

Do you own pigs?



Pseudorabies is a threat to the U.S. swine industry, and the goal is to remain free from pseudorabies in domestic animals. If PRV is detected in pigs, the preferred course of action is to immediately eradicate the disease by culling 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.

The long-term goal is to eradicate feral swine from Ohio. If you see feral swine, do not relocate them and report to the **USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297**.

I think my pigs have pseudorabies. What do I do?

If your pigs have neurological, respiratory and reproductive clinical signs, they may be infected. Contact your trusted veterinarian or one of the following:



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



USDA APHIS
Veterinary Services
614-856-4735



Ohio Pork Council
614-882-5887

If your pigs or other animals are suspected of having pseudorabies, they **will be tested** by Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

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Feral Swine: Why are they a threat to your farm?

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

Feral swine cause significant damage to agricultural crops, property, and natural areas. They can also 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 a series of deadly diseases to domestic pigs, such as African swine fever, a foreign disease, and pseudorabies. Pseudorabies is known to have existed in the U.S. for at least 150 years, however feral swine remain a reservoir for the virus and infection of domestic pigs can still occur.



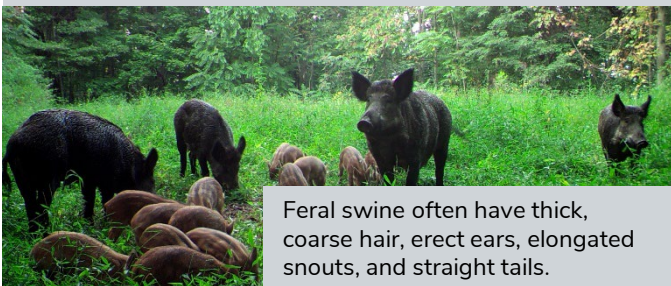
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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 unglaciated southern counties.

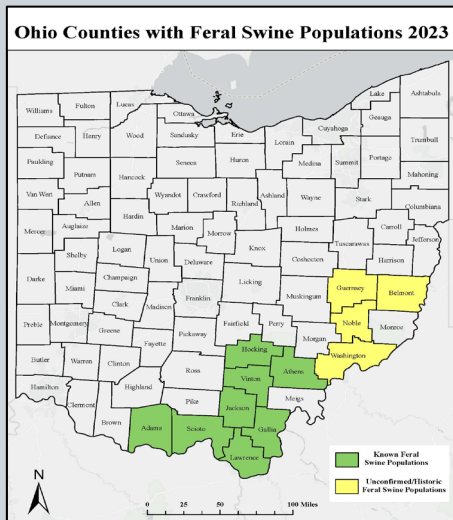


Image: USDA Wildlife Services

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



Pseudorabies

Q: WHAT IS PSEUDORABIES (PRV)?

A: PRV, or Aujeszky's disease, is an infectious disease caused by a virus that infects primarily pigs, both feral and domestic. Other animal species can also be infected, such as **cattle, sheep, dogs and cats. Humans do not get PRV.**

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

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

This pig is lying on one side and shows a posture of convulsion (neck and forelimbs are stretched, while hind limbs are paddling). Image: Sehl & Teifke, 2020*



Q: Can other animals get sick?

A: Cattle and sheep are relatively more resistant to PRV. Dogs, especially hunting dogs, and cats are at higher risk. Along with unspecific clinical signs, infected cats and dogs have **severe itching** and neurological impairment. Infection is usually fatal.



This dog presents severe hair loss around the mouth due to intense itching caused by PRV.

Image: Ciarello et al. 2022**

Visit [Ohio Pork Information Center website](https://porkinfo.osu.edu) to learn more!

 porkinfo.osu.edu



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 from feral swine to domestic pigs:

- Prevent the contact of your pigs with feral swine, livestock, 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

