

# Invasive Species Alert

## Feral Swine

(*Sus scrofa*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Most often brown or black and appear hairy
- Piglets are lighter in color and often have stripes
- Long, straight, narrow snout relative to domestic pigs
- Straight tail with a tuft at the end

**Habitat:** Commonly found in rural areas, but are adapting to suburban areas. Feral swine are land mammals that use water and dig wallows to regulate body temperature.



**Native Range:** Europe and Asia

**Diet:** Feral swine are opportunistic omnivores; they eat what they can when they can. Dietary items include crops, bird and reptile eggs, fawns and young of domestic livestock, tree seeds and seedlings, nuts, roots, and tubers.

**Local Concern:** Feral swine can be aggressive toward humans and can transmit several serious diseases. Feeding habits put feral swine in direct competition for resources with deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, and waterfowl. Additionally, swine use

their sharp tusks to root for food and wallow in the dirt. These two activities destroy crops and native vegetation, negatively affect water quality, and can cause erosion.



Rooting damage – photo by ODFW

**Means of Introduction:** Intentional release, escape from domestication

**Other Names:** Eurasian boar, Russian boar, wild boar, wild hog, razorback

To report this species, visit [www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies) for contact information. Report online at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone