



Feral Hog Herald

Quarterly newsletter of the
Feral Hog Elimination Partnership

Issue #3

Educator Spotlight:

Meet Sarah!

Sarah Cope is the newest Educator with the Feral Hog Elimination Partnership, and she has been working with the Partnership for a little less than a month.



Tell us a little about your background.

I have been in Missouri for about a year and have loved it so far! Before coming here, I had been working in Columbia and all over the state as a research assistant primarily for elk and deer. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in

Knoxville in Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

What is the most surprising thing you have learned about feral hogs?

Their ability to disperse so quickly and find sanctuary areas when trapping operations are interrupted. That is why it is so important to let the trappers complete their jobs entirely and to the best of their ability.

What is your favorite part of the job?

The people. Everyone has been very open and welcoming, from my colleagues to the individuals and groups I have reached out to. I have loved hearing the success stories that landowners have had cooperating with the partnership.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Not being able to be in two places at once! There are so many groups and events I am excited to reach out to, but I cannot feasibly be present at all of them. I can't wait to make my rounds throughout the counties I serve and help them meet their needs.

What is your main motivation?

My main motivation is to be an ear for those who have issues. Feral hogs are a difficult problem to navigate and can often leave

farmers and landowners frustrated with the damage they cause. Every situation is different and finding what fits the needs of an individual or community can only be done if we are working together and listening to their concerns.

What do you think is the biggest misunderstanding about feral hogs?

How serious of an issue they pose. Millions of dollars in damage for Missouri landowners and farmers should not be taken lightly. Farmers and landowners need to work together with their neighbors to all be in this together. We can only continue to make forward progress if everyone is agreement that feral hogs have no place in Missouri.

What would you say to someone considering contacting MDC or USDA for help with feral hogs?

If there is any hesitation, don't be afraid to speak up about it. We are here to listen to your concerns and want to help you feel at ease in any part of the process.

To report feral hog damage or receive assistance, call the Missouri Department of Conservation at **573-522-4115 ext. 3296**, or visit us on the web at <http://mcd.mo.gov/feralhog>.



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Equipment Arrives to Fix Feral Hog Destruction

Feral hogs are extremely destructive. Among other drastic and economically painful measures, some Missouri cattle farmers have been forced to sell off a portion of their herd due to lost forage production from feral hog damage. Such damage has even forced a number of landowners to purchase equipment to repair the damage, a decision that is not possible for some. Now, help is on the way.



Carter County received their Haybuster No-till Drill last month, which is now available for landowners to use.

The Missouri Department of Conservation allocated monies from the USDA Farm Bill Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) to select counties in Southern Missouri for the purchase of

equipment to repair feral hog damage. “We realize the economic impact that feral hogs have had on our farmers and ranchers,” says Jason Jensen, Incident Commander of Feral Hog Operations for Missouri Department of Conservation. “Our trappers have been working diligently with landowners to eliminate feral swine from their properties. We’re glad to be able to take this next step in assisting landowners with repairing the damage and making their property productive again.” Equipment allocations have been based on available equipment in affected counties, the number of landowners impacted, the severity of damage, and the equipment requested. Equipment will be managed by County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. That is good news for landowners with feral hog damage, who can utilize the equipment to repair damage. Some county SWCDs already have equipment on the ground for landowner use. “It’s great to have this piece of equipment here to help the landowners repair hog damage,” says Tammy Townsend with Carter County Soil and Water Conservation District. “I think it’s going to be a big help and maybe encourage them. We appreciate that the opportunity was presented to us.”

Contact your local SWCD office for more details on equipment available near you.

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Kids Hear All About Feral Hogs, Too

Feral hog messaging is for the kids, too. Just ask Jerry Richards and every 4th grader in Dent County. The children were participants in the annual Ozark Cattleman's Beef Day, a program put on through a cooperative effort from the Missouri Cattleman's Association, Future Farmers of America, and University of Missouri Extension at the Salem Commons on Thursday, September 8th.



Jerry Richards presents to one of 12 groups of 4th graders who attended the Ozark Cattleman's Beef Day, 2022.

agriculture and all the goods and services agriculture provides. Understanding how feral hogs impact agriculture and landowners in Missouri is important for all of Missouri residents, even the smaller ones.

“Kids are eager learners when it comes to things involving agriculture, says Richards. “This program gives us a chance to explain some of the challenges and joys that come with life on the farm!”

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Livestock exhibits; safety demonstrations for chainsaws, guns, and side-by-sides and a career exposition relating to all things ag were the main attractions in an event whose purpose was to generate an appreciation for