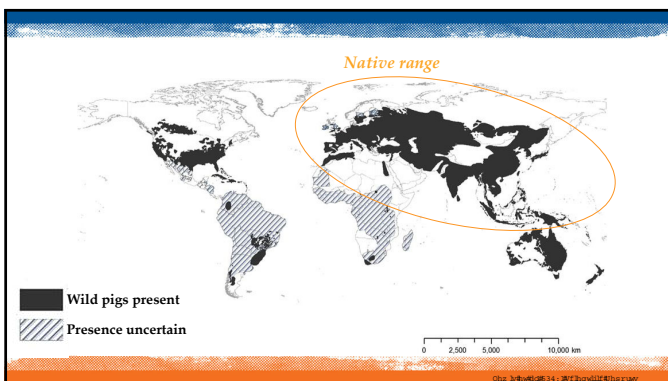


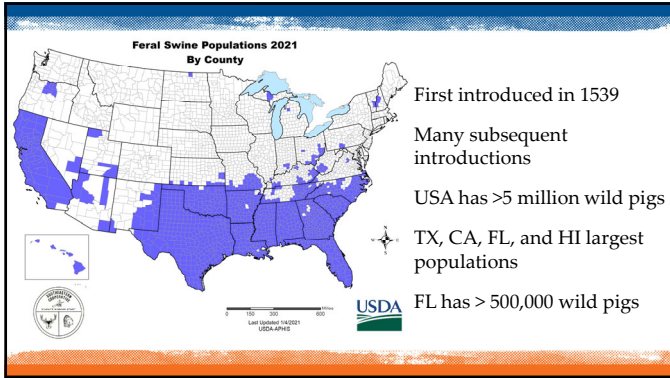
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Wild pig ecology

High reproductive rate

One pregnant wild pig could result in 100 offspring in two years if all of her offspring all breed.



This assumes only 4-7 piglets per litter and one litter per year!

5

Wild pig ecology

Social animals (sounders)

Diet and habitat generalist

but need access to water

but hard mast and roots and tubers are important



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Wild pig ecology

Home range size
 Sounder – 370 acres
 Solitary male – 740 acres

Variable based on:
 Landcover, food resources, sounder size

Impacts wild pig density

Schiffman, P. E., Broughton, B. K., Anderson, W., Wohl, B., VanCauteren, K. C., Miller, B. S., & Lewis, J. S. (2022). Scientific reports, 12(1), 1-11.

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Predators of wild pigs

8

Are wild pigs present on my land?

Swine feces vary in size and color depending on local diet

9

Why manage wild pigs?



Positive impacts

- Hunting opportunities
- generate income
- cultural heritage

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10

Why manage wild pigs?



Negative impacts


- Agricultural damage
- Ecosystem damage
- Disease transmission

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Agricultural damage

> \$1.5 billion a year in the US



Crop damage via consumption is a major issue

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Agricultural damage

> \$1.5 billion a year in the US



Crop damage via consumption is a major issue

Rooting damage can impact pastures and subsequently livestock production

13

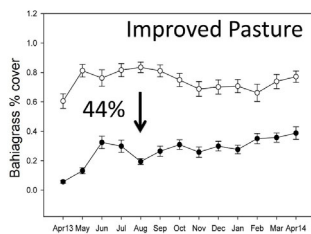
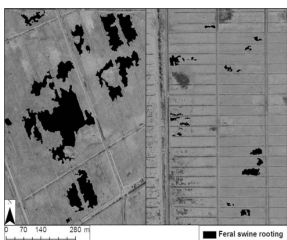
Rooting damage

Wild pigs turn over soil in search of food items

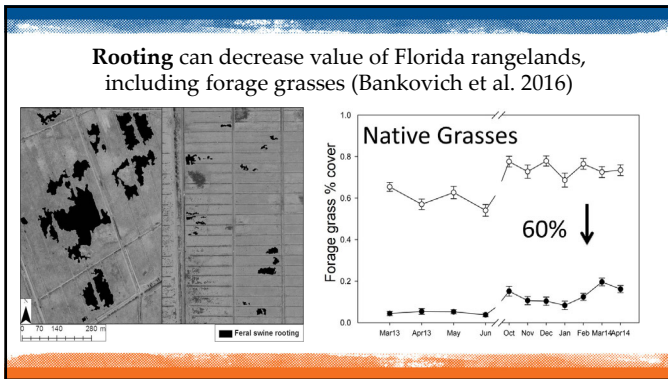


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Rooting can decrease value of Florida rangelands, including forage grasses (Bankovich et al. 2016)



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The cost of rooting to livestock production (Bankovich et al. 2016)

Improved Pasture	Calf Production lbs/acre	Calf Value \$/acre	Cost of rooting \$/acre
Not Rooted	137.5	\$354.01	0
2% Rooted	136.3	\$350.89	\$3.12
10% Rooted	131.5	\$338.43	\$15.58
20% Rooted	125.4	\$322.85	\$31.15
Semi-native Pasture			
Not Rooted	16.5	\$42.48	0
13% Rooted	15.2	\$39.17	\$3.31
20% Rooted	14.5	\$37.38	\$5.10
30% Rooted	13.5	\$34.83	\$7.65

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Rooting damage

Also impacts native ecosystems

- Disturbing the soil modifies soil chemistry and nutrients
- Destroys native vegetation
- Alters species composition
Carolina red root
- Gateway for invasive plants

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Wild pig presence impacts water quality

Organic N and C, SO₄, and Ca²⁺ were 2-11 times higher

E. coli concentrations were 40 times higher

Group	Median	Q1	Q3	Min	Max
Wild pigs present	~1000	~500	~2000	~100	~10000
No pigs	~25	~10	~50	~5	~100

Bolds, S. A., Lockaby, B. G., Dieckhoff, S. S., Smith, M. D., & VerCauteren, K. C. (2021). Journal of Environmental Quality 50: 441-453.

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Competition with native wildlife

Competition for hard mast

white-tailed deer, turkey, squirrels could limit seedling establishment

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Competition with native wildlife

Competition for hard mast

white-tailed deer, turkey, squirrels could limit seedling establishment

Competition at game feeders

Destroy food plots

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Opportunistic predation on native wildlife

Invertebrates more commonly consumed than vertebrates

Sensitive species and habitats



reticulated flatwoods salamander



22

Opportunistic predation on native wildlife



Invertebrates more commonly consumed than vertebrates

Sensitive species and habitats

Predation on eggs and young of ground nesting vertebrates

Turkey, Quail

Sea turtle



0800:10 12:52 AM Turtle


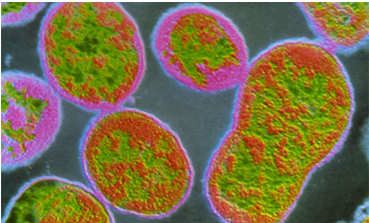


Figure 3. Feral hog consuming wild turkey eggs (Trail camera photos by Dr. Brent Collins)

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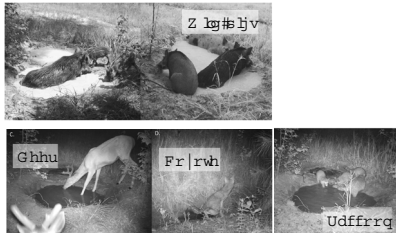
Impacts: Disease Transmission



Bacterial diseases:
Brucellosis
Leptospirosis

24

Impacts: Disease Transmission




Bacterial diseases:
Brucellosis
Leptospirosis

Eckert et al. 2019. J Wildl Diseases

25

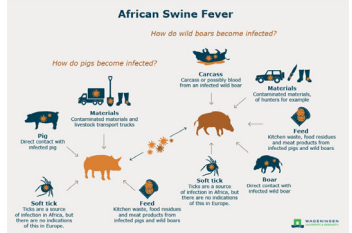
Impacts: Disease Transmission



Bacterial diseases:
Brucellosis
Leptospirosis
Pseudorabies

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Impacts: Disease Transmission



Bacterial diseases:
Brucellosis
Leptospirosis
Pseudorabies
African Swine Fever

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How do we manage wild pigs?



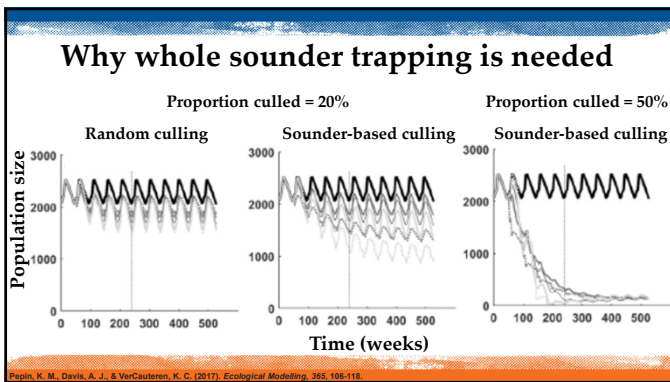
Lethal Removal

To slow population growth, you need to remove 70% of the wild pigs annually

You should aim to remove an entire sounder

Techniques that focus on single individuals are ineffective and potentially counterproductive

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Whole Sounder Trapping



1) Identify areas of high use

30

Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing



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Whole Sounder Trapping




- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait

Common wild pig baits
 Dry or fermented corn
 Vegetable or produce scraps, Molasses
 Gelatin powder, Commercial attractants

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Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait

Monitor wild pig activity with trail cameras
 count number of pigs in the sounder

33

Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait
- 4) Effective trap design

Drop nets and suspended traps were more effective than non-remote activated corral traps

Beckmann, J. A., Gao, K. L., Campbell, T. A., Shiv, N. J., & Webb, S. L. (2021). *Animals*, 11(6), 1569.

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Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait
- 4) Effective trap design
- 5) Bait within trap

35

Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait
- 4) Effective trap design
- 5) Bait within trap
- 6) Monitor traps

Wait until pigs are accustomed to trap before making active

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Whole Sounder Trapping



- 1) Identify areas of high use
- 2) Appropriate timing
- 3) Pre-bait
- 4) Effective trap design
- 5) Bait within trap
- 6) Monitor traps
- 7) Patience and persistence

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Whole Sounder Trapping



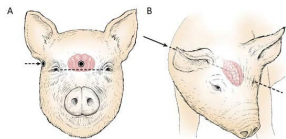
Humane trapping and removal

Wild pigs are invasive; however, they still register pain and stress.

Check traps at least once a day when they are active and place traps somewhere with shade

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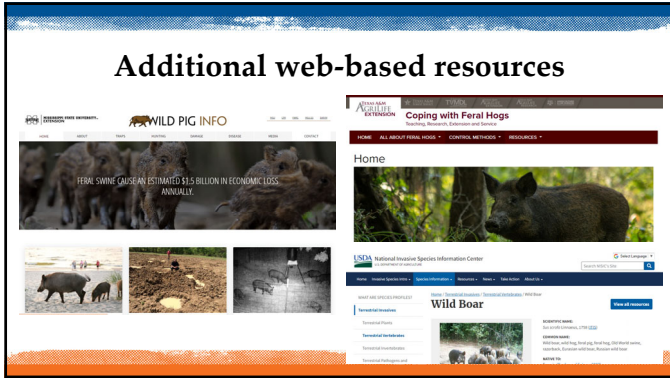
Whole Sounder Trapping



Humane trapping and removal

Wild pigs should be euthanized quickly. Most effective and humane method is with a shot through the skull.

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