

Feral Swine Disease Risks to Livestock

Why are feral swine a concern for livestock?



Feral swine can carry a large number of pathogens and parasites that can affect livestock and are known to transmit up to 34 diseases. Nearly 58% of all livestock farms and 77% of all livestock are located in regions with feral swine. Infection with these pathogens can result in reduced productivity and even livestock deaths, which has a negative economic impact on producers. Feral swine also prey on lambs, calves, or other newborn animals and may even attack animals that are giving birth, leading to further financial losses.

How do livestock become infected?

Direct contact. Feral swine have sharp tusks and can be aggressive towards livestock especially when feed is available. This can lead to injury or disease transmission to livestock.

Indirect contact. If feral swine are allowed to access pastures or water sources meant for livestock, feral swine can leave behind feces or urine that can infect livestock if ingested.

- Contaminated feed. When livestock feed is left easily accessible, such as in troughs on the ground or stored outside, feral swine can contaminate the feed with their urine, feces, or respiratory secretions.
- Contaminated water. Feral swine seek out water sources for drinking and wallowing, including watering troughs and ponds. This behavior can result in water contaminated with feral swine urine or feces which may contain harmful bacteria, parasites, or other pathogens.



Feral swine in livestock paddock



Feral swine in feeder with cattle



Feral swine contaminate feed

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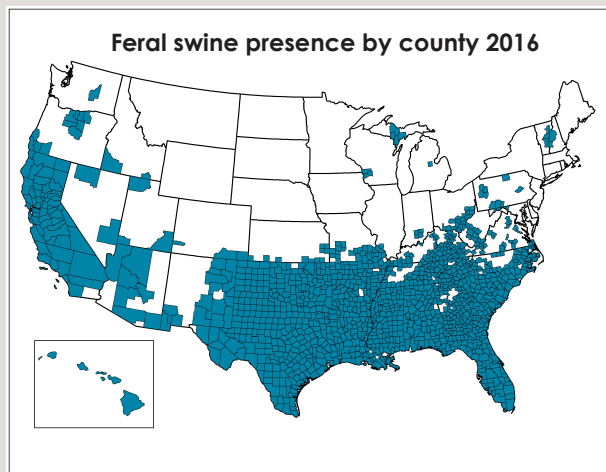
Diseases of Concern for Domestic Livestock



Disease	Cattle	Swine	Sheep/Goats	Dogs
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella suis</i>)	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Leptospirosis	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Pathogenic E. Coli	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Salmonellosis	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Tuberculosis	⊙	⊙		
Tularemia	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Influenza A	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Porcine Circovirus Type 2		⊙		
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea		⊙		
Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome		⊙		
Pseudorabies	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙
Toxoplasmosis		⊙	⊙	⊙
Q Fever	⊙	⊙	⊙	
Trichinellosis		⊙	⊙	⊙

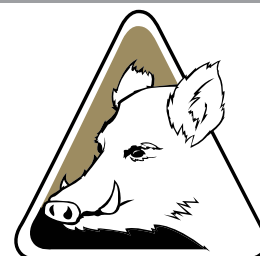
How can I protect my domestic animals?

- If feral swine are in your area, take additional precautions to prevent them from contacting your livestock. See the map to determine where feral swine currently exist.
- Store feed in barns to prevent feral swine from accessing feed whenever possible.
- 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 when possible.
- Prevent direct contact between feral swine and livestock when possible by maintaining fences and keeping livestock in barns, especially at night.



Want to learn more?

If feral swine are a threat to your livestock and a challenge to manage on your property Wildlife Services is here to help. For more information contact your local Wildlife Services program at 1-866-4-USDA-WS or visit www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/stopferalswine



Manage the Damage
Stop Feral Swine