

Feral Pigs: Activity and Impact

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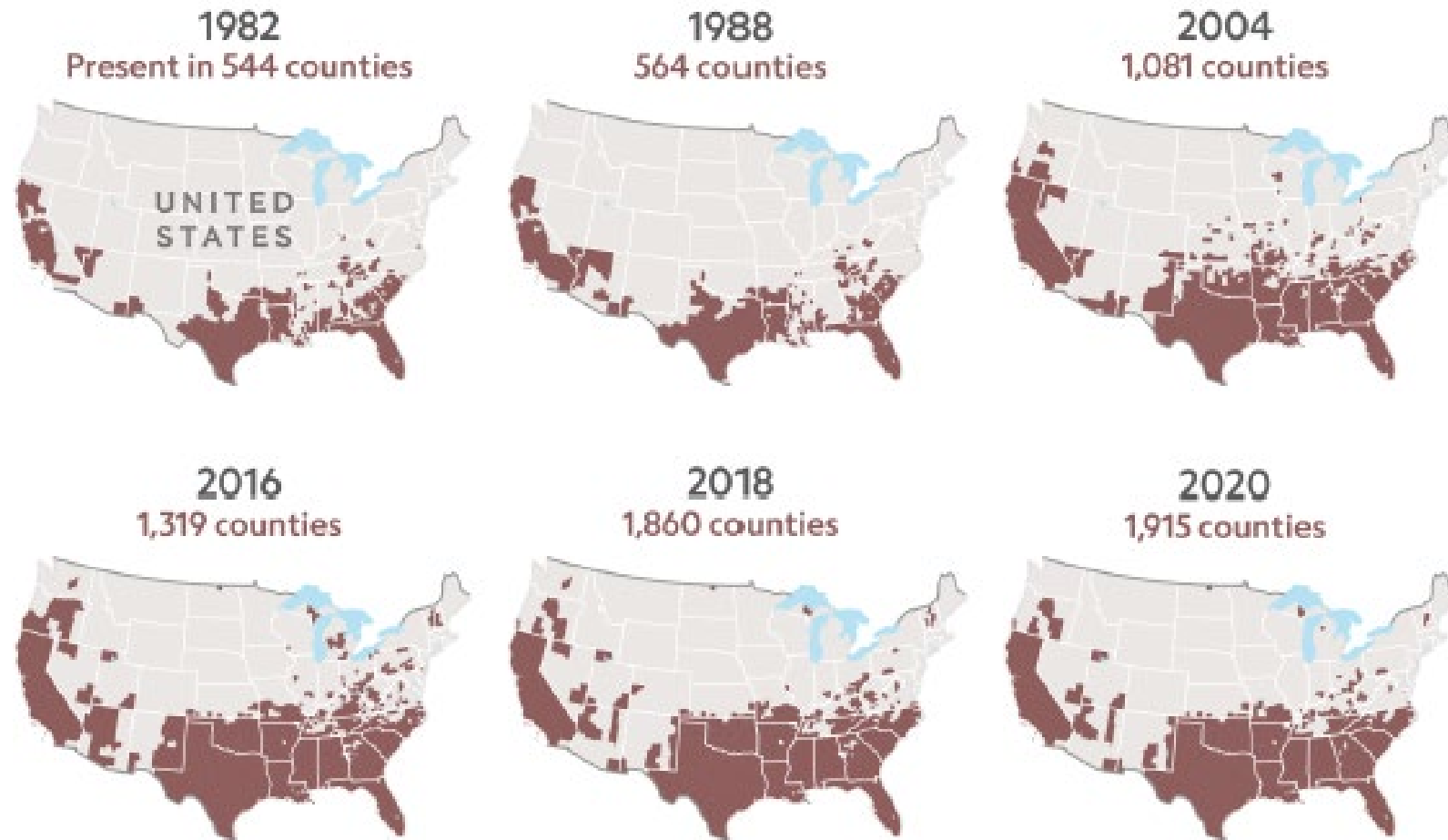


Feral Pigs: Overview

Feral Pigs: hybrid of domestic pig *Sus scrofa* and subspecies European Wild Boar

- Estimates range: 200,000 to 400,000 in California
- Female estrus every 21 days (5-6 piglets per litter)
- Mostly nocturnal
- Omnivores - Eat almost anything
- Habitat generalists
- Non-native in California
- Domestic Pig introduced in 1700s, Hybridized with European Wild Boar in 1920s
- Few natural predators

Range Expansion



- Present in 56 of the state's 58 Counties
- Populations Expanding Across Range

Data shown is for the contiguous United States. Feral pigs are also present in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Alaska has no established population.

KATIE ARMSTRONG, NG STAFF. SOURCE: USDA

Impacts

- Damaging to native plant communities
- Destructive in wetland and riparian environments
- Disease vector in wildlife, livestock, and humans
- Visitor Safety
- Economic Impacts



Impacts

Damaging to native plant communities, including:

- Fragrant Fritillary at Máayan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve
- Native Plant Restoration sites at Kuzia Property (funded by POST through a grant from Google)
- Native Plant Restoration at Sierra Vista Open Pace Preserve



Impacts: Fragrant Fritillary



Impacts: Kuzia Restoration Site Damage



Impacts: Sierra Vista OSP



Impacts: Disease Vectors

Feral Pigs Carry a Variety of Diseases Transmissible to Wildlife, Livestock, and People:

- Leptospirosis
- E. coli
- Pseudo-rabies (a herpes virus, only superficially resembling symptoms of rabies)
- foot and-mouth disease
- and African Swine fever.



Impacts: Visitor Safety

Increasing feral pig presence in our preserves present a safety risk to visitors

- Aggressive prey animal
- Instinct towards “fight” versus “flight” at close encounters
- Large bodied, formidable
- Few natural predators



Impacts: Economic Costs

- Wild pigs impact ecosystems through their rooting, wallowing, foraging, and hunting, with a conservative annual estimate of \$1.5 billion in economic damage nationally to agriculture and the environment.
- Estimates vary, but one survey of California's Agricultural Commissioners found damage to agricultural crops, fencing, roads, and trails reached \$1.7 million for one year

Next Steps

Controlling feral pig populations effectively requires region-wide cooperation between agencies – including the Authority

- Multiple partner and peer agencies have or are considering trapping operations
- Authority staff are researching different approaches to feral pig depredation, including the potential to develop an RFP for trapping services
- Highest priority would be given towards selecting the most human traps available, and selecting discreet locations

