

Feral Hogs: An Invading Force and our Attempt to Quell Them



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Feral Swine - Background

Swine first brought over from Spain in the 1500's (Hernando Desoto) and introductions have occurred since.

Habitat Generalists

Omnivores

Opportunists



Feral Swine - Background

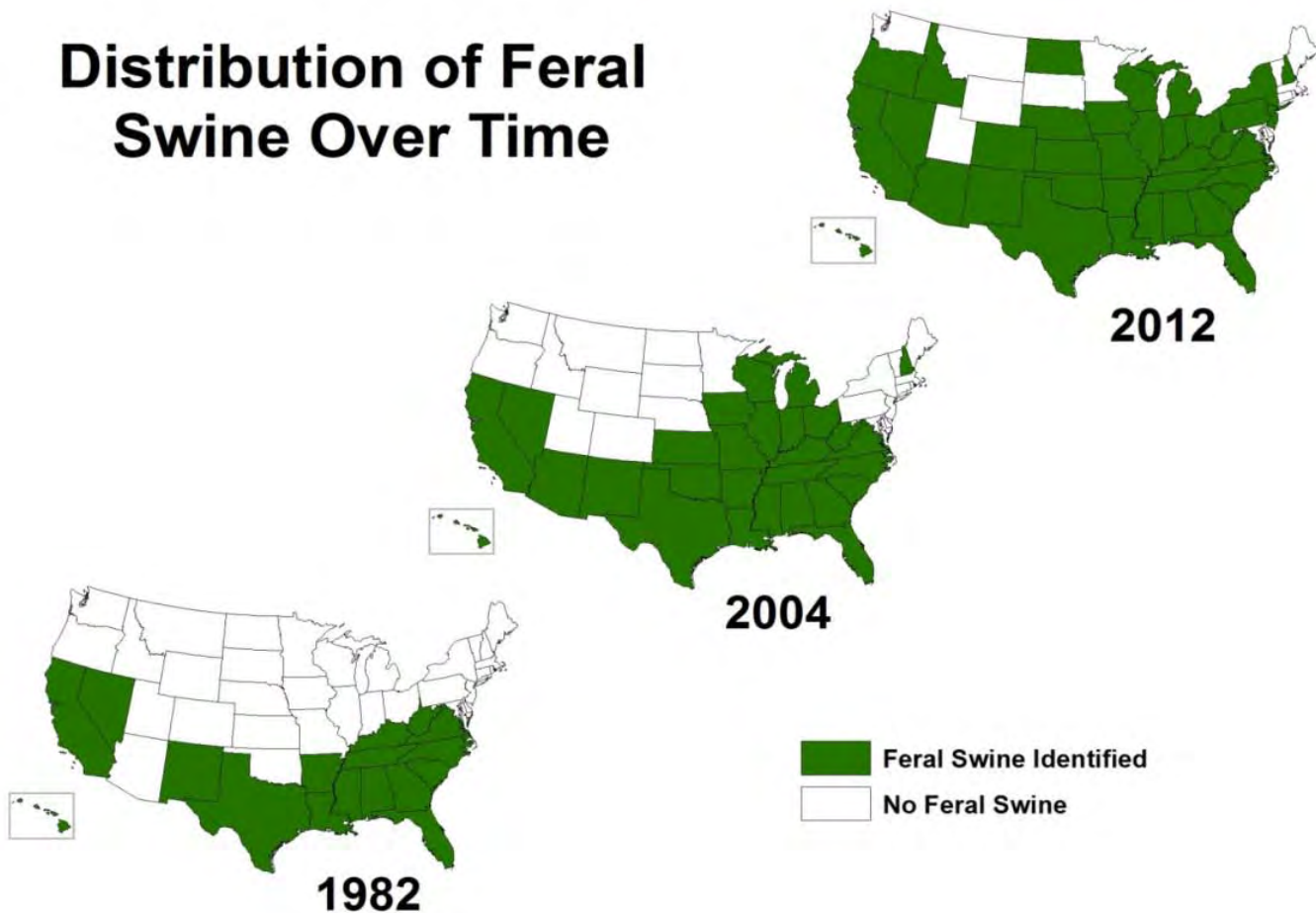


Populations and distribution have greatly expanded in the past 20 years.

Range expansion is exacerbated by intentional translocations.

Feral Swine - Background

Distribution of Feral Swine Over Time



Feral Swine - Damage/Threats

Damage to Native Plants/Wildlife



- Contribute to the decline of
 - at least 22 plant species
 - 4 species of amphibians listed as rare, threatened, endangered, or of special concern.
- Alter eco-systems
 - Linked to 95% declines of understory vegetation in some eco-systems

Feral Swine - Damage/Threats

Disease Transmission to Livestock



Feral Swine - Damage/Threats

Damage to Property



Destroyed vegetation and wallows reduces aesthetic value of recreational areas.



Damage to Vehicles



Feral Swine - Damage/Threats

Disease Transmission to Humans



E. coli outbreaks have been linked to feral swine environmental contamination.



USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services Activities



Wildlife Services cooperates on feral swine issues in 35 states.

- Operational Efforts
- Disease Surveillance.
- Research



Wildlife Services: Operational



- Coordinate with State agencies
- Provide technical advice to landowners.
- Conduct disease surveillance



Wildlife Services: Operational

Control technology

- Ground and aerial shooting
- Individual and corral live traps
- Neck and foot snares
- Hunting with trained dogs.



Wildlife Services: Kentucky

- Cooperative Effort with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Cooperative Landowner Trapping Program
- WS Trapping Efforts
- WS Aerial Gunning and Surveillance

Reduced to isolated pocket populations



Wildlife Services: Disease Monitoring

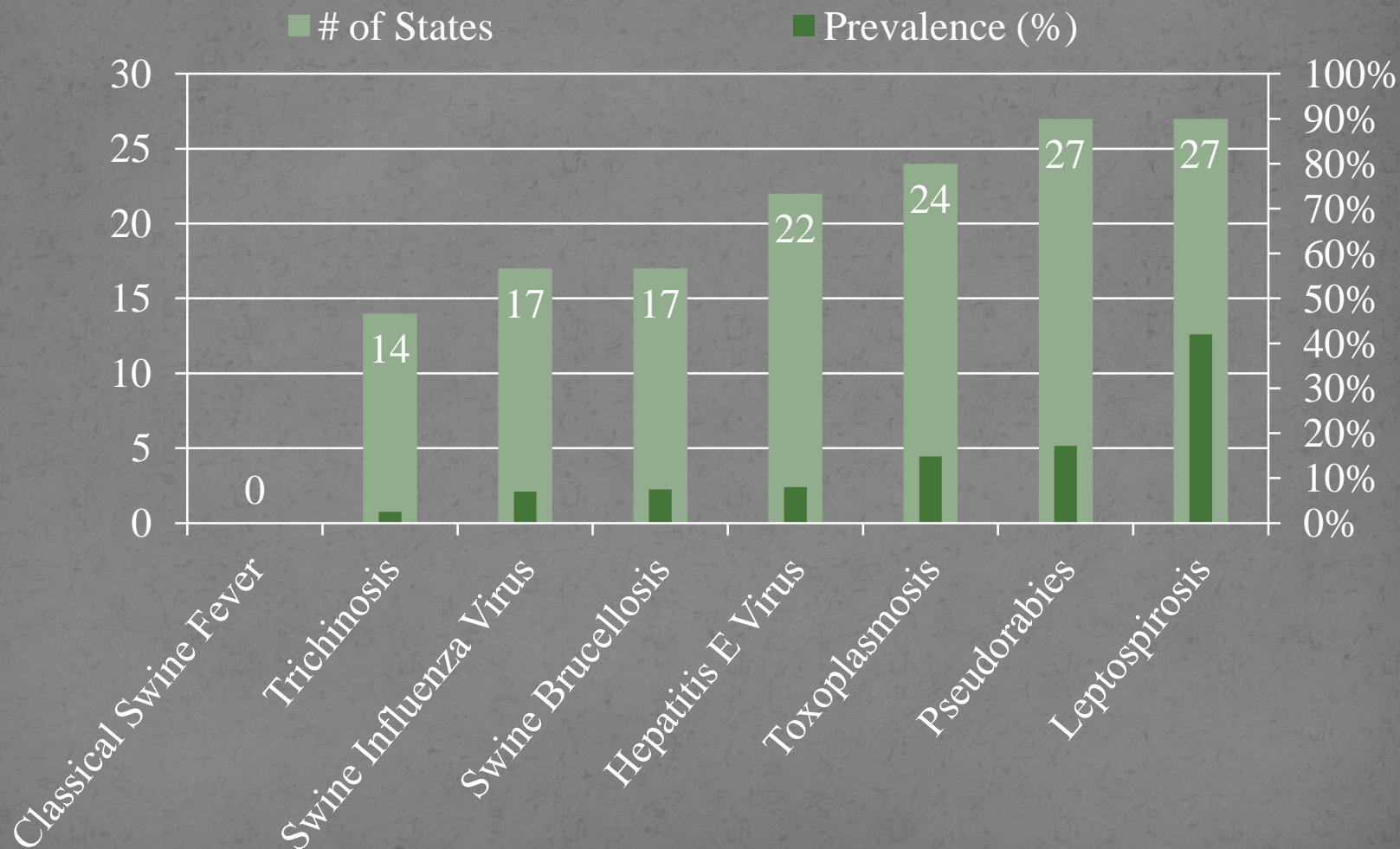


WS National Wildlife Disease Program develops procedures and protocols for conducting disease monitoring in feral swine.

Collected 2,894 feral swine samples
For the prevalence of 8 diseases across 31
states (FY12).

Wildlife Services: Disease Monitoring

FY 12 Disease Distribution and Prevalence



Wildlife Services: Research

- Economic Impacts
- Environmental Impacts
- Efficacy/Efficiency of Tools and Methodologies
- Population Ecology
- Response to Control Activities
- Toxicants
- Oral Delivery Systems



Feral Swine Damage Management: Environmental Impact Statement

- WS preparing an EIS
- Scoping closed June 12, 2013
- Cooperators:
 - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;
 - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture;
 - USDA Forest Service;
 - USDI National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management; and
 - National Invasive Species Council.



Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

- No national strategy currently exists
- A cohesive national strategy focused on:
 1. Containment
 2. Targeted population reduction



Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

APHIS collaboration :

Wildlife Services

- Control of feral swine (Operational)
- Research
- Surveillance (Populations and Diseases)

Veterinary Services

- Collecting and managing livestock disease data
- Planned response to disease outbreaks

International Services:

- Address trade issues

Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Reduce damage caused by feral swine
- Reduce threats to humans and livestock
- Develop better management tools and improve cost efficiency



Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

Expected outcomes: Operational

- Establish feral swine control programs with states.
- Incorporate integrated approach to reduce problems.
- Remove all feral swine from targeted states.
- Stabilize the increase in feral swine damage in other states.



Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

Expected outcomes: Research

- Identify a feral swine toxicant and delivery systems
- Removal techniques developed or modified
- Create maps depicting feral swine presence overlaid with protected resources
- Risk and economic analysis



Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine



Proposed National Plan:

- National plan based on national goals, but implemented at local level
- Funds directed towards meeting national goals
- Funding distribution not permanent – adjusted as needed

Proposed National Plan to Address Feral Swine

Proposed National Plan:

Baseline Funding: Provided to WS programs in 38 states

Baseline funding determined by:

- Feral swine populations and distributions
- Local regulations and policies
- Existing collaborations and support
- Agricultural resources to be protected

Summary

- Feral swine inflict significant damage
- Problems with feral swine are increasing
- A National Plan implemented at the local level is needed to effectively address feral swine problems.



Questions

