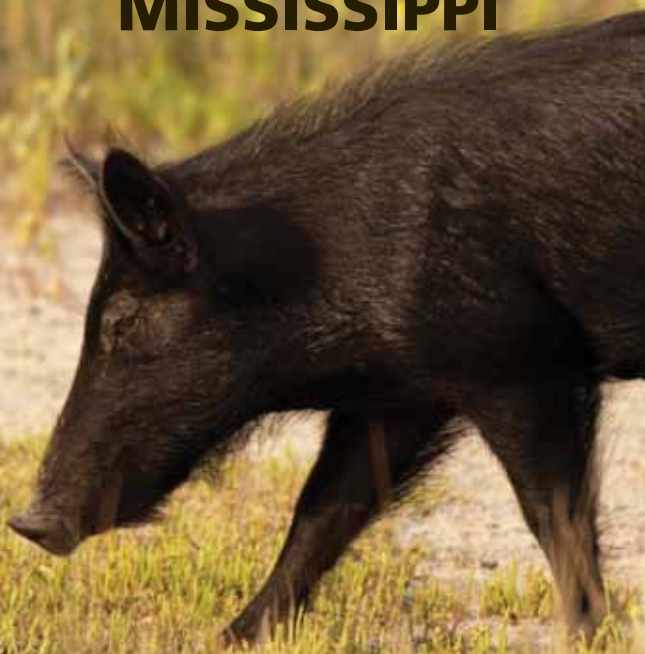


WILD HOGS IN MISSISSIPPI



**Emerging Issues and
Potential Problems**

Wild hogs are **not native to North America** and are not classified as “wildlife.”

In the late 1980s, established populations of wild hogs in the U.S. existed in 17 states. Today, established populations of wild hogs exist in **at least 37 states** with an additional 8 states reporting a presence of wild hogs.

Because of their destructive nature, many states such as Mississippi have classified wild hogs as a **nuisance species**.

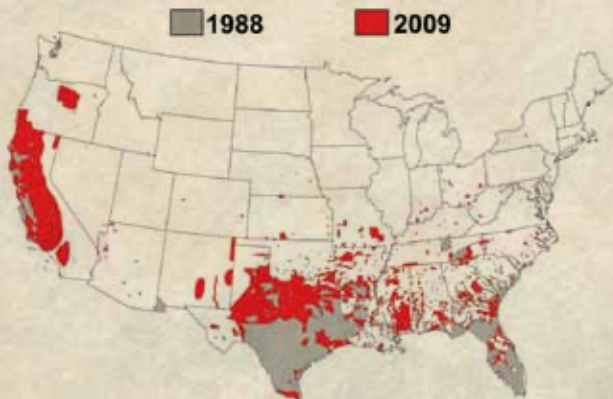


Although wild hogs provide recreational benefits to some groups of hunters and landowners, the scope and severity of problems caused by hogs far outweigh their benefits in many areas.



POPULATION EXPLOSION

U.S. Wild Hog Populations 1988-2009



Mississippi Wild Hog Populations 1988-2009

1988
4% of MS
Land Area

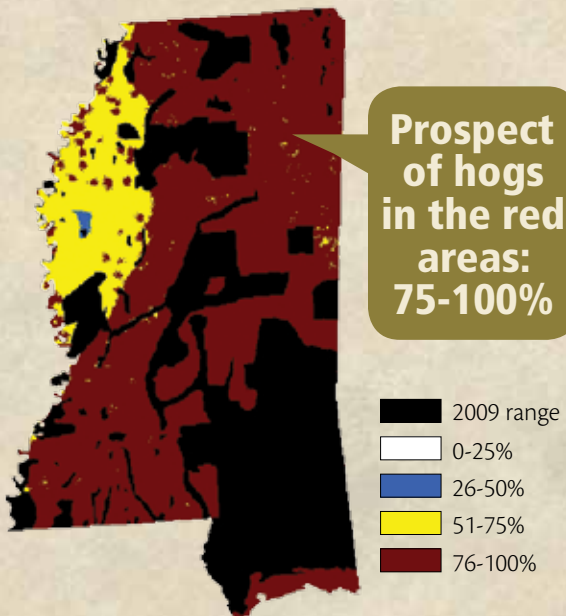


2009
38% of MS
Land Area



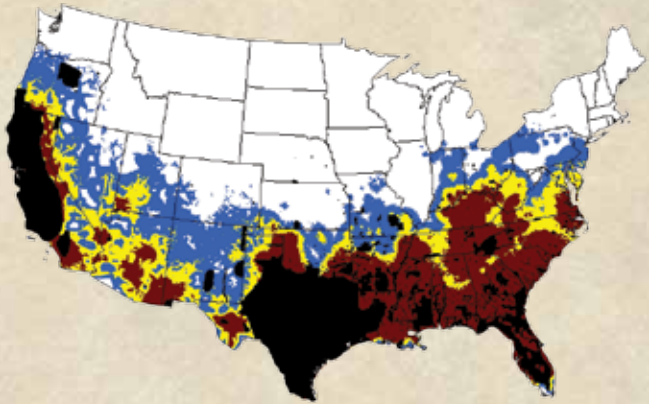
POPULATION EXPLOSION

Likelihood of Feral Hog Invasion in Mississippi by 2023



Map developed by Eric Wengert with data from Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, U.S. Census and USGS.

Likelihood of Feral Hog Invasion in U.S. by 2023



2009 range

0-25%

26-50%

51-75%

76-100%


POPULATION EXPLOSION

Reproduction

Sexually mature at 1 year of age. Hogs breed year-round with 81% of sows breeding each year.

Can produce 2 litters per year, but most produce only 1 litter per year.

Litter size of 8 to 10 piglets, 4 to 6 survive.

A photograph showing a wild boar sow and her piglets. The sow is on the left, and two piglets are in the foreground. The background is a natural, outdoor setting with trees and ground cover.

**Population
can double
each year**

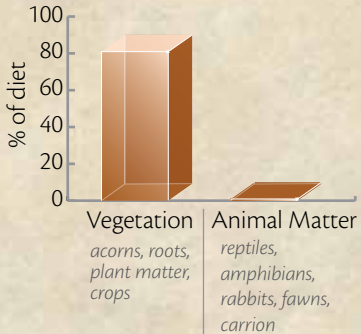
Population Growth



In 10 years, just a few hogs can multiply to over 600.

CONSUMING RESOURCES

Wild hogs eat many of the same things that our native wildlife eat (acorns, muscadines, persimmons, fungi, forbs, and grasses).



Adult wild hogs eat 3% to 5% of their body weight daily.



=



600 pounds of food daily
110 tons of food annually

There is about a 50% diet overlap with white-tailed deer in the fall, meaning that wild hogs and deer compete for the same food sources.

Season	2-year Average Diet Overlap
Fall	46%
Winter	28%
Spring	26%
Summer	25%



Data by G. Yarrow, 1997

CONTROLLING GROWTH

Mortality

Hogs can live up to 10 years.

Hogs have few natural predators.

Humans are the only effective predator.



Population Control



50%

annual removal
of wild hogs to
stop population
increase.

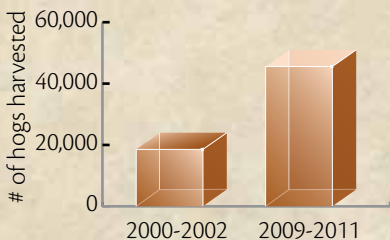
70%

annual removal
of wild hogs
to eventually
exterminate.

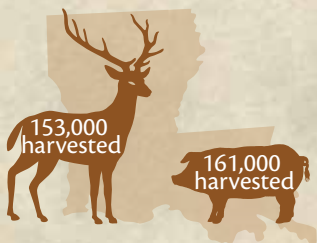
CONTROLLING GROWTH

Hog Harvest in Mississippi

Mississippi deer hunters are harvesting more wild hogs.



In Louisiana, the wild hog harvest is now greater than the deer harvest!



The hog harvests do not include those killed during control programs.

Wild hogs harvested by deer hunters in MS



DAMAGING LANDSCAPES

An estimated **\$1.5 billion per year** in control costs and private/public property damage includes:



Row crop destruction



Livestock mortality: newborn calves, young sheep and goats



Forest regeneration: timber production and ecological function



Water Quality: fecal coliform levels and increased turbidity



Infrastructure damage: levee systems and rights-of-way



Mississippi Levee Board
Damage estimate by Pimentel 2007.



Delta Wildlife

Economic Case Study

A 2012 economic assessment of wild hog damage among 41 counties in southwest Georgia estimated damage costs at **\$81 Million**.

- \$57 Million Agriculture
- \$24 Million Non-Ag



SPREADING DISEASE

Wild hogs are known carriers of at least **45 different parasites** (external and internal) **and diseases** (bacterial and viral) that pose a threat to livestock, pets, wildlife, and in some cases, human health.



Implications for Livestock and Wildlife

Disease transmission from wild hogs to other animals is probably of greatest concern to the livestock industry.

Infectious diseases that are significant to livestock and other animals include:

- Pseudorabies Virus
- Swine Brucellosis
- Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)
- Leptospirosis

Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs)

- African Swine Fever
- Classical Swine Fever
- Foot and Mouth Disease

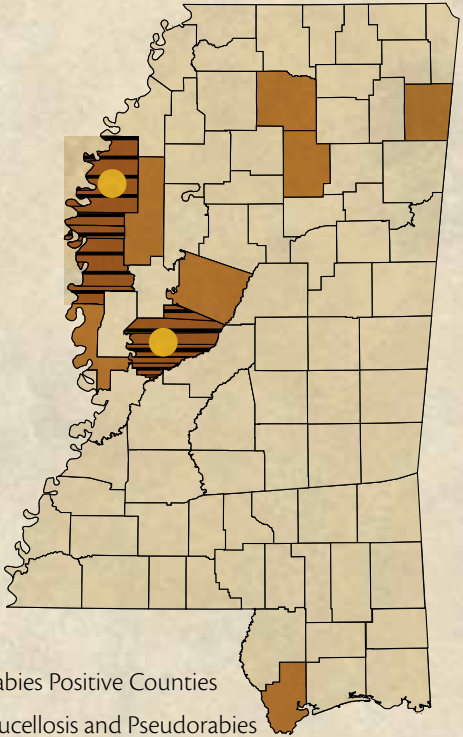


SPREADING DISEASE

Implications for Public Health

Diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases transmissible by wild hogs include:

- Leptospirosis
- Swine Brucellosis
- E. coli
- Salmonellosis
- Toxoplasmosis
- Rabies
- Trichinosis
- Giardia
- Cryptosporidiosis



- Pseudorabies Positive Counties
- Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies Positive Counties
- Actively Infected Brucellosis Positive Hogs

TAKE ACTION

Help Solve the Problem

- ✓ educate others about the negative impacts of wild hogs and the threats they pose
- ✓ promote cooperatives among adjoining landowners to reduce hog populations on larger blocks of land
- ✓ increase state and national efforts to collect and report more accurate quantitative data on acreage and economic impacts of hog damage
- ✓ petition to strengthen current laws, restrictions, and penalties regarding translocation of wild hogs and hold owners of fenced hunting preserves liable for escaped hogs

Additional Resources

www.wildpiginfo.com

www.humanwildlifeconflicts.msstate.edu

www.mdwfp.com/wildlife-hunting/nuisance-wildlife

www.extension.org/feral_hogs

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/swine/index.htm

www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/pdf/brucellosis_and_hoghunters.pdf

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

*Center for Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts
Extension Service*

Forest and Wildlife Research Center

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Natural Resource Enterprises

The Wildlife Society, Mississippi Chapter

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