



**To the honorable members of the Michigan Legislature:**

**Agricultural Leaders of Michigan** urges you to let stand a state order declaring feral swine an invasive species and banning it from Michigan. To date, eight states have taken this step because it is the best way to fight an epidemic that endangers agricultural businesses and local jobs.

In light of upcoming action on several legislative proposals, we also urge you to reject any attempts to “regulate” feral swine, including Senate Bills 307-310 and House Bills 4503-4507.

Unless the Legislature takes the toughest possible action to ban and eradicate feral swine, this invasive species threatens tens of thousands of family agricultural businesses across Michigan and hundreds of thousands of local jobs statewide.

We repeat once again the serious and real threat feral swine pose to Michigan’s agricultural economy, which employs more than 1 million people and contributes \$71.3 billion to the economy:

- **Feral swine are an invasive species** and prolific breeders. Wildlife experts agree that feral swine descended from imported non-native animals such as Russian hogs and razorbacks brought to Michigan hunt clubs, and which then escaped.
- **Feral swine are found in nearly every county** in Michigan. Wildlife experts estimate that more than 5,000 feral swine currently roam wild in Michigan.
- **Feral swine are highly destructive** and voracious omnivores, devastating property and major production crops, as well as killing small livestock.
- **Feral swine are carriers of major diseases** affecting livestock, such as pseudorabies and bovine tuberculosis that could seriously damage Michigan’s dairy, pork and poultry sectors.
- **Feral swine will hurt tens of thousands of local jobs.** Dairy production is Michigan’s No. 1 commodity, employing more than 32,000 people and generating more than \$6 billion a year. Pork is an important export commodity, employing more than 6,000 people in Michigan. Eggs and turkey production are major economic sectors, especially in the western half of the state. Diseases carried by feral swine could devastate these industries.

- **Feral swine is costly to taxpayers.** In 2008, so-called “game swine” were forced to be destroyed at five ranches in Michigan after the discovery of pseudorabies infections, at a cost of \$415,000 to Michigan taxpayers, according to an independent House Fiscal Agency document dated June 25, 2008. Furthermore, regulatory monitoring of deer and elk hunting facilities in Michigan cost more than \$1.3 million in 2009 to regulate, while fees for such facilities only generated \$106,640, according to an HFA analysis. The analysis links cervid operations with imported non-native animals such as Russian boars and razorbacks.

Because of these serious and potentially devastating threats to Michigan agriculture and tens of thousands of local jobs, we respectfully ask you to let stand the state order classifying feral swine an invasive species and banning them from our state. Anything less would worsen the feral swine epidemic, putting Michigan agriculture, tens of thousands of jobs and our state’s future at risk.

Sincerely,

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- George House, Executive Director of **Michigan Allied Poultry Industries Inc.**: (616) 676-5593
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