feral swine damage management program.





# Damage to Agriculture



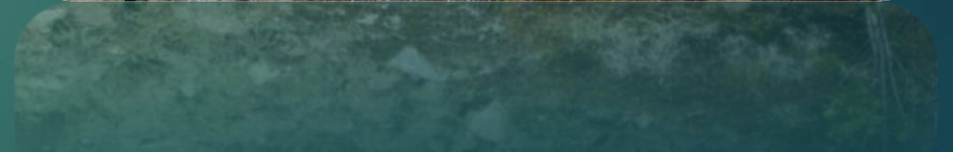
- In 2014 damage to agriculture in the United States by feral swine was estimated at \$1.5 Billion





# Threats to Natural Resources

- ▶ Wildlife
- ▶ Soil and water quality
- ▶ Spread of invasive species
- ▶ Forest regeneration







Grain crops



Native landscapes



Pastures



Wetlands



# Disease Risks



Feral swine are known to carry at least 30 viral and bacterial diseases and nearly 40 parasites that can be transmitted to humans, pets, and livestock

- ▶ swine brucellosis
- ▶ pseudorabies
- ▶ leptospirosis
- ▶ Toxoplasmosis
- ▶ tularemia
- ▶ and more



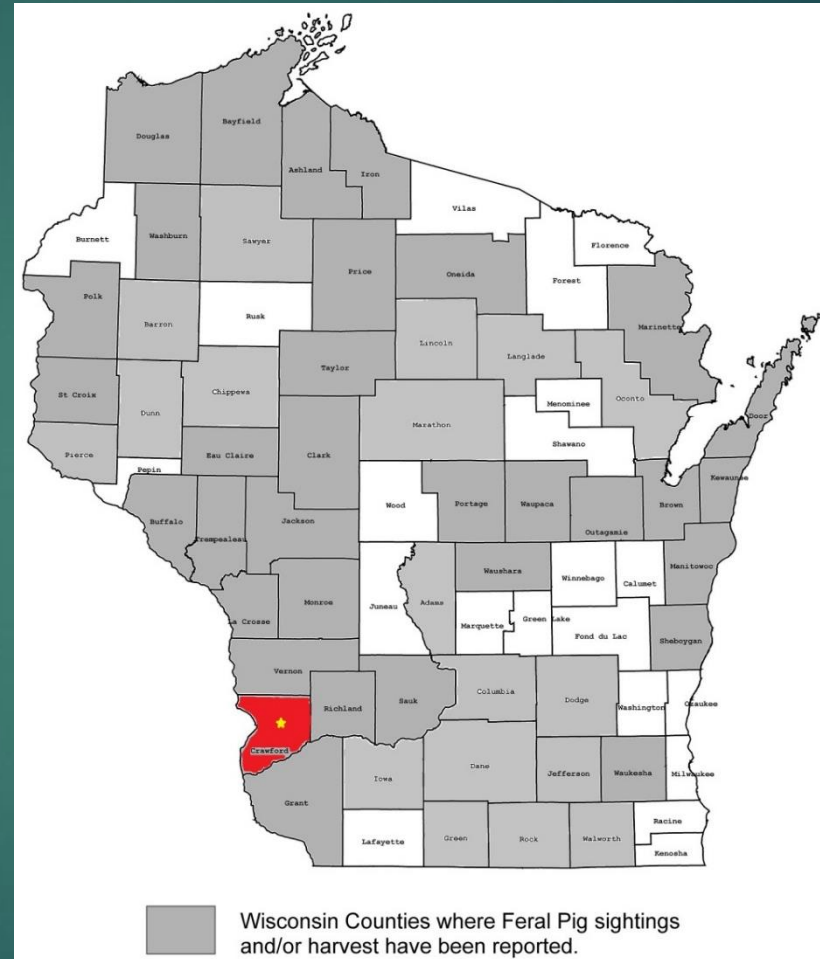
# Feral swine in the Upper Midwest

- ▶ Illinois: Level 1; 2 removed in FY2016
- ▶ Indiana: Level 2; ~120 removed in FY2016
- ▶ Iowa: Level 1; 1 removed in FY2016
- ▶ Michigan: Level 2; ~10 removed in FY2016
- ▶ Minnesota: Level 1; 3 removed in FY2016
- ▶ Ohio: Level 2; 205 removed in FY2016

# Feral swine in Wisconsin

Crawford County: in the early 2000s it is suspected that a local game farm operator intentionally released around 30 pigs that were live captured and transported from Texas

Rest of state: numerous reports of possible feral swine, most reports are found to be escaped/released domestics







Crawford County hunter with feral swine shot during the deer season.

# Management Strategies

- ▶ Preventative measures:
  - ▶ State statute and administrative code changes
    - ▶ Penned/canned hunts (s. 951.09)
    - ▶ Harmful wild animal classification (NR 16, 2008)
    - ▶ Prohibited invasive species classification (NR 40, 2009)
  - ▶ Public outreach and education
    - ▶ Informational booth at the Crawford County Fair
    - ▶ Outreach materials
    - ▶ Landowner contacts
    - ▶ DNR web based reporting system





# Techniques

- ▶ Baiting
- ▶ Corral traps
- ▶ Night shooting
- ▶ Aerial gunning
- ▶ Judas pig







# Interagency cooperation

- ▶ Wisconsin Feral Pig Task Force
  - ▶ DATCP (Chair)
  - ▶ Wisconsin DNR
  - ▶ Wisconsin Pork Producers Association
  - ▶ Wisconsin Conservation Congress
  - ▶ USDA APHIS Wildlife Services



## Feral pig hunting

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has adopted the position that feral pigs are exotic, non-native wild animals that pose significant threats to both the environment and to agricultural operations. The Department promotes aggressive removal anywhere feral pigs are reported.

- Feral pigs are considered unprotected wild animals with no closed season or harvest limit.
- Feral pigs are prohibited invasive species under Wisconsin's [Invasive Species Law, ch. N 16](#), and are classified a Harmful Wild Animal under the Captive Wildlife Rules, ch. NR 16.
- Feral pigs may be removed any time throughout the year as long as you possess a valid [game license](#) and the permission of the landowner where you hunt. Note: it is the hunter's responsibility to determine if a pig is feral and not a domestic pig that has escaped from its owner and is running loose.
- Landowners may shoot feral pigs on their own property without a hunting license, under DNR's [animal nuisance control](#) authority.

It is illegal to operate a captive feral pig hunting facility in the state of Wisconsin. It is also illegal to stock feral pigs for hunting purposes, to release hogs into the wild or to possess live feral hogs without a permit. Should such illegal practices be discovered in your area, [alert your local conservation warden](#) immediately.

Report feral pig sightings and harvest to the department with a [printable PDF](#) or [online reporting form](#).

Ecology Behavior Origins and expansion Management concerns and implications

### Ecology

Feral pigs are mid-sized hooved mammals with a long, pointed head and stocky build. Males and females look much alike. Wild hogs exhibit great variation in color and size. The average wild boar weighs about 110 pounds (ranging from 80 to 330 pounds) and the average wild boar weighs about 130 pounds (ranging from 100 to 440 pounds). Unusually large, trophy-sized feral pigs have been taken that reach three feet tall, six feet long and over 500 pounds. Their hair is coarse with long bristles (coarser, denser and longer than that of a domestic pig). Colors and patterns range from solid black, gray, brown, blonde, white, or red to spotted and belted combinations of these same colors. Most generally, however, the animals are black. An adult

Feral Pig Reporting Form Survey - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/feralpig

Wisconsin DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Feral Pig Reporting Form

Form 2300-315 (R 01/08)

**Notice:** The Department cannot process your observation unless you provide complete information. Personally identifiable information may also be provided to requesters as required under Wisconsin's Open Records Law [ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stat.]

For any inquiries regarding this form, please contact:  
[Brad Koele](#)  
Bureau of Wildlife Management  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
(608) 266-2151

\* Please provide your contact information:

Name:   
Address:   
City/Town:   
State: -- select state --  
ZIP:   
Email Address:   
Phone Number:

\* This is a report of...



# Research

## 2012 Annual State Summary Report

Wild Hog Working Group



FOUNDATION FOR A NEW GENERATION

## MANAGING WILD PIGS

A TECHNICAL GUIDE

Ben  
Anc  
Jarr



HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS MONOGRAPH  
NUMBER 1

ERDC/CERL TR-13-21

Construction Engineering  
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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
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**ERDC**  
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS  
for a safer, better world

## Simulation of Wild Pig Control via Hunting and Contraceptives

Jennifer L. Burton, James D. Westervelt,  
and Stephen Ditehkoff

October 2013



Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

# APHIS Objectives

- ▶ Stabilize and eventually reduce the range and size of feral swine populations in the US
- ▶ Further develop cooperative partnerships with other pertinent federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies, and private organizations working to reduce impacts of feral swine
- ▶ Expand feral swine management programs nationwide to protect agriculture, natural resources, property, animal health, and human health
- ▶ Monitor feral swine pathogens that affect domestic swine, other livestock, and human health
- ▶ Develop and improve tools and methods to manage feral swine populations
- ▶ Develop predictive models for population expansion and economic impacts of feral swine, along with risk analyses to agriculture, animal health, and human health
- ▶ Develop outreach materials and activities to educate the public about feral swine damage and related activities to prevent or reduce damage
- ▶ Coordinate with Canada and Mexico to establish a collaborative plan to address the feral swine threat along common borders, including monitoring, research and operational responses as appropriate



# Questions?

