

Feral Swine Disease Risks to Sheep & Goats

Why should I worry about feral swine?

In addition to damaging agricultural crops and destroying farm equipment and fences, feral swine also carry pathogens and parasites that can infect sheep and goats. Feral swine are known to carry and transmit nearly 80% of the diseases of concern for sheep and goats. This may occur either through direct contact or by ingestion of water or feed contaminated with feral

swine feces, urine or respiratory secretions. Feral swine also pose a predatory threat to small livestock. Feral swine are omnivores, and although their diet consists primarily of plant material, they may opportunistically prey on newborn sheep and goats. It can be challenging to identify a lamb or kid killed by feral swine, because they consume their entire prey.



Diseases of Feral Swine that Can Affect Sheep and Goats

| Disease | Routes of Transmission | Symptoms |
|---|--|--|
| Toxoplasmosis | Ingestion of contaminated water or feed. | Abortion, stillbirths, and birth defects. |
| Salmonellosis | Ingestion of contaminated feces or food or water that is contaminated with the bacteria. | Fever, lethargy, dehydration, diarrhea, stillbirths, and abortions. |
| Pathogenic <i>E. coli</i> Infection | Ingestion of contaminated feces or food or water that is contaminated with the bacteria. | Diarrhea, lethargy, and excessive salivation in lambs. |
| Tuberculosis | Contact with infected animals or indirect contact with contaminated feed or water. Uncommon outside of Hawaii. | Weight loss, lack of appetite, low grade fever, cough, diarrhea, and constipation. |
| Brucellosis (<i>Brucella species</i>) | Direct contact with infected animals, aborted fetuses, afterbirth, or vaginal discharges. | Abortion, fever, swollen udders, and swollen testicles. |
| Q Fever (<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>) | Ingestion, inhalation, or direct contact with birthing fluids, aborted material, milk, urine, or feces. | Anorexia, spontaneous abortion. |
| Leptospirosis | Direct or indirect contact with infected urine. | Abortion, reduced milk production, and death. |
| Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch") | Nose-to-nose contact, contaminated water or feed, ingestion of infected tissues, aerosol, or contaminated equipment. | Intense itching, weakness, convulsions, rapid breathing, and death. |

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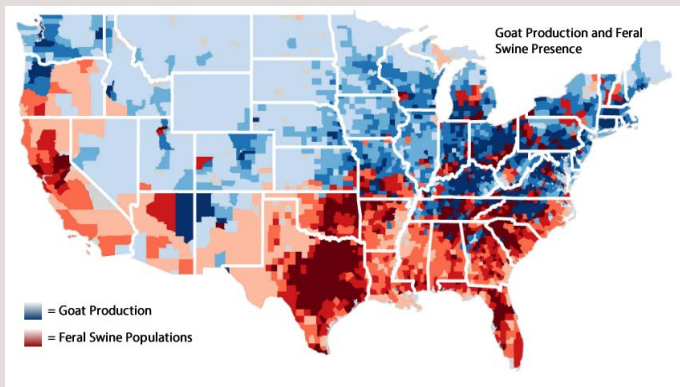
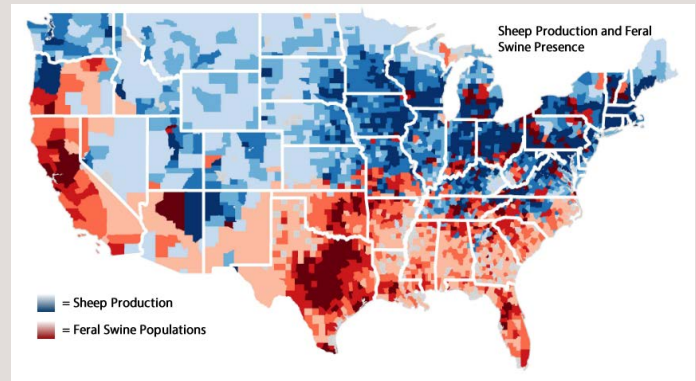
What is at risk?



Sheep and goat farmers contribute more than \$900 million to the U.S. economy each year through the sales of meat, milk, wool, and mohair products. Feral swine populations commonly overlap sheep and goat production with as high as 54% of sheep and goat farms in the United States being located in regions where feral swine occur. Preventing interaction between your livestock and feral swine is important in reducing the negative economic and animal welfare impacts feral swine can have on your farm and livestock.

How can I protect my sheep and goats from feral swine impacts?

- Take precautions to prevent interactions with your sheep and goats if feral swine are found in your area. See the map to determine where feral swine currently exist.
- Store feed indoors, off the ground, or contained to prevent access and contamination by feral swine and other wildlife.



- Prevent feral swine access to feed and water sources used by sheep and goats.
- Use fencing or other means to prevent direct contact between feral swine and sheep and goats.

Want to Learn More?

Call Wildlife Services, a program within the United States 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 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