

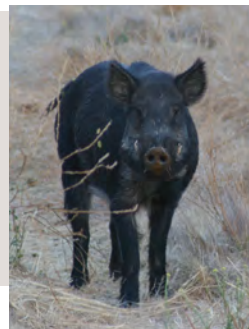
# Feral Swine Disease Risks to Domestic Swine

## Why should I worry about feral swine?

Feral swine and domestic swine are both the same species (*Sus scrofa*) meaning they can be infected with the same diseases. Pasture-raised pigs, non-confined domestic swine, and other outdoor swine practices can increase the risk of feral swine transmitting pathogens and parasites. Since feral swine roam freely, they can also contaminate accessible feed and water sources meant for domestic pigs.



## Disease impacts to domestic swine production



Swine are social animals; domestic swine may interact with feral swine in pastures or through fences. Feral boar will even breed with domestic sows if they can access them. These interactions can result in transmission of pathogens not usually found in domestic swine. Infections can result in reduced productivity, abortions, reduced number of piglets, or even death. Pasture-raised pigs are also susceptible to acquiring parasites from feral swine, which can result in consumer health concerns and market losses.

## Diseases of concern for domestic swine production

Disease	Routes of Transmission	Symptoms
Brucellosis ( <i>Brucella species</i> bacteria)	Direct contact with aborted fetuses, afterbirth, or vaginal discharges. Ingestion of contaminated feed, water, or tissues.	Infertility, abortion, vaginal discharge, lameness, and swollen testicles.
Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch")	Nose-to-nose or sexual contact. Ingestion of contaminated water, feed, or infected tissues. Through contaminated equipment or clothing or by airborne virus.	Abortions, infertility, fever, sneezing, coughing, pneumonia, incoordination; stillbirth, abortion, piglet mortality.
Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome	Direct contact with nasal discharge, feces, urine, saliva or through sexual contact. Contaminated feed, water, or equipment or by airborne virus.	Lack of appetite, lethargy, coughing, pneumonia, skin discoloration, stillbirth, weak piglets, and reduced milk production.
Porcine Circovirus Type 2	Direct contact with infected animals, through nasal discharge, feces, urine, or saliva.	Weight loss, jaundice, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swollen lymph nodes.
Giant Kidney Worm	Ingestion of larvae, penetration through the skin, or through infected earthworms.	Loss of appetite, weight loss, blood in urine.
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus	Contact with infected feces directly or through contaminated, feed, water, soil, or surfaces.	Acute watery diarrhea and vomiting.
Trichinellosis	Ingestion of muscle tissue infected with the encysted larval stage of the parasite.	Vomiting and diarrhea, larvae may migrate and form cysts in muscle tissue.
Toxoplasmosis	Ingestion of tissue cysts in undercooked or raw meat, or of food and water contaminated with oocysts. Also, the consumption of rodents.	Clinical signs are uncommon in adults but may cause an increase in stillbirths or premature, weak piglets. Diarrhea may occur.
Salmonellosis	Ingestion of contaminated feces, food or water.	Fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and rancid, watery or bloody diarrhea.

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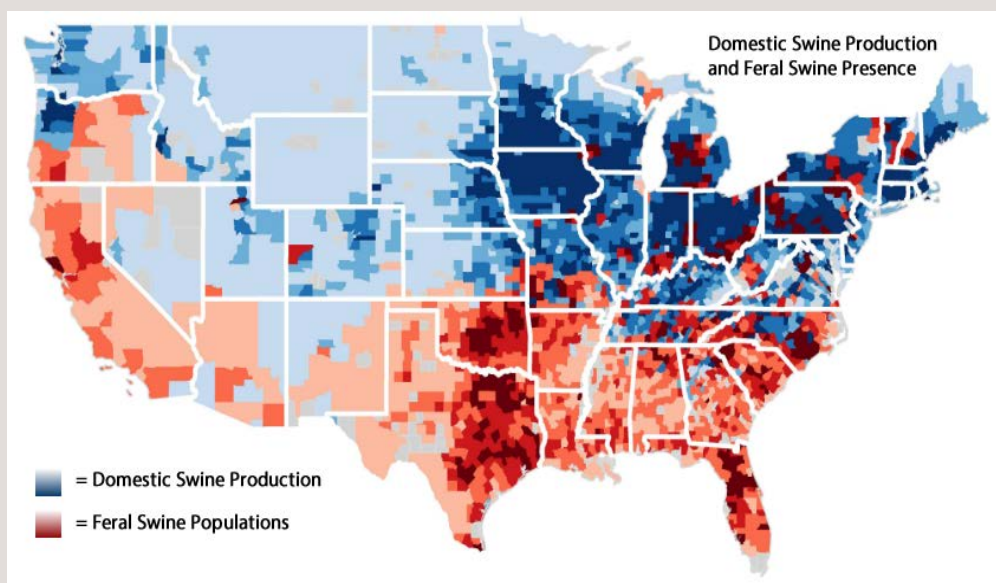
## What is at risk?



The United States is the second largest producer of pork in the world, generating \$34 billion of revenue in the United States per year. An increasing amount of pork producers in the United States, nearly 37%, are located in regions where feral swine are common. Disease introductions from feral swine could have a huge financial impact on your farm through losses in productivity and trade. It is important to protect your livestock by reducing any potential for exposure to feral swine.

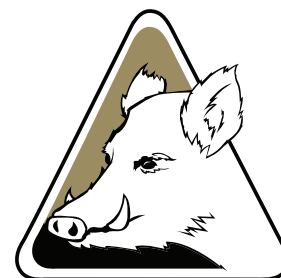
## How can I protect my domestic swine from becoming infected?

- Take additional precautions to prevent interactions with your pigs if feral swine are found in your area. See the map to determine where feral swine currently exist.
- Store feed in barns or prevent feral swine from accessing feed.
- Avoid feeding in troughs or on the ground which can increase the risk of pathogen transmission since feral swine can easily access the feed.
- Prevent feral swine access to water sources used by domestic swine.
- Prevent direct contact between feral swine and domestic swine by maintaining fences and keeping pigs confined, especially at night.



## Want to learn more?

Call Wildlife Services, a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, at 1-866-4-USDA-WS or visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/stopferalswine](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/stopferalswine) to learn more about the problems caused by this invasive animal, as well as to seek advice and assistance in dealing with feral swine.



Manage the Damage  
Stop Feral Swine