

Feral Swine Surveys Near Commercial Swine Farms

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North Carolina
Department of Agriculture &
Consumer Services

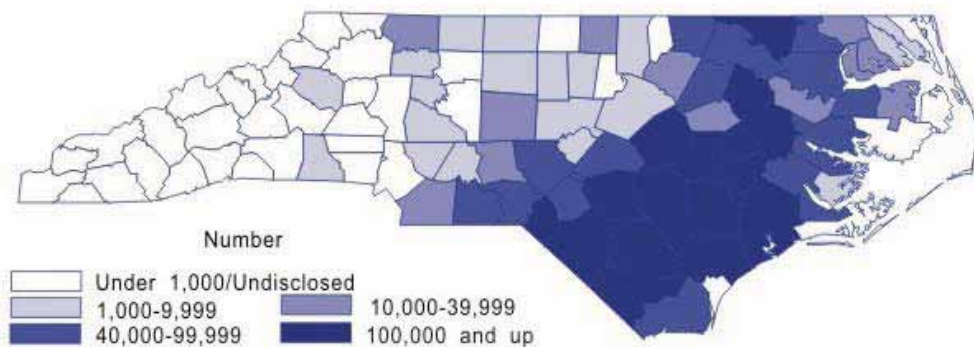
Hog Industry in North Carolina

- ▶ \$3.2 Billion to the state's economy
- ▶ 45,000 jobs
- ▶ PRV/Br – 80% value of industry lost
- ▶ >5 years to recover

Second in Swine Production

- ▶ Of the 10 largest hog producing counties in the United States that also have feral swine 8 of the 10 counties are in North Carolina.

Domestic Swine Populations



History of Feral Swine in NC

- ▶ Introduced in Carolinas by the Spanish as early as 1526
- ▶ By 18th century NC had more pigs than any other colony
- ▶ 1883 NC prohibited ‘free ranging livestock’
- ▶ Hooper’s Bald introductions in 1912.
- ▶ Coastal Plain populations almost eliminated in 20th century.
- ▶ Making a comeback in the last decade.
- ▶ Exposure to PRV/SB not detected until 2009 in eastern NC

Objectives

- ▶ To document feral swine activity in the immediate vicinity of commercial swine operations.

Methods

- ▶ Identified 4 study counties in two watersheds
- ▶ Randomly selected 30 commercial facilities
- ▶ Conducted interviews with farm operators
- ▶ Set up trail camera on each farm in Aug & Feb

Results

- ▶ 120 interviews asking about:
 - Presence of feral swine
 - Biosecurity
 - Concerns about damage potential
- ▶ 120 site inspections
- ▶ 118 camera surveys

Interview Results

- ▶ 18% saw feral swine within the last year
- ▶ 11% of these reported breaches in biosecurity
- ▶ 90% concerned about disease transmission
- ▶ 76% concerned about zoonotic potential
- ▶ 93% concerned about other property damage

Field Inspections

- ▶ 2% secured grain bins from mid-sized wildlife
- ▶ 9% had clear game trails to grain bins
- ▶ 25% had feral swine sign within 300 meters

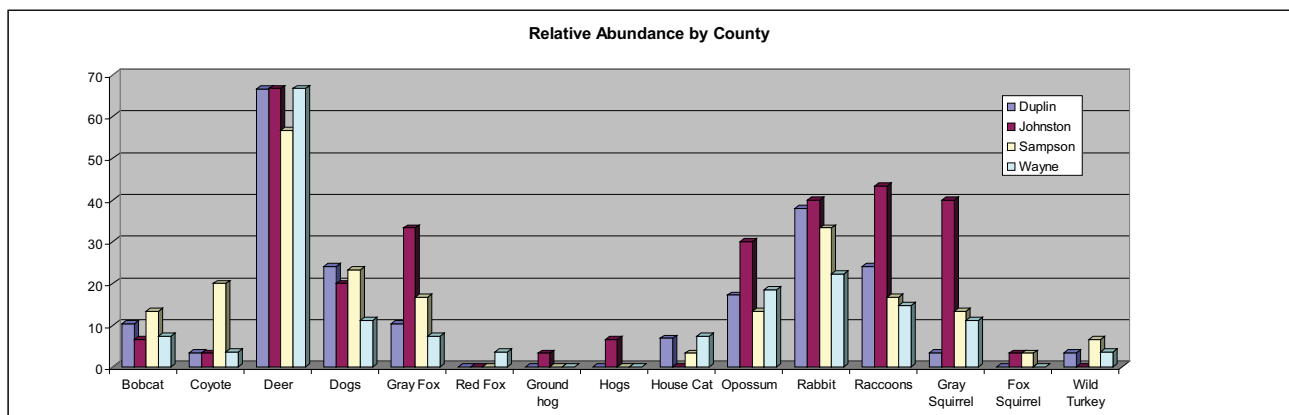


Trail Cameras

- ▶ 33,446 camera hours
- ▶ 288 (12 days) camera hours per farm
- ▶ Two feral swine photographed during study
- ▶ Technique is effective in documented wildlife



Wildlife detected on farms



It does work for feral swine!



Conclusions

- ▶ Feral swine are present very near hog facilities
- ▶ Direct access to facilities is occurring
- ▶ Hog producers are very concerned
- ▶ Trail cameras can be a useful tool
- ▶ A real threat if populations and disease incidence continue to increase