

QUICK FACTS

WILD BOAR AT LARGE AND SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS

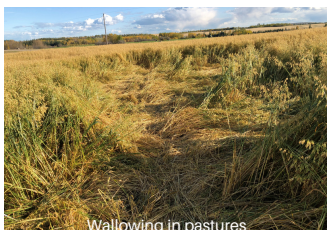


Pigs are susceptible to many diseases that may be carried in food scraps, equipment or by other animals. Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America. They were introduced to Alberta in the 1980s in an effort to diversify agriculture. Over time, some have escaped their enclosures, risking the transmission of disease from wild boar to livestock populations. This is a significant concern for the agriculture industry.

SQUEAL ON PIGS!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of hog diseases between wild boar at large and livestock populations. If you're a small-scale producer, it's important to:

1. **Protect your pigs!** Never feed food scraps or meat products to pigs. Always wash equipment, use dedicated clothing and footwear for working with pigs, and keep secure fencing and housing so pigs don't have contact with wildlife. Talk to your veterinarian about pig care and watch for any signs of sickness.
2. **Squeal!** If you see wild boar at large or signs of their activity, report it to 310-FARM, AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca, your local municipality, or use the EDDMapS smartphone app.
3. **Know the law!** Wild boar are listed as an agricultural pest under the Agricultural Pests Act when at large. Existing wild boar farms must comply with the Wild Boar Containment Standards, which provide enhanced fencing requirements to prevent escape.



Wallowing in pastures



Wild boar tracks & hair on barbed wire



Wild boar at large, *Sus scrofa*

SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER QUICK FACTS:

- Livestock disease can be spread by feeding food scraps or pet food products to pigs. Disease can also be spread when pigs come in contact with infected clothing, equipment or other wild or domestic animals and could lead to a quarantine of your farm.
- It is illegal in Canada to feed meat or any animal by-products to livestock due to the risk of spreading parasites like *Trichinella*, which can cause Trichinosis in humans who consume undercooked meat from infected animals.
- As wild boar populations grow in number and expand their range, disease transmission is a real risk. For example, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or African Swine Fever (ASF) would shut down all Alberta pork and beef exports and cost \$65 billion dollars to the national economy.
- Common signs of wild boar at large include trampled or destroyed crops, manure droppings, hair on barbed wire, digging (rooting) or rolling around (wallowing), and tracks and trails from groups (sounders). Wild boar tracks are rounder than deer tracks.
- Infestations of wild boar at large can devastate crops, alter ecosystems and harm livestock and wildlife. Damage caused is estimated to cost over \$1.5 billion in the US annually.
- Control of wild boar at large can be difficult. Trained professionals use trapping methods to eliminate entire sounders at once. **Hunting is NOT recommended and can make the problem worse**, as these animals quickly learn to disperse, change movement patterns, become nocturnal, and pass these techniques onto their young.
- Wild boar at large are widespread in Alberta.



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