

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Branch

2008-2009 Wild Pig Harvest Report

The 2008-2009 wild pig hunting season ran from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with no daily bag or seasonal possession limits. The License and Revenue Branch reported having sold 51,625 tags. This figure includes 40,585 individual resident tags, 580 non-resident tags and 10,480 lifetime tags. Successful hunters returned 3,838 (6.5%) wild pig report cards (Figure 1), which is greater than last year when 3,021 of 58,335 (5.2%) report cards were returned.

As in years past, Kern and Monterey County lead the wild pig take with 18% and 16% respectively (Table 1). These numbers are consistent with past reports up to 2007-2008 when Kern produced 30% of the State's total harvest and Monterey 26%. Reported San Luis Obispo County pig harvest has increased from an all time low (23) to a harvest rate consistent with previous years (280).

From a statewide perspective, the majority of harvests occur in the Central Region, a primary location for California agriculture and farmland. The Northern Region also produces a significant harvest. Mendocino, Tehama and Shasta, where these harvests occur, consist of rich riparian habitat. These areas are very attractive to wild pig by providing required habitat elements – food (tubers and lush vegetation), water (which defines a riparian area), shelter (shade trees and wallows to escape the scorching summer sun) and space (ample room to perform all necessary life traits, such as breeding and feeding).

Private lands harvest accounted for 89% of the State's total harvest, while public land only accounted for 6% (Figure 2). Wild pigs may be using public land less for a variety of reasons. Hunting pressure, not only for pigs but also deer, bear, fowl, etc., may push pigs off of public land and onto private land. Private land may consist of lush farmland and crops or it may be a privately managed wildlife habitat, both of which are very attractive to wild pigs.

The methods used to take wild pigs in California are consistent with years' past. Rifle hunting represented the most successful hunting method, and accounted for 88% of the total harvest (Figure 3). Archery represented 7% of the harvest, shotgun and pistol each represented 2% and crossbow and muzzleloader combined represent less than 1% of the total harvest. Only 7% of successful hunters used hounds to hunt wild pigs (Figure 5).

Both genders were harvested nearly equal - 52% of harvested pigs were male and 46% were female. Two percent of the harvest report cards did not indicate a gender. This statistic may indicate no hunter selectivity for gender in the harvest. This is because, as with most wildlife populations, the gender ratio in wild populations is nearly 50:50.

Figure 1. Annual California Wild Pig Harvest (1999-2009)

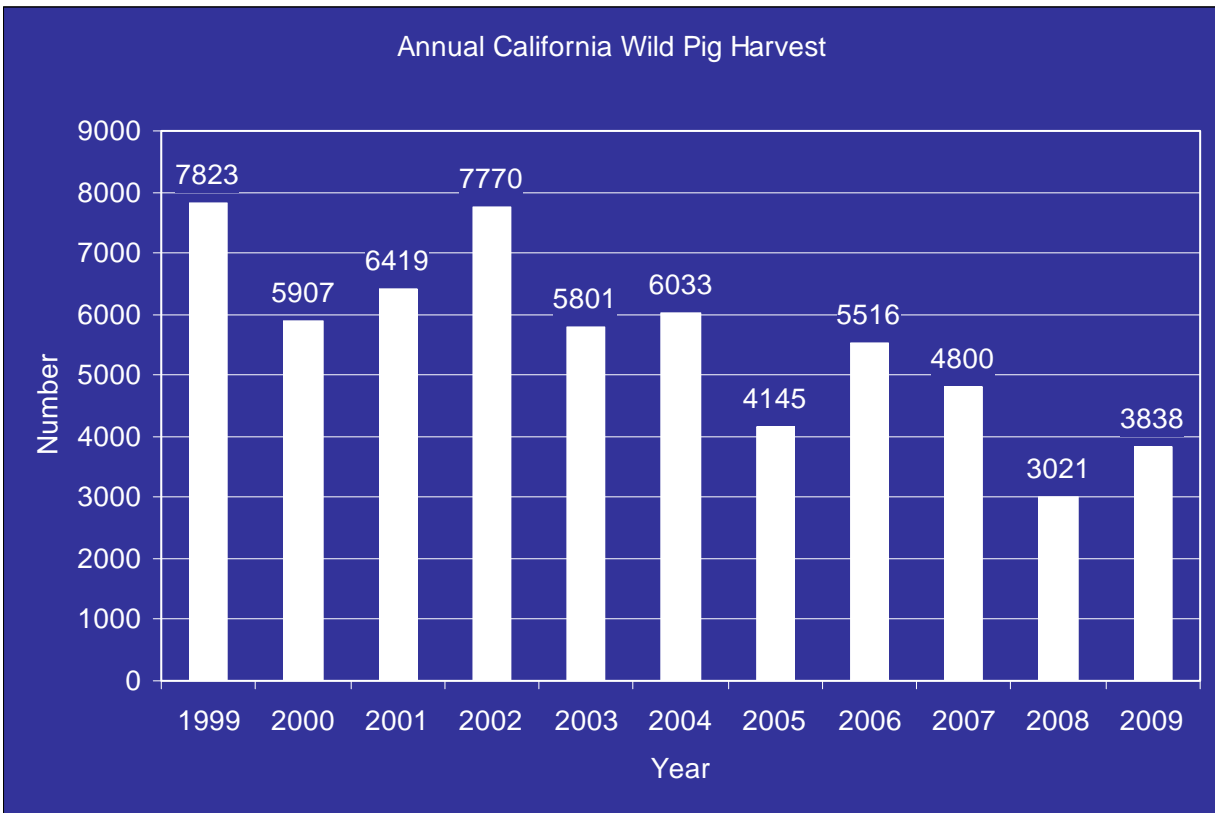


Table 1. Wild Pig Harvest by County (2008 – 2009)

County	# Wild Pigs Taken
Orange	1
Ventura	1
Yuba	1
San Bernardino	2
San Diego	2
San Mateo	2
San Joaquin	3
Marin	4
Tuolumne	4
Los Angeles	5
Riverside	5
Calaveras	6
Trinity	6
Siskiyou	7
Yolo	8
Contra	10
Santa Cruz	11
Madera	18
Alameda	19
Mariposa	20
Kings	21
Solano	22
Stanislaus	23
Napa	24
Nevada	25
Humboldt	26
Sutter	26
Merced	54
Shasta	88
Unknown	89
Tulare	92
Glenn	93
Santa Clara	93
Fresno	98
Santa Barbara	103
Colusa	125
Lake	152
Mendocino	210
San Benito	214
Sonoma	248
Tehama	252
San Luis Obispo	280
Monterey	640
Kern	705
Grand Total	3838

Figure 2. Wild Pig Harvest by Land Ownership (2008 – 2009)

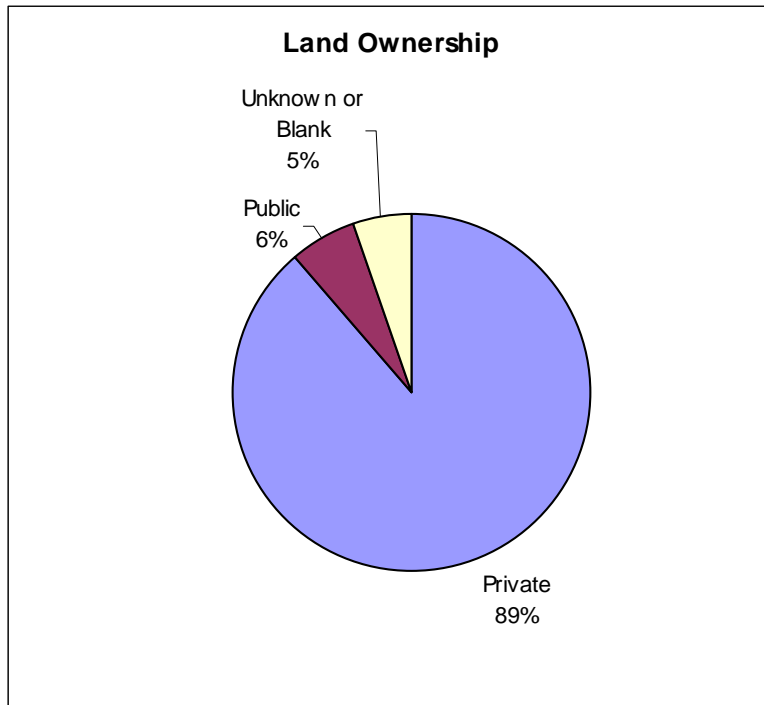


Figure 3. Wild Pig Harvest by Method of Take (2008 – 2009)

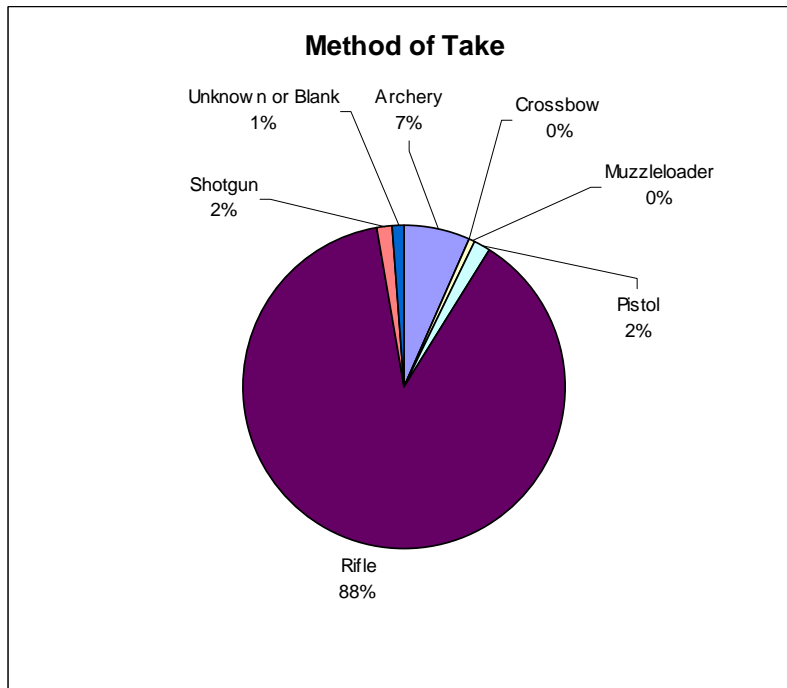


Figure 4. Wild Pig Harvest Gender (2008 – 2009)

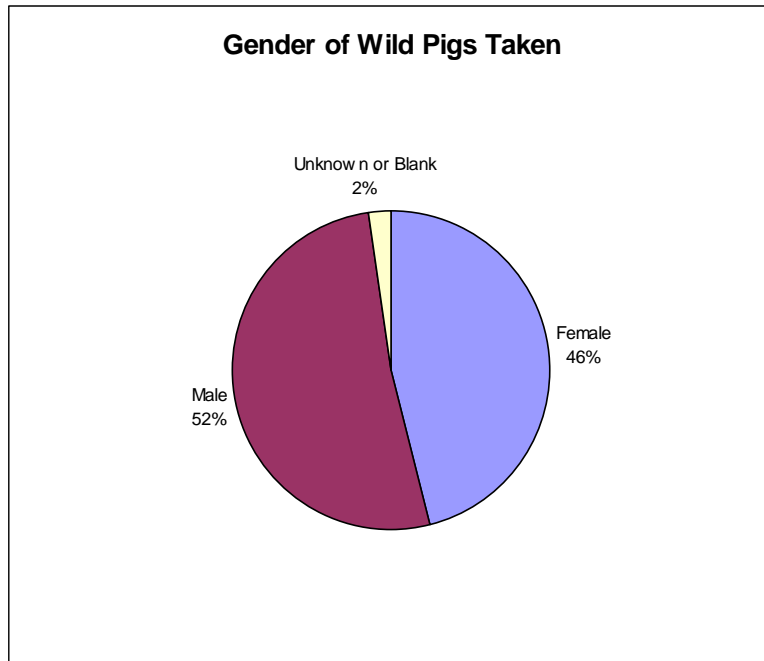


Figure 5. Wild Pig Harvest Dog Use (2008 – 2009)

