FERAL SWINE MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA

TAHNEE SZYMANSKI

ASSISTANT STATE VETERINARIAN

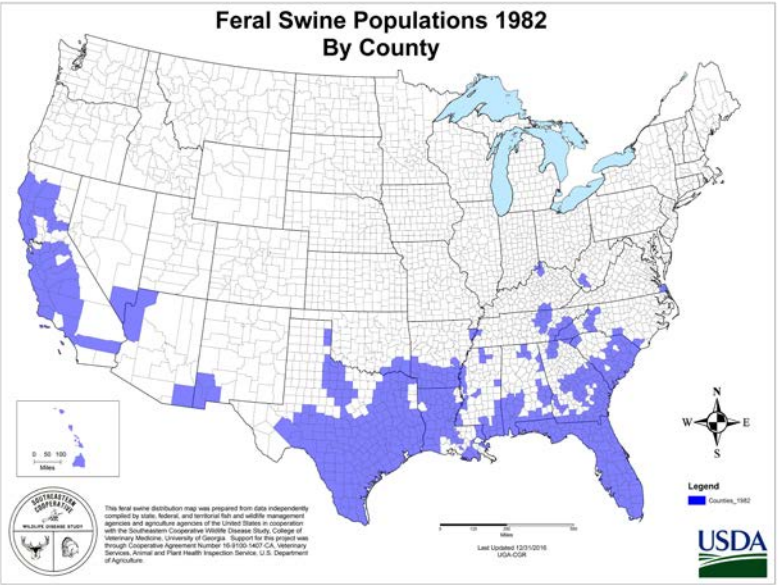
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

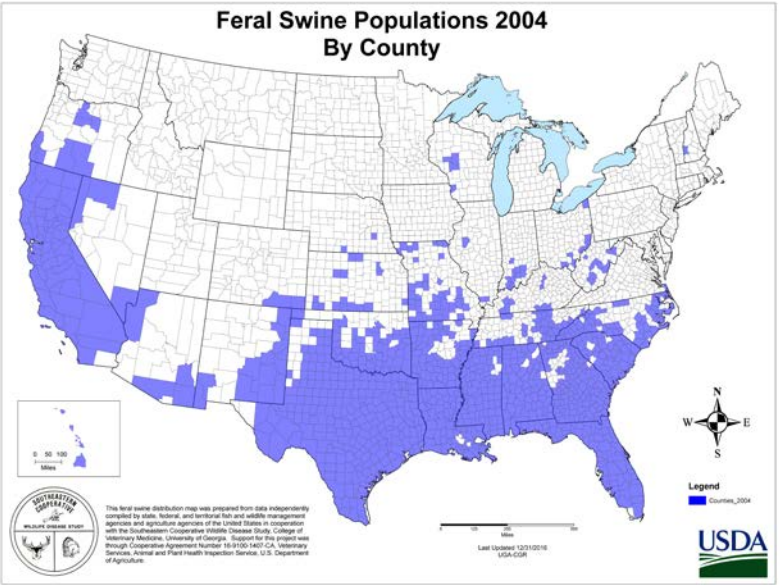
Presentation by Tahnee Szymanski for CMR CWG

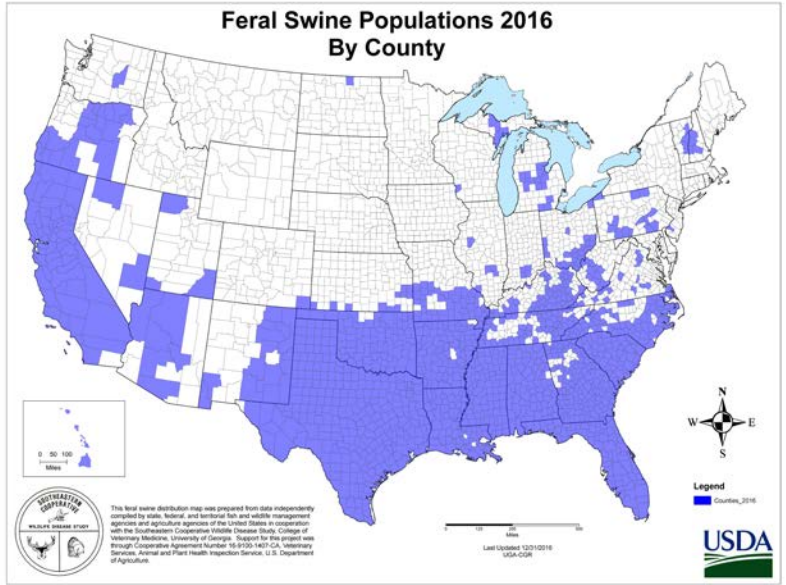
KEY FEATURES:

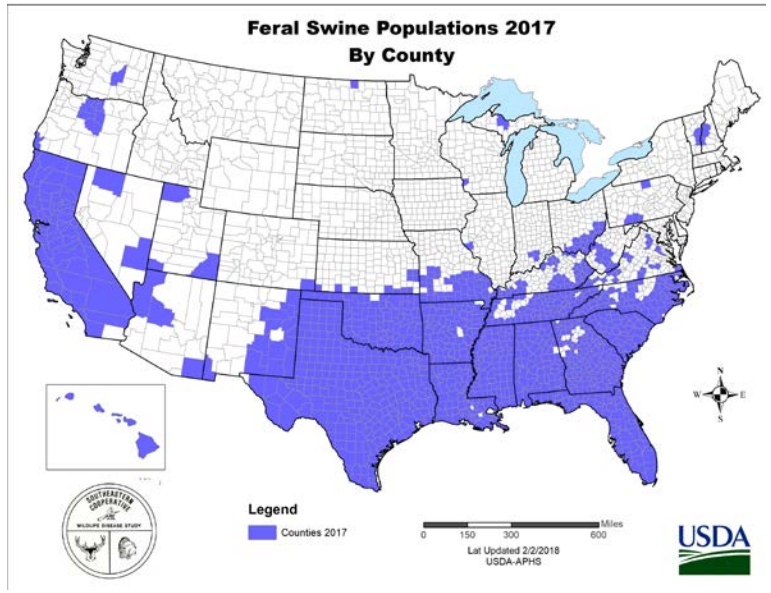
- History and Concern
- Montana Code (MCA)
  - Definition
  - No hunting
  - Expanding range is prohibited
  - Provision for eradication on private property
  - Strong penalties
- Partnership with FWP, WS, and MISC

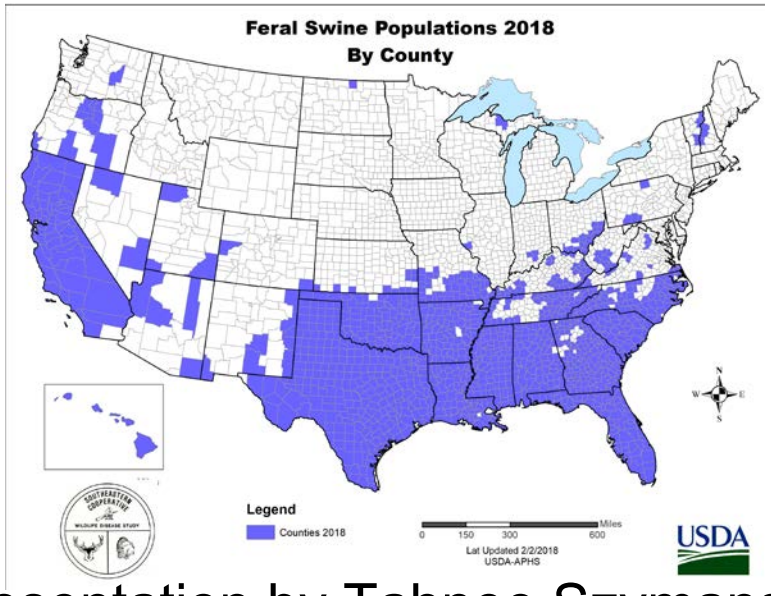
Source: MDOL Staff











Presentation by Tahnee Szymanski for CMR CWG

HISTORY AND CONCERN

Legislation banning feral swine in Montana was passed during the 2015 legislative session.

Invasive species

- Property damage
- Erosion to river
- Consumption and destruction of field crops
- Predatory
- Habitat damage
- Damage to natural resources
- Able to carry or transmit 30 diseases and 37 parasites transmissible to livestock, people, pets, and wildlife

DISEASES CARRIED BY FERAL SWINE

- Swine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*)* 9.8%
- Pseudorabies
- PRRSV
- Swine influenza virus 14.1%
- Porcine circovirus-associated diseases
- African swine fever
- Foot and mouth disease
- Classical swine fever
- Tuberculosis*
- Trichinellosis* 3.5%
- Leptospirosis 48.9%
- Hepatitis E*
- Q Fever*
- Tularemia*
- Toxoplasmosis* 9%

* *Zoonotic*

Source: Wild boars as sources for infectious disease in livestock and humans. Meng et al. 2009

MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED

MCA 81-29-101-106

Presentation by Tahnee Szymanski for CMR CWG

81-29-101 DEFINITIONS

- "Feral swine" – a hog, boar, or pig that appears to be untamed, undomesticated, or in a wild state or appears to be contained for commercial hunting or trapping.

81-29-102 CONTROL OF FERAL SWINE

- A person, a state agency, or a federal agency authorized by the state or the federal government is allowed to control or eradicate feral swine.

81-29-103 PRESENCE OF FERAL SWINE – NOTIFICATION – IMMEDIATE THREAT

- A person who believes feral swine are present on private or public property shall notify the board and, if authorized, assist in the control or eradication of the feral swine.
- A person, or the person's agent who encounters feral swine on property owned or leased by that person may immediately eradicate the feral swine if the feral swine:
  - Pose an immediate threat of harm to a person or property; or
  - Will expand its range without immediate eradication.
- A person who eradicates feral swine on property owned or leased by that person shall notify DOL as soon as practicable.

32.22.201 FERAL SWINE MANDATORY REPORTING

- (1) Any person, including, but not limited to, landowners, tenants, or persons responsible for property oversight in Montana who knows or has reason to believe feral swine as defined in 81-29-101, MCA, are present on private or public property must report such knowledge to the Department of Livestock.
- (2) The presence of feral swine must be reported by phone within 24 hours to the Department of Livestock.
- (3) The Department of Livestock shall report the presence of feral swine to other state agencies with an expressed interest in the presence of feral swine.

History: 81-2-102, 81-29-103, 81-29-106, MCA; IMP, 81-2-102, 81-29-103, 81-29-106, MCA; NEW, 2016 MAR p. 223, Eff. 2/6/16.

81-29-104 PROHIBITIONS

Source: MDOL Staff

- The following actions are prohibited:
  - Importing, transporting, or possessing live feral swine
  - Intentionally, knowingly, or negligently allowing swine to live in a feral state
  - Hunting, trapping, or killing feral swine or assisting in hunting, trapping, or killing feral swine.
  - Intentionally feeding a feral swine
  - Expanding the range of feral swine
  - Profiting from the release, hunting, trapping, or killing of feral swine.

WHY ISN'T HUNTING ALLOWED?

- Due to their reproductive efficiency, and movement behavior, swine cannot be effectively controlled by simple hunting practices.
- Hunting pressure that fails to eliminate all animals in a group (sounder) can result in further dispersion of animals.
- Feral swine that have been hunted learn behaviors to avoid hunting pressure making them harder to eradicate.

Source: Missouri Department of Conservation

81-29-105 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- A person violating the provision of 81-29-104 is subject to:
  - A fine of at least $2,000 but not more than $10,000 for each violation; and
  - Repayment of costs incurred by a state or federal agency for the control or eradication of a feral swine as a result of the person's violation.

81-29-106 AUTHORITY – COSTS - RULEMAKING

- The Board is authorized to control and eradicate feral swine and may establish rules to implement the reporting requirements of 81-29-103
- The cost of enforcement actions under this part must be paid from the general fund if the cost to the department exceeds $1,000 and federal funds are not available to pay the excess costs.

FERAL SWINE RESPONSE

Presentation by Tahnee Szymanski for CMR CWG

1 Dept of Livestock is the authority for feral swine per MCA 81-29-101.

2 Only those entities authorized by Livestock may take feral swine on public lands.

3 Private land landowners or private land lessees may take feral swine on private lands they own or lease.

…

7 Livestock personnel will deploy to reports of feral swine to ensure that swine are not owned animals.

…

Response to reports of feral swine will vary depending on the type of initial report (feral swine hauled into Montana for release/hunting, escaped domestic swine, or ingress of feral swine from an adjacent state/province).

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE TO FERAL SWINE

PARTNERSHIP

- Fish Wildlife and Parks
- USDA Wildlife Services
- Montana Invasive Species Council

Presentation by Tahnee Szymanski for CMR CWG

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Education/outreach
- Monitoring
- Reporting/response
  - Continued development of response strategies
- Policy discussion
  - Coordination with other states/provinces
  - Evaluation of current MCA

Source: USDA Wildlife Services