



FERAL SWINE WORKING GROUP

115TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT AND SPA
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Chair : Terri Brunjes (KY DFWR)

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Monday, September 22nd, 2025

1:15 – 3:15 PM (Arizona Time)

Agenda

- Call to Order/Review Agenda (Terri Brunjes, KY DFWR)
 - Chair Terri Brunjes called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda with participants.
- Introductions (Terri Brunjes, KY DFWR)
 - Attendees introduced themselves and their respective agencies or organizations.
- USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services National Feral Swine Damage Management Program (Jessica Fantinato, Deputy Administrator)
 - Updates on several disease monitoring and preparedness efforts associated with feral swine were provided:
 - African Swine Fever (ASF): Approximately 8,000 samples have been tested for both antigen and antibody; all results have been negative. Wildlife Services is working with the Wildlife Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to develop a rapid response plan in the event ASF is detected in the United States.
 - Avian Influenza Surveillance: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has not been detected in swine.
 - New World Screwworm: This parasite currently occurs in cattle outside the United States but is approaching the U.S. border. A one-page informational resource has been developed for hunters to help them identify potential occurrences in wildlife.
- SEAFWA Wild Hog Working Group/ MAFWA Feral Swine Committee (Terri Brunjes, KY DFWR)
 - The SEAFWA Wild Hog Working Group is developing a position statement addressing feral swine eradication. Key points include:
 - **Eradication remains the ultimate management goal** where feasible.
 - The document will outline considerations for agencies regarding eradication strategies.



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- It will address whether recreational hog hunting is compatible with eradication efforts led by Wildlife Services.
 - The document will also discuss the social and cultural aspects of hog hunting traditions.
 - States with the highest population levels (Levels 4 and 5) may not prioritize eradication due to the scale of the problem.
 - Only states where eradication is feasible should pursue that objective.
 - Joe Benedict requested a copy of the draft document once available.
- MAFWA Feral Swine Committee
 - The committee met in Starkville, Mississippi in March 2025.
 - Members voted to continue operating as a standing committee.
 - The committee plans to meet again at the upcoming International Wild Pig Conference.
 - Additionally, the Wild Hog Working Group has a new chair, Ryan Barney, and recently held a virtual meeting.
- National Wild Pig Task Force/International Wild Pig Conference (Terri)
 - The International Wild Pig Conference will be held April 20–22, 2026 in Montgomery, Alabama.
 - Abstract submissions are being accepted through November 21, 2025 and should be submitted to John Kinsey, current chair of the National Wild Pig Task Force.
- Upcoming Virtual Meetings of the AFWA Feral Swine Working Group (Terri/Bryant)
 - Terri Brunjes and Bryant White discussed the possibility of holding quarterly virtual meetings for the working group. Members expressed unanimous support, noting that more frequent communication could improve coordination among agencies.
- Open Forum
 - Arkansas
 - continues aggressive feral swine control efforts through trapping and aerial gunning. Over the past year, approximately 7,000 pigs were removed across 52 counties. Legislative issues remain concerning continued hog hunting on Wildlife Management Areas during deer season. Approximately 40% of feral swine entering Arkansas are believed to originate from Texas.
 - Missouri
 - has expanded winter removal operations in coordination with USDA. Trapping and aerial gunning continue, and populations appear to be declining. The state currently employs 38–40 full-time staff dedicated to feral swine removal.
 - Alabama
 - Feral swine found on private property are required to be killed.
 - North Carolina



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- continues to face challenges associated with a long-standing recreational hog hunting culture. Wildlife Services conducts removal operations on request.

 - Texas
 - Discussion included the toxicant Hog-Gone®, which can cause secondary mortality when birds consume bait. A liquid formulation is being tested that may reduce risks of secondary exposure.

 - Mississippi
 - awaiting registration approval for Kaput®. The state also operates a trap loan program and has made it a felony to transport feral swine from one location to another.

 - Tennessee
 - implementing restrictions on baiting and night hunting during deer season to discourage the resurgence of a hog hunting culture. In four counties where hog hunting with dogs had been allowed, the practice is being reconsidered because commercial hunting operations may contribute to feral swine spread.

 - Kentucky
 - A feral swine population exists within Land Between the Lakes (LBL). The site manager previously opened a hunting season for wild pigs, but Wildlife Services staff are now actively working toward eradication and the hunting season has been discontinued. Feral swine occur in approximately 10% of counties in Kentucky.

 - Arizona
 - Approximately 40 feral swine were detected near Nogales along the Arizona–Mexico border, likely moving north from Sonora, Mexico. Arizona believes the statewide population is fewer than 100 animals. The working group recommended immediate eradication efforts. Ms. Fantinato indicated Wildlife Services could assist if requested.
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- Next steps and Wrap-up Discussion

 - Adjourn