

Wild Hog Update: The Mississippi Experience

**Bronson Strickland
Extension Wildlife Specialist**



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION**



Corn Damage Research

Funded by

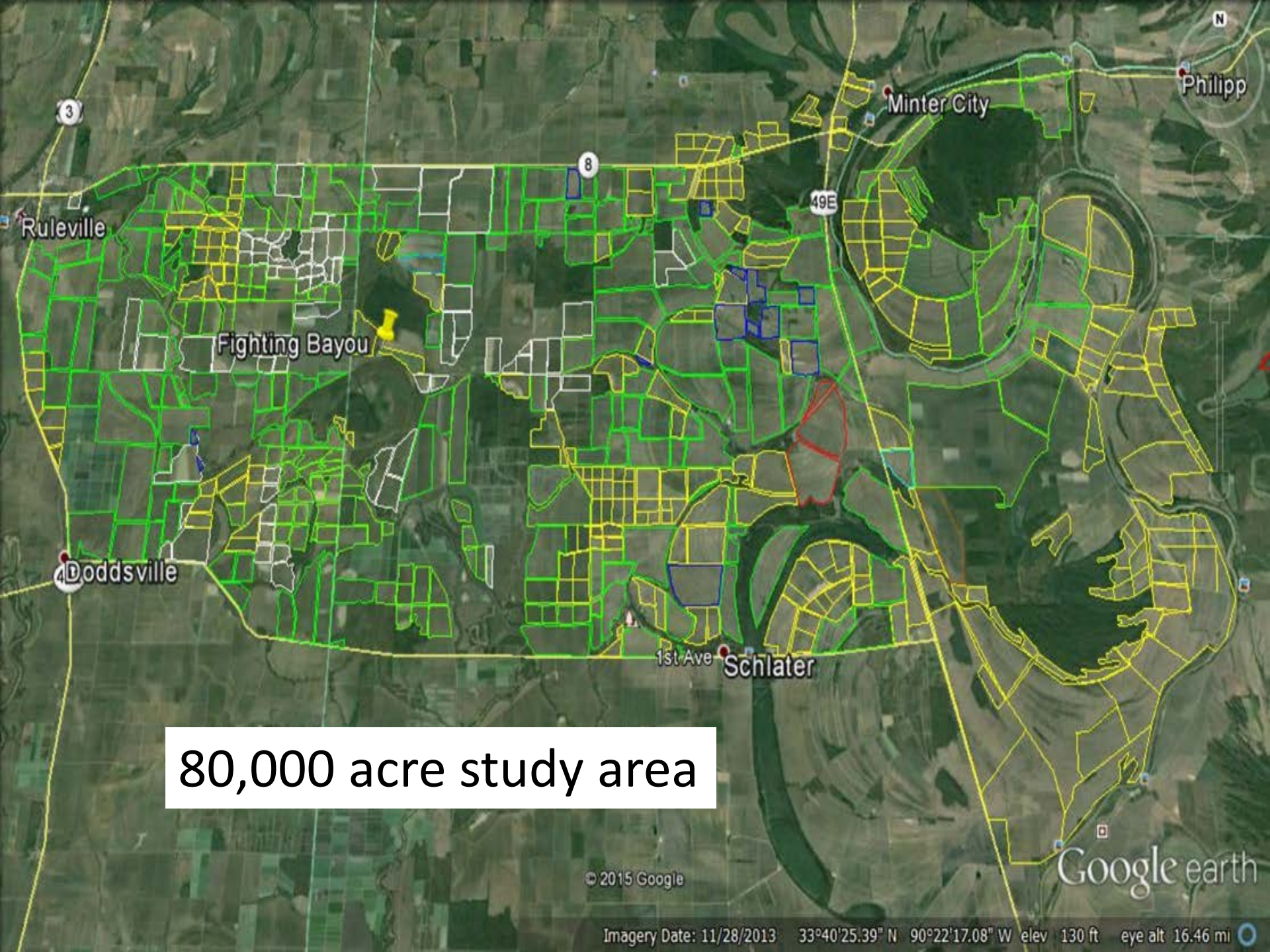
Mississippi Corn Promotion Board
& Mississippi State University

Graduate Student – Hearne Foster



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION





80,000 acre study area

© 2015 Google

Imagery Date: 11/28/2013 33°40'25.39" N 90°22'17.08" W elev 130 ft eye alt 16.46 mi

10-15% of corn fields damaged by hogs







**Costs to affected farmers is severe
Damage ranges from 5 to 100%**

UAV (Drone) Research

Funded by
Land, Water, Timber Resources Board



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



Aerial view from drone



Corn Damage

Wild Hog Damage



Corn Damage

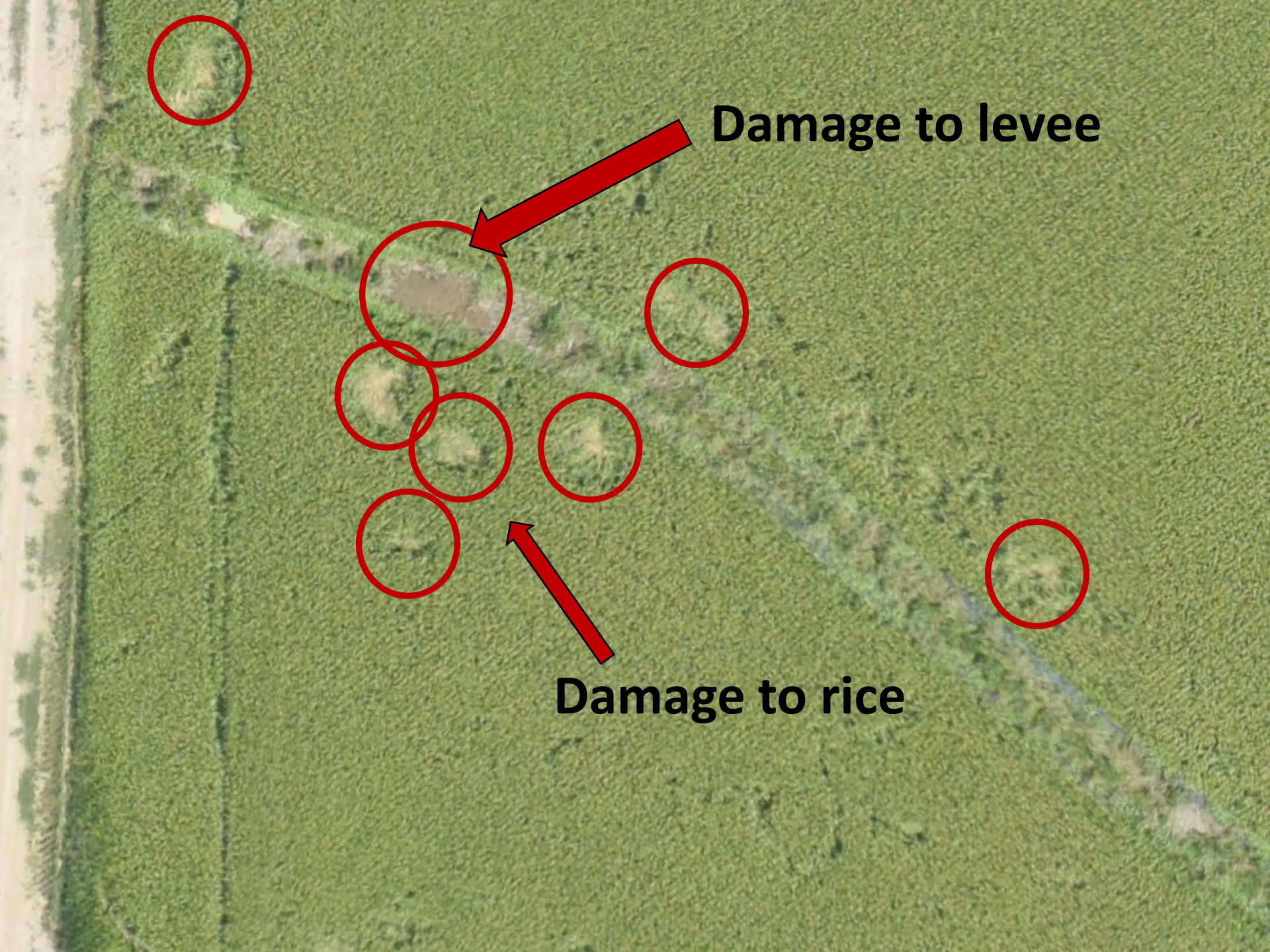


An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A large, vibrant green rice field is the central focus. A red oval is drawn around the left side of this field. To the right of the oval, a semi-transparent white box contains the text 'Rice Damage'. The surrounding area includes a brownish-grey road or path at the top, a smaller green pond, and various other agricultural plots in shades of green and brown. The image has a high-contrast, almost graphic quality with some black areas at the edges.

Rice Damage

Wild Hog Damage





Damage to levee

Damage to rice

Hog Damage & Public Attitudes Research

Funded by

Land, Water, Timber Resources Board
MS Dept Ag & Commerce

Researchers – Jessica Tegt, Bronson Strickland, Diana Neal,
Bill Hamrick, Cliff Covington, Steven Tucker



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



Wild Hog Public Attitude Survey

Mississippi State University
Center for Resolving Human-Wildlife Conflicts

LANDOWNER INTERVIEW SURVEY INSTRUMENT (to be administered by Research Associate)

Please tell us a little about your commercial operation.

1. Are you the Owner, Manager, or Other (specify) _____ of this property?

2. How many acres do you currently farm or manage? _____ acres

3. For how many years have you farmed or managed this property? _____ years

4. What commodities/ag-related industries are produced/managed on your property? (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agritourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse/nursery products | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf course | <input type="checkbox"/> Small livestock (i.e. goats, pigs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay/Silage | <input type="checkbox"/> Sod | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> Honey | <input type="checkbox"/> Soybeans | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports turf/fields | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet potatoes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits/Nuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber | |

5. Which of these commodities/industries is the primary one on your property? (choose one)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agritourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse/nursery products | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf course | <input type="checkbox"/> Small livestock (i.e. goats, pigs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay/Silage | <input type="checkbox"/> Sod | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> Honey | <input type="checkbox"/> Soybeans | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports turf/fields | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Peanuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet potatoes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits/Nuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber | |

6. Do you have wild hogs on your property? Yes No (Skip to #25)

7. Approximately how many wild hogs are on your property? _____ wild hogs

8. How many years ago did you first see wild hogs on your property? _____ years

9. On average, how many days per month did you see wild hogs on your property? _____ days

10. In what month(s) do you see the most wild hogs on your property?

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January | <input type="checkbox"/> February | <input type="checkbox"/> March | <input type="checkbox"/> April | <input type="checkbox"/> May | <input type="checkbox"/> June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July | <input type="checkbox"/> August | <input type="checkbox"/> September | <input type="checkbox"/> October | <input type="checkbox"/> November | <input type="checkbox"/> December |

11. Since you first saw wild hogs on your property, have the total number of hogs:

- Decreased significantly Remained about the same Increased significantly

12. In your opinion, why has this happened? _____

13. Do you report wild hog activity on your property to a local, state, or federal agency? Yes No (Skip to #15)

14. To which agency(ies) have you reported wild hog activity on your property? _____

15. Why did you choose to **not** report wild hog activity on your property?

- Didn't know who to call Lack of confidence in agencies' ability to help Prefer to deal with problem on my own
 Other _____

16. Do you report wild hog damage to your insurance agency? Yes (Skip to #18) No

17. Why do you choose to **not** report wild hog damage to your insurance agency? _____



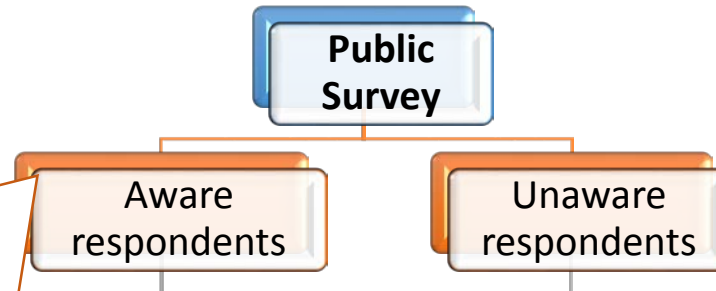
MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Objectives

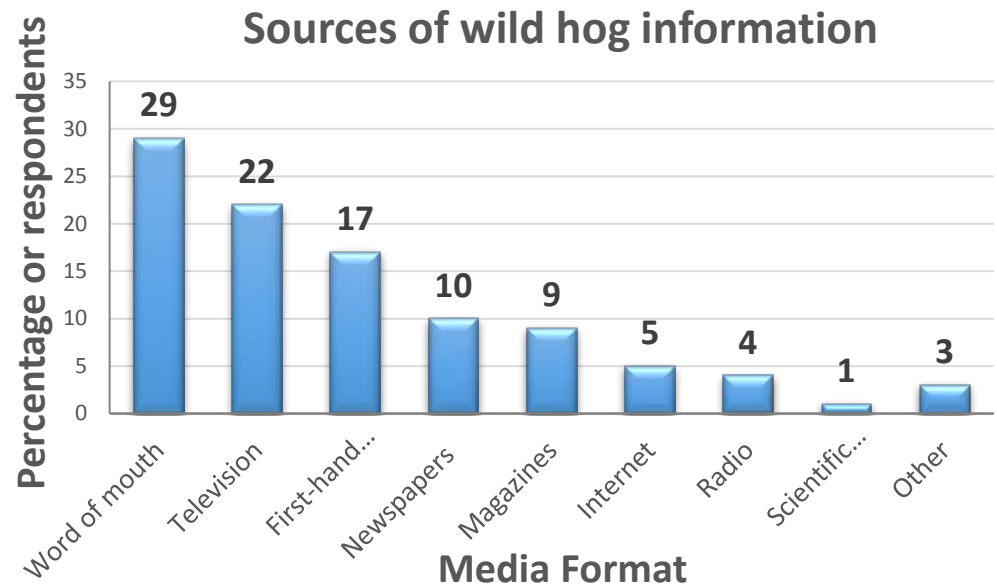
- This study assessed
 - Public awareness
 - Level of knowledge (natural history)
 - Attitudes towards wild hogs among Mississippians



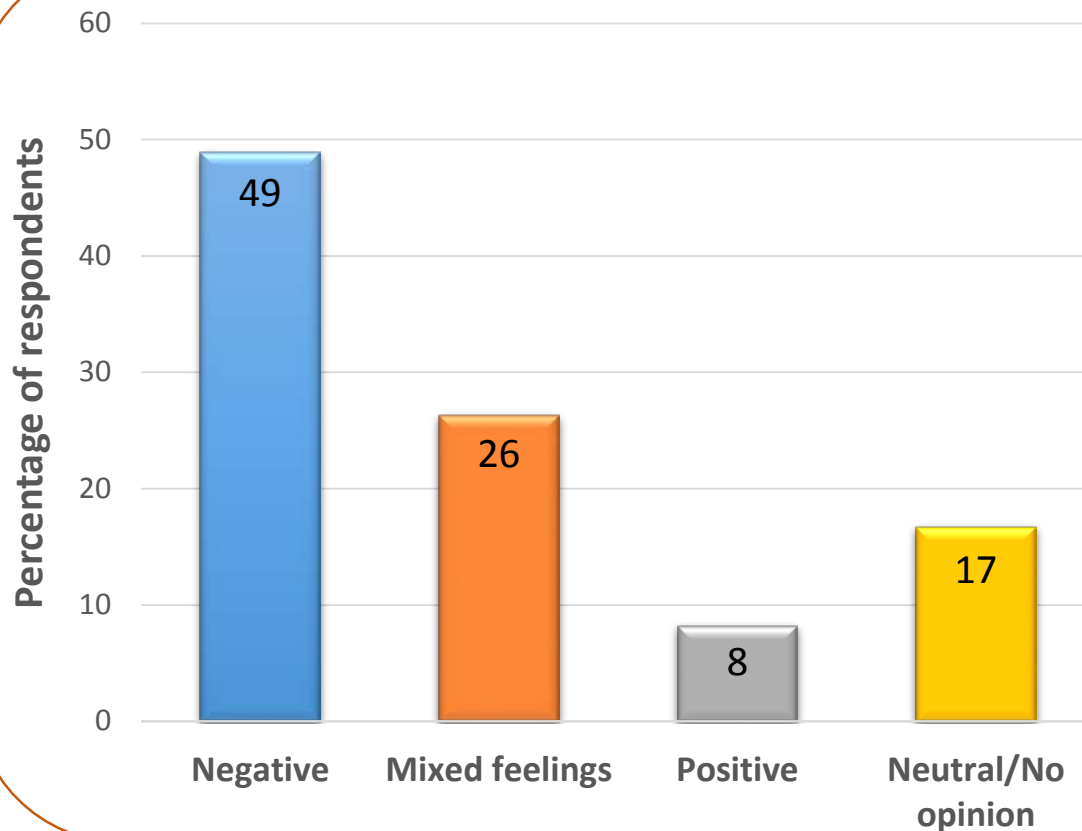
Respondents awareness



- The majority of respondents (93%, $n = 1,116$) had some degree of awareness



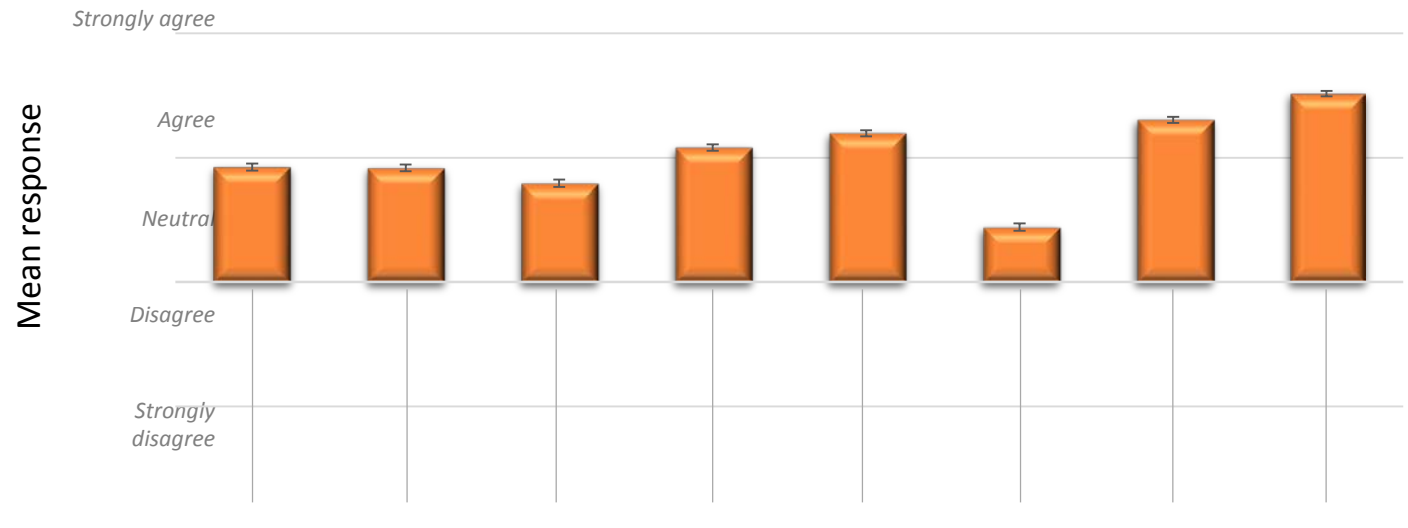
Respondents general attitude towards wild hogs



- Across place of residence
 - NOT significantly different
- Across demographic variables
 - NOT significantly different
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Age
 - Level of education
 - Household income

Attitude of respondents towards wild hogs

- **Potential for disease or damage:** I believe that wild hogs...

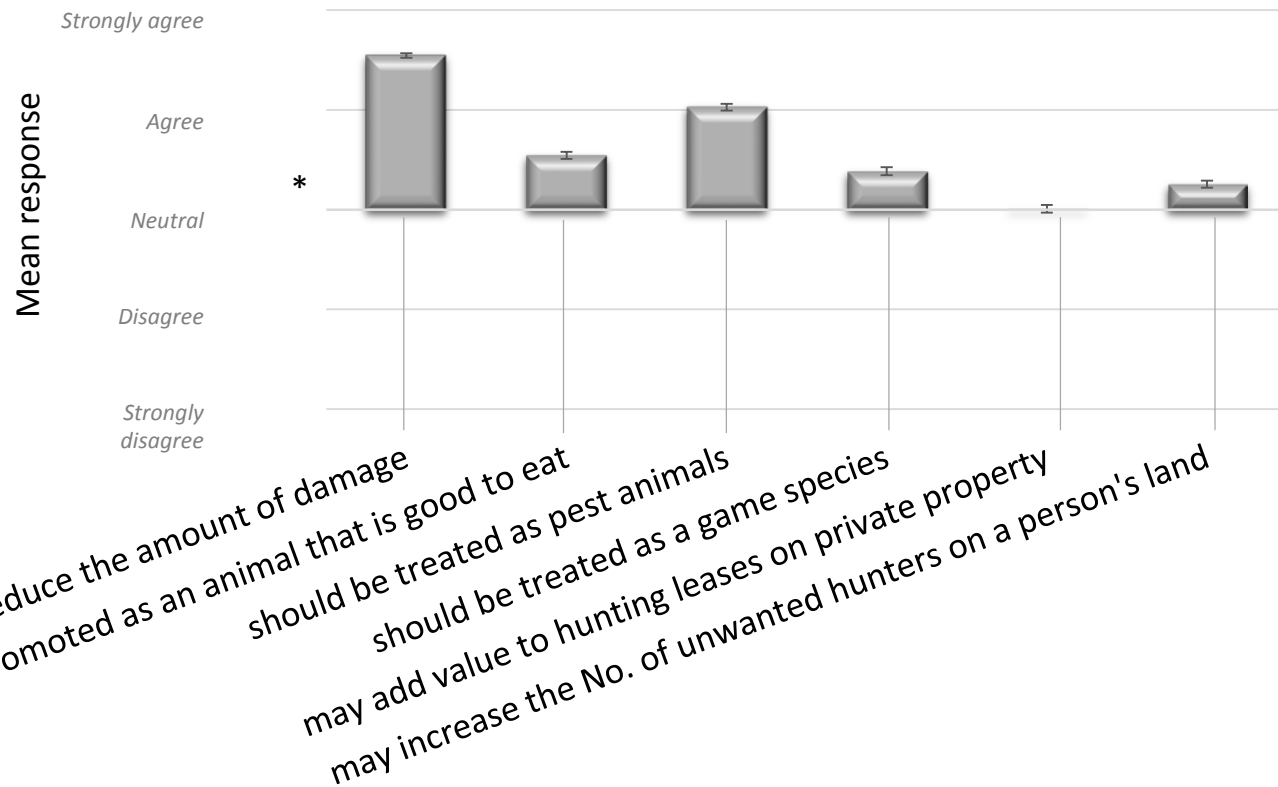


can kill newborn livestock
can transmit diseases to domestic livestock
can injure adult livestock
can cause damage to livestock water sources
can cause damage to fences or livestock pens
can transmit diseases to humans
can cause damage to residential property
can cause damage to agricultural fields

Attitude of respondents towards wild hogs

- **Management considerations:**

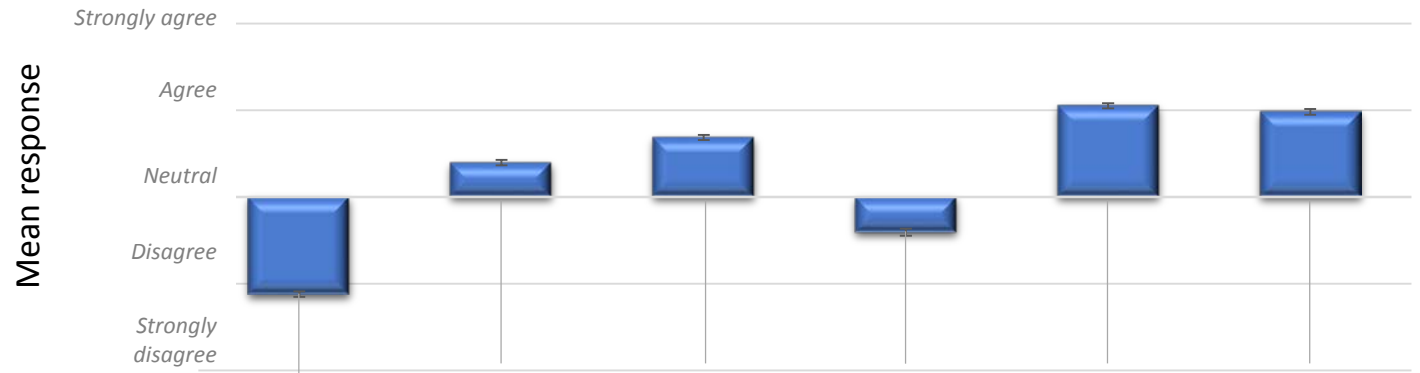
I believe that wild hogs...



Attitude of respondents towards wild hogs

- **Legal considerations:**

I believe that wild hogs...



wild hogs should be allowed to be transported anywhere in US

restrictions on transporting WH to other state strictly enforce in MS

restriction on the transportation of WH to other states should be better enforced in MS

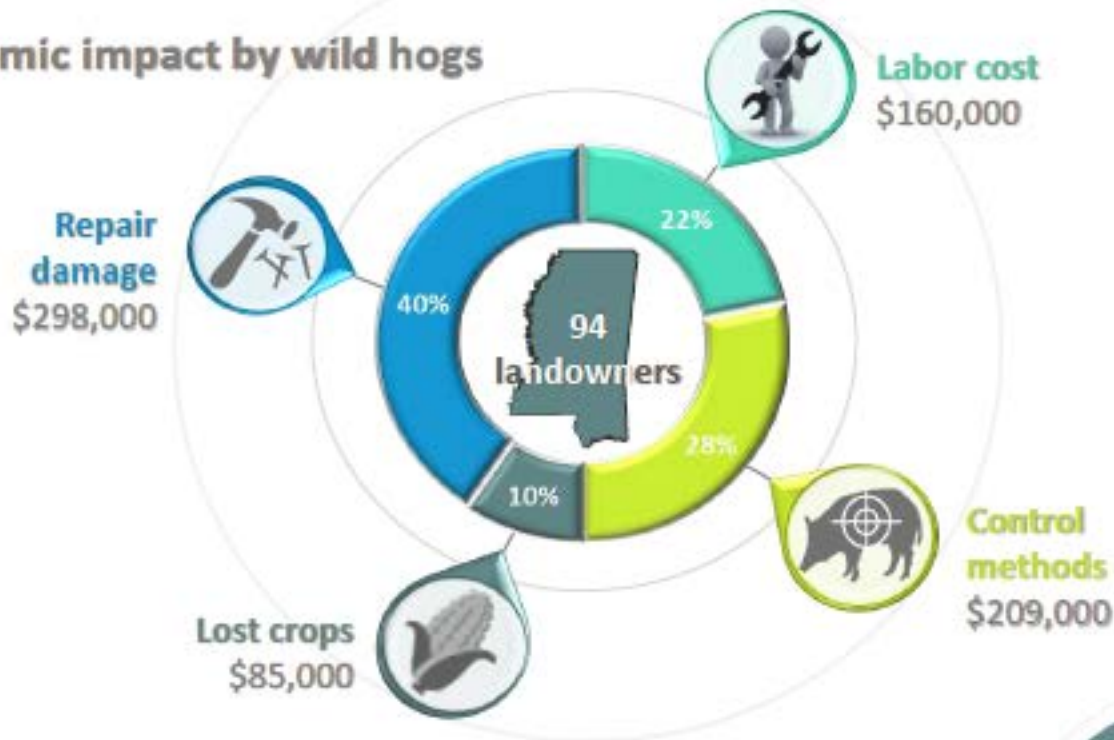
transportation should be allowed anywhere in US after a veterinarian examination...

there should be penalties for illegally transp. wild hogs to other states

there should be penalties for illegally transp. wild hogs within MS

Assessment of wild hog damage to Mississippi agriculture

Economic impact by wild hogs



Dollar value per acre reported by:

- Phone surveys = \$6.32
- Site visits = \$5.69



\$ 67
\$ 60 millions
per year

~ 50% of survey respondents reported seeing wild hogs on their property



Hog Diet Research

Funded by
Wildlife Services
National Wildlife Research Center



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



Hog Diet Study



Hog Diet Study



Pig Movements Research

Funded by

Wildlife Services

National Wildlife Research Center

Mississippi State University

Graduate Students – Clay Gibson & Kelsey Paolini

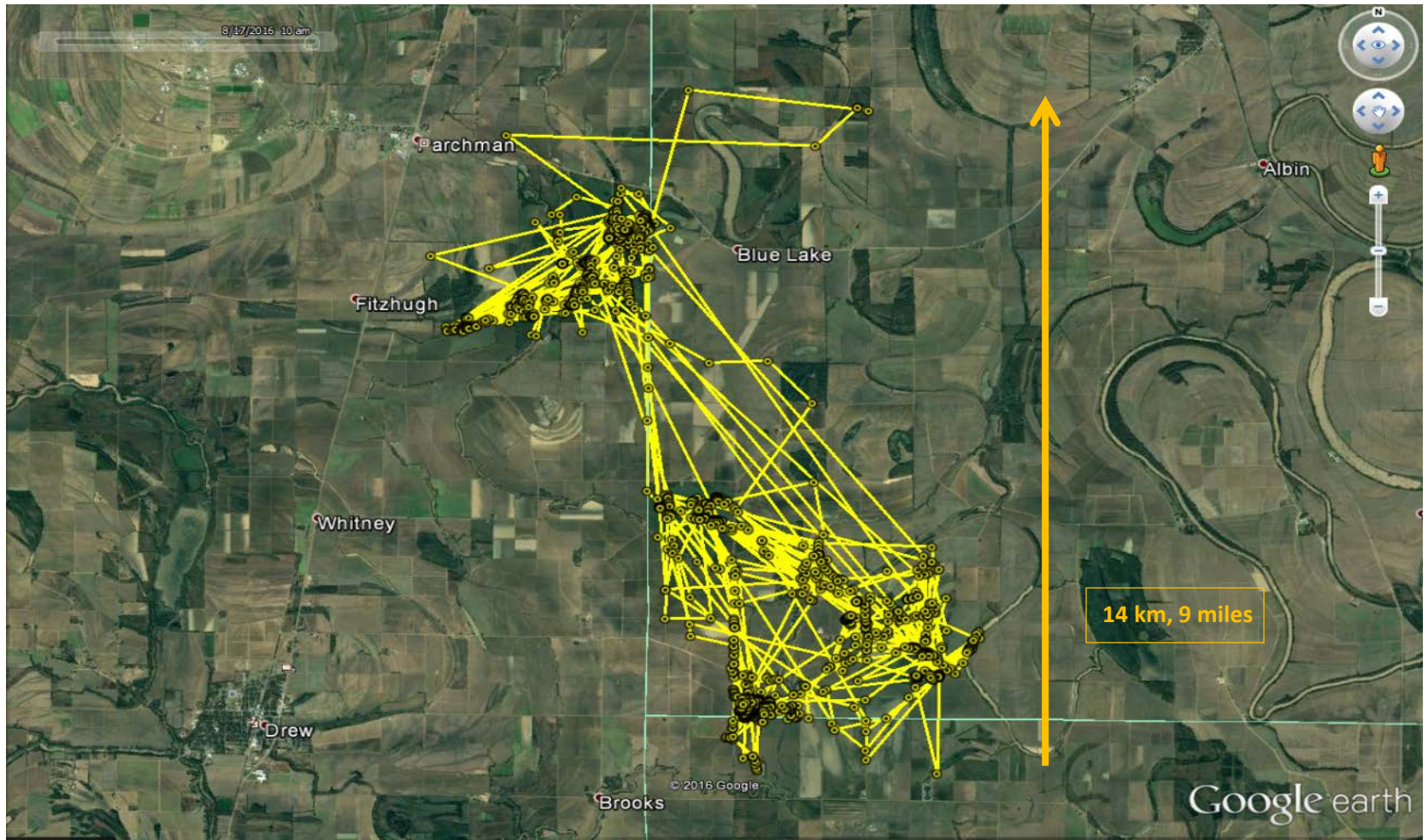


**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION**

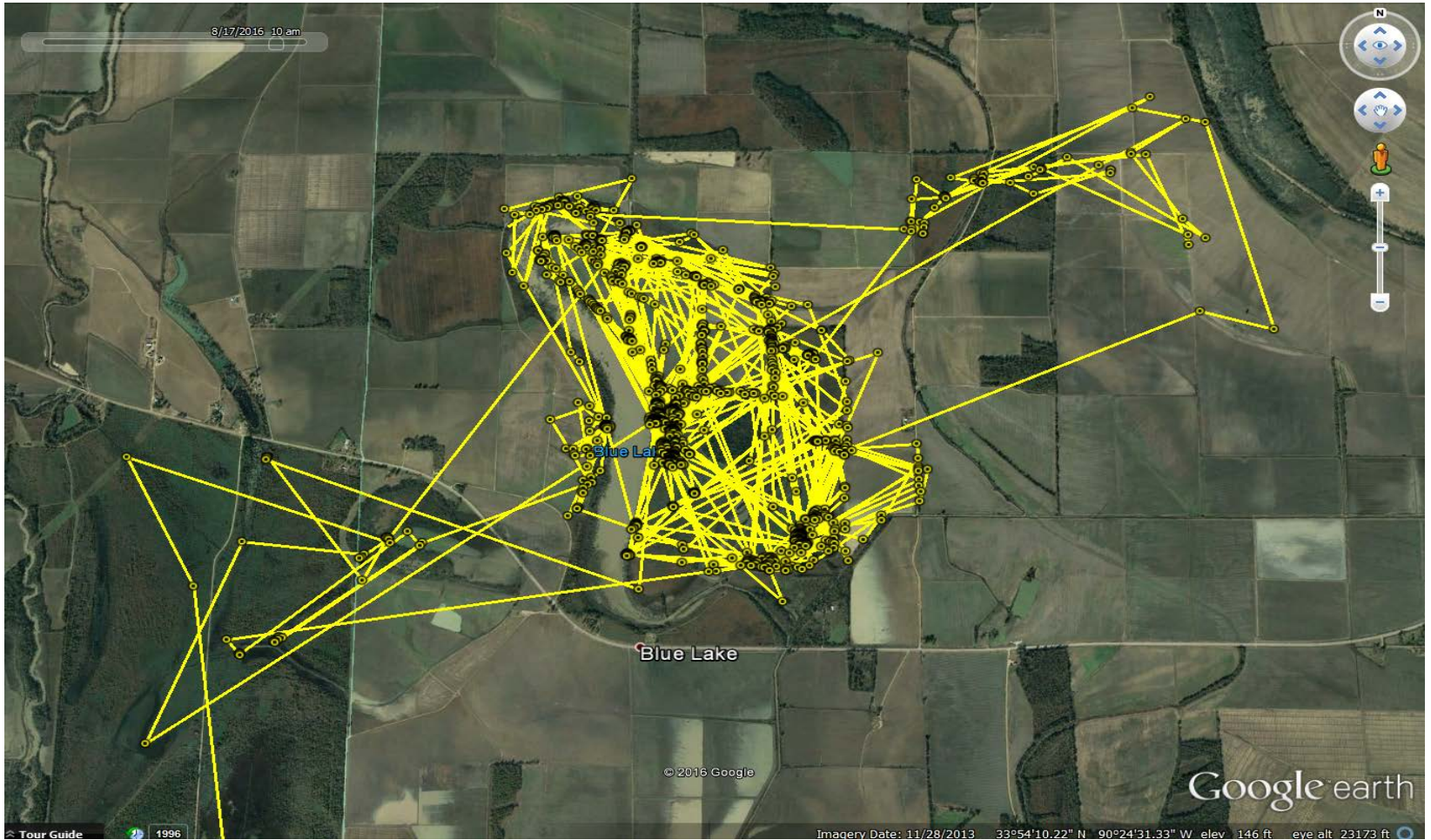




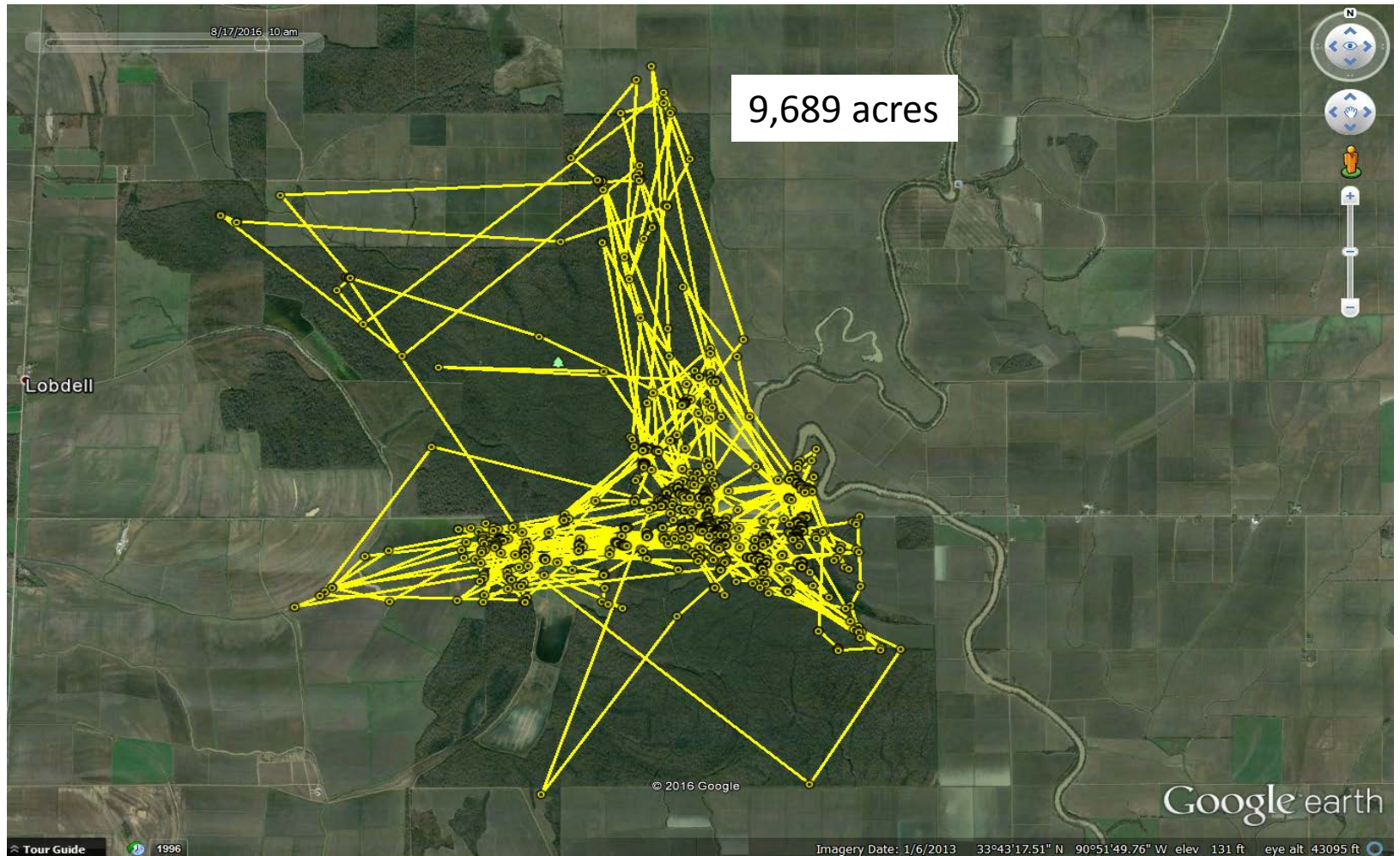
Pig 19219



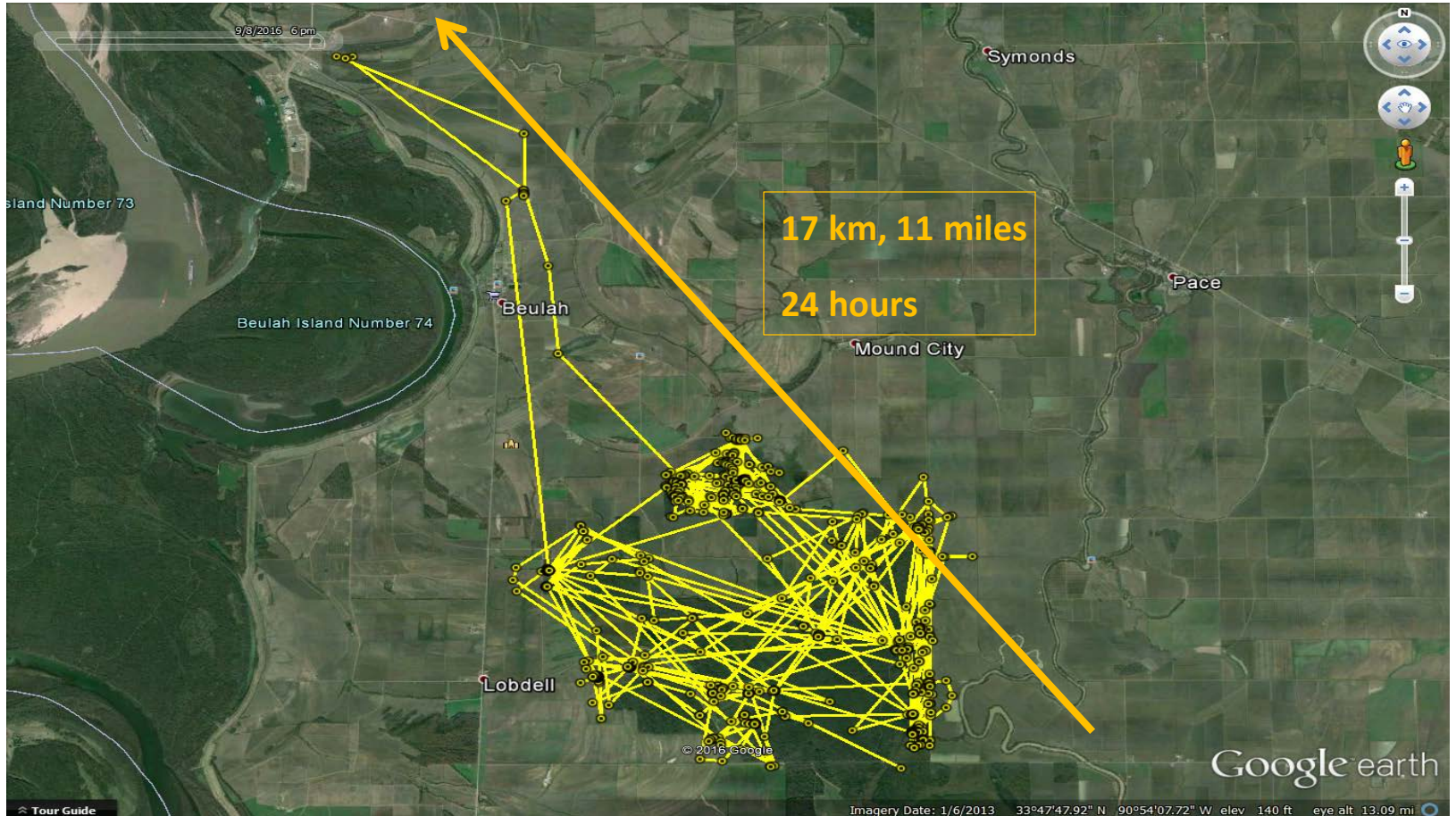
Hog 19223



Hog 19216



Hog 19220



Economics of Hog Control

Funded by

MDWFP

Wildlife Services

National Wildlife Research Center

Anthony Ballard & Carson Nelson

Graduate Student – TJ Arnoult



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



Mississippi Wild Hog Task Force & National Wild Hog Task Force



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



National Wild Hog Task Force



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

