

# Wildlife Services

Protecting People  
Protecting Agriculture  
Protecting Wildlife

State Report

FY 2012

# Missouri



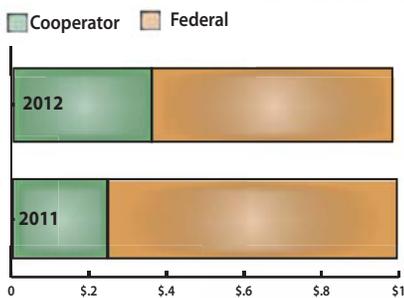
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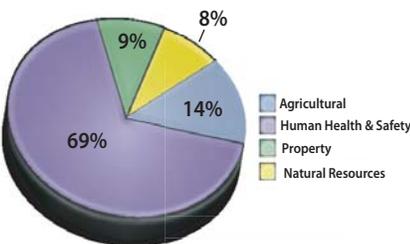
## Major Cooperators

- Whiteman Air Force Base
- St. Louis-Lambert International Airport
- Kansas City International Airport
- Missouri Air National Guard
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- U.S. Forest Service
- Missouri Department of Agriculture

## Total Funding (Millions)



## Resources Protected % of Total Funds



## USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Missouri

Every day, the Wildlife Services (WS) program in Missouri helps citizens, organizations, industries, and Government agencies resolve conflicts with wildlife to protect agriculture, other property, and natural resources, and to safeguard the safety of people. WS' professional wildlife biologists and specialists implement effective, selective, and responsible strategies that value wildlife, the environment, and the resources being protected. WS' biologists manage wildlife damage according to its public trust stewardship responsibilities as Federal natural resource managers. The program supports the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, based on the principle that wildlife resources are owned collectively and held in trust by Government for the benefit of present and future generations.

Natural resources and agriculture are important aspects of the heritage and economy in Missouri, and WS-Missouri works with many partners to improve the co-existence of people and wildlife, which plays an important role in the continued success of agriculture and natural resources.

The agricultural industry is diversified and includes commercial production of corn, soybeans, cotton, hay, rice, cattle, poultry, fish, and domestic swine. Missouri is the second largest cow-calf producing State in the United States.

Wildlife populations are abundant in Missouri, and citizens are involved in natural resource management. Missouri has scenic waterways, excellent white-tailed deer hunting, diverse waterfowl populations, and is home to many non-game species of wildlife.

## Applying Science and Expertise to Help the Public

WS frequently provides information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided in person, by telephone, or through the mail or internet. During 2012, WS delivered technical advice and recommendations to more than 1.6 million people across the country.

In most cases, landowners and resource managers use technical information to implement habitat management and other methods to reduce damage on their properties. In Missouri, WS works closely with grape growers to help them protect against damage caused by mammals and migratory birds. By providing professional advice about non-lethal methods and loaning equipment, such as propane cannons, the majority of the wildlife damage to grapes can be resolved. Landowners and growers implementing good fencing standards can help eliminate damage to grapes by mammals.

Missouri has a relatively small population of feral swine in the southern portion of the State. WS-Missouri works closely with private landowners to loan equipment, including corral traps, so that landowners are able to reduce or eliminate destructive, invasive feral swine through coordinated trapping activities. Many surrounding landowners and State and Federal lands benefit from the public's involvement.

WS also implements solutions on-site, through direct management assistance. Direct management assistance occurs when WS' biologists and specialists are asked to resolve damage for people. WS applies and recommends an integrated wildlife damage management approach that incorporates biological, economic, public, environmental, and other information into decisions made. WS' National Wildlife Research Center conducts scientific research and assessments to refine methods and develop new science-based solutions to wildlife challenges.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**Protecting Public Safety at Airports**—Wildlife strikes cause more than 760,000 hours of aircraft down time and cost the nation's civil aviation industry approximately \$700 million annually. American military aircraft sustain losses exceeding \$10 million annually. WS has assisted airports across the Nation for decades and collaborates closely with the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, and other Government agencies. WS provided assistance to 772 airports in the United States during 2012, including advice, training, on-site evaluations and assessments of wildlife hazards, and direct operational management to reduce wildlife strikes.

WS-Missouri is currently managing wildlife damage at four civil airports, one U.S. Air Force Base, and three Missouri National Guard Units. Wildlife hazard assessments are currently being conducted at two other civil airports. WS offers services that range from conducting wildlife hazard assessments to developing complete wildlife damage management plans. One of the most important tools used to reduce wildlife strikes in Missouri is habitat modification. Examples of habitat management include implementing crop-free zones around runways and constructing wildlife fences.

**Protecting Missouri from Invasive Species**—Nonnative species that cause harm are collectively known as invasive species. Invasive species may prey upon, displace, or otherwise harm native species. Some also alter ecosystems, transport disease, interfere with crop production, or cause illnesses in animals and humans. Executive Order 13112 establishes Federal leadership responsibilities regarding invasive species to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to provide for their eradication or control to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts.

In Missouri, WS partners with Federal and State agencies and other groups to protect critical infrastructure, such as power generating facilities, rail yards, airports, and hospitals from invasive species damage. European starlings cause damage to feedlots, dairies, and urban areas when present in large numbers, primarily from an accumulation of droppings. The need to manage feral swine populations is increasing due to their negative effects on public safety, the environment, and economy. Feral swine continue to destroy sensitive habitat, negatively affect threatened and endangered species, and damage cattle pastures. WS currently works with over 100 Missouri cooperators to protect property from invasive species damage.

### **Looking to the Future**

WS continues to provide the citizens of Missouri with safe, effective, and responsible management assistance for a variety of wildlife damage problems. The potential for wildlife conflicts with people will likely increase and WS' ability to respond will depend on the availability of personnel and resources, as well as legislative authorities to support these activities.

In Missouri, WS is receiving an increasing number of requests for assistance with problems associated with feral swine, wildlife at airports, wildlife diseases, blackbirds, European starlings, and fish-eating birds. Factors influencing transmissible diseases in wildlife also need to be thoroughly investigated. Public safety remains the primary concern of WS' cooperators, and this is particularly true at airports. Additional attention must be given to this very specialized area of work.

WS strives to meet the demands for assistance within the constraints of its existing resources and capabilities so that all citizens have access to program services. Collaborative, partner-based approaches will be increasingly important among natural resource, agriculture, and health agencies to meet public needs.

### **Missouri Wildlife Services Funding**

In addition to receiving Federally allocated funds, WS also receives funding from program beneficiaries such as agricultural producers, airports, individual citizens, businesses, organizations, and other Federal, State, and local Government agencies. See charts for sources of funding and resources protected.

### **Top 5 Major Assistance Activities in Missouri**

- Assessing and reducing wildlife hazards at airports
- Reducing impacts of invasive feral swine and European starlings
- Reducing migratory bird damage to public and private resources
- Reducing fish-eating bird damage to aquaculture and natural resources
- Protecting livestock and pets from wildlife-borne diseases

### **Top 5 WS Research Projects of Interest to Missouri**

- Developing methods to reduce feral swine damage to natural resources
- Quantifying and assessing the damage caused by European starlings to livestock producers
- Evaluating and monitoring wildlife for diseases
- Investigating the biology/ecology/behavior of feral swine
- Conducting research in support of sodium nitrite registration for feral swine