Threats to Fish and Wildlife

- Feral swine compete directly with native wildlife for habitat and food sources such as acorns, nuts, and food plots.
- Damage to soil, agricultural crops, and natural habitats result from feral swine wallowing, rooting, trampling, and feeding behaviors.
- Feral swine prey upon native wildlife including amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and eggs and the young of ground-nesting birds,
- Rooting and wallowing leads to soil erosion, sedimentation, and decreases water quality.
- Feral swine have high reproductive rates — adults sows may have 2 litters per year with 5-10 piglets per litter. Juveniles may begin breeding in as little as 6 months of age. At these rates, 60-70% of the population must be removed each year just to keep the population from increasing.

- Adults have no natural predators.

Legal Status

- Swine are considered **feral** if they are unrestrained and have adapted to living in a wild or free-roaming environment.
- Feral swine may only be shot by hunters who are deer hunting during the firearm deer seasons, including the late winter and CWD seasons.
- Hunters need to be sure the swine they intend to shoot are not escaped livestock.
- It is **illegal** to transport, release, to guide or to hunt feral swine in an enclosure.
- Landowners are required to obtain a free nuisance wildlife permit to remove feral swine outside of firearm deer seasons.

To Request a Nuisance Wildlife Removal Permit or to Report Sightings of Feral Swine contact:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources at
(815) 369-2414

USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services at
(866) 487-3297

It is against the law to intentionally release any hog onto land in Illinois

Report releases to IDNR Law Enforcement at 1-877-2DNRLAW

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate based upon race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion or disability in its programs, services, activities and facilities. If you believe that you have been discriminated against, or if you wish additional information, please contact the IDNR EEO Office at One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271 or by phone at (217) 782-2662.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APHIS Wildlife Services
Protecting People | Protecting Agriculture | Protecting Wildlife

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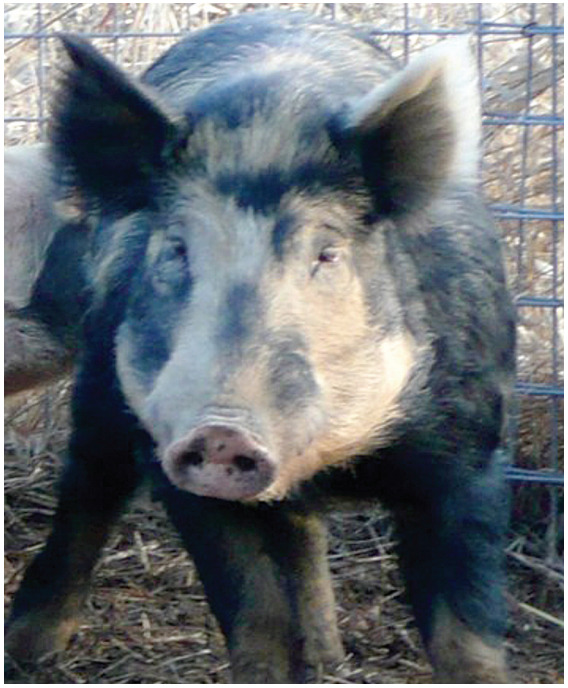
State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources

Feral Swine:
A Threat To Illinois



Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

Illinois' Damage Management Program

- IDNR and USDA Wildlife Services are working in collaboration with landowners throughout the state to eliminate feral swine from their properties.
- Program consists of education, outreach, disease monitoring, and direct management activities.
- Assistance is provided to identify if feral swine are present on properties, provide training, and implement effective methods of removal - all free of charge.
- Trapping (corral traps) is the most efficient and effective way to remove entire family groups of feral swine.
- Shooting is effective only at removing individuals, not at eliminating large groups/ populations.

History of Feral Swine in Illinois

- Feral swine, aka feral hogs, feral pigs, wild boar, razorbacks, are all defined as feral if they are unrestrained and have adapted to living in a wild or free-ranging environment.
- Feral swine most often result from free range livestock, dumped pets, and intentional releases by individuals desiring to establish populations for recreational purposes.
- The first reports of feral swine in Illinois occurred in the early 1990's among several southern Illinois counties.
- As many as 32 counties have reported the presence of feral swine; most of which have been the result of escaped livestock and dumped pets.
- After extensive investigations, two self sustaining breeding populations were identified in Illinois.

Disease Threats

- Feral swine may carry more than 30+ parasites and 30+ diseases, many of which are transmissible to people, pets, wildlife, and livestock.
- Diseases most often effecting people include brucellosis, E coli, salmonella, and trichinellosis.
- Feral swine also have the potential to carry diseases that affect domestic swine such as classical swine fever, pseudorabies, and tularemia.