
WORKSHOP EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

The International Workshop on Feral Swine Disease & Risk Management
18-20 November 2014

INTRODUCTION

The International Workshop on Feral Swine Disease & Risk Management was held in Fort Collins, Colorado from 18-20 November 2014. This workshop was co-sponsored by USDA APHIS VS Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health and USDA APHIS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in collaboration with Colorado State University's Animal Population Health Institute and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the international status of free-ranging swine diseases and explore disease management options (including limitations) in both domestic and global free-ranging swine populations. Workshop goals were two-fold: (1) to establish working relationships with international experts on feral swine ecology and epidemiology that can be leveraged through projects initiated through the USDA National Feral Swine Program; and (2) to produce a peer-reviewed publication that integrates existing knowledge of free-ranging swine diseases, management options, and critical information needs to aid the operational implementation of a national disease control program in the United States. Forty-two individuals from 11 countries participated in the workshop. International subject matter scientists were invited to contribute to the workshop as a speaker and/or a panelist. Presentations from topical experts and moderated panel discussions were summarized and presented to the entire group.

Speakers, panelists, and moderators for the workshop were invited to complete a survey questionnaire at the end of the workshop (see Appendix). Completion of the survey was voluntary; 28 individuals provided feedback (67 percent response). The evaluation consisted of two parts. In Part I, participants were asked to evaluate the workshop by circling the number that corresponded to his/her opinion regarding a facet of the workshop. A Likert scale, which is a rating scale that measures the strength of agreement with a clear statement, was used to gauge attitudes or reactions. A 5-point scale was used (1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, 5=very high). In Part II, written comments regarding the most valuable and least satisfactory workshop aspects were requested in addition to suggestions for improvement. Furthermore, participants verbally were asked to answer the following question on the back of their evaluation form: "What was your key take-home knowledge or fact from this workshop?"

RESULTS

Results of the participant survey are shown in Table 1. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents believed the workshop was highly valuable for them. Additionally, 85 percent of the respondents believed there was a high potential for the outcome of the workshop to increase shared understanding of the concepts of disease surveillance and management options applied to free-ranging swine populations. Furthermore, 89 percent of the respondents believed it was highly likely that participants established working relationships with international experts as a result of the workshop. Ninety-two

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percent of the respondents believed the scheduled presentations were highly relevant, but lower percentages of respondents believed the reporting and recording of key findings (69 percent) and the moderated panel discussions (67 percent) added high value to the workshop.

Table 1. Median value* concerning specific workshop facets and proportions (percent) of Likert-scale^ responses by high, moderate, low agreement.

Statement	Median	Proportion of Responses		
		High	Moderate	Low
Potential for the workshop outcome to increase shared understanding of the concepts of disease surveillance and management options applied to free-ranging swine populations	4	85%	15%	0%
Likelihood that participants established working relationships with international experts as a result of the workshop	5	89%	11%	0%
Relevance of the scheduled presentations	4	92%	4%	4%
Value added by moderated panel discussions	4	67%	30%	4%
Value added by reporting & recording of key findings	4	69%	31%	0%
Overall value of the workshop for you	4	88%	8%	4%

*Rating scale: 1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, 5=very high;

^Rating scale: Low (1=very low, 2=low), Moderate (3=moderate), High (4=high, 5=very high)

Written comments from the respondents indicated that they appreciated gaining international perspectives on free-ranging swine in terms of the global distribution, the worldwide swine diseases situation, ecological impacts due to feral swine, and approaches to solving similar problems caused by free-ranging swine in different settings. Similarly, respondents appreciated the chance to meet with knowledgeable professionals from throughout the world and openly converse about free-ranging swine situations in a very discussion-friendly atmosphere. When asked for suggestions to improve the workshop, the main suggestions from respondents were to more clearly present the current free-ranging swine situation in the USA, and explicitly delineate the role of the workshop in implementing feral swine disease management within the National Feral Swine Program.

Key take-home messages from the workshop, expressed by participants, were that management of free-ranging swine diseases and populations is a global problem requiring cross-disciplinary perspectives, local and regional demographic and epidemiological data, and context-specific strategies.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara McCarthy, PhD

On behalf of the Animal Population Health Institute, Colorado State University

December 17, 2014

APPENDIX – WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Part I: Please circle the number that best corresponds to your opinion of various facts of the workshop.

	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
1 Potential for the workshop outcome to increase shared understanding of the concepts of disease surveillance and management options applied to free-ranging swine populations	1	2	3	4	5
2 Likelihood that participants established working relationships with international experts as a result of the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
3 Relevance of the scheduled presentations	1	2	3	4	5
4 Value added by moderated panel discussions	1	2	3	4	5
5 Value added by reporting & recording of key findings	1	2	3	4	5
6 Overall value of the workshop for you	1	2	3	4	5

Part II: Please answer the questions below based on your workshop experience.

1. What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop?
2. Why did you select this aspect?
3. With what aspects of the workshop were you least satisfied?
4. How can we improve?
5. Are there any other opinions you would like to express regarding any aspect of the workshop including arrangements, lodging, and refreshments?
6. Please circle your workshop role(s): SPEAKER PANELIST MODERATOR AUDIENCE

Thank you