



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, Alabama 36830
Voice: 334-887-4581
Email: Amelia.Dortch@al.usda.gov
Web: <http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov>

News Release

Release No.: 000007.17

Contact:
Amelia Dortch, (334) 887-4581
Amelia.Dortch@al.usda.gov

NRCS Alabama Announces \$100,000 Available to Continue Addressing Feral Swine Management

AUBURN, December 20, 2016 – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Ben Malone announced that producers interested in Alabama’s Wild Pig Damage Management Program should apply by January 20, 2017. NRCS Alabama will be offering financial assistance to eligible landowners through 2017’s funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Feral swine have been sighted in most of the 67 counties in Alabama and can reproduce at an alarming rate. Sows can begin breeding at six months of age and produce up to four litters per year with each litter consisting of four to 12 piglets. Wild pig rooting can damage native plant communities that provide habitat and food sources for native wildlife species. In addition, they degrade water quality and pose a serious disease threat to livestock and humans.

“Although we have a somewhat fair guess of the damage that wild pigs cause to agriculture, about \$1.5 billion per year, I suspect their impact to natural ecosystems and the environment likely double or triple that figure,” said Dr. Mark Smith, Extension Specialist and Associate Professor at Auburn University.

Alabama landowners will have an opportunity to apply for financial assistance through EQIP to monitor and manage feral swine on their property. Funding will be distributed according to the following guidelines:

- *Landowners with 200 or fewer acres will be eligible for a practice payment of \$831.00 (one trapping “scenario”).*
- *Landowners with 400 or more acres will be eligible for a practice payment of \$1,662.00.*
- *An increased payment rate will be applied for new and beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and limited resource farmers.*
- *Cooperation with at least three (3) landowners in close proximity is required whereby each landowner agrees to sign up for the abovementioned NRCS program and work together to remove feral swine on the adjoining properties.*

-More-

- *Landowners must agree to complete damage assessment before and after installation of a given practice. Landowners must also agree to complete photo and pig harvest data sheets and an Auburn University (AU) damage survey.*

Interested producers should visit their nearest [USDA Service Center](#) to determine eligibility. Contact your local NRCS or Farm Service Agency office to begin this process. As with all NRCS programs, applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, selection for funding is completed through our current batching period closing January 20, 2017.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).