

Feral Hogs in Texas



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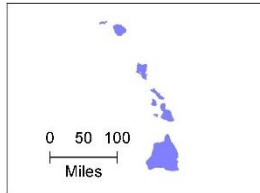
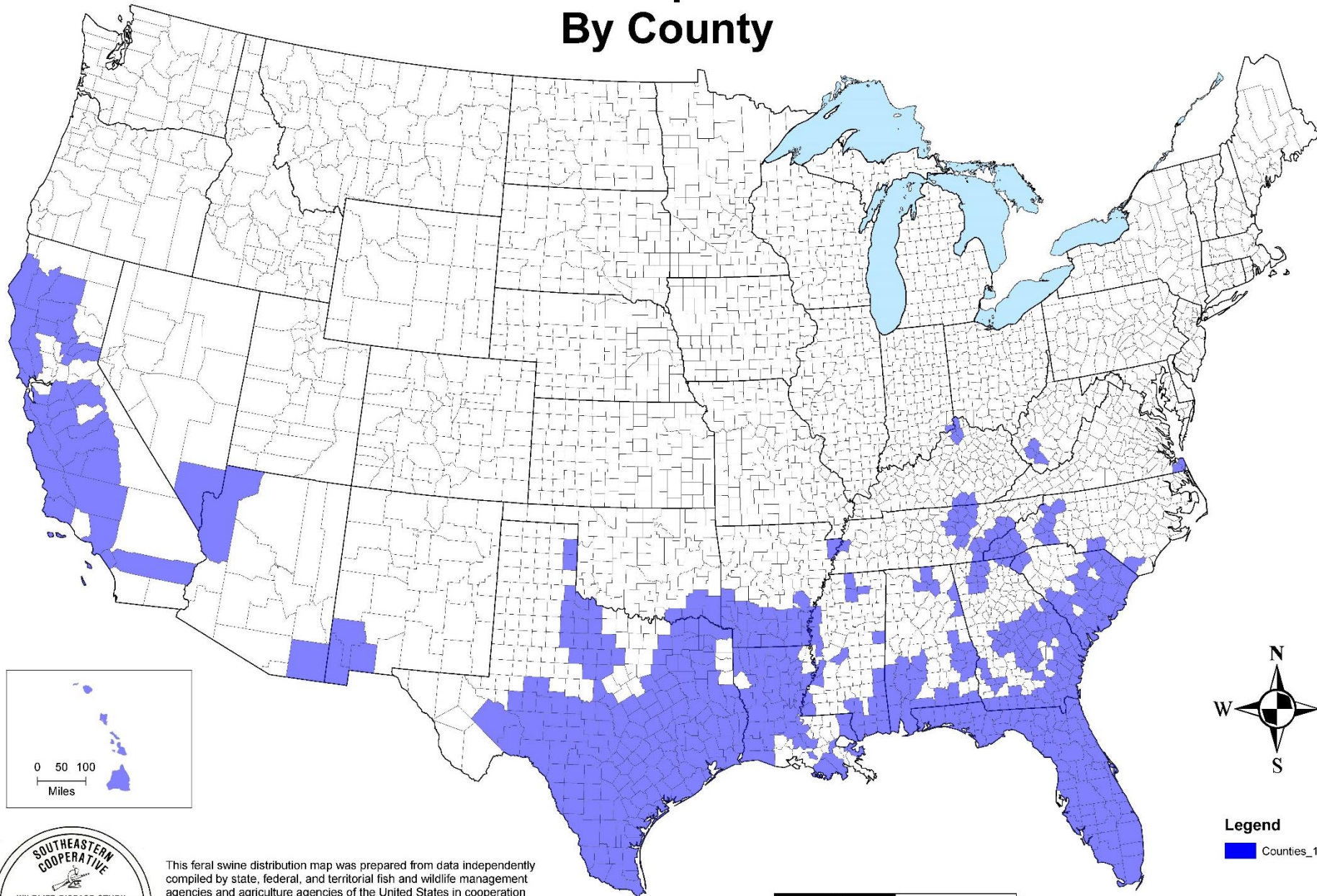
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How Did They Get Here?

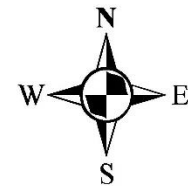
- Descendants of domestic pigs
- Brought to U.S. by Hernando de Soto 1539
- In the early 1900s, Eurasian Wild Boars introduced for hunting purposes
- Free-range farming methods through the 1950s



Feral Swine Populations 1982 By County

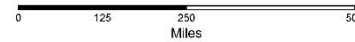


This feral swine distribution map was prepared from data independently compiled by state, federal, and territorial fish and wildlife management agencies and agriculture agencies of the United States in cooperation with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. Support for this project was through Cooperative Agreement Number 16-9100-1407-CA, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Legend

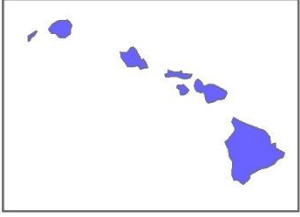
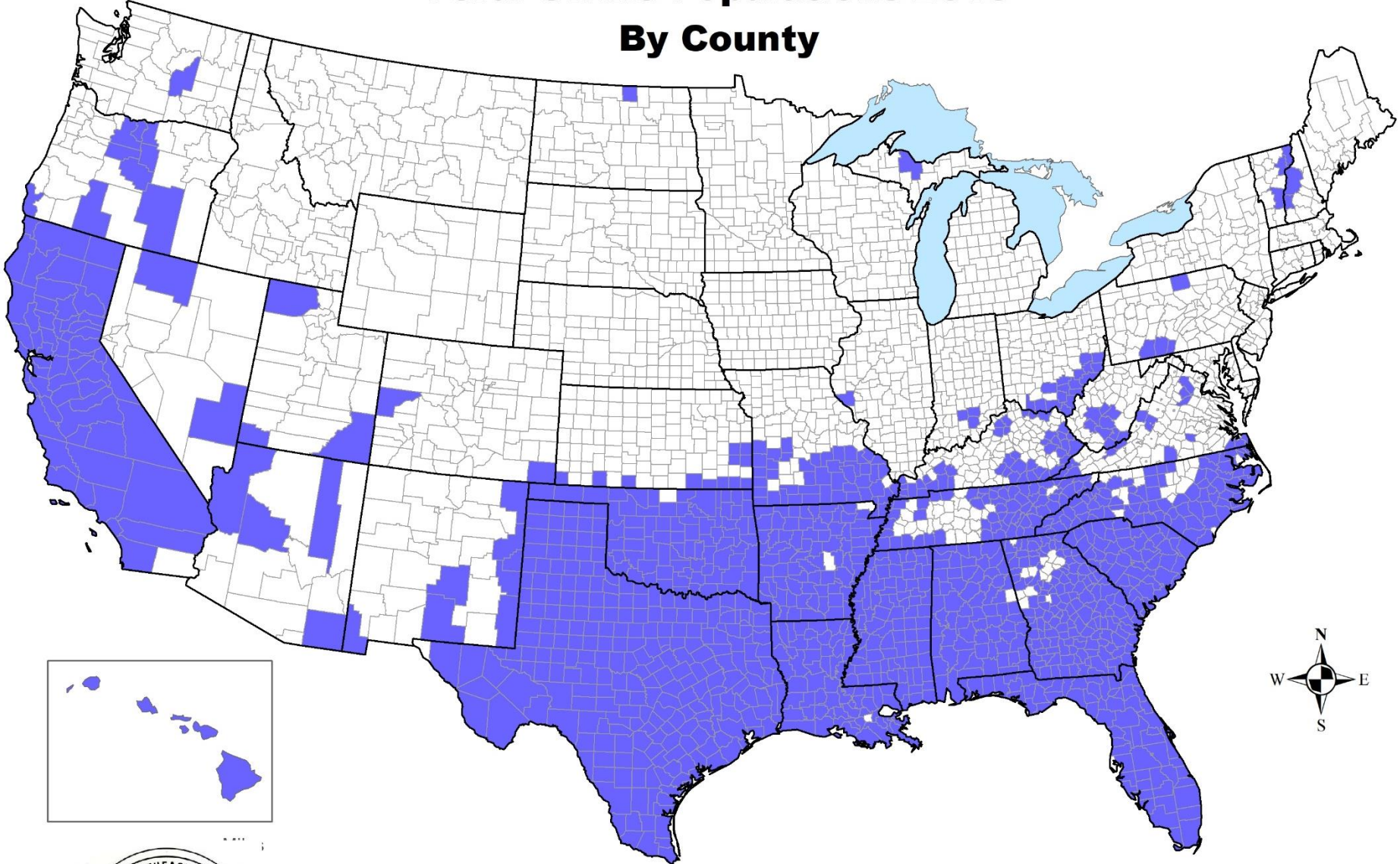
■ Counties_1982



Last Updated 12/31/2016
UGA-CGR



Feral Swine Populations 2018 By County



Legend

 Counties 2018



Lat Updated 2/2/2018
USDA-APHS





Reasons for Spread

- Highly adaptable generalist
- Low mortality rates
- Reproduce quickly
- Human transportation

Reproduction

- Females breed at 6-10 months
- Success correlated with size
- Year-round breeding
- Average 4-6 piglets per litter
- 1-1.5 litters per year
- Abundant resources lead to higher reproductive rates



Population Growth

- Without control measures, the population will **triple every 5 years**
- **66%** of the population must be removed to stop population growth
- Currently all control efforts in Texas remove **29%** of the population
- Population is expected to **double every 5 years**



Social Structure

- Related females and their piglets form groups known as **sounders**
- Males remain with the sounder until 16-18 months old
- Adult males are mostly solitary



Hog Signs: Wallows



Hog Signs: Rubs

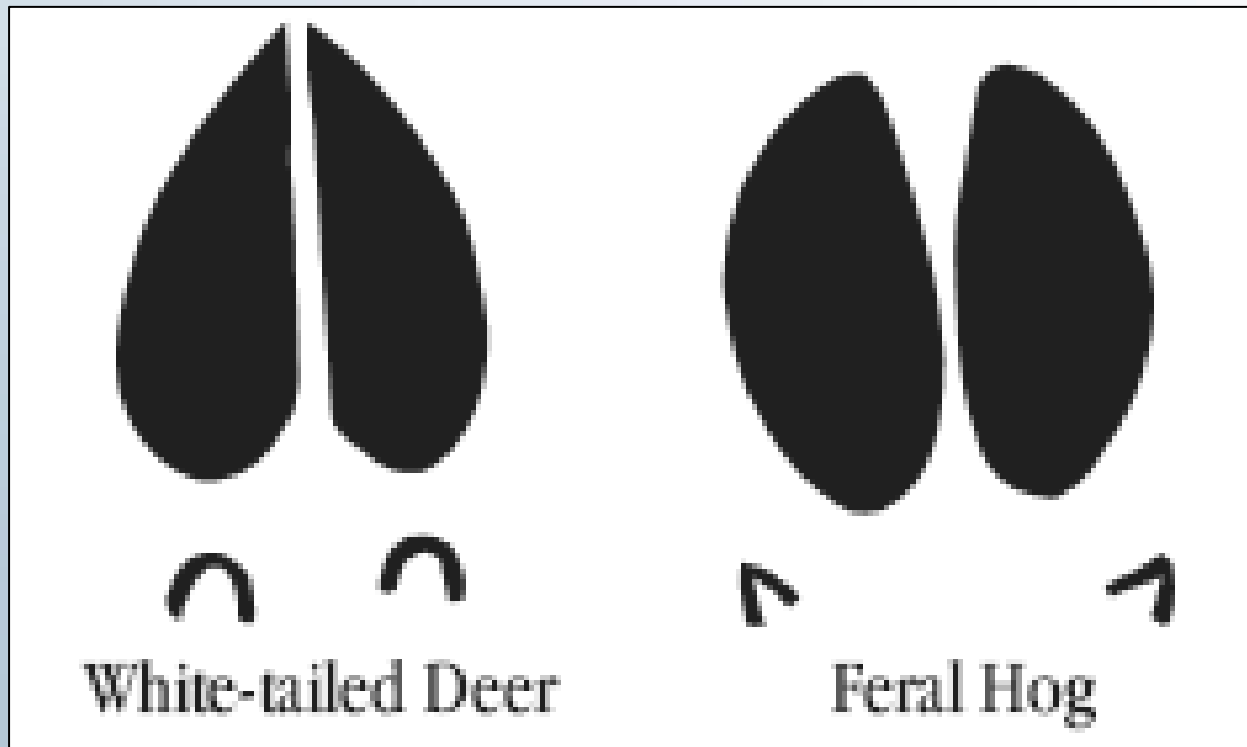


Photo Credit: Rebecca Jordi

Hog Signs: Rooting



Hog Signs: Tracks



\$1.5-2.5 Billion in Damage Annually

Water Quality

Livestock

Erosion

Vehicle Collisions

Increase Invasive Plants

Irrigation Systems

Fencing

Native Wildlife

Landscaping

Domestic Pets

Crops

Native Plant Communities

Roads and Levees

Golf Courses

Athletic Fields

Landscaping

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields
- Homes
- Businesses
- Irrigation systems



Erosion



Vehicle Collisions



Photo Credit: Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Water Quality

- Direct and indirect impacts
- Increase turbidity and sedimentation
- Alter pH
- Decrease dissolved oxygen
- Increase bacteria and nutrient loads
- Contaminate with diseases and parasites
- Can result in recreation/consumption bans



Native Wildlife



A close-up photograph of a wild boar's face, showing its dark, coarse fur and prominent, upright ears. The boar's eye is partially visible, and its snout is in the lower-left corner. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid in the upper right quadrant.

Carry over 30 diseases parasites

Attractants

- Riparian and wetland areas
- Thick vegetation
- Crops
- Wildlife feeding stations



Control Methods



TPWD Assistance

- Feral hog research
- Public education and outreach resources
- Facilitate community discussions
- Develop a management strategy

Questions?

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