



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 29 January 2018
To: Jim LaCour, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, State Wildlife Veterinarian
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Notice of Intent – Feral Hog Transport

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to state our support for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Notice of Intent which would prohibit the transport of live feral hogs unless done so by a feral swine authorized transporter registered with the Board of Animal Health of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, who has proof of said registration in his/her possession. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Feral swine populations are spreading at an alarming rate due primarily to the adaptive nature of the animals, their phenomenal reproductive rate, escape from domestic facilities and wild boar hunting operations, and through human assistance – misguided attempts to create sport hunting opportunities. There are state and federal laws prohibiting the movement of feral swine, but more and stricter laws are necessary.

The presence of feral hogs on any property is costly. They compromise stock operations through depredation, and destruction of man-made structures, especially fences. Feral hogs cause problems to farmers by rooting and wallowing in fields and destroying crops. In Texas for example, the estimated annual agricultural damage from feral hogs is \$52 million. And, the annual expense incurred by Texas landowners to control feral hogs is \$7 million. The forestry industry is not immune to feral hog damage either. Feral hogs cause significant damage in newly-planted pine plantations. Perhaps the greatest threat to the Nation's multi-billion-dollar livestock industry is associated with the control of diseases carried by feral swine.

Feral swine can carry at least 30 important viral and bacterial diseases and 37 parasites that can affect humans, pets, and a variety of livestock and wildlife. Examples of these important diseases are pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, tuberculosis, anthrax, and tularemia. Most important among the parasites harbored by feral swine is the microscopic worm that causes trichinosis.

As feral hog populations increase in numbers and range, their damage to the environment and its diverse ecosystems increases accordingly. Prohibiting live movement by unauthorized transporters would help limit the expansion of feral hogs and therefore will benefit the state, its wildlife and citizenry. Thank you for consideration of this matter and please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation