

2022 Wildlife Damage Survey



Methodology

A digital survey was created using Google Forms. A QR code linking to the survey was emailed to 10,333 members and sent via postcard to 21,000 members. Additionally, the link to the survey was posted to Facebook and was also used in a targeted ad. There were 1,441 link clicks from the Facebook post and ad. Additionally the post was shared 152 times and reached 42,468 accounts.

Copies of the surveys were sent to all 47 county Farm Bureau secretaries and 14 responses were received.

Total responses received: 659

Responses were received from all 46 counties in South Carolina; Anderson County returned the most submissions with 50.

Demographic Information

Farm Size

Average: 532 acres

Largest: 16,000 acres

Smallest: 0.75 acres

Years Farming

<10 years: 16.2%

10-20 years: 19.8%

20-40 years: 27.9%

>40 years: 36%

Full-Time vs Part-Time Farms

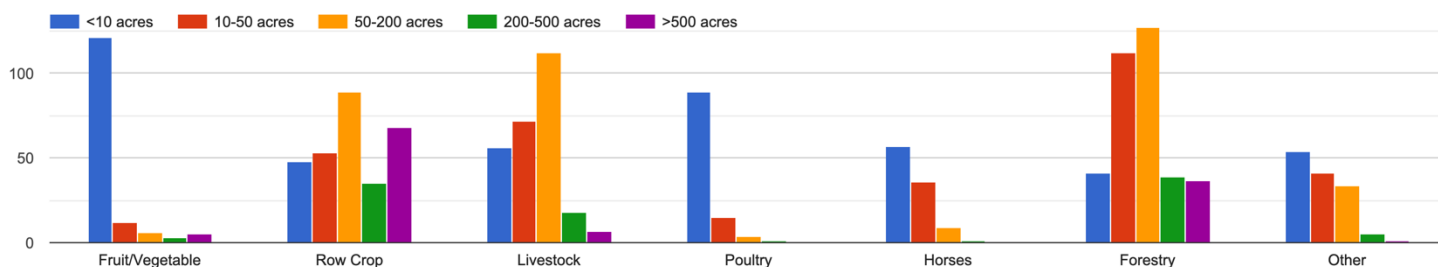
The majority of respondents (60.3%) farm part-time while 39.7% say they farm full-time

Farm Type

Forestry was the leading crop produced with 357 respondents reporting followed by: Row Crops (293), Livestock (266), Fruit and Vegetable (147), Poultry (110) and Horses (104). 136 respondents selected "other" for farm type.

Table 1 shows a comparison of farm type and acres of each crop.

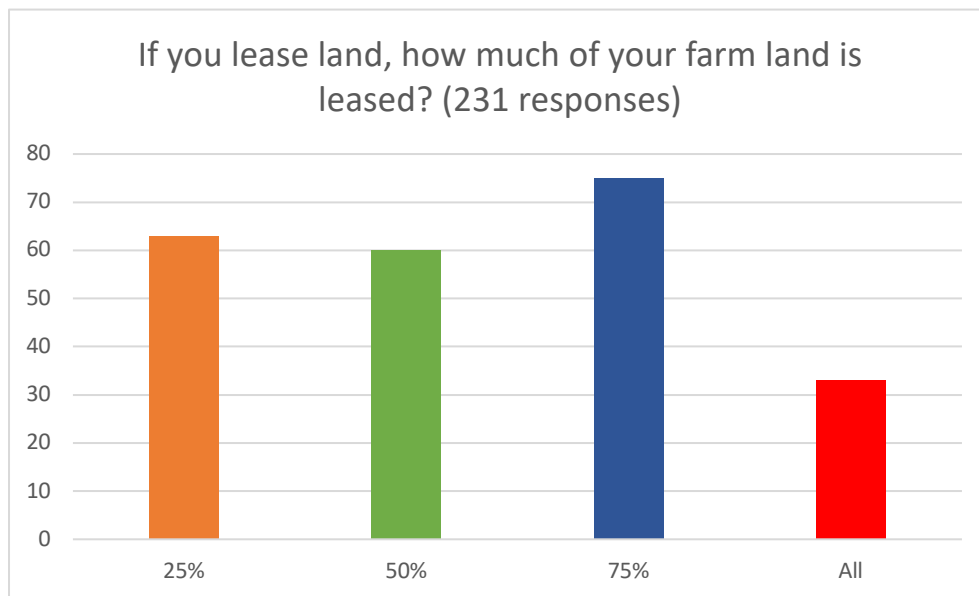
Farm Type (choose all that apply and acres of each crop produced)



Farm Ownership

65.2% of respondents say they own their land; 30% have a combination of owned and leased land; and 4.7% exclusively lease the land they farm.

Table 2 shows the breakdown of total land leased by percent.



Control of hunting rights on leased land

63.3% control all of the hunting rights on the land they lease while 16% say they have no control of hunting rights.

Wildlife Damage

69% say they have experienced significant wildlife damage on their farm. Only 18.8% have filed a crop insurance claim for the resulting damage.

Estimated average annual loss as a result of wildlife damage

Farms > 1000 acres: \$56,277

Farms 500-1000 acres: \$22,825

Farms 200-499 acres: \$9,958

Farms 50-199 acres: \$4,157

Farms 10-50 acres: \$1,480

Farms <10 acres: \$1,315

The highest loss reported was \$580,000.

Table 3 shows crop yield loss in percent due to wildlife damage.

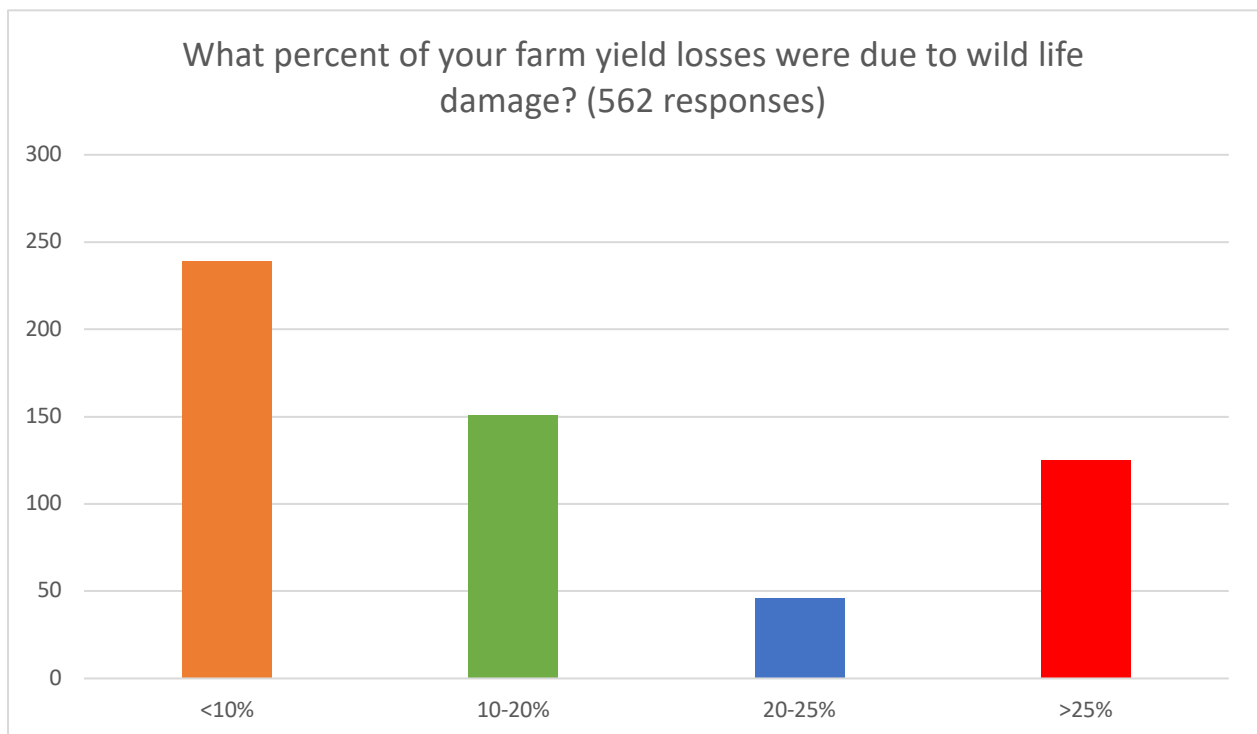


Table 4 shows which species of wildlife are causing problems on farmland.

What type of wildlife are causing problems on your farm? (Select all that apply)

578 responses

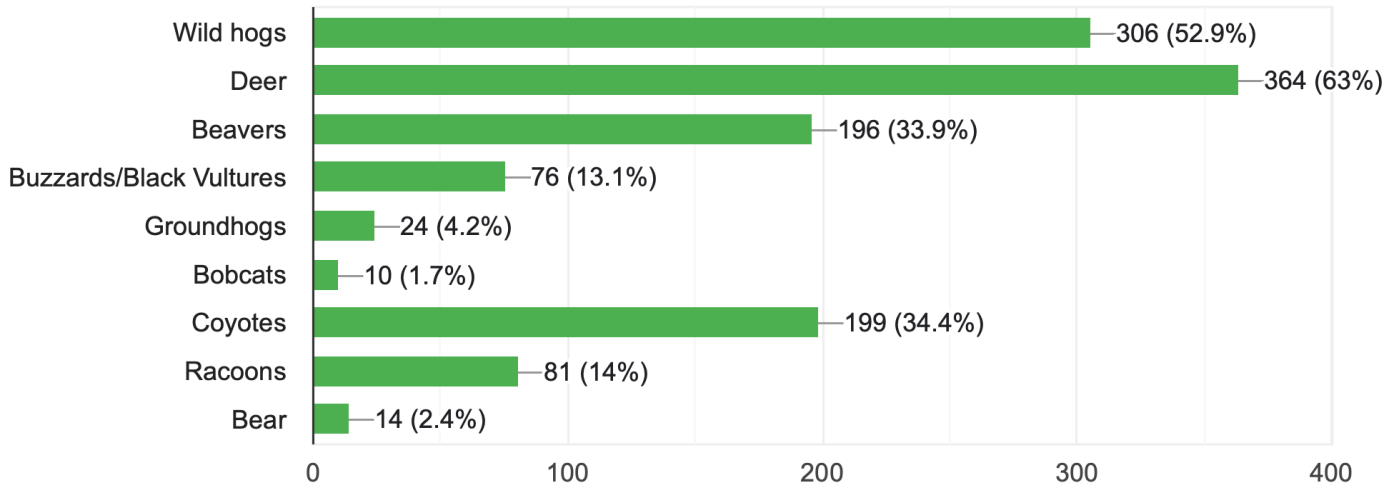
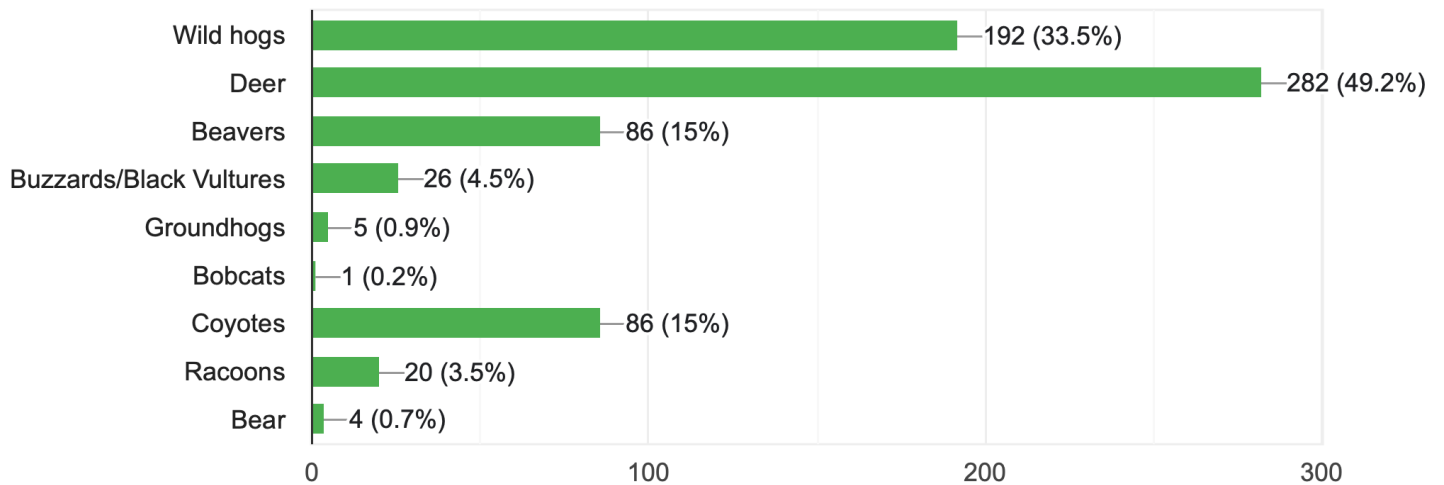


Table 5 shows which species is causing the most damage

What type of wildlife are causing the MOST problems on your farm? (Select one)

573 responses



Other wildlife causing damage included:

Alligators	Geese
Armadillos	Foxes
Beavers	Moles
Crows	Hawks
Fire ants	

Armadillos were listed most frequently with 59 respondents citing them as a nuisance.

Wildlife Management

61% of respondents say they use wildlife management strategies on their farm. On average, they spend \$5560 annually on management strategies. The highest amount reported was \$100,000.

Table 6 shows the amount time spent to control wildlife.

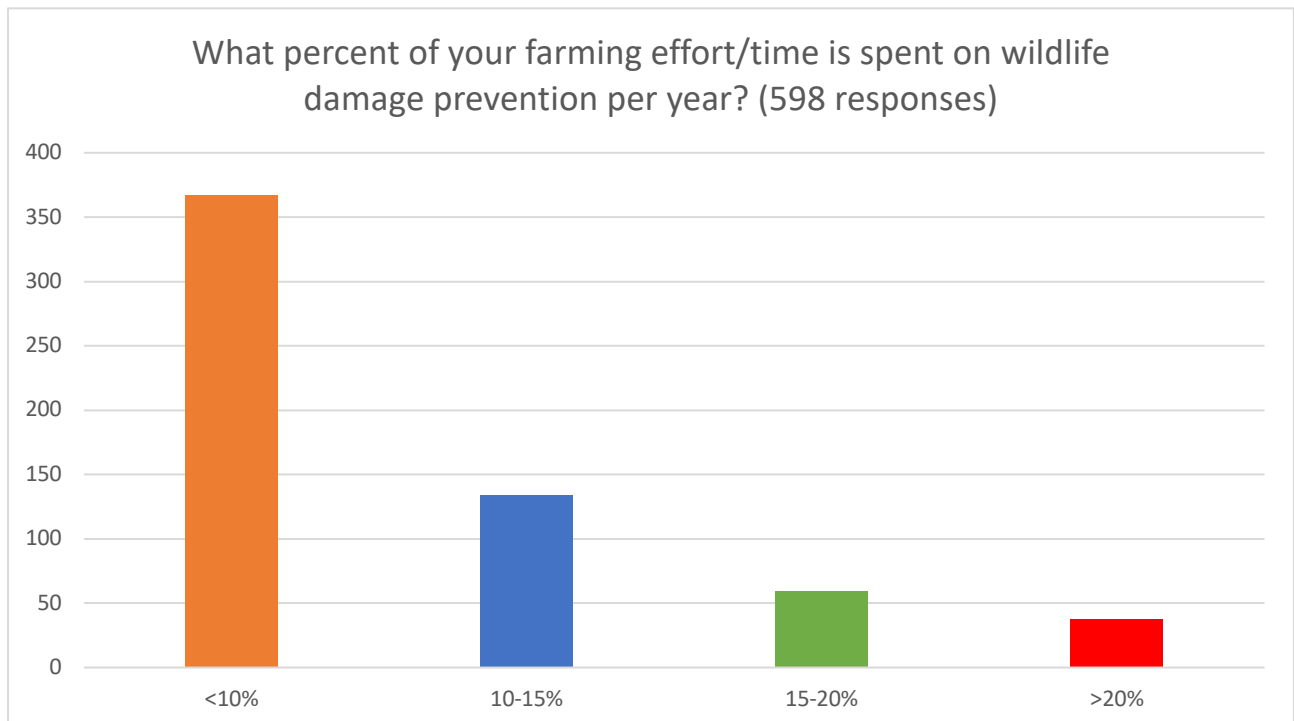
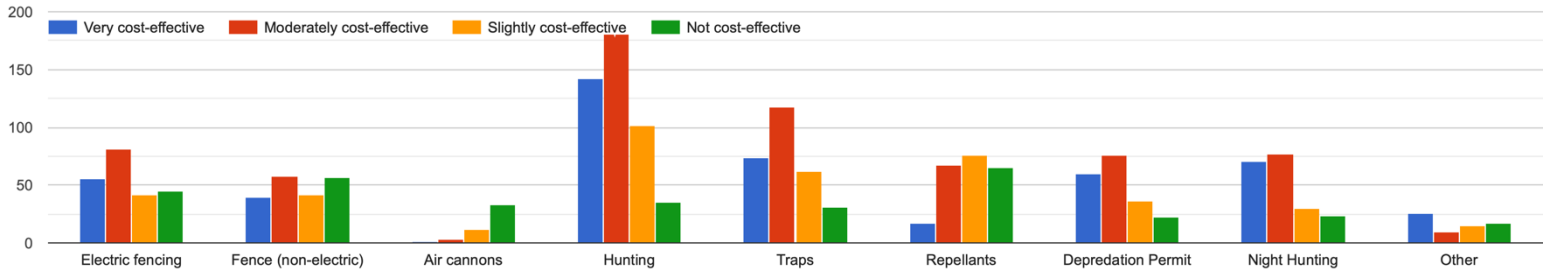


Table 7 shows various mitigation strategies and their cost-effectiveness.

Select the current strategies you have in place at your farm and rate their cost-effectiveness based on your experience.



Most respondents (70%) say they haven't faced any barriers in implementing wildlife control strategies. But of those who say they have, their challenges included:

Cost; adjoining property owners preventing hunting; lack of access to effective repellants; acquiring depredation permits from DNR in a timely manner; acquiring a sufficient number of depredation permits; gaining landowner permission; lack of cooperation from DNR officers; opposition from hunting clubs and others who hunt for sport.