

Feral Hogs Are a Threat to Livestock Health

Fact Sheet from the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force

#StopFeralHogs



Feral swine (also known as feral hogs) are a non-native, invasive species that present a significant risk to human health, animal health, and agriculture in Arkansas.

- The risk of disease extends across multiple animal agriculture sectors, however the most significant risk is to domestic swine operations.

Feral hogs can transmit a minimum of 45 animal diseases and parasites. In many cases, the introduction of these diseases in domestic livestock could have devastating animal health and economic impacts. Those of highest concern are:

- **Pseudorabies Virus (PRV)** - a highly contagious viral disease in swine. PRV is considered to be the most economically important viral disease of swine in areas where hog cholera has been eradicated. PRV usually leads to swine death. PRV is eradicated from U.S. commercial swine. Arkansas is recognized as a PRV-free state due to industry, state, and federal control programs.
- **Swine Brucellosis (SB)** - an infectious bacterial disease of swine characterized by reproductive impairment or failure. Arkansas is recognized as a SB-free state due to industry, state, and federal control programs.
- **Swine Influenza** - a rapidly spreading viral disease characterized by sudden onset of fever, discharge around the eyes and nose, weakness, followed by coughing over a short period. While this rarely leads to death, if multiple strains are introduced, there is potential for the development of new strains of the virus that could lead to widespread sickness or death.
- **African Swine Fever** - a viral foreign animal disease that can infect domestic and wild swine. Direct and indirect transmission can occur, which can lead to death.
- **Classic Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)** - a highly contagious infectious foreign animal disease of swine. Swine fever causes fever, skin lesions, convulsions, and usually swine death.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** - a viral foreign animal disease that infects cloven-hoofed animals. FMD causes high fever followed by blisters inside the mouth and on the feet that may rupture and cause lameness.



The Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force is a group of partner agencies working to reach solutions to eradicate the feral hog population in Arkansas. Learn more at aad.arkansas.gov/feral-hog-eradication-task-force.