



Louisiana Natural Resource News

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Newsletter of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists Louisiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

LAPB Life Member Honored with LWF Award

www.lawildlifefed.org

Congratulations to Tom Hess, Jr., of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on being named the 2011 Professional Conservationist of the Year. Tom is part of the staff at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and has played a leading role in several successful wildlife restoration projects over the course of his career.



LWF Resolutions Address Wide Array of Topics

By Keith Saucier, LWF 1st Vice President & Paul Whitehead, Exec. Committee

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation held its 73rd annual convention on March 9-12, 2012, in Covington, LA. The key focal point of every LWF convention is the process by which members submit, debate, and adopt formal "resolutions". These resolutions serve to establish LWF policies and objectives on a wide range of issues important to wildlife conservationists.

A resolution can be submitted by any LWF member or affiliate organization, and this year a total of twenty resolutions were submitted for consideration during convention. These resolutions were discussed, debated, and changed throughout most of Saturday in five separate conservation committees. Those that receive a favorable vote in committee on Saturday go before the "General Assembly" on Sunday morning for consideration of final adoption. Of those twenty originally submitted this year, only twelve survived the process and were adopted by the Delegates. It's a very orderly and open process of which LWF members have always been very proud.

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LWF Resolutions Continued

The LAPB submitted 3 resolutions for consideration – Law Enforcement on Property Managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Acknowledgement of the Need to Respect and Support Private Land Ownership, and A Delta in the Hand is Worth Two in a Plan. LAPB member Dr. Andy Nyman was recognized and explained the intent of the Law Enforcement resolution and LDWF Enforcement Agents explained the Department's opposition to the resolution, which failed in committee. The other two resolutions were adopted.

You can read the full text of each resolution by accessing the "Resolutions Database" feature on the LWF website. Simply visit www.lawildlifefed.org; click on the "News & Features" drop-down menu; and select "Resolutions Database".

Implementation strategies for this year's resolutions are still being developed.

Feral Swine Disease Surveillance in Louisiana

By Scott Woodruff, Wildlife Disease Biologist-USDA/Wildlife Services

Numbers of feral swine have grown exponentially over the last decade; due in part to the animal's adaptive nature and successful breeding, but also due to illegal transport and release. The damage connected with feral swine has also increased, including loss of agricultural crops, destruction to landscaping and property, and feral swine outcompeting native wildlife for resources. An often overlooked risk associated with feral swine is disease transmission. Feral swine can carry more than thirty diseases and parasites that may affect the health of humans, domestic animals, and native wildlife. Because they can act as reservoirs for many diseases, eliminating diseases in livestock and humans is difficult in areas that are populated with feral swine.

In 2006, the National Wildlife Disease Program (NWDP) began a nationwide feral swine disease surveillance effort primarily to detect Classical Swine Fever (CSF), a foreign animal disease that was eradicated from domestic swine in the U.S. in the late 1960s. Should this disease be reintroduced in the feral swine herd, it could be transmitted to domestic swine, thus having serious economic impacts to U.S. agriculture. Another disease that may affect livestock, wildlife, and household pets is pseudorabies (PRV), or "mad-itch" disease. PRV can cause abortions and high mortality rates in piglets, other livestock and wildlife. It is highly contagious to dogs and cats. Serum from feral swine is tested as part of the NWDP sampling effort.

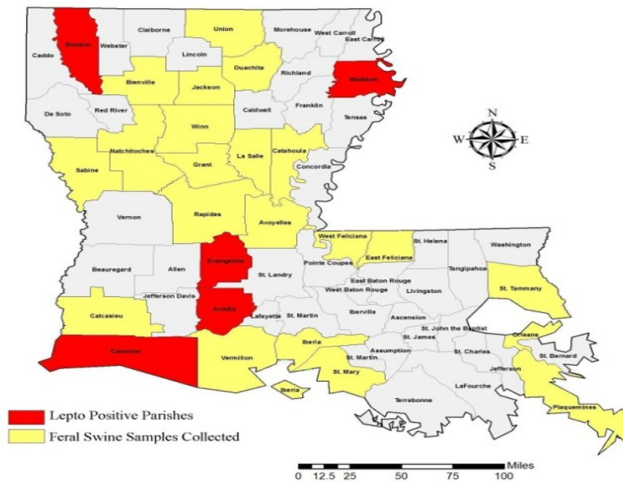


Zoonotic diseases; i.e., diseases that can be transmitted from wildlife to humans, can cause potentially serious illnesses that often mimic the flu. The most common zoonotic disease carried by feral swine is swine brucellosis or "undulant fever". Symptoms in humans include high, recurring fever, joint and muscle aches, chills, sweating and headaches that may last for days to months. Collected feral swine are tested for several zoonotic diseases including swine brucellosis, hepatitis E, leptospirosis and swine influenza virus.

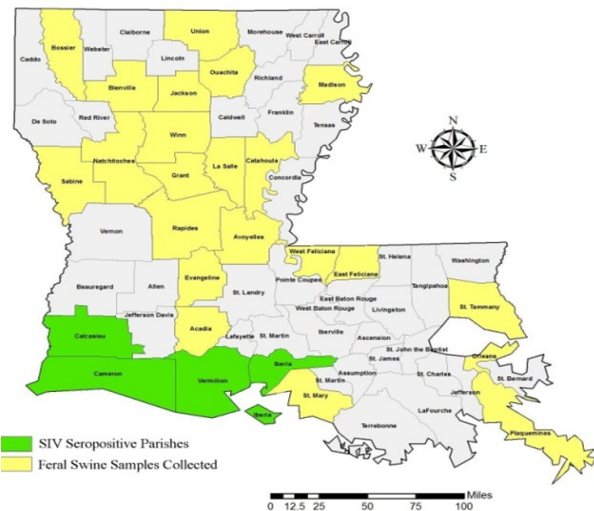


The Louisiana Wildlife Services Program has collected serum samples from over 400 feral swine throughout the state since 2007. This disease surveillance effort will continue in 2013.

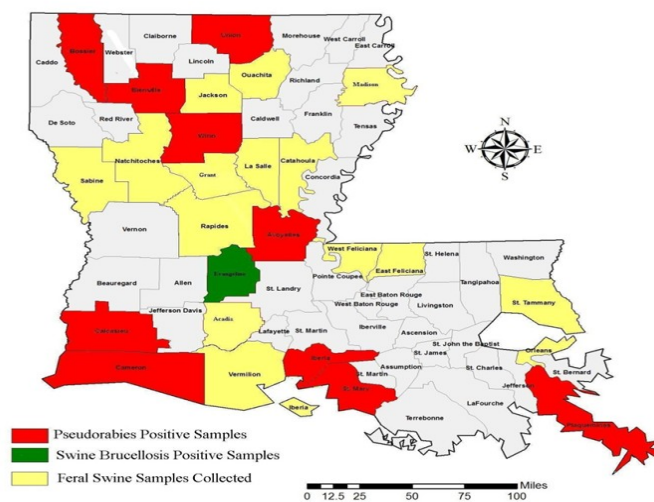
Leptospirosis Surveillance in Louisiana



Swine Influenza Virus Surveillance in Louisiana



Pseudorabies and Swine Brucellosis Surveillance in Louisiana



Who We Are

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists is a diverse group of natural resource specialists including, but not limited to, foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, wetland scientists, fisheries biologists, and students who are dedicated to the economically sound and science-based protection, management, and use of Louisiana's natural resources through peer-reviewed research, mentoring, ecologically sound habitat management, and informed public policy.

We're On The Web!!!

www.labiologists.org

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions?

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