



ASSOCIATION of  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

**FERAL SWINE WORKING GROUP**

**Chair: Gray Anderson (Virginia)**  
**Vice-Chair: Jim LaCour (Louisiana)**

**Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:15 PM – 5:15 PM (CDT)**  
**Fort Worth Ballroom 6**

**[Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting\\*](#)**  
**[Omni Fort Worth Hotel](#)**

**Agenda**

**3:15            Call to Order/Review Agenda (G. Anderson/J. LaCour)**

The meeting was called to order. There were 30 in-person attendees and 20 virtual attendees.

**3:20            Introductions**

Attendees introduced themselves

**3:30            Feral Swine toxicant update: Kaput trials in Texas (John Tomecek, TAMU)**

Dr. John Tomecek is the new Chair of the National Wild Pig Task Force. He gave an overview of previous (<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0206070> ) and a current study of the use of the toxicant Kaput (a warfarin based toxicant) delivered at various doses (0.005 and 0.01) to feral swine through feeders designed to exclude other wildlife. This newest study was requested by the Texas legislature. Testing occurred at 15 sites over several seasons. Previous studies had indicated a problem getting pigs to access bait, so pre-baiting was used to increase likelihood of access and uptake. Feeders were also modified to improve access. The toxicant was very effective among all age classes. The only issue with the toxicant is cost. A single pig may consume as much as 10 lbs of feed/day. Pigs must feed multiple times to get a lethal dose. Potentially up to 8-10 feedings. A blue dye shows in the adipose tissue and joints so that pigs that have died from consuming the toxicant can be easily identified. No non-target species were reported to have been found dead from consuming the toxicant. The feed containing the toxicant is not moisture resistant and will disintegrate becoming unconsumable, which could be a problem in some areas.



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3:45 **Update on SEAFWA bear-resistant container (and feral swine toxicant delivery system testing) (Jon Gassett/ WMI)**

Dr. Jim LaCour (LA DFW) gave this update.

Regarding the feral swine delivery system, various feeders were tried but none were found to be efficacious in deterring black bears.

More testing is underway: <https://wildlifemanagement.institute/project/black-bear-resistant-products-testing>

4:00 **National Feral Swine Damage Management Program update (Dana Cole, APHIS)**

- Update on toxicants from USDA including: Sodium nitrite bait trials/ expected registration/USDA WS/VS surveillance for African Swine Fever/ Classical Swine Fever

Dr. Dana Cole manages the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program for APHIS-WS. Feral swine have been eradicated from 247 counties since 2016. The goal of the program is to eliminate feral swine from states with low densities, or where they have been recently established. In states that have large populations the goal is to simply reduce damage.

American Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) was detected in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. APHIS-VS established a protection zone to prevent the spread of the virus and increased surveillance. WS is working to remove pigs from San Juan, Puerto Rico. There is concern about products coming into the US that may contain the virus. No ASFV positives were found in pigs in Puerto Rico.

In the US, areas potentially susceptible to the influx of ASFV or other diseases (CSF, etc.) are under surveillance for the virus using various techniques, and preventive activities are occurring using eDNA (pig DNA in water sources) and detection dogs.

Studies continue with the use of sodium nitrite with the goal of bringing it into operational use by 2025.

For more on the program see: [National Feral Swine Damage Management Program](#)

4:20 **Report from the SEAFWA & MAFWA Feral Swine Groups (Terri Brunjes (KY))**

Terri is the Furbearer/Wild Pig Program manager for the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department. She reported on multiple projects being conducted in SEAFWA and MAFWA states to reduce feral swine damage. 3 Farm Bill pilot projects have been successful, and 13,000 pigs were eliminated so far. The LSU Agricultural Center is conducting trials on sodium nitrite in which the toxicant is being delivered via balls of



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gelatinous fish meal. That project was stalled by the cost of and experimental use permit from EPA which would cost ~\$350,000. Texas conducted a diet choice test and found that earthworms are preferred over other commonly used baits like corn or acorns.

4:30 **Report from the National Wild Pig Task Force (G. Anderson)**

- Dr. John Tomecek is the new Chair of the National Wild Pig Task Force. Conference update
- The virtual conference was held August 8-11, 2022
- More on that at <https://nwptf.org/>
- The next conference is scheduled for the spring of 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee

4:40 **Updates on progress from last meeting (Bryant White, AFWA)**

- Hunter education pamphlet/one pager: Impacts of feral swine on popular game species in the United States
- Working to develop a group to produce this pamphlet; looking for volunteers; waiting on the survey by WMI to be completed to move this forward.

4:50 **National Agricultural Statistics Service: Feral swine damage survey**

Dr. Stephanie Shwiff, Research Economist/Project Leader, USDA/National Wildlife Research Center gave a report on a new survey conducted by NASS regarding feral swine damage. Landowners were surveyed regarding swine presence, damage, costs and control methods being used. These surveys will be conducted every other year to evaluate changes over time. The report is not available at this time.

**Other discussions:**

Bill Moritz, Wildlife Management Institute, reported on a multistate grant received by WMI to survey agencies regarding regulations pertaining to feral swine management. A report is expected by the end of 2022. This survey did not cover federal agencies.

5:00 **Next steps and Wrap-up Discussion (G. Anderson/J. LaCour)**

5:15 Adjourn

**\*This will be a hybrid meeting with an in-person or virtual option to attend**