

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



Consequences Associated with the Recent Range Expansion of Nonnative Feral Swine

In a recent article of the April issue of *BioScience*, NWDP scientists reviewed the impacts of feral swine on agriculture and livestock, protected lands and species of conservation concern, and pathogen transmission. Feral swine have been present as a nonnative species in the United States for nearly 500 years, but their populations have recently begun to increase and expand with alarming rapidity. This situation is mirrored by population increases in Europe, Japan, and Australia. These increases can be attributed to the illegal transport and

predatory species, and the presence of artificial water sources.

The problems associated with large numbers of feral swine on the landscape are multidimensional and encompass issues associated with agricultural destruction, the conservation of threatened and endangered species, and health risks related to disease transmission to humans and livestock. Attempts to



Figure 2. Row crop damage in Kansas from feral swine. Photograph: John Johnson and Jason Kloft, US Department of Agriculture.

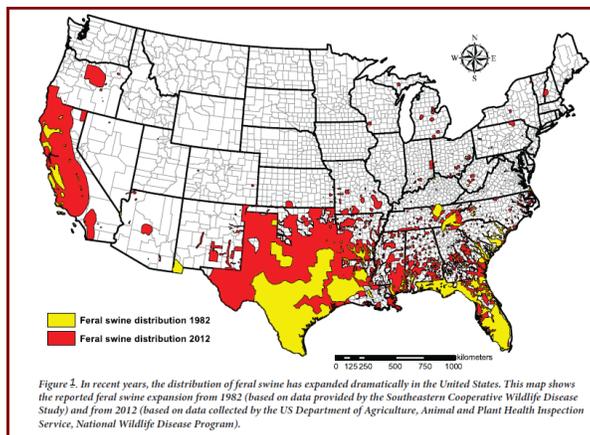
limited information available on the size and locations of feral swine populations in the United States underscores the need for more research that could then be used to inform successful management strategies

For additional information please see:

[Bevins, S.N., K. Pedersen, M.W. Lutman, T. Gidlewski, and T.J. DeLiberto. 2014. Consequences associated with the recent range expansion of nonnative feral swine. *BioScience Online* 64\(4\): 291-299. doi: 10.1093/biosci/biu015.](#)

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release of feral swine and to other human-mediated landscape changes, including the expansion of land under agricultural production, the decline in

control feral swine numbers or to limit their expansion are also multifaceted; the previous attempts have revealed that combinations of approaches are required over a sustained time frame. However, these management actions are divisive and complex. These difficulties are present even when the goal does not include complete eradication. Current approaches, instead, are designed to limit the damages and risks associated with feral swine by preventing continued geographic spread and by reducing population densities. The

The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff