



Warnell School of Forestry  
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## PhD Assistantship

### Feral Swine Control Pilot Project

We are seeking a qualified applicant for a PhD program at the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at The University of Georgia, Athens, GA to conduct research, monitoring, and evaluation of feral swine impacts and control techniques in Georgia. The selected applicant will work closely with the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources (<https://www.warnell.uga.edu>), USDA Wildlife Services, The Jones Center at Ichauway (<http://www.jonesctr.org>), and the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District. Primary responsibilities include monitoring removal of wild pigs, collecting appropriate biological data, quantifying wildlife populations in response to pig removal, evaluating effects of pig removal on crop production, working with farmers and producers to assess control efficacy, providing estimates of economic and natural resource benefits of pig control efforts, presenting results at appropriate venues, and performing other duties as needed for the successful completion of this project.

Feral swine have become an extreme nuisance in Georgia, significantly damaging both agricultural crops and natural resources statewide. Estimated annual economic impact of damage caused by wild pigs in Georgia exceeds \$150 million. Research and education related to proper control methods, disease risks, and mitigation are critical to managing this invasive species. The 2018 Farm Bill allocated \$75 million to conduct pilot projects across the country in states with the highest prevalence of feral swine. The study area/control area will be located in the Albany Area of southwest Georgia.

The application procedure is detailed on the Warnell School website. Applicants must have a minimum GPA on all undergraduate and graduate work of 3.20 (out of 4.0) and minimum GRE score (combined verbal + quantitative) of 300. A Master's of Science degree in wildlife, ecology, natural resources or closely related discipline is required. Interviews may be conducted by phone or in-person. The assistantship is funded at approximately \$1,887/month (0.40 EFT) with university health benefits and carries a full tuition waiver. Student pays mandatory fees. Candidate should be available to begin work during **January 2020** (some flexibility is possible). **Please note: this assistantship is contingent upon grant funds received. Grant recipients will be selected by October 2019 and PhD interviews will begin following receipt of grant.**

To apply - please send a single PDF file containing a letter of intent with career goals, complete CV or resume, copies of manuscripts or publications, unofficial transcripts of all college work, and the names and contact information of three academic and/or work references to Dr. Michael T. Mengak, Professor – Wildlife Specialist, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

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