

February 14, 2012

## KAUZ - Infectious Feral Hogs

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*Posted: Feb 10, 2012 6:36 PM CST*

*Updated: Feb 13, 2012 1:02 PM CST*

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50 percent of the feral hogs tested positive for Francisella Tularensis. Presley says, "They had antibodies in their system and that tells you that at some point that animal has been exposed or may be currently infected with the bacteria." Presley says Francisella Tularensis is a general bacteria, but one of its strains can be dangerous. "Different disease pathogens are more contagious and cause worse disease in humans than others. Francisella Tularensis or Tularemia is one of those that's considered highly contagious."

So contagious in fact, further lab work had to be done off site in a lab authorized by the Federal Government. Further testing showed samples taken had a less harmful strain. Researchers are not alarmed but concerned because feral hogs cover a lot of ground and could easily pass the bacteria. Presley adds, "Our concern is that not only are they a nuance of doing damage they can also potentially move disease of livestock or humans from one area to another."

HogWild, a Clay County feral hog buying station works with these hogs daily and is not surprised to hear the news.

Wearing gloves, washing your hands, wearing eye protective goggles, are all steps you can take to protect yourself from catching feral hogs infectious bacteria.

*Natalie Garcia, Newschannel 6*