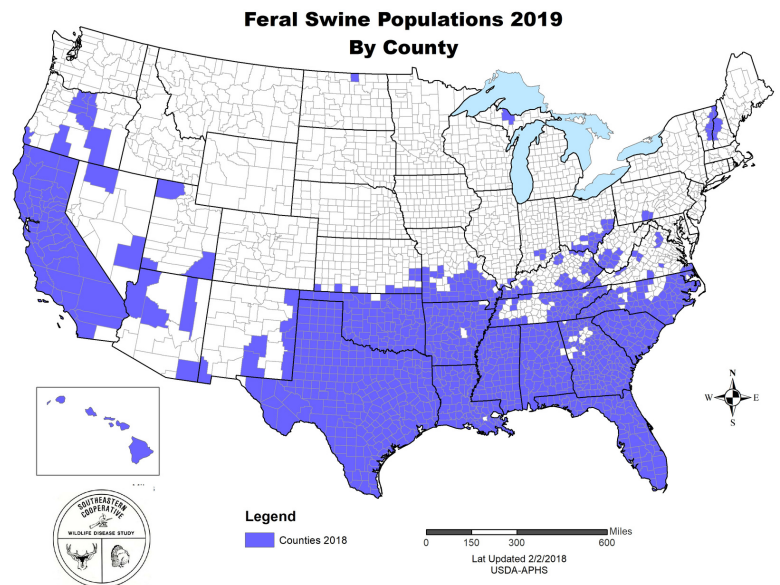




FERAL SWINE IN GEORGIA

OVERVIEW

Feral swine are an invasive species that have spread across the U.S. in part as a result of free ranging farming practices, interbreeding of feral and domesticated swine, and illegal transportation. Feral swine have an estimated population of over six million with rapid expansion in population and geographic range due to their high reproductive potential, habitat generalization, wide range in diet, and low mortality rates.



Economic Damage

- Loss of crops due to foraging by feral swine in fields
- Risk of disease for humans and livestock
- Damage to farm infrastructure
- Damage to trees and tree seedlings in planted orchards
- Reduced wildlife populations on hunting properties

Ecological Damage

- Damage to wildlife habitats
- Impact to threatened and endangered species populations
- Competition for native wildlife and food sources and habitat
- Erosion of stream banks and forest floors
- Damage to trees and tree seedlings



Feral swine, feral hog, wild hog, wild pig, and wild boar are all synonyms that refer to the same biological creature. Feral swine are highly adaptable to many environments and food sources and cause detrimental economic and ecological impact.

In the University of Georgia 2015 Wild Pig Survey, 63% of survey respondents experienced feral swine damage on their land.

Feral swine persistently root and dig for food, live in large family groups (sounders), and are highly nomadic, traveling in trails and wallowing patterns. This contributes to significant economic damage for landowners, farmers, and ranchers, as well as, ecological and natural resource destruction.

44.3%

REPORTED DAMAGE TO
NON-TIMBER CASH
CROPS

38.8%

REPORTED DAMAGE TO
HAY & PASTURE

22.8%

REPORTED DAMAGE
TO TIMBER

42.3%

REPORTED DAMAGE TO
FOOD PLOTS

13.0%

REPORTED DAMAGE TO
FENCING

27.4%

REPORTED DAMAGE TO
STREAMS AND PONDS

FERAL SWINE DAMAGE IN GEORGIA CAUSES AN
ESTIMATED



\$98.87 million

In crop damage annually

\$51.74 million

In non-crop damage annually



FLINT RIVER
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number NR194310XXXXC005. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.