

# Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Feral Swine Committee

## 2022 Annual Report

*Complied and Submitted by Terri Brunjes, Chr., MAFWA Ad-hoc Feral Swine Committee 5/23/2022*

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) established the Midwest Ad-hoc Feral Swine Committee (MFSC) in 2013. The purpose of the feral swine committee is to further MAFWA's function of promoting the conservation and management of wildlife resources in the face of rapidly expanding feral swine populations which directly endanger those wildlife resources. The Committee is to collect and compare feral swine information among the member States and Provinces, and to provide management and policy recommendations to the Directors of MAFWA.

**MISSION:** Develop results-driven and science-based management actions to prevent the introduction and spread of feral swine and promote the eradication of existing populations of these animals in the Midwest.

### **CHARGES:**

- 1) Develop management plans for feral swine based on sound scientific and proven methods.
- 2) Promote and encourage research on economically feasible and effective methods of feral swine control.
- 3) Encourage uniform polices on the translocation and interstate movement of feral swine.
- 4) Discuss the role of federal entities in the control of feral swine in the Midwest.
- 5) Encourage partnerships among states and between state and federal entities to unify the battle against the spread of feral swine.
- 6) Advise the MAFWA Directors on issues relating to feral swine policy, inform the Directors of committee actions and execute any directives given by them.

**Meeting Time and Place:** The MAFWA FSC meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Nashville in April during the Wild Pig Conference. However, due to the continuing COVID pandemic, the meeting is delayed until June 6-10 and changed to a virtual event. MAFWA FSC will now hold a joint virtual meeting with SEAFWA WHWG during the Wild Pig Conference on June 6 from 10am - 12pm EST.

**Attendance:** All members of the MAFWA FSC plan to attend this meeting. However, since the meeting was delayed until after this report is due, the attendance is not yet verified. A list of members and representative states are included in Appendix 1.

**Executive Summary:** The MAFWA Feral Swine Committee annual report is summarily reduced to the respective State and Provincial reports submitted with the primary function of the MAFWA Feral Swine Committee being information and exchange network among states and provinces. The number of feral swine/wild pigs removed continues to increase in the more heavily wild pig populated states in the Midwest, with significant reductions in wild pig numbers and distributions in some Midwest states with lower pig numbers. Most of the work in the Midwest states is being conducted by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services through cooperative agreements with states as part of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (NFSDMP).

**Director Action Items:** Charge 1; Begin development of a broad Midwest feral swine management (eradication/reduction) plan based on sound scientific and proven methods. Discussions were recently

held at the AFWA Feral Swine Working Group meeting on the feasibility of creating a national plan, rather than separate regional plans. This plan could be built of the results from WMI's study, case studies from individual states and USDA APHIS, information from One Health, and BMPs to start the process. This national plan would need to incorporate the differences in regions and states, state laws and policies, as well as the differences in severity of feral swine problems. There is a possibility of creating an Ad-hoc working group for this project. AFWA FSWG plans to have a deeper discussion about this at their fall meeting. They have asked our working groups to have some internal discussions and come back with ideas and input.

Charges 2-6 are being accomplished through continued networking among the Committee representatives, attendance at the IWPC and representative participation in the NWPTF that unfortunately put on temporary hold with the COVID-19 outbreak. Most states are participating in partnerships or agreements with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services as part of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (NFSDMP) funded under the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.

**Director Information Items:** The value of the information exchanged at the IWPC and NWPTF meetings and throughout the year is invaluable to keeping abreast of the rapidly evolving "state of the art and science" of wild pig population control and hopefully, eventual elimination. The MFSC encourages providing support for representative attendance at both the IWPC and NWPTF meetings when possible, recognizing that participation of all MFSC representatives is beyond their primary or even secondary job responsibilities. The NWPTF website is now housed at The Berryman Institute at Utah State University and now handles organization and communications related to the NWPTF and IWPC's.

**MAFWA Research Priorities:** MAFWA Feral Swine Committee members were tasked with developing science-based management priorities by the Science and Research Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). MAFWA FSC divided these priorities specifically by feral swine and other species of interest.

### **Management Priorities Specific to Feral Swine**

#### Wildlife Health

- a. Disease transmission between feral swine and both native wildlife and livestock
- b. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) -interspecies CWD infection: risks of feral swine contracting and spreading CWD
- c. African Swine Fever
- d. Pseudorabies
- e. Swine Brucellosis

#### Weather and Temperature-related Concerns

- a. Indirect and direct effects of climate change on feral swine populations

#### Invasive Species

- a. Feral Swine

#### Emerging Technologies

- a. Approval and use of feral swine toxicants and feeders
- b. Improved trap technology
- c. Accurate techniques to determine feral swine densities

- d. Development of bait that attracts pigs without attracting non-target species, such as white-tailed deer and turkey, whose baiting seasons often curtail wild pig trapping efforts.

#### Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation

- a. Collaborative nation-wide plan for feral swine eradication

#### Human Dimensions

- a. Solutions to counter the release of unwanted pot-bellied pigs
- b. Effectively communicate to sport hunting industry the negative effects of hunting feral swine
- c. Solutions to eradicate feral swine in pig refuges where private landowners prohibit removal.

### **Management Priorities Specific to Other Species**

#### Wildlife Health

- a. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- b. White-nose syndrome (WNS)
- c. Bsal (*Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*)
- d. Snake fungal disease (*Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola*)
- e. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- f. EHD (Epizootic hemorrhagic disease)
- g. BTV (Bluetongue disease)
- h. Emerald Ash Borer
- i. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus

#### Weather and Temperature-related Concerns

- a. Indirect and direct effects of climate change on wildlife populations
- b. Increase in tick numbers with increasing temperature

#### Invasive Species

- a. Asian Carp
- b. Emerald Ash Borer
- c. Exotic Earthworms

#### Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation

- a. Collaborative nation-wide plan for CWD

### **2021 State/Province Status Reports Submitted**

#### Indiana -Submitted by Steve Backs

Aerial flights conducted in early January 2022 in the primary wild pig range in southern Indiana found no wild pigs or suspected pig damage, verifying suspicions that Indiana may have finally been eliminated the population of Eurasian wild pigs that had been present since about 1992. The primary range of Eurasian wild pigs constituted portions of 3 counties (Lawrence, Jackson, Washington) in southcentral Indiana. No Eurasian pigs or pig damage has been reported or detected in this area since 18 pigs were removed early in 2021. The monitoring and detection phase is ongoing and hopefully no pigs or pig damage will be reported and verified for a second spring-summer growing season.

The wild pig removals in Indiana since the formalized cooperative USDA-WS and DNR partnership began under the Farm Bill funding beginning in 2014-present, now total 628 (Shooting: 184; Helicopter: 47; Neck Snare: 12; Cage Trap: 22; and Corral Trap: 363). Prior to 2014, approximately 200 pigs were removed by DNR and USDA-WS personnel and an unknown number by landowners and public hunting dating back to their illegal release in Indiana around 1992.

Periodic reports of unwanted, abandoned, or illegally released pot-bellied/heritage type hybrid pigs continue to come from all parts of the state – they typically comprise 1-3 pigs which are usually quickly destroyed. These reports constitute primarily a temporary nuisance problem with no known established populations.

#### Iowa- Submitted by Jim Coffey

The responsibility of State Feral (Wild) Hog Coordinator falls under the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) forest wildlife program. Jim Coffey is the contact person for the agency. This position is located out of the Chariton Research Station in Chariton Iowa 24570 US Hwy 34 Chariton Iowa (641-774-2958). The Iowa DNR remains the coordinating agency for feral hog incidents working with several other State and Federal agencies. USDA wildlife services will continue to take a lead role on eradication and disease testing of located animals. The Iowa DNR depredation team and local conservation officers will assist when needed.

The 2021 calendar year so some activity in varying locations around the state. A total of 7 hogs were observed in 6 different reports. Each report came from a different county. Most live hogs were investigated and deemed to be escaped local animals. When owners were identified, they were informed of Iowa laws regarding domestic livestock captivity. Most reports came from the general public or through other DNR personnel. Some reports did include trail camera pictures or photos of carcasses on wildlife management areas. If able, reports were investigated for confirmation of location. No one area of the State shows a prevalence for sightings. There continues to be an increasing number of heritage breed hogs that are being raised in open pastures and pot-bellied breeds that are released on state lands. The Iowa DNR did not kill any hogs during this year, however we did investigate a few dead hogs that turned out to be escaped/released domestic swine. Disease testing is coordinated through the USDA APHIS office and no disease was reported this year. We do plan on continuing with feral hog information in our DNR hunting regulations booklet for 2022-2023. Feral hogs continue to be a concern for wildlife management staff. A presentation was given to all the Iowa conservation officers in 2021 about reporting feral swine. The Iowa feral hog working group did not meet in 2021.

#### Kansas- Submitted by Curran Salter

Wildlife Services removed 475 total feral swine in 2021. This is pretty close to our average take of around 500 feral swine annually since 2013.

Bourbon/Linn Counties: WS removed 240 feral pigs from this area comprised of northern Bourbon county and extreme southern Linn county (Blue Mound area) in 2021. 57 were removed thru aerial gunning and 183 from trapping. Landowner access and a bit of a pig hunting culture (and probably translocation) in the area continue to hamper our efforts. I am being **cautiously optimistic** of some real progress made in the far northern part of this area as well as the southern part of the “traditional” range. Many properties have had little or no pig damage or sightings now for several years. This

population is our last “established” population in the state since our state-wide control program was started in 2006 and we will continue to work towards eradication.

A satellite sounder of 21 pigs broke away from this core area to the corner of nearby Allen and Anderson counties between the towns of Kincaid and Blue Mound. This sounder was removed in early 2021 as well and no further evidence of pigs in this specific area has been detected.

Cowley/Chautauqua Counties: WS removed 198 feral pigs in these two counties along the state line in 2021. 24 feral pigs were removed thru aerial gunning and 174 were removed from trapping. The vast majority of our trapping and flying efforts are within a mile or less of the Oklahoma state line. Wildlife Services has removed pigs along the entire southern stretch of Chautauqua county but most of the pig activity in 2021 seemed to be centered around the town of Elgin. Most of the control work in Cowley county centers around the Kaw WMA and only one boar was removed in 2021 from the area.

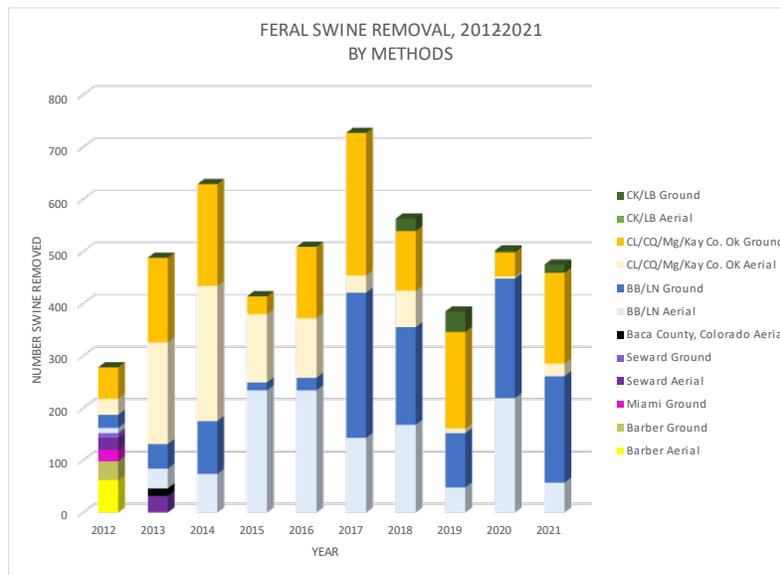
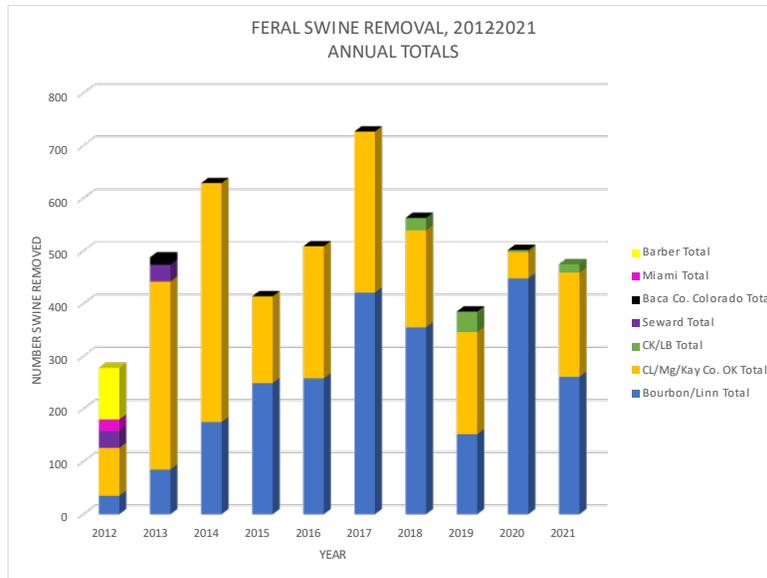
The goal in these counties is to halt any northward expansion out of Oklahoma and prevent the establishment of any permanent feral swine populations. As mentioned previously, the majority of our control efforts are well within a mile or less of the OK state line. This would indicate that KS WS quickly intercepts the pigs that come across the state line and has done an excellent job in preventing northward expansion. Historically, take in these two counties is between 200-300 feral pigs. For example, in 2017, 306 feral pigs were taken. In 2018, 184 pigs were taken and in 2019, 194 pigs were removed. KS WS only removed 50 feral swine from this same stretch in 2020. Continued monitoring and control efforts will be needed for the foreseeable future.

Cherokee/Labette Counties: Wildlife Services removed 16 feral pigs through trapping and night shooting in this area in 2021. Our program’s goal in these two counties is the same as it is all along the southern border (stop northward expansion and establishment). Feral pig take in these two counties was 24 in 2018 , 36 in 2019 and 4 in 2020. Cherokee and Labette counties definitely do not see the same amount of activity as Chautauqua and Cowley counties at this time. KS WS anticipates that continued monitoring and control efforts in this area will be needed for the foreseeable future as well.

Statewide Status: Kansas from an overall statewide perspective is in excellent shape regarding feral swine. WS has eradicated 12 distinct populations and removed well over 10,000 pigs from the state since 2006. Kansas WS has removed 2,119 feral pigs from the southern border since 2012. Considering feral swine populations have been estimated to double every 5-7 years, this take is very important to keeping Kansas free of feral swine.

Depending on feral swine movement across our southern border our population is probably around 1,000 pigs or less. KS WS will continue to work towards eradication efforts in Bourbon/Linn counties and halt any northward expansion along our southern border with Oklahoma. KS WS also investigates all reports of feral swine in the state to prevent the establishment of any new populations.

By comparison, Missouri WS routinely removes over 10,000 pigs annually, has 20-25 established populations, employs around 30 full-time trappers and has an estimated 40,000-50,000 pigs in the state. Oklahoma has an estimated 1.5 million feral pigs that cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars in damage every year.



Kentucky-Submitted by Terri Brunjes

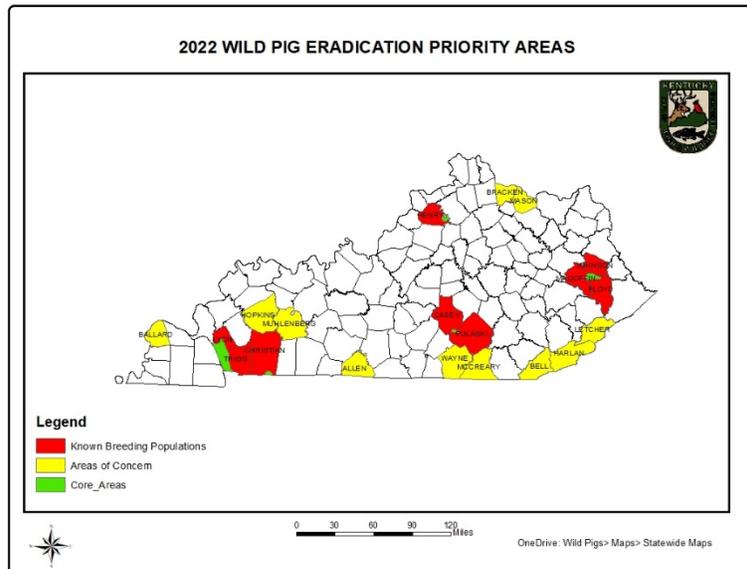
Population control efforts resulted in the removal of 148 wild pigs in 2021. Seropositive test results for swine brucellosis were not documented in wild pigs during this time period. However, 2 pigs tested positive for pseudorabies in western Kentucky (Trigg and Letcher Counties).

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), in partnership with the Kentucky Wild Pig Eradication Task Force, is continuing to promote a media campaign to increase public support for wild pig eradication. Similar to Missouri Department of Conservation’s message, our “Report, don’t shoot” campaign persuades the public to report wild pig sightings as an alternative to shooting pigs. The overall

goal of the media campaign is to gain public support to prohibit wild pig sport hunting in the future. The media campaign included the creation of educational materials, social media videos, a complete webpage overhaul, the inclusion of an electronic reporting system, and articles in KY's Fish and Wildlife magazine and publications. Social media posts were also utilized during the 2021 deer hunting season to garner wild pig reports and photos from the myriad of trail cameras on the landscape.

Aerial operations January 2022: KDFWR staff partnered with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to promote aerial operations in Magoffin, Floyd, and Johnson counties, which holds one of the largest wild pig populations in the state. A group of eight staff members spent a week communicating with the public. As a result, permission was granted to remove wild pigs via helicopter on 11,800 acres of private land. This was the first time aerial operations were performed in these counties. Public support for wild pig eradication was high in this community as evidenced by the vast amount of private land which we were given permission to conduct aerial operations on. Although bad weather decreased the time in the air, 50 of 51 wild pigs sighted were removed.

Aerial operations were also conducted at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL), which spreads across both Tennessee and Kentucky. Thirty-three wild pigs were removed from the Kentucky side of LBL in January 2022. This is the third year aerial operations have been conducted in this national park. Aggressive trapping and aerial gunning have reduced wild pig numbers in this National Park. Aerial operations were only conducted in these two areas. All other known breeding populations have been almost entirely eradicated within the state.



### Manitoba- Submitted by Janine Stewart

Corral trapping efforts in Manitoba began in 2018 by a local wildlife association in the Spruce Woods Provincial Park area, where signs of wild boar presence are most frequently reported. In February 2022 Manitoba announced an Invasive Swine Eradication Initiative Project funded jointly by the federal and

provincial governments in partnership with, and delivered by, the Manitoba Pork Council. The “Squeal on Pigs” branding has been adopted by the project. A steering committee for the project has been established and meets regularly to guide project activities. Removal efforts will continue in the Spruce Woods Provincial Park area, and will further expand across agro-Manitoba as additional locations of invasive swine are identified. Reports of invasive swine presence and harvest in the province are now directed to the Squeal on Pigs website, or toll free number, and there is now capacity for these to be verified and targeted for removal by eradication project staff.

Manitoba is currently drafting a management strategy for invasive swine and will use this as a starting point to work towards regulatory changes that will further support eradication efforts in the province. The province receives a few reports of harvested animals each year, over the last few years, but this likely represents only a fraction of actual harvest numbers.

In the 2021 calendar year, Manitoba documented sightings of 246 free-roaming swine in the province. Of these, 45 were killed by hunters and 73 were removed through corral trapping efforts.

#### Michigan -Submitted by Dwayne Etter

Activity and Removal: We continued to receive a few scattered reports of wild pigs throughout Michigan in 2021. This included reports in the vicinity of a private hunting ranch in southcentral Michigan in September. The United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) responded to reports and recorded photos of Russian boar or hybrids; a prohibited invasive species. USDA-WS subsequently killed several Russian boar hybrids on properties adjacent to the private hunting ranch and DNA linked some of these animals to a pig previously collected from inside the facility. Using this information, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) filed suit against the ranch’s owner and they were found in violation of the Michigan Invasive Species Act. USDA-WS removed a total of 13 wild pigs from properties adjacent to the ranch and local residents killed an additional 9 wild pigs. Two additional wild pigs were removed by USDA and 3 by local residents in northern Michigan in 2021.

MDNR continues to maintain a voluntary online wild pig reporting system. Additionally, MDNR asks all hunters registering a harvested deer about feral pig sightings. Reports are forwarded to USDA-WS follow up.

Research: There were no active research projects conducted by MDNR or Michigan USDA-WS in 2021. However, Michigan USDA-WS continues to provide samples to the National Wildlife Research Center’s genetics laboratory for ongoing research.

#### Minnesota -Submitted by Eric Nelson

In 2021, Minnesota continues to be free of feral swine populations. Our cases in 2021 were all escaped domestic swine “at large” that ended up living in the wild. Seven swine were shot by an adjacent landowner at one of our repeat locations where swine have been found to be living in the wild on public and private lands. In the past USDA Wildlife Services has performed monitoring and removal efforts on public and private lands for feral swine at this location. In 2020 no swine were taken by adjacent landowners or USDA Wildlife Services at this location. This location has had feral swine reports, removal by the public or by USDA Wildlife Services every year since 2016 except for 2020. The owner of the swine was prosecuted and plead guilty to violating the states feral swine statute in 2017. In 2017 he paid a \$135 fine and sentenced to a 10-day court stay if found guilty of allowing feral swine to run at large. In

the state a total of six feral swine complaints in six different counties were investigated through December 2021. The number of reduced reports may be due to COVID and people being at home with their livestock or working from home now and having more time to inspect fences.

At one location, over a few months' time frame, an unknown number of swine escaped. Some were shot by the public on adjacent private and public lands before the department of natural resources was notified of them living in the wild the first part of December. USDA-Wildlife Services monitored the area for what was reported to be the last three or four swine seen living in the wild from that farm but were not able to locate them. One individual at another farm was cited with a notice of violation for allowing her swine to run at large by our Board of Animal Health.

The state of Minnesota has an Emergency Disease Management Committee consisting of state and federal agencies, university staff and commercial pork producers on the African Swine Fever (ASF) issue. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Damage Program is one of the representatives on that committee. Minnesota is the second largest pork production state in the United States so there is a lot of concern for ASF. The committee developed a statewide communications and response plan for all swine in the state, including feral swine, and continues to meet to perform updates based on new findings.

The committee conducted research on cold weather depopulation, composting and burial to assess ways to contain and remove the disease from infected areas. All feral swine removal or disposal would need to follow standardized testing and disposal practices if we were to have an outbreak of ASF in our state. We are in our third year of cold weather research and evaluating grind and composting and above ground burial options as an effective tool. The tool has proved to be very effective in cold weather and further research is being proposed to be done in 2022.

The state of Minnesota is reliant on USDA Wildlife Services to conduct all swine monitoring and removal activities. Our DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife is funded by license fees, so we do not have a funding mechanism or funded staff to monitor or remove swine living in the wild. An interagency feral swine committee continues to work on feral swine response in the state due to many jurisdictional responsibilities for swine in MN. The committee is composed of staff from Minnesota DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife and Ecological & Water Resources, USDA Wildlife Services, and Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

#### Missouri- Submitted by Alan Leary

The Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Commission again fully funded the \$1.8 million Statewide Strategic Plan for Feral Hog Elimination in Missouri for FY22. The funding continues to go to a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) to employ full time feral hog trappers and purchase equipment for them as called for in the Plan. Other members of the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership (Partnership) have also made significant contributions to support elimination efforts in Missouri.

In 2021 the Partnership removed 9,857 feral hogs from the landscape. That is about 3,000 less than we removed in 2020 despite scouting almost twice as many acres and assisting twice as many landowners.

This is because there are fewer hogs on the landscape and it is getting harder for the trappers to find hogs.

After the US Forest Service passed a ban on hog hunting on all Forest Service land in Missouri in 2019 the Partnership committed to significantly increasing efforts to eliminate hogs. Initially this was focused on special summer and winter operations where large numbers of staff from the Partnership went to southern Missouri for a week at a time to participate in feral hog elimination efforts. These special operations would go for about 3 months at a time. After two years using this approach a change was made and the Missouri Department of Conservation created 16 full time feral hog trapper positions. This approach has proven to be even more effective because these individuals are doing nothing but hog trapping. These positions are in addition to the trappers who are employed by USDA-WS in Missouri.

One metric we use to monitor our progress is the number of watersheds occupied by feral hogs. In 2016 feral hogs occupied 383 watersheds in Missouri which covered 9,279,214 acres. At the end of 2021 feral hogs occupied 192 watersheds in Missouri which covered 4,779,140 acres. That is a reduction of about 48.5% in five years.

#### Nebraska-Submitted by Sam Wilson

In 2003 the Nebraska State Legislature enacted statutes that prohibit pig hunting. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regulations also prohibit the possession or release of wild pigs. These laws and regulations remove any incentive for people to own, move, or release feral pigs in the state. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is tasked with eliminating feral pigs upon their discovery. Eradication efforts have primarily taken place since 2004. Shooting from a helicopter – in cooperation with Wildlife Services – has proven to be the most successful method of eradication; although other methods such as trapping and shooting over bait are used. We believe the legal framework that removes incentives for people to own or release wild pigs has been the most important factor in allowing for the complete eradication of feral pigs in Nebraska. No feral pigs were removed during 2021 and there is no present research taking place. We do have minor issues with escaped pet (pot-bellied) and domestic pigs but we are not aware of any populations of wild-living feral pigs in Nebraska.

#### Ohio-Submitted by Clint McCoy

USDA Wildlife Services conducted feral swine surveillance and removal efforts on over 4 million acres of federal, state, and private lands. A total of 43 feral swine were removed from 4 counties (40 trapping, 1 aerial operations, and 2 sharpshooting) and 35 biological samples were collected from 9 animals. In FY21 Ohio Wildlife Services (WS) verified a total of \$9,965 of damage caused by feral swine via UAS, aerial (fixed wing/helicopter), and ground surveillance. This is a decrease of \$7,000 in verified damage from the previous year.

Also due to these efforts, both Tuscarawas and Champaign County feral swine populations will be on the ballot for removal from the Ohio Feral Swine population map. This discussion will take place during the next Feral Swine Task Force meeting.

In FY21 it should also be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic hindered all outreach and surveillance efforts throughout the state. This made it extremely difficult to work with landowners and gain access to new properties.

## Ontario- Submitted by Bree Walpole

There is currently no evidence to suggest that there are established populations of wild pigs that are breeding and self-sustaining in Ontario, and the ministry is working to keep it this way. [Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs \(2021\)](#) outlines the province's proactive approach to address the wild pig problem. The strategy identifies necessary actions, highlighting the need for clear communications, robust policy, Ontario-specific research and management, and strong collaboration between governments, agencies, and industry partners. As of January 1, 2022, pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are regulated as an invasive species under the [Invasive Species Act, 2015](#) and certain prohibitions apply, including:

- It is prohibited to release any pig into the natural environment. Certain requirements must be met if a pig escapes, including immediately notifying the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) and capturing the pig as soon as practicable.
- It is prohibited to bring a live pig into a provincial park or conservation reserve.
- Hunting pigs is prohibited with exceptions for activities to protect property from damage caused by wild pigs, including for the purpose of maintaining biosecurity. A person who captures or kills a pig for protection of property must immediately notify the ministry and provide relevant information (i.e., the location and number of pigs captured or killed).
- The import, possession, transport, propagation, lease, trade, buying, and sale of Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids is prohibited. Anyone who possessed a Eurasian wild boar or hybrid on January 1, 2022 must notify the ministry and is eligible for a two-year transition period (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023).

The ministry receives and investigates wild pig sightings from the public, including domesticated farmed pigs, pot-bellied pigs, and Eurasian wild boar. At this time, confirmed sightings of Eurasian wild boar are rare and most often occur close to wild boar farms. More information on wild pig sightings collected in Ontario from April 2020 to March 2021 is available: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-wild-pigs-ontario>

Ministry staff investigate areas where reports have suggested a high likelihood that wild pigs are present. At these locations, ministry staff:

- engage with residents to learn as much as possible about wild pig activity;
- set up trail cameras to detect whether wild pigs are still in the area; and,
- where appropriate, ministry staff trap and remove invasive wild pigs from the environment.

For example, in 2021 the ministry worked with partners and residents to successfully locate, trap, and remove a sounder of 14 Eurasian wild boar. The ministry also removed two domesticated farmed pigs that were impacting a colony of ground nesting migratory birds.

**Time and Place of Next Meeting:** A joint meeting with SEAFWA Wild Hog Working Group will be held virtually on June 6, 2022 from 10 am -12 pm, during the Wild Pig Conference.

## Appendix 1: Midwest Members and States

STATE	MEMBER
Iowa	Jim Coffey
Illinois	Chris Jacques
Indiana	Vacant
Kansas	Shane Hesting
Kentucky	Terri Brunjes (Chair)
Michigan	Dwayne Etter, Melissa Nichols
Minnesota	Eric Nelson
Missouri	Alan Leary
North Dakota	Vacant
Nebraska	Sam Wilson
Ohio	Clint McCoy
South Dakota	Vacant
Wisconsin	Brad Koele
Ontario	Bree Walpole
Manitoba	Janine Stewart
Saskatchewan	Todd Whiklo