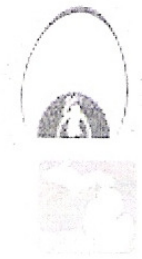


>>> "Azlan Ibrahim" <Albrahim@byrumfisk.com> 4/7/2011 1:18 PM >>>  
THURSDAY, April 7, 2011



**To the honorable members of the Michigan Legislature:**

**Agricultural Leaders of Michigan** urges you to let stand a state order declaring feral swine an invasive species and banning it from Michigan. To date, eight states have taken this step because it is the best way to fight an epidemic that endangers agricultural businesses and local jobs.

In light of upcoming action on several legislative proposals, we also urge you to reject any attempts to “regulate” feral swine, including Senate Bills 307-310 and House Bills 4503-4507.

Unless the Legislature takes the toughest possible action to ban and eradicate feral swine, this invasive species threatens tens of thousands of family agricultural businesses across Michigan and hundreds of thousands of local jobs statewide.

We repeat once again the serious and real threat feral swine pose to Michigan’s agricultural economy, which employs more than 1 million people and contributes \$71.3 billion to the economy:

- **Feral swine are an invasive species** and prolific breeders. Wildlife experts agree that feral swine descended from imported non-native animals such as Russian hogs and razorbacks brought to Michigan hunt clubs, and which then escaped.
- **Feral swine are found in nearly every county** in Michigan. Wildlife experts estimate that more than 5,000 feral swine currently roam wild in Michigan.
- **Feral swine are highly destructive** and voracious omnivores, devastating property and major production crops, as well as killing small livestock.
- **Feral swine are carriers of major diseases** affecting livestock, such as pseudorabies and bovine tuberculosis that could seriously damage Michigan’s dairy, pork and poultry sectors.
- **Feral swine will hurt tens of thousands of local jobs.** Dairy production is Michigan’s No. 1 commodity, employing more than 32,000 people and generating more than \$6 billion a year. Pork is an important export commodity, employing more than 6,000 people in Michigan. Eggs and turkey production are major economic sectors, especially in the western half of the state. Diseases carried by feral swine could devastate these industries.