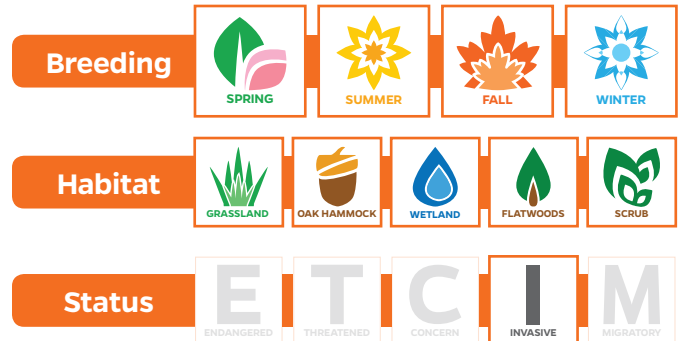


# FERAL SWINE

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#001 Invasive Rangeland Vertebrate Factsheet Series

## An Ecological and Agricultural Invader



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Sus scrofa*

**SYNONYMS:** Wild Hog, Feral Hog, Wild Boar, Razorback, Piney Woods Rooter

**HABITAT:** All habitats with a water resource, especially agricultural areas and wetland/upland interface

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Black, brown or brindled in color, juveniles striped

**WEIGHT:** Adults 75-250 lbs

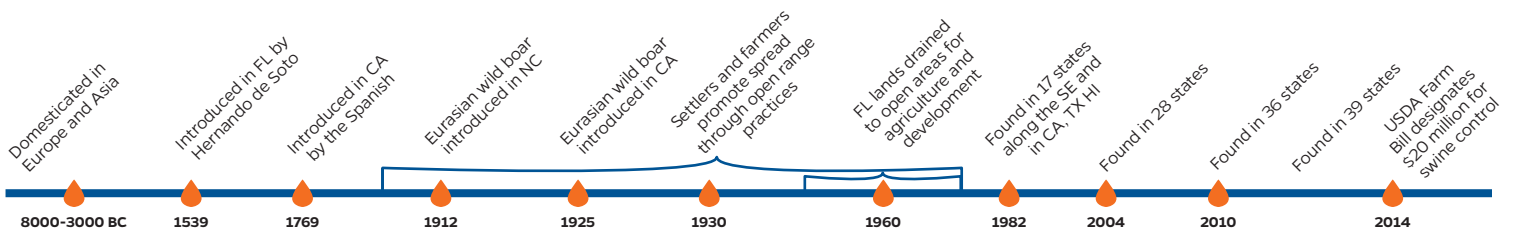
**DEMOGRAPHIC RATE:** 115 day gestation, able to produce 2 litter/year, 6-8 piglets/litter in the wild. Helps populations grow rapidly

**LIFESPAN:** Average of 1-2 years, known to live up to 9-10 years in the wild

**DISPERSAL:** Female and young stay together in groups called sounders. Mature males disperse, sometimes more than 100 miles. Female dispersal activities are unknown.

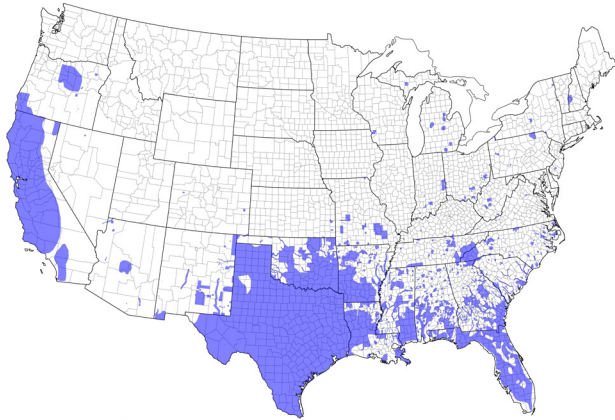


**HISTORY:** Feral swine are not native to the Americas and were introduced by Spanish explorers in the 1500s. In Florida, domesticated swine are thought to have first been introduced in 1539 by Hernando de Soto who settled Charlotte Harbor in Lee County. Later settlers and farmers used open range livestock practices, promoting the spread of swine. Feral swine are descendants of escaped/released domestic swine, hybrids of Eurasian wild boar x domestic swine, or wild boar in non-native habitat.



# FERAL SWINE FAST FACTS

- Forage by rooting, which can negatively impact ecosystems
- No sweat glands, require water and shade to cool in hot environments
- One of the highest reproductive rate of mammals in North America
- Typically found in groups called sounders, males often solitary



Distribution of feral hogs in 2009. (Courtesy of Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study)

**DISTRIBUTION:** Previously presumed to be limited to the south by harsh winters, they are now estimated to be breeding in 39 states, as far north as Michigan, North Dakota, and into Canada. The largest populations are found in Texas, California, Florida, and Hawaii. Population estimates in Florida are >500,000 which could be a great underestimate. Map courtesy of the SCWDS, University of Georgia.

## Tracks



## Signs of Feral Swine



Rooting along edge of wetlands common



Wallows in shady sites used often



Rubs on posts & trees likely used as scent marks



Swine tracks



Swine feces

## How You Can Help

- Do not relocate or transport feral swine
- Control feral swine on your property
- Collaborate with neighbors to control large areas
- Work with you local wildlife agency

**IMPACTS:** The most common type of damage by feral swine is from rooting. When swine root to get food they burrow into the soil with their snouts to find roots, tubers, fungus, etc. This rooting loosens the soil, destroys native vegetation, and modifies the chemistry and nutrients of the soil. Feral swine can negatively impact not only natural ecosystems but also agricultural areas, livestock, and even residential areas. Feral swine also carry numerous diseases, some of which are transmittable to wild and domestic animals as well as humans.



Some wild boar have large tusks.

**To learn more see these factsheets at**  
[www.rangelandwildlife.com](http://www.rangelandwildlife.com)

- Feral Swine Damage Cost
- Feral Swine on Your Property
- Feral Swine Diseases
- Dealing with Damaging and Dangerous Wildlife

