

If feral swine are held on private property, the premises must be registered with FDACS as an Approved Feral Swine Holding Facility (FSHF) and must meet the following requirements:

1. Facility is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
2. Facility is maintained in such condition as to prevent escape of captured swine.
3. Facility is not located adjacent to domestic swine herds.
4. Facility will hold only feral swine. No other animals (including cats and dogs) can have direct contact with feral swine.
5. Facility owner/operator must maintain records on all feral swine entering and leaving for one year and are required to make them available to an authorized representative of the Department when requested.
6. Facility owner/operator is registered as an Feral Swine Dealer.



FLORIDA FERAL SWINE TRAPPERS

FERAL SWINE IN FLORIDA



To obtain more information on feral swine, contact the State Veterinarian's Office or visit our website:

State Veterinarian's Office

Telephone: (850) 410-0900

Toll Free: 1-877-815-0034

Fax: (850) 410-0916

24 Hour Reporting: 1-800-342-5869

www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai

Division of Animal Industry

Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

Feral Swine in Florida

The pig is not a native American livestock species and was introduced by settlers to our shores from Spain and Europe. Regardless of the source, their population has grown to an estimated 4 million feral swine, spread over 39 states. Though some of the animals have a distinctive "wild boar" appearance, others may look no different than many breeds of domestic hogs. Where they do well, they have a clear-cut impact on that region causing widespread damage to the natural environment and domestic animals through competition for food, destruction of habitat, and the potential spread of disease. It is estimated there are more than 1 million of these animals in Florida today.

The monetary costs to the State due to habitats damaged by swine can be considerable. As wild pigs are so fertile, capable of producing two litters per year, they are difficult to control. To minimize the threat of wild pigs to domestic swine herds, producers should take precautions to prevent the commingling of feral swine with domestic swine.

Diseases in Feral Swine

Feral swine carry several transmissible diseases that can be transmitted to domestic livestock or humans including the highly contagious Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies. Swine Brucellosis is caused by a bacterium and while the disease usually disappears without causing death in the animal, it remains in some herds for years. Feral swine are most often the source of Brucellosis infection in domestic swine and cattle. Outbreaks of Brucellosis in humans have been reported among packinghouse workers, and the usual source is infected pigs. Feral swine trappers and hunters can also contract Swine Brucellosis by handling infected tissue. Signs of a Brucellosis infection are "flu-like" with recurring fever, chills, and joint and muscle pains.

Pseudorabies is a viral disease carried by feral swine that can lead to high death rates in domestic pigs and may affect other domestic and wild animals. While humans are not in danger of becoming sick from the virus, death can occur in hunting dogs that are exposed to infected feral pigs.

Leptospirosis is also a bacterial infection in swine that leads to "flu-like" signs or hepatitis in humans after they are exposed to water or tissues contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Trichinosis is a parasitic disease of public health importance. Human infections are caused by eating infected meat that has not been well cooked. Classical Swine Fever is a foreign animal disease that, if introduced in this country, could be easily spread by feral swine. Because of the threat of transmission of this and other diseases, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry has programs in place for surveillance testing of feral and garbage-fed swine that are considered high risk for contracting these diseases. Hunters are at risk of becoming infected with Swine Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, and Trichinosis if precautions are not taken when feral swine are dressed. Safety measures should include: wearing disposable gloves when dressing and cleaning swine, avoiding direct contact with blood and reproductive organs, burying or burning gloves and remains from the dressed hog, cleaning up with hot water and soap after butchering, and thorough cooking prior to eating meat from these animals.

Hunting and Trapping Feral Swine

Hunting and trapping feral swine is not only a popular sport in Florida but also a useful tool to control the feral population on private and state lands. FDACS has established regulations as a means of controlling the spread of disease in the domestic swine population.

Through these regulations, Florida has been able to maintain its status as Swine Brucellosis free and Pseudorabies free in its commercial production swine herds. Individuals trapping feral swine on public or state lands must register with FDACS as a Feral Swine Dealer (FSD). The registered FSD will receive an identification card that must be carried when moving feral swine. The dealer must also keep accurate records of all swine movements and make them available to any law enforcement officer or authorized agent of FDACS upon request. These records must include movement date, where the animals were trapped, number of animals, and destination. The registered FSD must limit relocation to areas or premises where there will be no direct contact with domestic swine herds. Final disposition of captured feral swine will be restricted as follows:

1. Movement to slaughter;
2. Movement to a hunting preserve;
3. Movement to an Approved Feral Swine Holding Facility.

