

Protecting Our Farmers:

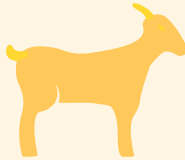
The economic impact of Tennessee's animal crisis

Spread of diseases, livestock numbers, and crop damage are just a few of the ways that stray animals can have an effect on the farming industry. Stray and roaming animals are a by product of our **animal overpopulation**—fueled significantly by irresponsible breeding.

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“The cost to producers when dogs worry livestock isn’t just the animals they lose—it’s the stress, the abortions, the time, the vet bills. That’s real money for real families.”

- UC Agriculture & Natural Resources blog



“I lost my good moms that I’m almost sure were pregnant. Now I just have to work a little bit harder, reevaluate.”

- Dairy goat farmer after stray dogs killed 19 animals

“People think it’s just a couple of sheep. For us, that could mean the difference between profit and loss for the year.”

- UCANR Ranching Blog

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26.4%

“The fraction of economic loss from cattle predation in Tennessee caused by dogs. 16% of calves were lost due to dogs.”²

- USDA/National Agriculture Statistics Service estimate (2010)

\$620 MILLION

Estimates of damage in the U.S. from feral dogs¹

- According to data from the USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services (2006-2009)

¹A dog that was born in the wild and has had little to no positive contact with humans. ²Data is not exclusive to feral dogs.



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Flip over to learn why all of this matters →

Tennessee has no commercial breeding laws.

Irresponsible breeding fuels our animal crisis and increases the stray (including feral) animal population—impacting our agricultural industry. “Backyard breeders” are some of the biggest offenders and currently there’s no regulation for it, creating a ripple of effect all communities feel.

follow the arrows

Irresponsible Breeding



Backyard breeders
Accidental litters



More puppies than available homes



Animal Homelessness



Animals are abandoned (often unfixed)
Shelters/rescues are full



Picked up to use for fighting
Picked up to use for breeding



Backyard breeders
Accidental litters
Lack of spay/neuter



More puppies than available homes



They’re not just animals—this is our livelihood. Every one they injure or kill costs us.

- Texas Rancher

In 2024 the value of animals and animal products in Tennessee was about \$2.10 billion, constituting ~40% of the state’s agricultural receipts.¹ This means that even small percentage losses (from stray dog attacks) could have meaningful local impact.

- According to the TN Farm Bureau Federation Annual Report

Scan the QR code to learn more about these issues affecting all of us

