

— ARKANSAS —

FERAL HOG HANDBOOK



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Authors:

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Staff

Cynthia Edwards, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

JP Fairhead, Feral Hog Program Coordinator

Amy Lyman, Director of Marketing and Communications

Graphic Design:

Joby Miller, Arkansas Department of Agriculture

Cover Photo:

Laurie Paulik, USDA APHIS

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Arkansas Department of Agriculture

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FERAL HOG FACTS

Feral hogs are a non-native, invasive species that present a significant risk to human and livestock health, agriculture, and natural resources. Found in approximately 38 states and three U.S. territories, feral hogs cause an estimated \$1.5 billion in damages annually, with more than half of the total attributed to direct damage to agriculture.

In Arkansas, damage from feral hogs is estimated at **\$19 million annually**.

Feral hogs are present in every county in Arkansas. They have a high reproductive rate of one to two litters per year, with 4 to 12 piglets per litter. Because feral swine become sexually active at 6-8 months of age, populations can double in size in 4 months.

Feral hogs can transmit a minimum of **45 animal diseases and parasites**. The risk of disease extends across multiple animal agriculture sectors, with the most significant risk to domestic swine operations. In many cases, the introduction of these diseases in domestic livestock could have devastating animal health and economic impacts.



Diseases of highest concern are:

- **Pseudorabies Virus**
- **Swine Brucellosis**
- **Swine Influenza**
- **African Swine Fever**
- **Classic Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)**
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**

FOREWORD

The Arkansas Feral Hog Handbook is a guide to resources available in Arkansas to assist with feral hog control and eradication. It includes contact information, websites, and brief explanations of the resources offered by state and federal agencies and other entities. You also will find information about feral hog online reporting systems, state law and rules regarding feral hogs, the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force, and general information about feral hogs and the damage they cause.

The handbook was made possible through a grant funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture appreciates the partnership with NRCS, members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force, and the contributions by each of the entities that provided information for the publication.

Wesley W. Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Arkansas



ARKANSAS FERAL HOG ERADICATION TASK FORCE

► Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force

The Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force is a group of state and partner agencies dedicated to eradicating feral hogs from the state.

The task force was created by Act 1010 of 2017 to develop a plan for the eradication of feral hogs in Arkansas. When the official term of the task force ended in 2018, the members of the task force agreed to continue working together through a Memorandum of Understanding to combat feral hogs in the state.

The task force is co-chaired by J.P. Fairhead, Feral Hog Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, and Luke Lewis, Assistant Chief of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Wildlife Management Division.

A complete list of the 20 members and partners of the task force can be found on Page 19.

DO YOU HAVE A FERAL HOG PROBLEM?

Please call **(501) 835-2318**.

The Wildlife Services staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will assist you in identifying the best resources and control alternatives to address the problem.

HAVE YOU DETECTED FERAL HOGS IN YOUR AREA?

Report sightings and kills online: [**agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/feral-hog/**](https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/feral-hog/)



**REPORT
SIGHTINGS**



**REPORT
KILLS**

Accurately measuring the Arkansas feral hog population is a critical part of the overall eradication and control strategy. The reporting of feral hog sightings and kills is entirely voluntary and will help agencies properly assess feral swine populations across Arkansas.

USDA FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM

► The Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program:

Arkansas was one of ten states to receive funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (Pilot Program) in 2019. The Pilot Program is a collaborative effort between the USDA NRCS, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (Wildlife Services), Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension, local conservation districts, and other partners.

The Pilot Program consists of four project areas: West Arkansas River Valley, North Central, Southeast, Southwest. These areas include a total of 22 counties divided into two tiers. See map on page 6.

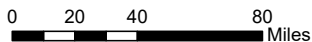
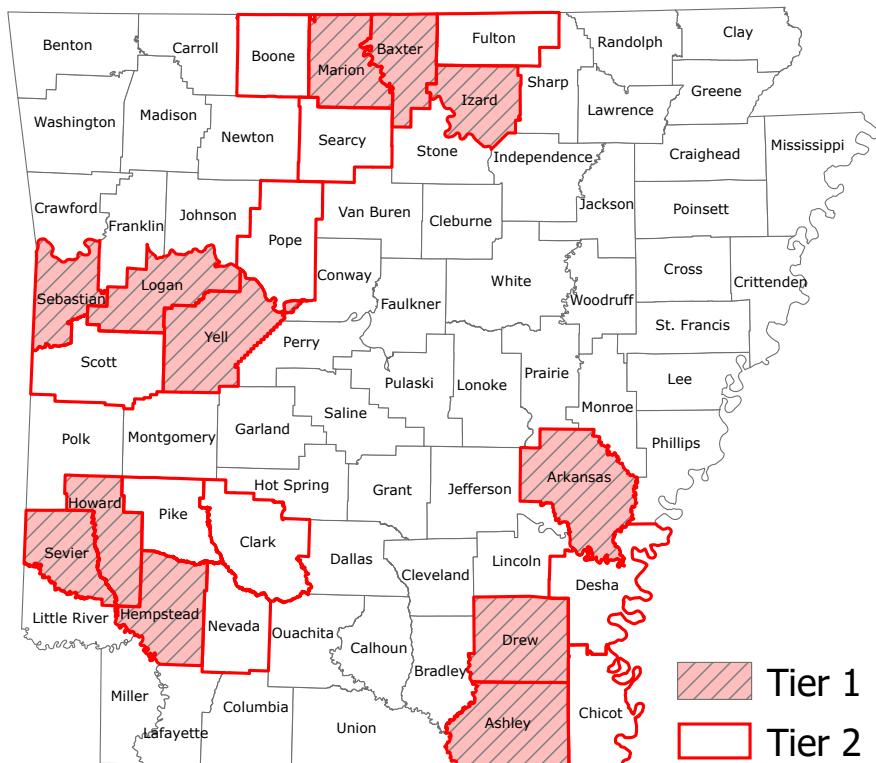
Work will begin in the 12 Tier One counties, with a goal of conducting efforts in Tier Two counties after removal efforts and damage assessments in Tier One have been evaluated.

The Pilot Program grant funds will be used to hire ten conservation district technicians and purchase needed equipment within Tier One counties. The ten conservation district technicians will coordinate with existing USDA APHIS Wildlife Services personnel in assisting private landowners with feral swine removal efforts. Eight technicians will be hired by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services across the four project areas.

Educational and outreach components of the project may include landowner workshops, field days, demonstrations, damage assessments, and surveys conducted by partnering agencies and conservation districts.

Landowners in the Tier One counties that need assistance with feral hogs on their property should contact USDA APHIS Wildlife Services' State Office at (501) 835-2318 or their local conservation district office for more information.

Arkansas Feral Hog Pilot Program Areas



ARKANSAS LAW AND RULES ON FERAL HOGS

Overview of Arkansas law and rules regarding feral hogs

Feral hogs are deemed a public nuisance and legally defined in Ark. Code Ann. § 2-38-501 as:

an animal or hybrid animal of either the family Suidae, including without limitation a wild hog, Russian or European wild boar, and Old World swine, or the family Tayassuidae, including without limitation peccary, javelina, and New World swine, that is or has been roaming freely upon public land or private land; and any domestic swine that have escaped from confinement for more than five days, or more than 15 days if the owner gave notice of the escape to adjacent landowners within the first five days of the escape.

Hog Transportation Rules

The sale and transport of live feral hogs is prohibited.

Swine being transported without an official identification tag are considered to be feral.

Capture of Feral Hogs

Captured feral hogs must be killed immediately unless the following exceptions are met:

1. A private landowner captures feral hogs on his or her private property and does not move them from the private property, or
2. Feral hogs were captured and released by state or federal authorities for tracking or research purposes and with the approval of the Livestock and Poultry Commission and landowning entity's permission. Feral hogs that are used for tracking or research purposes must be killed upon completion of the tracking or research project.

Release of Feral Hogs

Releasing feral hogs into the wild is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 per hog or imprisonment up to 90 days, or both.

Purchasing, selling, or transporting feral hogs is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per hog or imprisonment up to 30 days, or both. Arresting officers may seize equipment, motor vehicles, trailers, or traps used in the commission of these offenses. Restitution may be required for transporting, housing, feeding, euthanizing, and disposing of any hog related to the enforcement of state statutes.

Hog Hunting and Shooting Regulations

On Private Land

Feral hogs may be killed or trapped year-round, by a landowner or anyone with the landowner's permission. A person whose hunting license is revoked shall not take or kill a feral hog during the period of the revocation.

On Public Land

- Public land includes Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), and National Forests.
- Dogs and traps are not allowed for hunting, or taking, feral hogs on WMAs.
- Feral hogs may be taken incidentally by hunters who are hunting bear, deer, or elk during an open, or permitted firearm (including muzzleloader) season with weapons legal for those seasons, and with archery tackle from November 1 through December 31 annually on certain Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), National Forests, or other publicly held properties.

For a complete list of WMAs and NWRs and other publicly held land which allow incidental take, and the specific law regarding feral hogs, please visit the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) website at: **apps.agfc.com/regulations/20.24**.

General information regarding the AGFC and feral hogs may be located at: **www.agfc.com/en/hunting/feral-hogs**.

Airborne Eradication Permitting

A person wishing to engage in the removal of feral hogs with the use of aircraft may only do so after obtaining a permit from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

Permit applications can be obtained at **agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/feral-hog/** and must be reviewed and approved by the Department before a permit can be issued. Permits will not be issued for recreational purposes. Supporting documentation of removal efforts are required after events.



RESOURCES

The following task force member agencies have resources for landowners experiencing feral hog issue:

- Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Arkansas Dog Hunters Association
- Arkansas Farm Bureau
- Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Arkansas System, Cooperative Extension Service



Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

4004 McCain Blvd., Ste. 201-B
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116
aracd.org

Alice Weeks
Project Coordinator
paweeks@att.net
(479) 209-3514

Debbie Moreland
debbiepinreal@aol.com
(501) 904-5575

Technicians for Landowner Assistance

Selected districts will be participating in the USDA Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program within Tier 1 counties (listed on pages 5 & 6). Technicians will be located with those counties to assist USDA APHIS Wildlife Services staff with direct landowner assistance to address feral swine issues. The districts will coordinate with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to allocate resources within the pilot area.

District technicians will:

- Provide direct technical assistance to landowners/operators in cooperation with USDA APHIS WS
- Enroll landowners in the feral swine eradication program
- Reconnoiter, establish, and maintain bait sites
- Coordinate, deploy, and monitor traps
- Coordinate removal efforts with APHIS
- Participate in landowner outreach activities
- Assist in the collection, monitoring, and evaluation of data

Monitoring/Evaluation

Districts will be collecting, monitoring, evaluating, and sharing data regarding feral swine populations, agricultural damage, and environmental concerns. In partnership with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, they will implement a monitoring/evaluation process to measure success based on producer reports of feral swine damages.

Outreach/Education

Districts will provide educational workshops and outreach to ensure landowners are educated on the need for removing feral swine, approved techniques, and methods for controlling feral swine populations.



Arkansas Department of Agriculture

1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598

J.P. Fairhead
Feral Hog Program Coordinator
(870) 253-3721
j.p.fairhead@agriculture.arkansas.gov

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture supports Arkansas's largest industry to assist farmers and ranchers while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of Arkansas, the nation, and across the globe. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture comprises 22 boards and commissions including the Arkansas Agriculture Board, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Livestock and Poultry Commission, and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture, through various Divisions, administers the Airborne Eradication Permits Program and coordinates operations related to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force. The Department also collaborates with federal, state, and local stakeholders to address resource concerns through partnership projects, including the implementation of the USDA Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program.

For more information, please contact J.P. Fairhead by email or phone using the contact information above.



Arkansas Dog Hunters Association

3355 North Hwy 167
Fordyce, Arkansas 71742
arkansasdoghuntersassociation.com

Jeromy Sullivent
jsullivent@powersar.com
(501) 590-8127

With the use of dogs, we assist large tract land owners with hog removal. The Arkansas Dog Hunters Association will partner land owners with responsible hunters for hog removal.



Arkansas Farm Bureau

10720 Kanis Rd
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
arfb.com

John Bailey
Director of Environmental and
Regulatory Affairs
john.bailey@arfb.com
(501) 251-7987

Formed in 1935, Arkansas Farm Bureau represents close to 190,000 member families around our state. We are an independent, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families that strives to be the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

Farm Bureau is county, state, national, and international in its scope and influence, and we connect consumers with the farmers and ranchers who work hard every day to provide the world with food, fiber, and shelter. Our work is conducted in county Farm Bureaus by volunteer leaders serving on boards and committees and planning social outings, educational workshops, political action and community forums; encouraging agricultural education in public schools; writing policy that guides lobbying efforts and emphasizing the economic importance of agriculture.

Helping Arkansas farmers and ranchers address the growing problem of feral hogs fits within this larger mission. That is why the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation has worked with county Farm Bureaus to help the county Farm Bureaus offer their members, as part of the member benefits program, a reduced rate for the purchase of a feral hog trap. In addition, Farm Bureau has worked with vendors so that county Farm Bureaus can purchase traps at a significantly reduced price.

For further assistance or information on this program, contact John Bailey by email or phone using the contact information above.



Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
agfc.com/en/hunting/feral-hogs/

Wildlife Management Division
(501) 223-6359
AskAGFC@agfc.ar.gov

The AGFC Technical and Biological field personnel may provide limited technical and trapping assistance to private landowners as well as providing educational and outreach efforts by participating in and conducting hog control workshops, seminars, and field demonstrations.



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

1020 Lantrip Road
Sherwood, Arkansas 72120
[www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/
wildlifedamage](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage)

Robert Byrd
State Director
robert.w.byrd@usda.gov
(501) 835-2318

Assistance with feral swine problems provided to private landowners in Arkansas.

As part of the USDA APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, Arkansas Wildlife Services offers on-site assistance to landowners with feral swine problems. Wildlife Services has biologists and technicians available to directly assist landowners with trapping and removal efforts. Landowners seeking help in removing feral hogs can contact Wildlife Services at the number above. Wildlife Services is also available to conduct seminars and programs on feral swine control.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

700 West Capitol Ave, Rm 3416
Little Rock, AR 72201
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ar/home/

Michael E. Sullivan
State Conservationist
michael.sullivan2@usda.gov
(501) 301-3100

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and USDA APHIS as part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Project authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. Through this partnership Arkansas landowners can begin the process addressing resource concerns resulting from feral swine activity. For more information regarding feral swine control contact James Baker, State Biologist, at (501) 301-3142.

NRCS also has several additional technical and financial assistance programs to address resource concerns across the State of Arkansas including rehabilitation of agricultural areas damaged by feral swine.

The Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) provides technical assistance to landowners to address resource concern such as soil erosion, water quality problems and wildlife habitat concerns. For over 80 years NRCS has been assisting landowners to develop comprehensive conservation plans that recommend conservation practices to solve their individual resource problems.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

To obtain more information regarding NRCS programs contact your local NRCS Field Office. A listing of Field Offices can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ar/contact/local/.

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

Cooperative Extension Service
2404 North University Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
www.uaex.edu/feralhogs

Dr. Becky McPeake
rmcpeake@uaex.edu
(501) 671-2285

Landowner Education

Agricultural agents are located in all 75 counties, with access to feral hog traps for demonstrating best practices and techniques for capturing feral hogs locally where you live. If you are willing to host an educational trapping demonstration on your property or would like a workshop held in your community, contact your local County Extension Office, which can be found at www.uaex.edu. Resources and publications can be found on our website at www.uaex.edu/feralhogs.

Research

Research about feral hogs is ongoing, including monitoring and evaluating damages and the effectiveness of feral hog control methods, and experimenting with state-of-the-art technologies to improve understanding about feral hog behaviors and damages to reduce their impacts to landowners.

Arkansas Forest Resources Center

The Center brings together interdisciplinary expertise from across the University of Arkansas System including the Agriculture Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension Service, and College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello campus. Although headquartered at UA-Monticello, Center programs range statewide. www.afrc.uamont.edu.

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Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force Members

Arkansas Department
of Agriculture

Arkansas Association of
Conservation Districts

Arkansas Game and
Fish Commission

Arkansas Farm Bureau

Department of
Arkansas Heritage

Arkansas Forestry Association

Rural Services Division of
Arkansas Economic
Development Commission

Arkansas Pork
Producers Association

Arkansas Department
of Parks and Tourism

The Nature Conservancy

Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas Dog Hunters
Association

University of Arkansas System
Division of Agriculture

Arkansas Association
of Counties

Partner Members

USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Services

USFS, Ozark/St. Francis
National Forest

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

USFWS, Dale Bumpers White
River Refuge

USFS, Ouachita
National Forest



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE



U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



The Nature
Conservancy



Natural Resources Conservation Service





Arkansas Department of Agriculture
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov | (501) 225-1598