

Tennessee Wild Hog Management



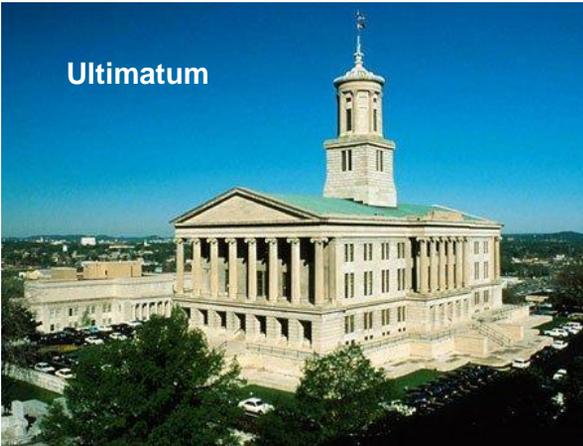
Chuck Yoest
Wild Hog Coordinator

Wild Hog Expansion

Statewide season began in 1999
50+ years of "No Hunting" statewide hog regulations.
10 years of statewide hog hunting



Ultimatum



Kansas Model

- Eliminate incentives
- Create effective means of control
- Outreach

Recognition of the need for a diverse partnership to be the face of change

Getting Buy-in



Formalizing Partnership



Steering Committee



Law Changes

- Removed wild hogs from big-game
- Increased penalties for illegal transportation and stocking

Regulation Changes

- Classified wild hog as a species deemed destructive
- Created new manner and means by which hogs may be taken
 - Exemption program

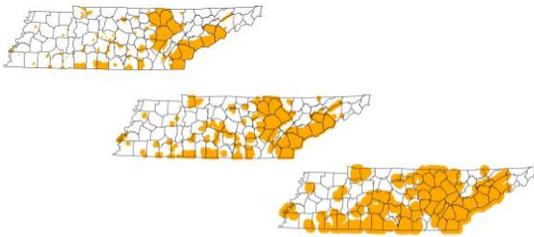
Short time frame resulted in failed outreach

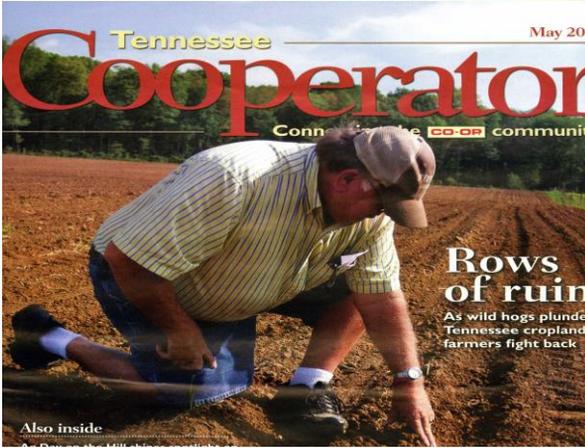


Outreach became the greatest need



~15 Counties in 1982
89 Counties in 2013
85% reported in last 15 years





**WILD HOG ERADICATION ACTION TEAM
POSITION STATEMENT**

The Wild Hog Eradication Action Team (WHEAT), comprised of 22 stakeholder organizations, is experiencing great success at promoting the reduction of wild hog populations in Tennessee. WHEAT's successful approach to wild hog management is based on eliminating incentives for individuals to translocate wild hogs, enabling landowners to utilize effective means of control, and education.

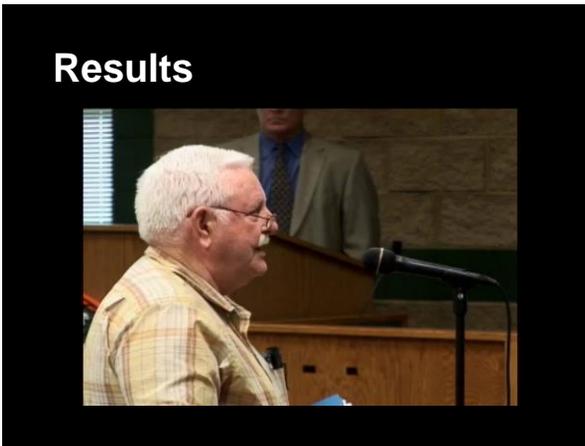
As a result, WHEAT opposes SB494/SB1561 because the legislation as proposed contradicts the principles of successful wild hog control. The proposed legislation could create an incentive for individuals that create chaotic wild hog work dogs to promote their activities by introducing wild hogs into new areas of Tennessee.

Additionally, the effective, long-term solutions (e.g. trapping) currently being utilized by landowners will be impeded by disturbances created by dogs resulting in lesser control rates.

Ultimately, the proposed legislation will undermine the success of the WHEAT organization and reverse the progress made since 2011 when the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) implemented a new wild hog management strategy.

Alternatively, WHEAT supports the use of existing TWRA and USDA Wildlife Service's control teams, aerial gunning, and control's in-solution to the wild hog problem that have led to the creation of these bills.

*Florida Land Conservancy
 Middle Tennessee Agricultural Club
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 National Resources Conservation Service-TN
 Quality Deer Management Association
 Tennessee Association of Soil Conservation Districts
 Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
 Tennessee Chapter - The Wildlife Society
 Tennessee Dairy Producers Association
 Tennessee Department of Agriculture
 Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation
 Tennessee Department of Health
 Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
 Tennessee Ornithological Society
 Tennessee Park Producers
 Tennessee Sashers Association
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
 Tennessee Wildlife Federation
 The Nature Conservancy Tennessee Chapter
 University of Tennessee Extension
 University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
 USFS-AMNH Wildlife Services*



Future needs

- Damage assessment
- End to experiments
- Funding
- Complete buy-in by partners
- More outreach, better messaging



SUCCESS

Because you too can own this face of pure accomplishment