



'Squeal on Pigs!'

Virtual Forum





Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America. They have escaped their enclosures and cause damage to cropland, properties, and ecosystems. They can predate on livestock and have the potential to transfer disease to hog, cattle, wildlife, and humans. Hunting is not an effective control option.

We hope you enjoy the Alberta Invasive Species Council's (AISC) first virtual forum on wild boar at large! Experts in the field will discuss wild boar in the province, lessons learned from other areas, and how to move forward.

Thank you for joining us virtually and we can't wait to see you in person in the future!



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'Squeal on Pigs!' Campaign



Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the **most damaging invasive species** in North America.

Hunting is not an effective control option.
For more information, visit abinvasives.ca

Report signs and sightings through:

- EDDMapS
- AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality

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Increasing awareness of the issue of wild boar at large is critical to the success of the Alberta Pork and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Wild Boar at Large Eradication Project, which involves coordinated and strategic removal of entire sounders. A 2013 survey conducted by researchers in Saskatchewan, the wild boar at large epicenter of Canada, found that most rural municipalities were unaware of the risks associated with wild boar at large and did not know how to manage them (Brook and van Beest 2014). The authors argued the social perception of this issue and lack of awareness is a barrier to the effectiveness of long-term management of this invasive pest species. Further, a common misconception among those who are aware of wild boar at large is that hunting is a viable control option. However, hunting compounds the issue and makes control of wild boar at large more difficult. There is a need to promote awareness of this issue and provide current information about best practices associated with effective wild boar at large management.

To raise awareness, the state of Montana developed the '[Squeal on Pigs!](#)' campaign to encourage the public to report observations of wild boar at large. The AISC is grateful to the Montana Invasive Species Council, which has allowed us to adapt, adopt and promote the 'Squeal on Pigs!' Campaign to raise awareness of this issue in Alberta.

We are asking for your help to report observations of wild boar at large and damage they may have caused using the free [EDDMapS](#) app, email AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca, call 310-FARM, or contact your local municipality. More information can be found by accessing the AISC's [Squeal on Pigs Quick Facts Card](#) or [Feral Pig Fact Sheet](#).

Forum Details

May 11, 2022

Welcome and announcements – 6:00PM to 6:05PM

Feral swine in Texas: a worst-case example – 6:05PM to 6:30PM

Michael J. Bodenchuk, Texas State Director from USDA APHIS WS

The origins and biology of feral hogs, the role of hunters and current research in Texas.

Mike Bodenchuk is the State Director for the Cooperative Texas Wildlife Services Program. The program serves the agriculture industry in Texas by providing predator and feral hog management, bird damage management and beaver control. Additionally, the program protects wildlife and other natural resources, provides urban wildlife damage assistance and protects the public by minimizing wildlife at airports.

Mike's professional interests include feral hog management, predation management and predator ecology. Mike lives near Hondo, Texas with his wife Debby.



Pigs in space: tracking the spread of invasive wild pigs in Alberta and across Canada – 6:30PM to 6:55PM

Dr. Ryan Brook, Associate Professor from University of Saskatchewan

There are no native pigs in Canada. In the 1980s Canada started importing domestic wild boar to be farmed and this included locations throughout the Canadian Prairies. Escaped and released animals have resulted in widespread occurrences of free-ranging invasive wild pigs and associated high concerns regarding their risks and impacts. Primary concerns associated with wild pigs include crop damage, impacts on native species especially species at risk, and disease. Occurrences of wild pigs have increased exponentially due to their high reproductive rate, high level of movement, broad and diverse diet, and nocturnal nature. Detailed mapping is essential for predicting spread and monitoring success of control efforts.

Dr. Ryan Brook is an associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. His group the Wildlife Ecology and Community Engagement (WECE) lab works on applied wildlife issues in rural, urban, and northern areas of Canada. Ryan and team have been doing research on invasive wild pigs for 12 years and counting.



--- 5 MINUTE BREAK ---

Wild boar at large in Alberta: why should you ‘Squeal on Pigs!’ – 7:00PM to 7:30PM

Charlotte Shipp, Industry Programs Manager from Alberta Pork

For many Wild Boar are unknown or potential game in Alberta so why are we at Alberta Pork so concerned about wild boar and hunting of wild boar at large in Alberta? This presentation will provide an overview of wild boar populations in Alberta and why their numbers are causing growing concern for industries like Alberta Pork and what measures industry are taking to support the eradication of this invasive species in Alberta.

Charlotte Shipp has worked for Alberta Pork for 15 years in various capacities throughout the organization. For the last 5 years, Charlotte has served producers in her current role of Industry Programs Manager. In this role, Charlotte liaises with producer, government and industry to develop programming to support producers and to roll out of key initiatives on-farm and within industry.



Alberta producer perspective – 7:30PM to 7:40PM

Jurgen Preugschas

This talk will summarize an Alberta producer perspective on dealing with the impacts associated with wild boar at large.

Jurgen Preugschas was the past chair of Canadian Pork Council, Alberta Pork and Canadian Swine Breeders. Additionally, he has been an independent pure bred swine breeder for 45 years and one of the founding shareholders of Peak Swine Genetics. Jurgen has served on many other provincial, national and international boards.



Wild boar in Woodlands County – 7:40PM to 8:05PM

Dawn Fortin, Manager Agriculture Services from Woodlands County

Wild boar at large have been a problem in Woodlands County for the past decade. This talk will summarize the response to this issue that Woodlands County has taken.

Dawn Fortin was raised on a farm in the Westlock area. Dawn received her Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Biology from the University of Alberta Augustana Campus and then continued her education at Olds College where she graduated with a diploma in Land Resource Management. She began her career in the agriculture industry as a Weed Inspector/Sprayer at Mountain View County and progressing to the Assistant Fieldman position. Dawn spent some time as the Agricultural Fieldman at Kneehill County after which she took a four-year hiatus from the Fieldman roll to instruct at Olds College in the Land Sciences Department. Dawn's next move brought her closer to home to Woodlands County where she has been the Manager of Agriculture Services since 2001. Dawn currently resides in the hamlet of Fort Assiniboine with her three fur babies (2 dogs and a cat). Dawn is very actively involved in the family farm near Westlock which is celebrated the Century Family Farm in 2018.



--- 30 MINUTE PANEL DISCUSSION ---

Closing remarks – 8:35PM to 8:40PM

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