

Feral Hogs in Texas

A group of feral hogs of various sizes, including several adults and piglets, are gathered in a dry, dusty field. The hogs have thick, dark brown, coarse fur. In the background, a wooden building is partially visible under a clear blue sky.

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife

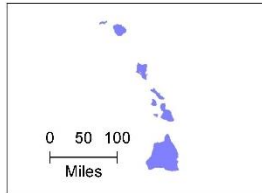
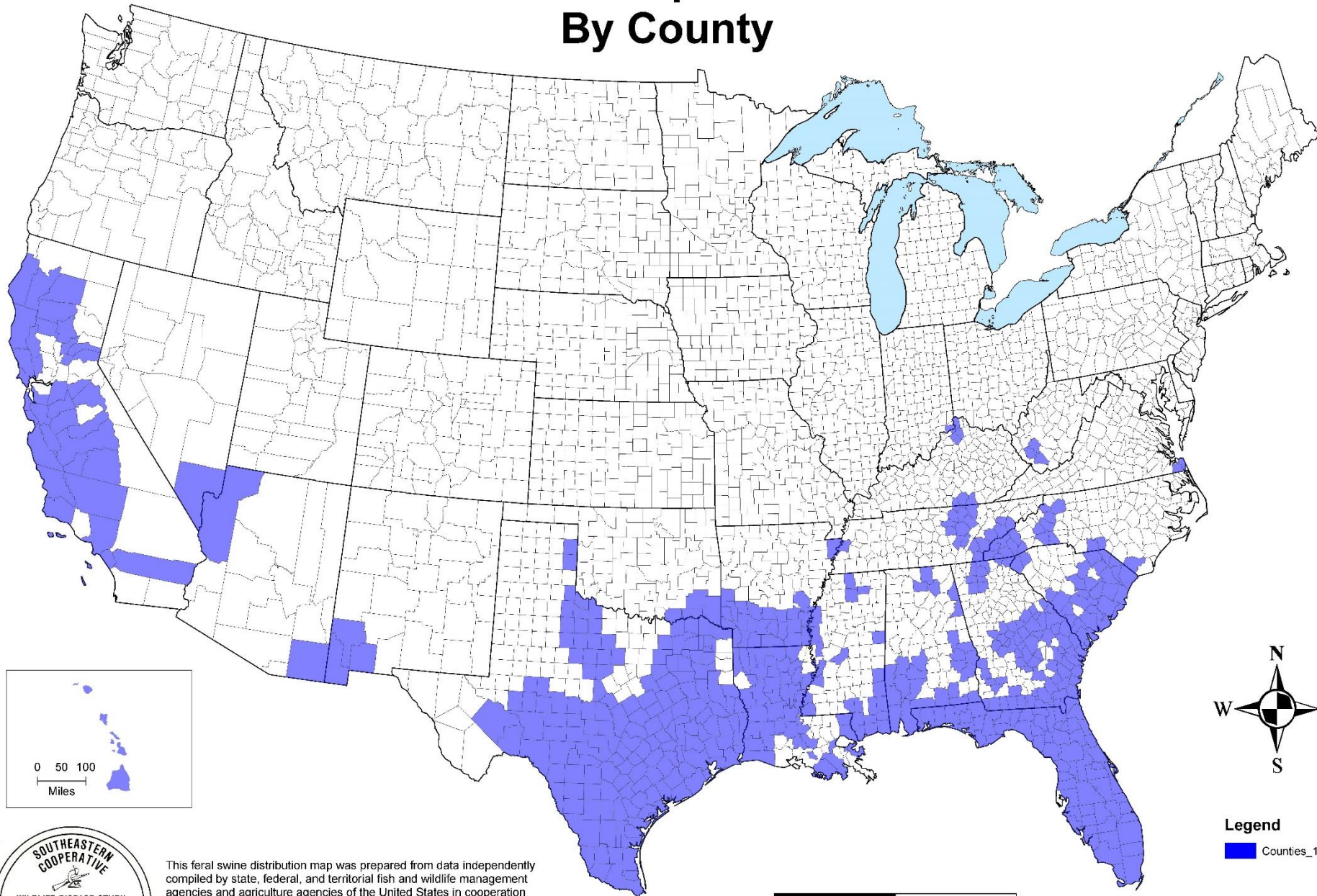
TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

How Did They Get Here?

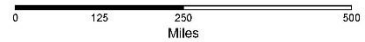
- Descendants of domestic pigs
- 1539: Brought to U.S. by Hernando de Soto
- 1930s: Eurasian Wild Boars introduced for hunting purposes



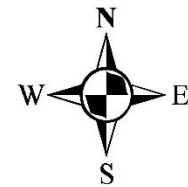
Feral Swine Populations 1982 By County



This feral swine distribution map was prepared from data independently compiled by state, federal, and territorial fish and wildlife management agencies and agriculture agencies of the United States in cooperation with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. Support for this project was through Cooperative Agreement Number 16-9100-1407-CA, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Last Updated 12/31/2016
UGA-CGR

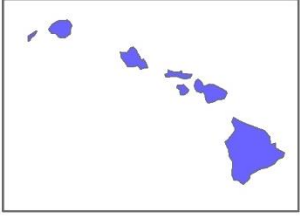
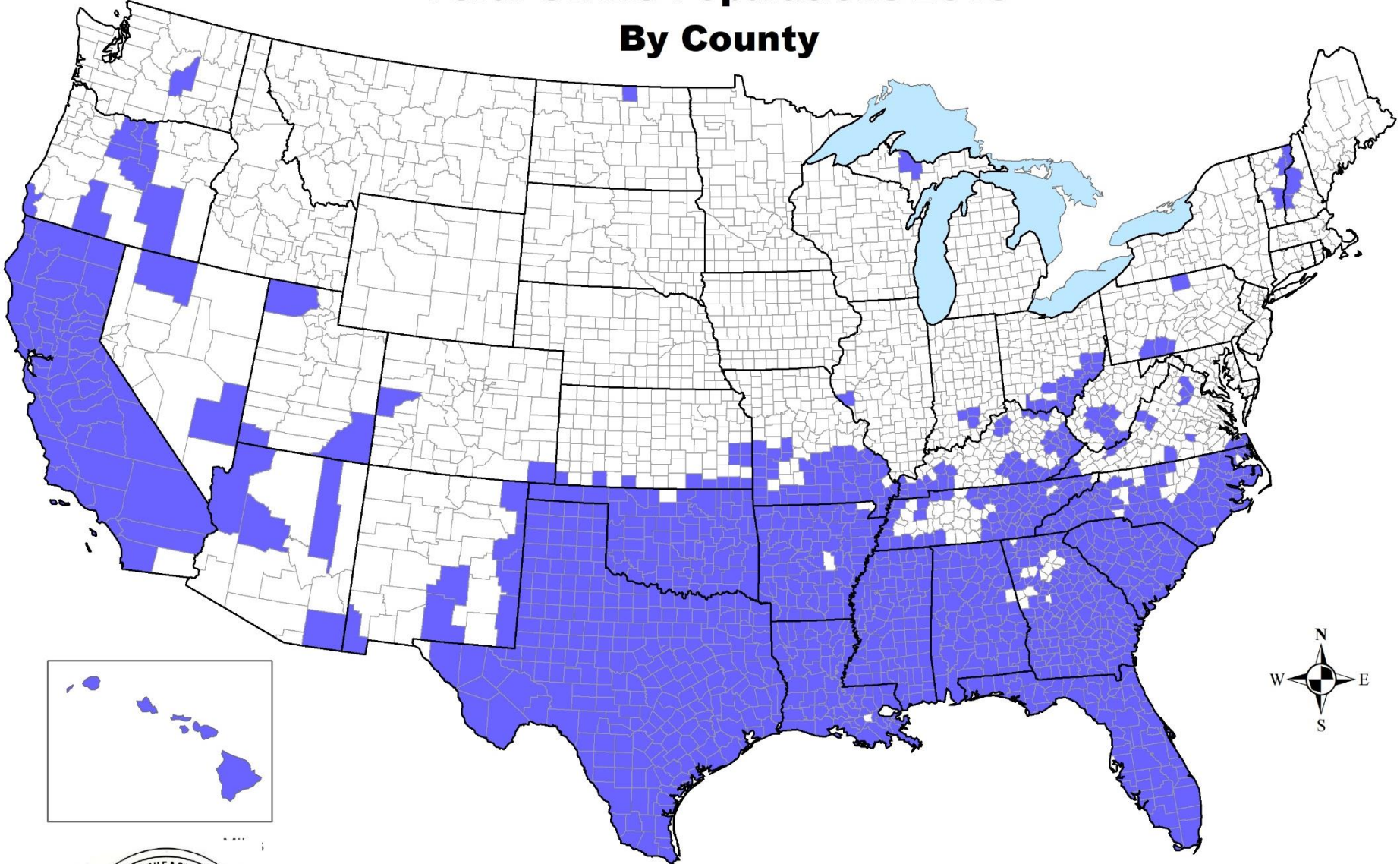


Legend


■ Counties_1982



Feral Swine Populations 2018 By County



Legend

 Counties 2018



Lat Updated 2/2/2018
USDA-APHS



A photograph of a herd of wild boars in a natural, grassy environment. The boars are brown and shaggy, with some individuals in the foreground and others in the background. The ground is dirt with some green vegetation. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image, containing text.

Reasons for Spread

- Highly adaptable generalist
- Low mortality rates
- Reproduce quickly

Reproduction

- Sexual maturity at 6-10 months
- Year-round breeding
- Average 3-8 piglets per litter
- Can have 2 litters per year
- Abundant resources leads to higher reproductive rates



Population Growth

- Without control measures, the population will **triple every 5 years**
- **66%** of the population must be removed to stop population growth
- Currently all control efforts in Texas remove **29%** of the population
 - Population is expected to **double every 5 years**



Social Structure

- Related females and their piglets form groups known as **sounders**
- Males remain with the sounder until 16-18 months old
- Adult males are mostly solitary



Hog Signs: Wallows



Hog Signs: Rubs

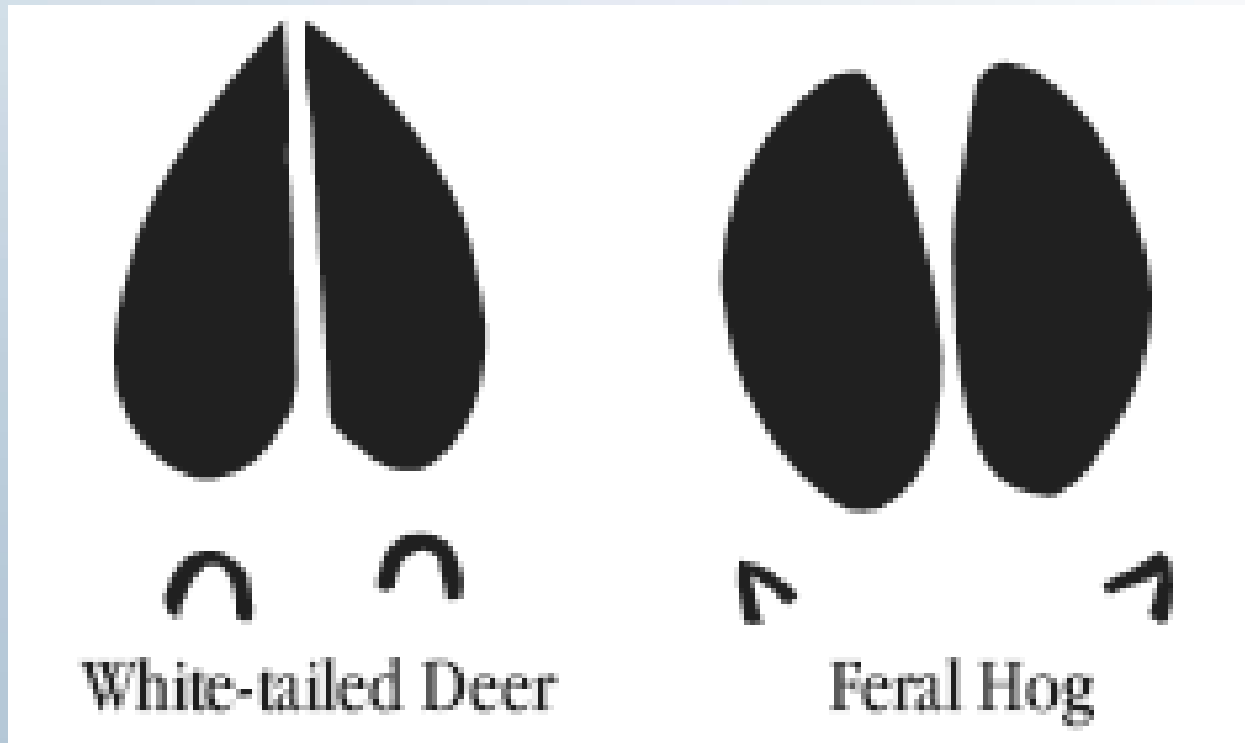


Photo Credit: Rebecca Jordi

Hog Signs: Rooting



Hog Signs: Tracks



\$1.5-2.5 Billion in Damage Annually

Water Quality

Livestock

Erosion

Vehicle Collisions

Increase Invasive Plants

Irrigation Systems

Fencing

Native Wildlife

Landscaping

Domestic Pets

Crops

Native Plant Communities

Roads and Levees

Golf Courses

Athletic Fields

Landscaping

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields
- Homes
- Businesses
- Irrigation systems



Importance of Native Vegetation

- Makes banks resistant to erosion
- Vegetated channels are more stable
- Prevents flooding
- Improves water quality
- Resource for native wildlife



Erosion



Water Quality


- Direct and indirect impacts
- Increase turbidity and sedimentation
- Alter pH
- Decrease dissolved oxygen
- Increase bacteria and nutrient loads
- Contaminate with diseases and parasites
- Can result in recreation/consumption bans



Photo Credit: Paul Gorbould via Flickr Creative Commons

Native Wildlife



A close-up photograph of a wild boar's face, showing its dark, coarse fur and prominent, upright ears. The boar's eye is visible, and its snout is partially seen at the bottom. A semi-transparent grey text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Carry or transmit over 30
diseases and 37 parasites

Attractants

- Riparian and wetland areas
- Thick vegetation
- Crops
- Wildlife feeding stations



Control Methods





TPWD Assistance

- Public education and outreach
- Facilitate community discussions
- Develop a management strategy

Questions?

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE