



Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Workshop Agenda

Monday, February 19, 2024 • 1:00 p.m.

Government Services Complex, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bldg 2, Board Chambers, Bunnell, FL 32110

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
3. Welcome: Flagler County Board Chair
4. Feral Hog Discussion
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

While this is a workshop only and no decisions are expected to be made by any of the governmental bodies, if a person decides to appeal any matter that may be discussed for a future proceeding, a record of the workshop may be needed and, for such purposes, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the workshop is made.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in this meeting should contact the (386) 313-4001 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



FERAL HOG
MANAGEMENT
ON COUNTY
LANDS

—

Michael D. Lagassé

And

Rauney Mitchell

AGENDA

- Historical Perspective
- Economic Perspective
- Biological Perspective
- What are we doing about Feral Hogs for County Lands?
- What are we doing on private lands.
- What can residents do?



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

1539 – Introduced by Hernando De Soto

Population estimates in Florida are >500,000, which could be a great underestimate. -Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)

No Known County-level population estimates

No known County Land population estimates*

* Wait a couple slides though....something is in the works!!

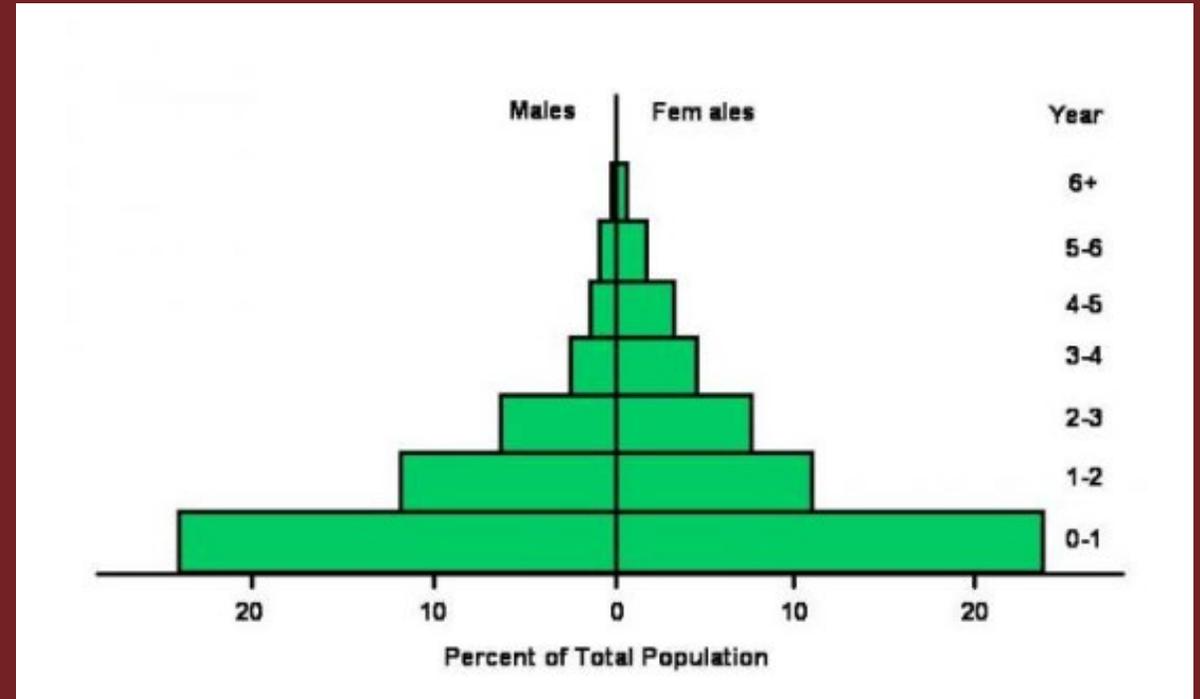
Females tend to live a little longer past age 3

Survivorship is essentially 1:1 M:F

Females sexually mature at 9 months

Gestation period is 4 months

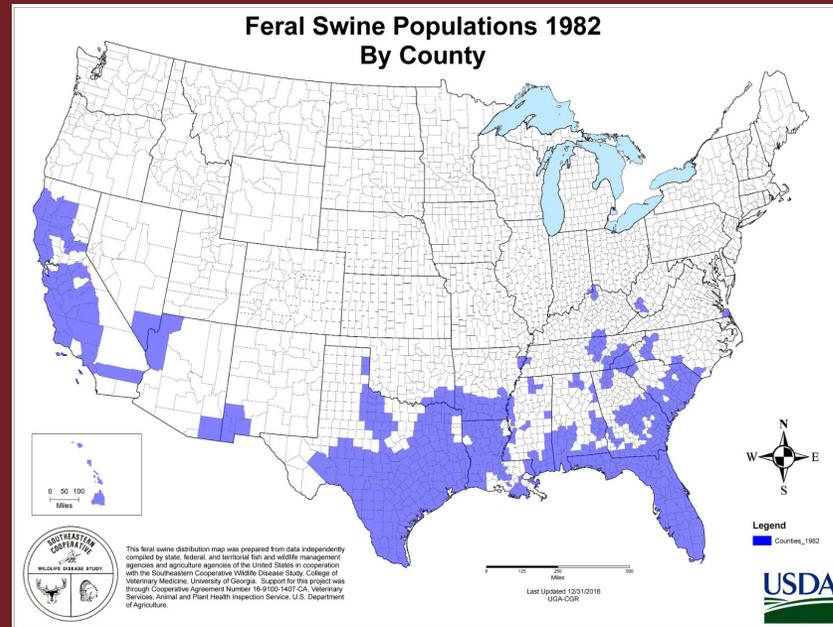
BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE



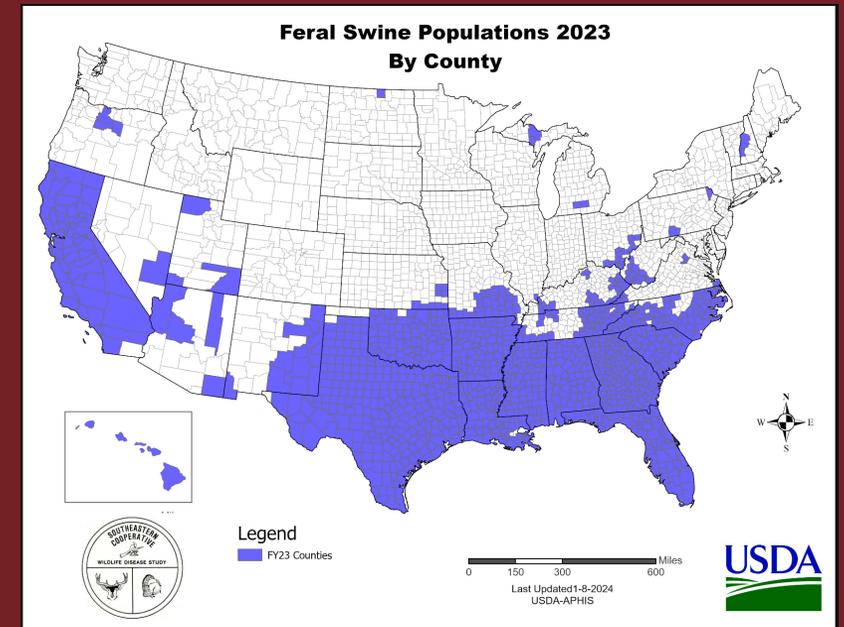
+/- 9 million hogs
in 35 states

Damage in the
BILLIONS of
Dollars
Nationwide

ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE



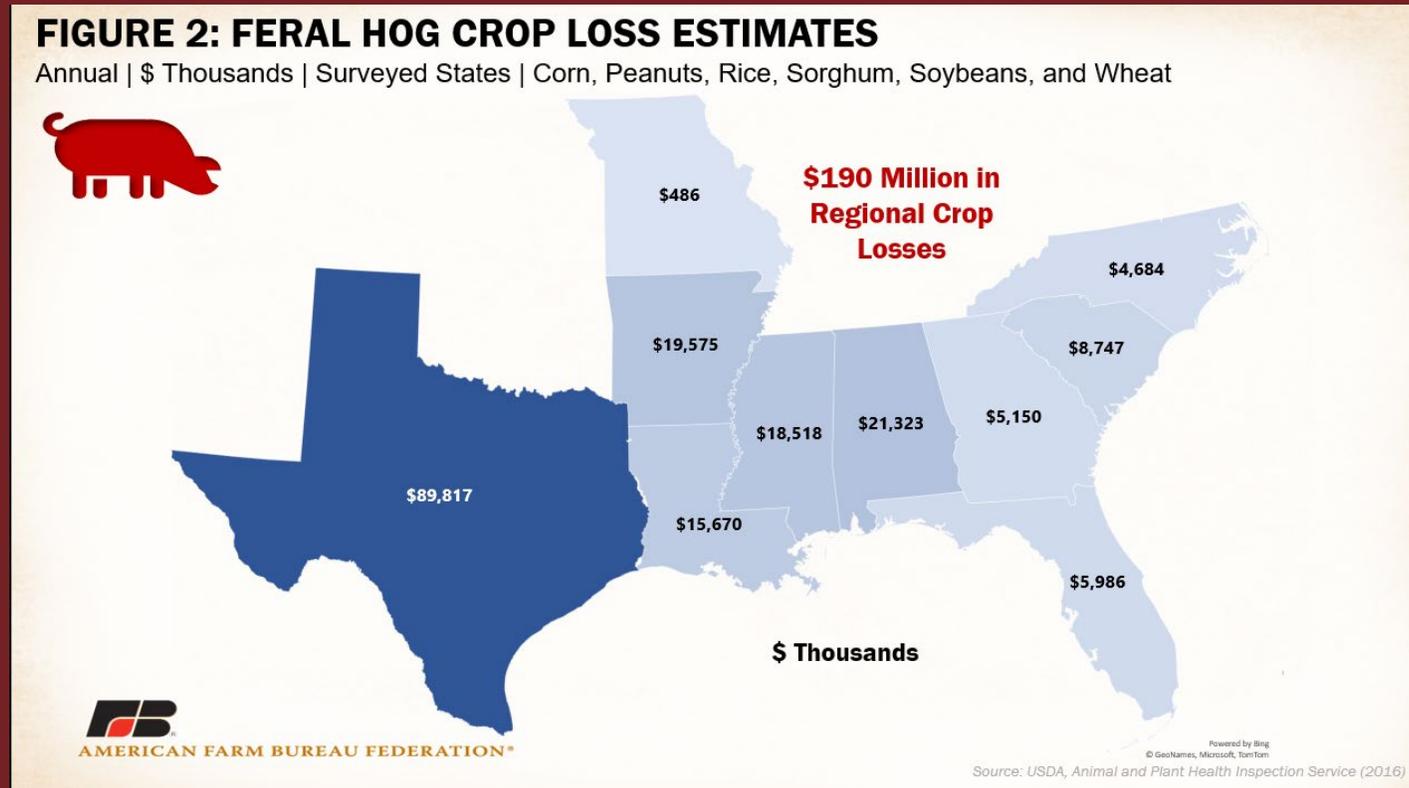
1982



2023

ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE- FLORIDA

2016 USDA :
almost 6 Million
in crop loss in
Florida Alone,
\$190 Million
Regionally



ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE- FLORIDA



Local Residents living in HOA neighborhoods have reported needing to spend thousands of dollars on repeated impacts from hogs in recent years.

Some HOAs don't allow individual fencing or have other restrictions on managing hogs.

WHAT DO WE DO ON COUNTY LANDS?

We've had volunteer feral hog management agents on County conservation lands for decades.

Generally, these volunteers are hunters/trappers.

Current Requirements:

- Licensed through county internal processes
- carry \$1,000,000.00 insurance
- County is included as additional insured
- Monthly Reporting

Averaged 100-150 hogs per year.....

Until This Year





HOGS REMOVED FROM COUNTY LANDS 1-23 TO PRESENT

Since 01/2023 –

Hogs on County Lands 424

Graham Swamp 245

Princess Place 133

Bulow 15

Haw Creek 12

Hunter's Ridge 19

WHAT DO WE DO ON COUNTY LANDS?

Corral Traps:

Ability to trap dozens at a time

Net vs Metal trap is more humane for the animal

No loud metal caging or doors to create trap shy pigs

A gateless trap provides continuous catch ability throughout the night

Acts on there natural instinct to root for food to gain access to trap

Interrupt the population dynamics more quickly

Reduce time and effort of staff and volunteers



WHY SUCH A JUMP IN NUMBERS?

Corral Traps:

Capture large numbers when effective

Interrupt the population dynamics more quickly

Reduce time and effort of staff and volunteers





WHAT'S NEXT?

We are working on developing a tech-based way to collect population data on County lands.

Thermal Imagery with Drones

Increase efficiency in hunting/trapping effectiveness

If the method works we'll be able to establish a baseline population estimate within parks to measure against in the future.

Work is being done in-house with our UAV coordinator Bruno Luna



WHAT DO WE DO ON COUNTY LANDS?

A recent use-case investigation at
Princess Place Preserve



<https://arcg.is/rXj1a1>

DAMAGE CAUSED BY FERAL HOGS

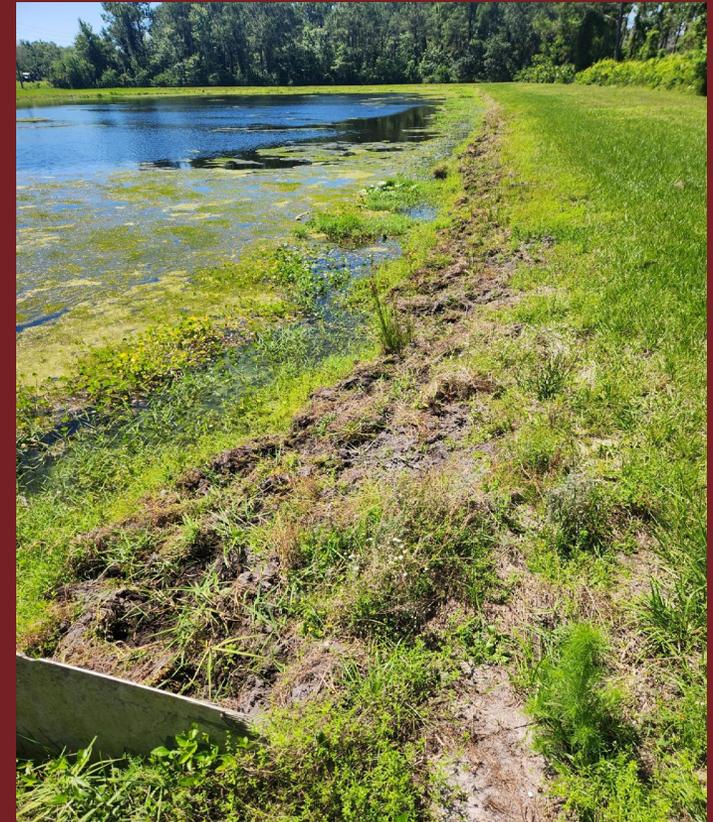
Wild Oaks Homeowner



Lehigh Trail



The Crossing



WHAT DO WE DO ON PRIVATE LANDS?



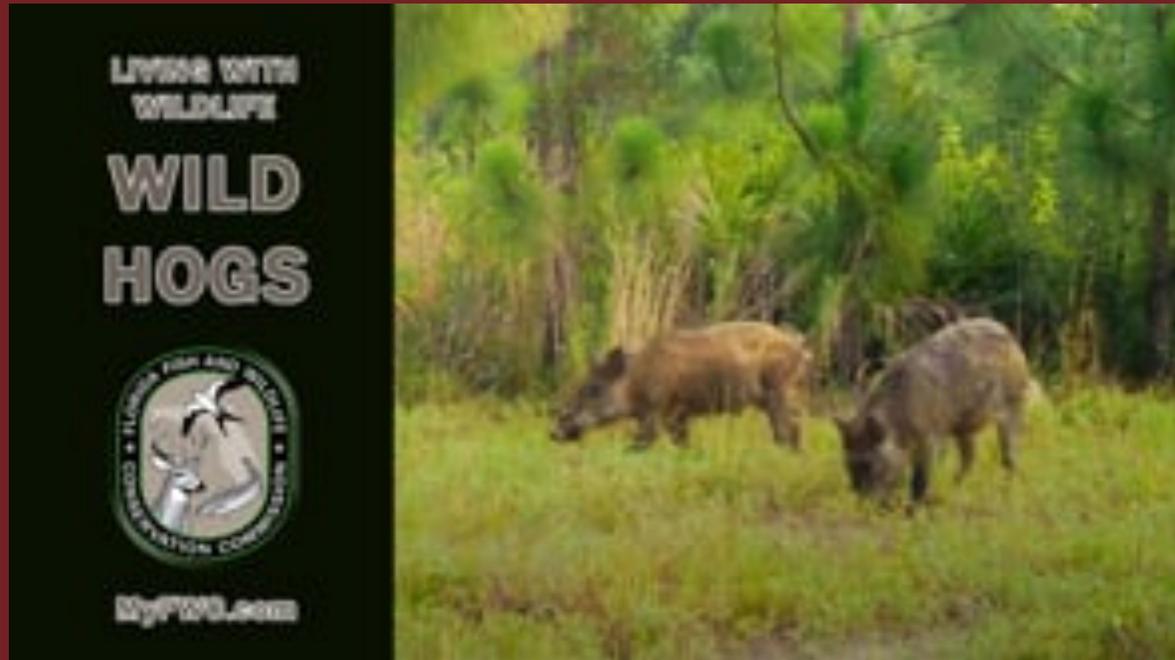
We can not apply resources on private property.

We do provide general advice from time to time.

We try to be good neighbors – building collaborative relationships where possible:

Grand Haven, The Crossings, Wild Oak, Hidden Lakes

WHAT CAN PRIVATE CITIZENS DO?



We always advise physical barriers –

Hog Panel Fencing

Electric Fencing

Trap/Hunt – Hogs can be trapped or hunted year-round with the only limitation being landowner permission or municipal ordinance

WHAT CAN PRIVATE CITIZENS DO?

Feral Hog Reporting | Flagler County, FL

Report Hog Sightings

This will help with our population estimates

Broad Situational Awareness

Help to focus resources

