

Feral Pigs

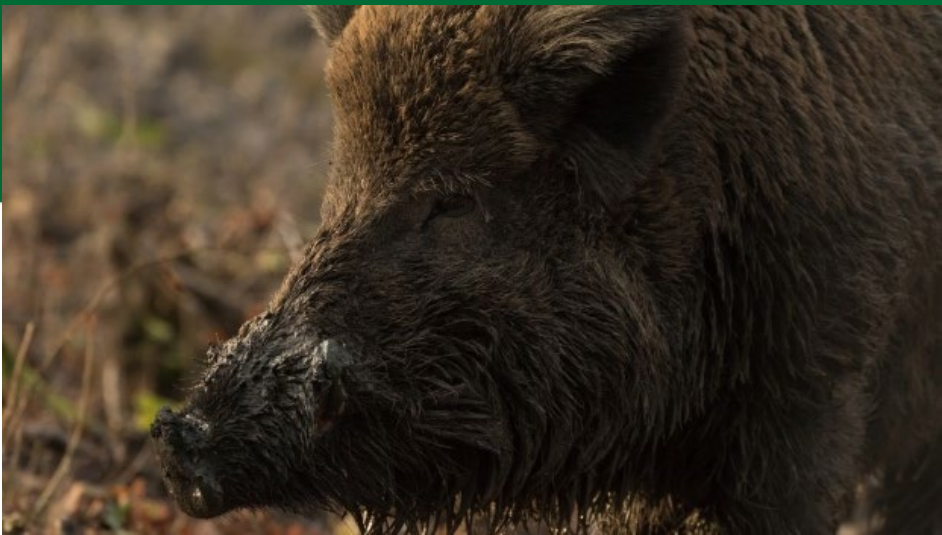
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Management Specialist
Feb 2022

Feral Pigs

- *Sus scrofa*
 - Indigenous to north-eastern Europe and Africa
 - Brought by Spanish explorers as livestock in the 1500s
 - Population in the United States ~6,000,000
 - Canadian populations associated with diversification efforts in 1980s and 1990s
 - Meat and captive hunts
 - Establishment from accidental and deliberate releases in SK
 - Population estimates in Canada vary
 - Among the most significant invasive species in the world

Feral Pigs

- Wild boar and domestic pigs happily exchange genetic material to produce viable young
- Interbred animals now prevalent in Western Canada
- This mixing means that the terms 'feral pig' and 'invasive wild pig' have been adopted to describe all pigs at large in Canada
- Much of the existing guidance and regs refers to 'Wild boar'
 - Consider these equivalent to feral pigs in most contexts



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Photo: nbcnews.com

saskatchewan.ca



Photo: nypost.com

Go go hogzilla...

Saskatchewan!

So, what's the problem?

- Direct damage to landscapes associated with their wallowing, digging and rooting
- Broadly omnivorous and will feed on a wide range of plants, and vertebrate and invertebrate species
- Significant damage to crops, range and pasture, as well as predatory interactions with young livestock, contribute to effects on agricultural production
- Mechanical distribution of invasive plants, shifts in plant communities

Direct damage

Photo: James Tansey



Photo: USDA



Photo: Jake Hofer - wideopenspaces.com

Disease

- Disease
 - 2020 Saskatchewan
 - *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (Multi-APP), *Toxoplasma*, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus, Influenza A, transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV), and porcine circovirus (PCRV)
 - Pseudorabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and several other diseases of high importance to livestock and humans in parts of the North American range
 - Feral pigs are attracted to sites of domestic pork production. This behaviour facilitates disease transmission

Disease

- African swine fever (ASF)
 - Kenya 1907
 - Usually fatal to pigs (hemorrhagic fever)
 - Direct or indirect contact with infected pigs, feces or body fluid
 - Arthropod vector- *Ornithodoros* spp.
 - Does not infect humans
 - The virus can survive for several months in fresh pork and processed pork products



Photo: UK National Pig Association



Photo: Sally J Cutler



Photo: Global news Toronto



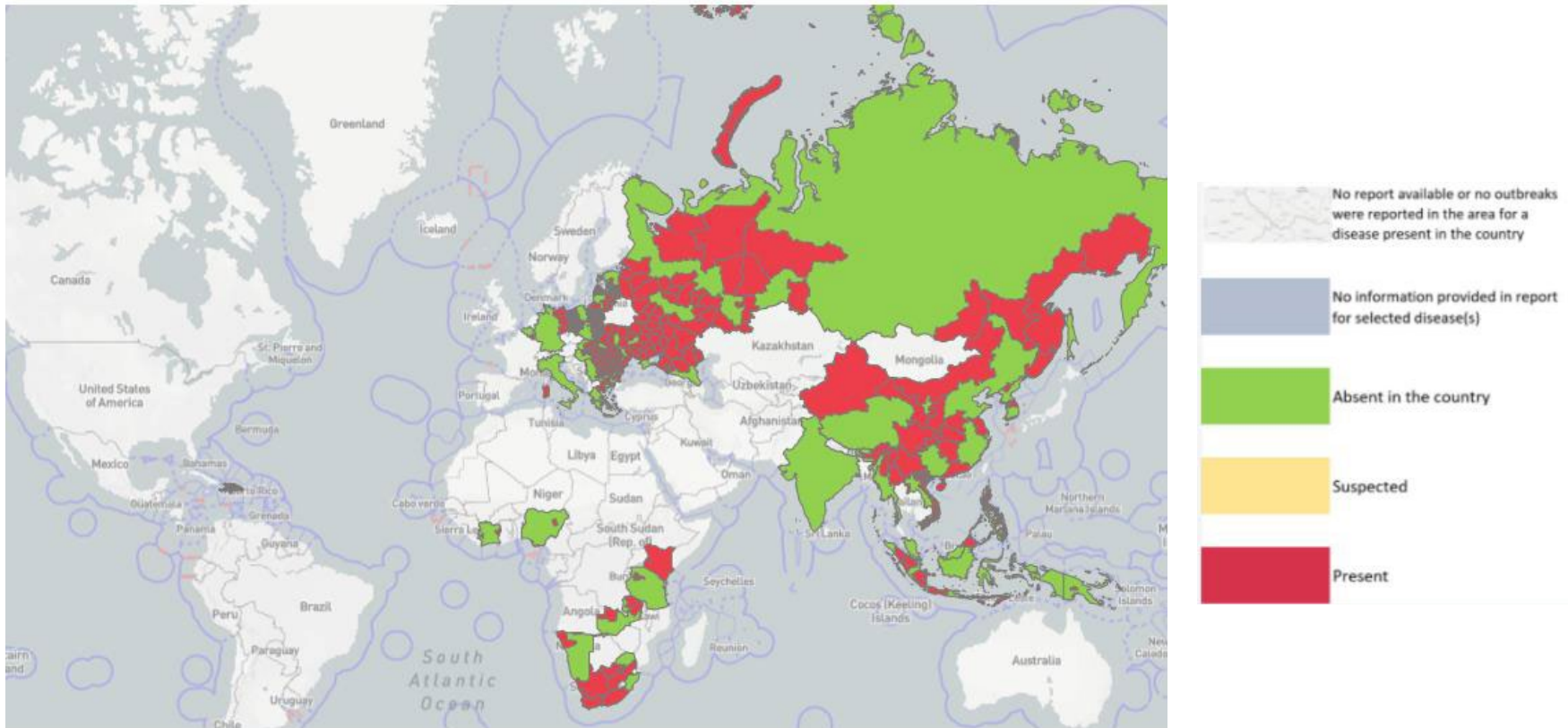
Photo: bugguide.net

Disease

- African swine fever (ASF)
 - Biosecurity and culling only methods to contain
 - Now in 36 countries (including the Western Hemisphere)
 - 40% of China's sow herd culled 2019 (~200 million pigs)
 - ASF is a reportable disease under the *Health of Animals Act*
 - **All suspected cases must be reported to the CFIA**
 - Potentially serious trade issue



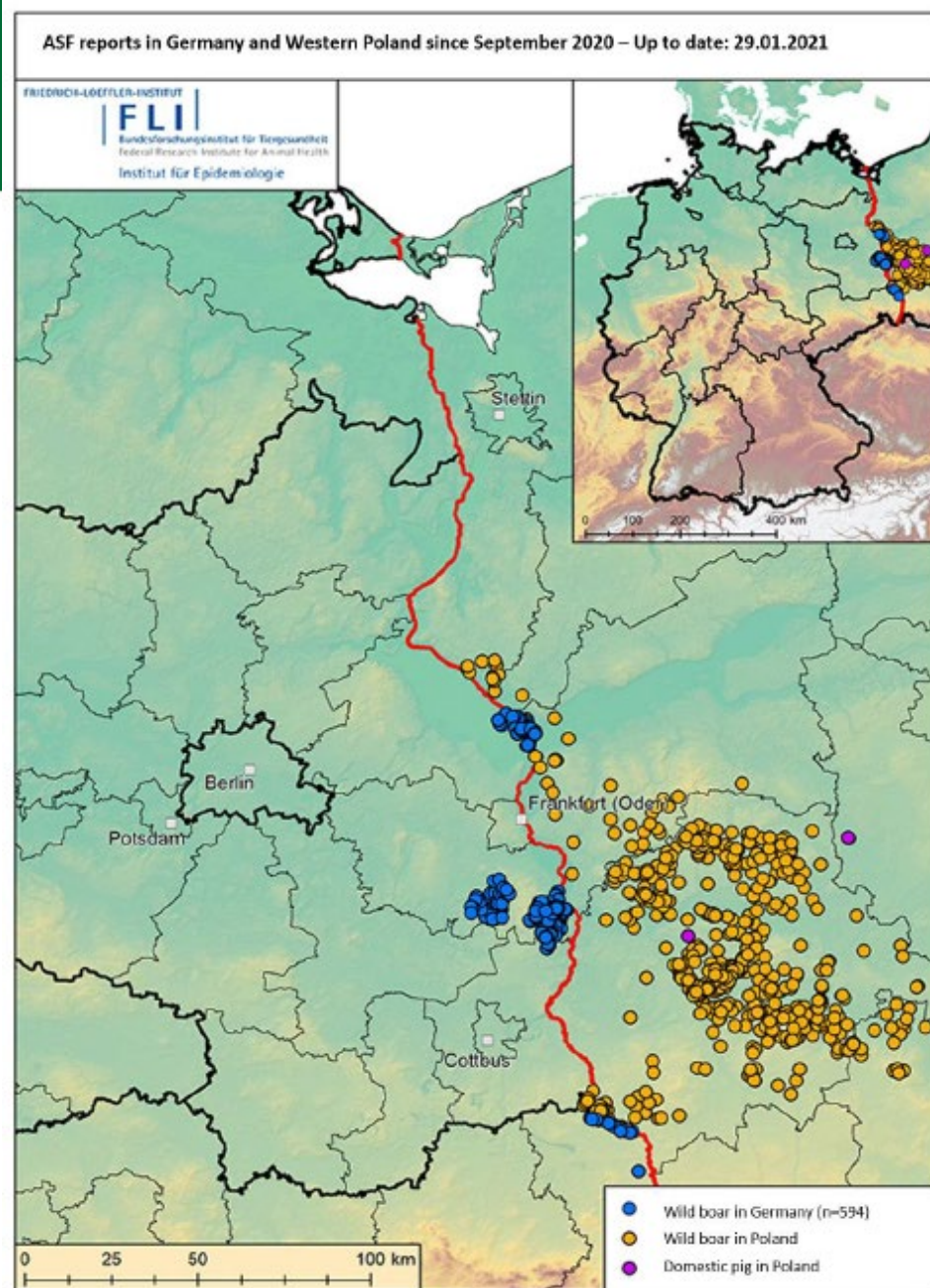
ASF Worldwide



2020 – 25/11/2021

Figure: World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE-WAHIS)

- Concern in central Europe
 - Boar are native
- January 2022
 - first case Piedmont, Italy





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ASF Worldwide

- September 2021, USDA APHIS **detected in an outbreak in Haiti** near the border with **Dominican Republic** following outbreaks this year in DR

ASF Worldwide

DR/Haiti

- USDA
 - Working with the Haitian authorities to expand surveillance to better determine the scope of the problem
 - APHIS created a “protection zone” around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help keep the disease from spreading to those locations, mobilized additional staff to Puerto Rico to support the domestic swine monitoring response
 - Working on a large-scale eradication program for feral swine in Puerto Rico Inspection of 100% of the baggage from commercial flights from the Dominican Republic

ASF Worldwide

DR/Haiti

- Columbia
 - Validation of cargo flights from the Dominican Republic and Haiti
 - For the international courier service, the number of products to be physically inspected will be increased by type of risk
 - 100% of all cargo and passenger vessels from the Dominican Republic and Haiti will be inspected to ensure that no pork products are introduced
 - At border crossings, the frequency of vehicle and pedestrian inspections will be increased
 - Pork products will be subject to seizure and confiscation



Photo: trip advisor



- Swim with the pigs in Antigua



Bikehike.org



Saskatchewan!

Current understanding of populations in SK

- Projection of large population increase
 - Need to know current extent of population
 - Inform management decisions, trade issues
- SCIC manages the feral wild boar control program in Saskatchewan
 - Trapping, culling, Judas-pigs, UAV
 - Removed >500 pigs in 5 yrs
 - 10 years: 25 crop insurance claims from wildlife damage listing wild boar as the primary contributor
 - \$100K
 - Suggests low numbers

Provincial WG

- Ministry of Agriculture
 - CIB, Livestock
- SCIC
- Ministry of Environment
- Sask Pork
- Sask Wildlife Federation
- Sask Trapper's Association
- SARM



Monitoring

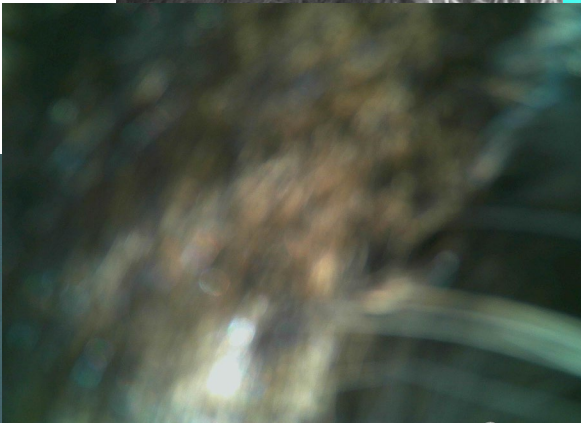
- Baited camera 'traps'
- Monitoring sites
 - Near commercial wild boar production
 - Near commercial domestic pig production
 - In areas with past reports of activity
 - Hog feeder with 100 lbs of corn
 - Return in a week, top-up feeder as needed, set 6 cameras within ~100 m radius
- Network of camera collaborators





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SPYPOINT FORCE-11D



JAGER PRO M 10/12/20 19:00:31 ○ 043°F P5

Photos: Allain Guillet

saskatchewan.ca



JAGER PRO M 11/29/20 00:22:20 ● 013°F P5



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Photo: Allain Guillet



Photo of Allain Guillet

Escaped and uncontained pigs...



Photo: James Tansey

Corral Trap



Corral Trap



Adventures in mobility



Photos: James Tansey

Aug 2020 – Aug 2021

Escaped domestic pigs (contained)



Wild/feral pigs

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○ 1 - 3

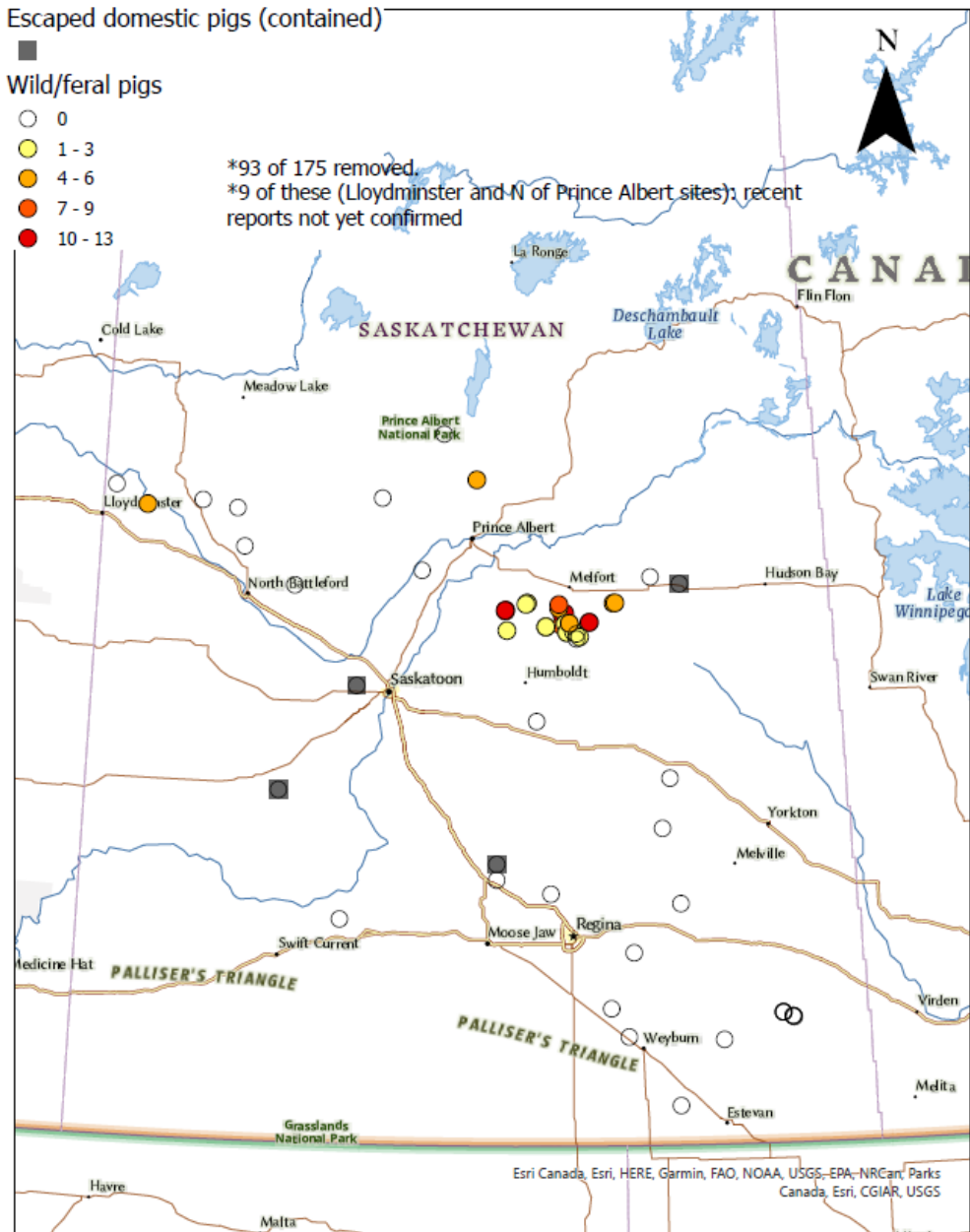
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● 10 - 13

*93 of 175 removed

*9 of these (Lloydminster and N of Prince Albert sites); recent reports not yet confirmed



Ongoing

- Cam traps, analyze camera data
- Adjuster and WG investigation of reports
- Continued contributions to:
 - Provincial WG
 - Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Initiative
http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/invasive_pigs.php
 - Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Strategy WG
 - Western Invasive Species Council Feral Swine Transboundary WG (concluding)
 - ASF WGs
- SCIC efforts
- MoE recording incidental pigs as part of other vert survey
- Further monitoring of sites with historical reports
- Social media mining for reports
- Extension efforts
- Monitoring in Prov, Nat Parks
- Regulatory changes, submissions underway

Hunting

- We're dissuading hunting
 - Hunting scatters sounders, makes control more difficult
 - Do not want a pig hunting industry in SK
 - Changes to the SK Hunters and Trappers Guide

Wild Boar

Wild boar is an invasive species in Saskatchewan. Current control efforts include the Feral Wild Boar Program where residents can report sightings for investigation and removal by calling 1-888-935-0000 or 1-833-PIGSPOT. Wild boar may be hunted by Saskatchewan residents without a licence but is not recommended as a control method. During a big game season, a person can hunt wild boar (without a valid big game licence) as long as they are not accompanying a licensed big game hunter. Hunters are reminded to always obtain permission on private lands before pursuing wild boar.

- Established outfitting industry and cultural importance in S USA
 - Means that eradication in southern USA highly unlikely
 - Recent report of illegal transport of pigs for hunting from TX to CO

**SPOT A
WILD BOAR...
REPORT IT!**



Call 1-833-PIGSPOT

OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CROP INSURANCE OFFICE



saskpork.com

REPORT WILD BOAR



If you see one call:
Call 1-888-935-0000



Canada

Wild Hog



Deer

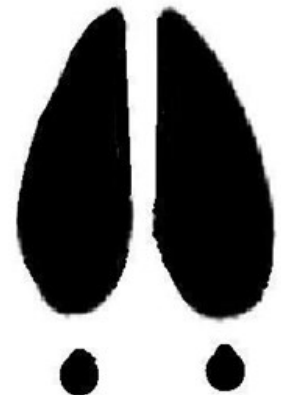


Photo: MDWFP

Saskatchewan!

Pest Monitoring Programs

- Please sign up to allow us access to continue this work
- james.tansey@gov.sk.ca



Photo: The Simpsons

