

**PRESENTATION TO THE SAVANNAH  
RIVER SITE  
CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL)  
Wild Pigs on the SRS**

**May 24, 2016**

**Dr. Olin E. Rhodes, Jr. – Director SREL  
Professor, University of Georgia (UGA)**



# Feral Pigs on the SRS

- ❑ Feral pigs on the SRS represent a safety concern for both automobile collision and remote worker safety
- ❑ Feral pigs on the SRS damage native vegetation, waste caps, landscaping, and other sensitive areas of the site
- ❑ Feral Pigs on the SRS damage forest service plantings and other managed vegetation
- ❑ Feral Pigs on the SRS create damage at the Three Rivers Landfill and other facilities on site
- ❑ Feral Pigs on the SRS also represent a potential source of disease transmission to wildlife and domestic animals and of contaminants to humans

# Feral Pigs on the SRS

- ❑ Feral pigs, formally considered an invasive species, exist in very large numbers on the SRS
- ❑ The Department of Energy provides funding to the USFS to conduct feral swine control programs on the SRS
  - ❑ The USFS contracts with trappers to conduct pig removal across the site
  - ❑ The USFS conducts limited trapping with its own personnel in sensitive or restricted areas
  - ❑ The USFS contracts with a limited number of “Hog Hunters” for pig removal
  - ❑ Feral pigs are also harvested during the annual SRS deer hunts on site
- ❑ Feral Pig numbers on the SRS are thought to be increasing despite control efforts

# Feral Pig Numbers on the SRS

- ❑ Currently the population size of the feral pig population on the SRS is unknown
- ❑ Trends for recent years stemming from removal efforts have been increasing:
  - 2011 - 641
  - 2012 - 1051
  - 2013 - 1389
  - 2014 - 1598
  - 2015 - 1463
- ❑ It is unclear whether a tipping point for reduction of the SRS feral pig population can be reached with current methods

# Feral Pig Research on the SRS

- ❑ SREL leads a number of USDA-funded research projects on the SRS, and collaborates with the USFS on others, to:
  - ❑ Better understand the population ecology and behavior of feral pigs
  - ❑ To improve methods of density estimation
  - ❑ To enhance control strategies
  - ❑ To reduce disease transmission
  - ❑ To improve capture success
- ❑ SREL is working with the USDA National Feral Swine Damage Management Program to make the SRS a national center for feral swine research and to develop alternative feral swine control strategies

# EFFICACY OF RHODAMINE B



S.C. Webster, F.L. Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, and J.C. Beasley

# MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF TRANSLOCATED WILD PIGS



J.C. Beasley, D.A. Keiter, J.B. Smith, R.S.  
Miller, and S.J. Sweeney

# PIGLET SURVIVAL



D.A. Keiter, J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, F.L.  
Cunningham, and J.C. Beasley

# SCAT DETECTION METHODS



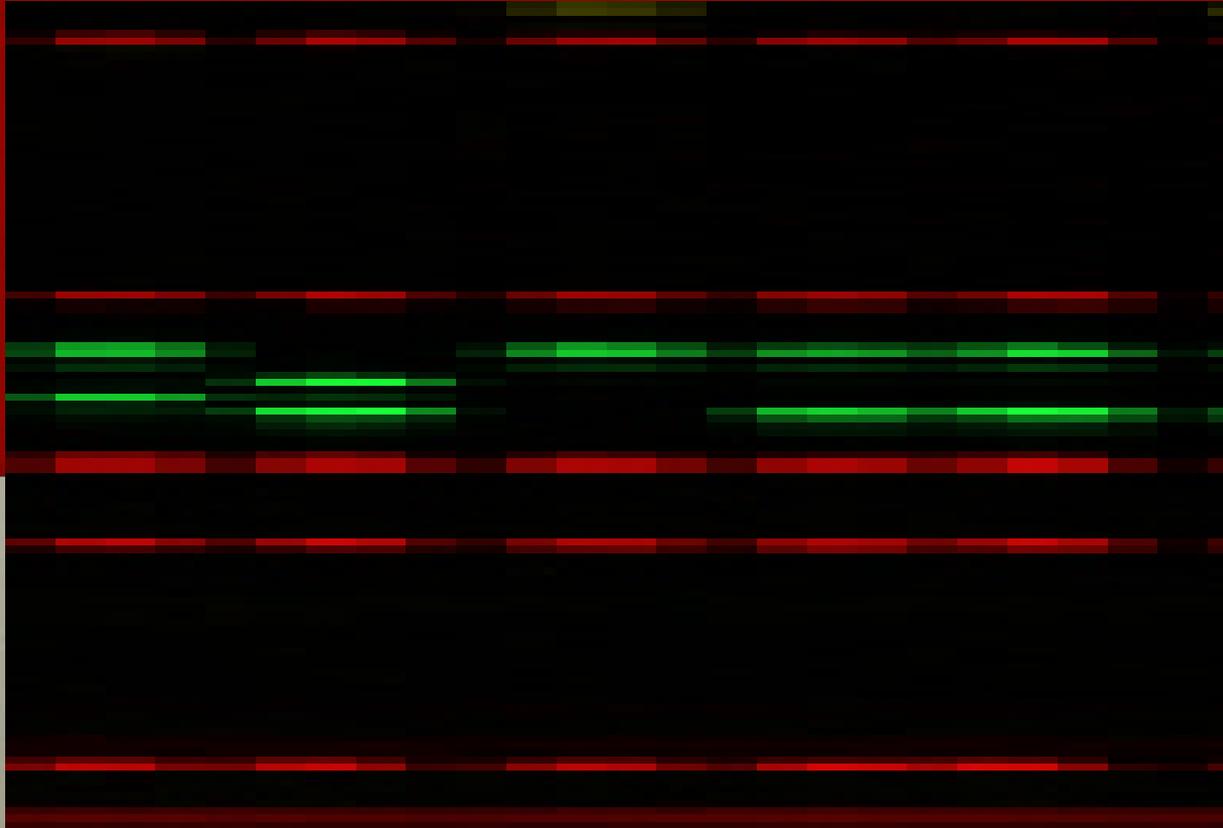
D.A. Keiter, F.L. Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., B.J.  
Irwin, and J.C. Beasley

# COMPARISON OF ABUNDANCE/DENSITY ESTIMATORS



D.A. Keiter, A.J. Davis, E.M. Kierepka, K.M. Pepin,  
J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, A.J. Piaggio, F.L.  
Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., and J.C. Beasley

# POPULATION GENETICS



D.A. Keiter, A.J. Davis, E.M. Kierepka, K.M. Pepin,  
J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, A.J. Piaggio, F.L.  
Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., and J.C. Beasley

# SPATIAL RESPONSE TO CONTROL



P. Schlichting, D.A. Keiter, K.M. Pepin, A.J. Davis,  
K. VerCauteren, J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, J. Smith,  
O.E. Rhodes Jr., and J.C. Beasley

# CONTAMINANTS IN WILD PIGS ON THE SRS



R. Oldencamp, D.A. Keiter, L.A. Bryan, and J.C.  
Beasley



SAVANNAH RIVER ECOLOGY LABORATORY



**THANK YOU**