

A close-up photograph of a wild boar standing in a field. The boar has brown, coarse fur and is looking directly at the camera. Its large, dark eyes and prominent snout are clearly visible. The background is a soft-focus green field.
\$954,440**FACTS & STATS**

Problematic Wildlife

South Carolina farmers reported damage and economic losses from feral hogs to be \$151.5 million annually (Rodriguez 2016)*. Economic losses to crops from deer damage are estimated to be \$52 million annually (Smathers et al. 1993)**. Other wildlife, such as coyotes, are having significant negative impacts on livestock, fruit and melon production, and native wildlife.

Wildlife damage control is an increasingly important part of the wildlife management profession because of expanding human populations and intensified land-use practices. There is a growing need to reduce wildlife-people conflicts. Wildlife damage control must be based on sound economic, ecological and sociological principles and conducted as positive, necessary components of overall wildlife management programs.

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This request proposes utilizing Clemson University's expertise to develop an effective and impactful program to reduce wildlife damage and resolve human-wildlife conflicts in South Carolina through research and Extension. This project has two objectives:

- Conduct targeted research on agricultural and timber producers' lands experiencing wildlife damage to determine the most effective method(s) to reduce damage.
- Promote awareness and education through Clemson's Cooperative Extension Service to agricultural producers and others who are experiencing wildlife damage on the latest techniques to reduce impact and develop an internship program for wildlife and natural resources management students to create a pipeline of trained professionals.

Funding from this budget request will be used to support research and Extension faculty (two FTEs), Extension associates at Piedmont, Edisto, Pee Dee and Baruch Research and Education Centers (four FTEs), Extension interns, graduate students, operating and travel. This work will be a collaborative effort with the federal and state agencies.

* Rodriguez, S. (2016). "Understanding Perceptions of the Impact of Feral Hogs on Private Lands in South Carolina: A Report for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the South Carolina Farm Bureau." Clemson University.

** Smathers, W., G. Stratton, D. Shipes (1993). "Landowner's Perception of Crop Damage in South Carolina by White-tailed Deer." 6th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference.

As a land-grant university, Clemson is part of a national system created by the U.S. Congress to improve the quality of life for citizens in every state. The University's statewide Public Service and Agriculture (PSA) network conducts research; delivers impartial, science-based information; and provides Extension and regulatory programs to improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina residents.