



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201 •

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

**DATE:** August 19, 2016

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Hearing regarding the proposed Adoption of New Chapter entitled “Transportation and Holding of Live Feral Hogs”

## **TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, O.C.G.A. §§ 2-7-204 and 50-13-4, notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Agriculture will be holding a public hearing regarding the adoption of new Chapter 40-13-15 entitled “Transportation and Holding of Live Feral Hogs.” Said hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Macon State Farmers Market, located at 2055 Eisenhower Pkwy, Macon, Georgia 31206. The Department previously accepted written comments regarding the proposed rules, and will hereby extend the opportunity to submit written comments from August 19, 2016, to close of business (4:30 p.m. EST) on September 19, 2016.

## **SYNOPSIS, MAIN FEATURES AND DIFFERENCES**

The Department is proposing to adopt a new Chapter, 40-13-15, entitled “Transportation and Holding of Live Feral Hogs,” which is necessary to administer O.C.G.A. § 2-7-200 *et. seq.*

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.01 entitled “Definitions” would provide definitions for “Feral Hog” and “Taken.” Said definitions would be the same as provided in O.C.G.A. § 27-2-1.

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.02 entitled “Applicability of Rules” would establish that these rules apply to the transportation and holding of live feral hogs within the State of Georgia.

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.03 entitled “Transportation of Live Feral Hogs” would provide that no person shall transport live feral hogs in Georgia without having a valid Feral Hog Transport Permit and that live feral hogs shall only be transported to approved slaughter facilities, licensed Feral Hog Facilities, or other premises for immediate personal consumption unless a special written exemption is obtained from the State Veterinarian. This proposed rule would also establish additional requirements for the transportation of live feral hogs including, but not limited to: premises registration for carriers and conveyance used to transport live feral hogs, sanitation requirements for carriers and conveyances used to transport live feral hogs, and Department approved ear-tags on all live feral hogs transported.

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.04 entitled “Feral Hog Transport Permit” would establish the procedure for obtaining, and requirements for maintaining, a Feral Hog Transport Permit. This rule would provide that, among other things, the permit application shall be made online at the Department’s website, would provide that the permit is valid upon the date of issuance and expires annually on September 30, would provide that the annual permit fee is \$15.00 and shall be remitted before the permit is issued or renewed, would provide that the permit is valid only for the applicant stated on the permit and is not transferable, would provide that the permit must be carried on the person of the permit holder at all times during transportation of live feral hogs, and would provide that the holder of the permit must maintain complete and legible records on all feral hogs transported by the permit holder for three (3) consecutive years.

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.05 entitled “Feral Hog Facility Requirements” would provide that a license is required for the operation of a Feral Hog Facility which holds live feral hogs. This propose rule would also require premises registration for all physical locations where live feral hogs are held, would provide that any operator of a licensed Feral Hog Facility who intends to personally transport live feral hogs is required to obtain and maintain a Feral Hog Transport Permit, would provide that live feral hogs held at a licensed Feral Hog Facility may only be transported to approved slaughter facilities, other licensed Feral Hog Facilities, or for immediate personal consumption unless a special written exemption is obtained from the State Veterinarian prior to transport, would establish official brucellosis and pseudorabies testing requirements, would establish fencing requirements, would require that live feral hogs be maintained in secure escape-proof pens, would reiterate that it is unlawful for any person to accidentally or intentionally release a live feral hog, require that all live feral hogs shall have a Georgia Department of Agriculture approved ear-tag, would provide that feral hogs held at a licensed Feral Hog Facility shall not be permitted to breed, would provide that all boars shall be castrated or maintained in separate confinement from female hogs until castration, and would provide that all progeny of female swine bred prior to introduction to the facility be held and treated in accordance with these rules.

Proposed Rule 40-13-15-.06 entitled “Feral Hog Facility License” would establish the procedure for obtaining, and requirements for maintaining, a Feral Hog Facility License. This rule would provide that, among other things, the license application shall be made online at the Department’s website, would provide that the license is valid upon the date of issuance and expires annually on September 30, would provide that the annual license fee is \$100.00 and shall be remitted before the license is issued or renewed, would provide that the license is valid only for the applicant and location stated on the license and is not transferable, would provide that a facility must pass a pre-license compliance inspection administered by the Department prior to issuance of a license, would require that the license be prominently displayed in a visible location at the facility at all times, would require the holder of the license to maintain complete and legible records on all feral hogs held at the facility for three (3) consecutive years

**COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Macon State Farmers Market, located at 2055 Eisenhower Pkwy, Macon, Georgia 31206. The Department will also be accepting additional written comments from August 19, 2016, to close of business (4:30 p.m. EST) on September 19, 2016. All comments will be considered on September 21, 2016. Please submit written comments to:

Dr. Robert M. Cobb, DVM  
Division Director, Animal Industry Division  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone Number: 404-656-3667

Or via E-mail to: [Robert.Cobb@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Robert.Cobb@agr.georgia.gov)

Interested persons may call or submit a written request to obtain a copy of the proposed rules. A copy of the synopsis and the proposed rules may be downloaded from the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

This notice is given in compliance with the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

