

## Do you own pigs?



Pseudorabies has not been detected in U.S. domestic pigs for almost 20 years. The goal is to remain free of diseases, both foreign and domestic, such as African swine fever and pseudorabies. If pseudorabies or an FAD is detected in pigs, disease eradication would be achieved by culling any positive animals.

### As a pig owner or producer, you should:

- Be on the alert for signs of illness.
- Use proper biosecurity to protect your pigs.
- Avoid direct or indirect contact with feral swine.
- Report the presence of feral swine in your property.
- Do not relocate feral swine.

## I think there are feral swine around my property. What should I do?

Contact one of the following if you suspect there are feral swine close to your property:



USDA  
Wildlife Services  
866-487-3297.



Ohio Pork Council  
614-882-5887

If your pigs or other animals are suspected of having pseudorabies or any FAD, they will be tested by Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. If you have any questions about that, contact ODA:



Department of  
Agriculture  
Animal Health

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Division of Animal Health 614-728-6220

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu). For an accessible format of this publication, visit [cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility](http://cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility).



## Feral Swine. Why are they a threat?

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are a combination of Eurasian wild boar and escaped/released domestic pigs.

In the US, feral swine likely cause an estimated \$1.5 billion in damages and control costs each year. The estimated 6 million feral swine carry several viruses, bacteria, and parasites, which pose a threat to livestock, humans, pets, and wildlife.

Due to their close genetic similarity, feral swine can easily transmit deadly diseases to domestic pigs, such as African swine fever (ASF), a foreign disease (FAD). ASF is not present in the U.S. territory, but would have catastrophic consequences for the swine industry if it was ever diagnosed domestically. Pseudorabies (PRV), on the other hand, is a domestic disease that has existed in the US for 150 years but is currently present only within the feral swine population.

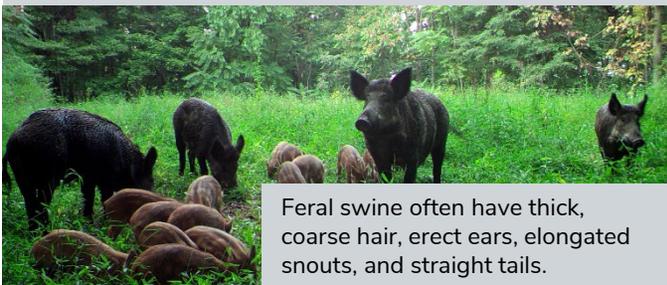


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# Feral Swine

**Q: What do feral swine look like?**

A: Physical appearance varies in feral swine due to their extensive cross breeding. It can be difficult to tell the difference between domestic and feral swine based on appearance alone.



Feral swine often have thick, coarse hair, erect ears, elongated snouts, and straight tails.

Image: USDA Wildlife Services

**Q: Are feral swine in my county?**

A: At the time of this publication, Ohio's feral swine population is primarily concentrated in southern counties.

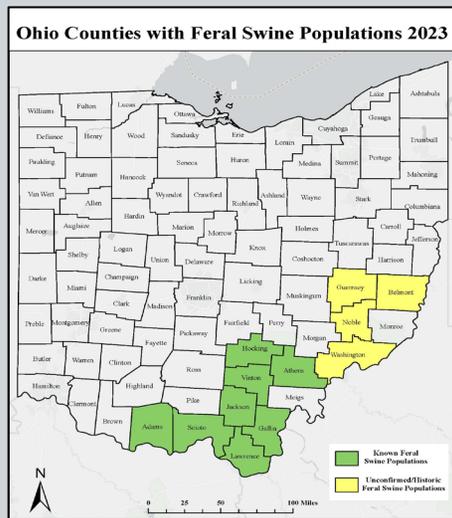


Image: USDA Wildlife Services

**Q: What are the signs of feral swine?**

A: Property damage, destroyed vegetation from rooting or digging, wallows in moist areas, rubbing marks on trees, and tracks are all signs of feral swine presence.

Visit [HERE](https://aphis.usda.gov/aphis) to learn more:

 [aphis.usda.gov/aphis](https://aphis.usda.gov/aphis)



# Foreign Animal Diseases

**Q: What is a foreign animal disease (FAD)?**

A: FAD is transmissible animal disease that is not present in the U.S. and has a significant health or economic impact.

**Q: What are the main FADs in swine?**

A: The main FADs for the U.S. are African swine fever, classical swine fever and foot-and-mouth diseases.

**Q: What happens if any of those diseases reaches the U.S. domestic pigs?**

A: Any report of such disease in our commercial swine farms would be devastating to our national herd and economics, because pork exports would be suspended.

**Q: Is pseudorabies a FAD?**

A: No. Although pseudorabies has not been diagnosed in domestic pigs since 2004, the virus that causes it still circulates in the U.S. feral swine population.

**Q: How do I know if my pigs have pseudorabies?**

A: Infected pigs can have incoordination, seizures, paralysis, paddling, sneezing, coughing and nasal secretion. Pregnant sows can abort or deliver stillbirths. Mortality is high in piglets.

**Q: Can other animals get pseudorabies?**

A: Yes, especially hunting dogs. Infected dogs have severe itching and usually die due to pseudorabies.



This dog presents severe hair loss around the mouth due to intense itching caused by pseudorabies. Image: Ciarello et al. 2022\*

\*<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-022-03138-2>

# How to avoid PRV in my pigs?

Domestic pigs can easily be infected by PRV if they come in contact with positive feral swine.

Once a domestic pig is infected, it disseminates the virus to other domestic pigs, to other animals, and to the environment.

**BIOSECURITY** is the key to prevent the spread of pseudorabies and FADs from feral swine to domestic pigs:

- Prevent the contact of your pigs with feral swine, and other animals by building fences and/or keeping them in-doors;
- Use dedicated cloths and shoes, or disposable coveralls and booties to work with your pigs,
- Avoid visitors in your barns;
- Prevent feral swine from accessing feed by storing it in barns whenever possible;
- Avoid feeding in troughs or on the ground where feral swine can access feed;
- Prevent feral swine access to water sources used by domestic swine when possible.



Feral swine can be attracted to your property to drink and wallow in water. Image: Grant Canova-Parker

Visit [HERE](https://securepork.org) to learn more:

 [securepork.org](https://securepork.org)

