OVERVIEW

Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Strategy defines a wild pig as any animal of the species Sus scrofa that is not contained or under the physical control of any person or is otherwise roaming freely. This includes a pig of any type (domesticated pigs, Eurasian wild boar, and hybrids) that has escaped, been released from containment, or is no longer on the owner's property and is free roaming. It includes any pigs that were born in the wild. Wild pigs are also known as invasive wild pigs, feral swine, feral hogs, feral pigs, wild hogs, wild boar and wild boar at large.

Wild pigs cause significant damage and destruction to ecosystems, disrupt crops and native vegetation and can carry diseases that are infectious to people, wildlife, and domestic animals. Some of the diseases that wild pigs can carry could disrupt Canada's export-driven livestock industry. The regulatory framework within each province or territory is unique for wild pigs, pigs at large, wild boar farming, wild boar hunting, as are the agencies and control program that have authority to address wild pigs.

Prevention, management, and removal of wild pigs requires collaboration to eliminate their impacts on ecological, agricultural, cultural and social assets.

The ***2023 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report*** shows locations of wild pigs and where field activities are focused. Localized established populations of wild pigs currently exist in three provinces.The map will be refreshed regularly to support the prevention, management and removal of wild pigs. The vision for Canada's Invasive Wild Pig Strategy is eradication of invasive wild pigs in order to eliminate their ecological, agricultural, cultural and economic impacts.

METHODOLOGY

The ***2023 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report*** **was developed collaboratively. Participating provincial wild pig control programs, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario have contributed to this report. Other provinces and territories have been engaged and may contribute information in the future**. Wild pig control programs are managed independently by the provinces and are in various stages of maturity; each has different protocols to verify public reports of wild pigs.

The report summarizes data from 2021-2023 to represent areas of established wild pigs, data from 2023 representing locations of verified reports of uncontained pigs, and on-site field activities conducted in 2023 by provincial control programs and their collaborators to prevent, manage, and remove wild pigs. This report encompasses all types of wild pigs, including escaped domestic pigs, Eurasian wild boar, and their hybrids.

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THE ROLE OF PUBLIC REPORTS IN WILD PIG CONTROL PROGRAMS

Public reports are essential to wild pig control programs and most provinces and territories have methods for receiving and responding to wild pig reports.

Reports are an important indicator of where wild pigs are located and must be interpreted carefully. They cannot be relied upon to estimate wild pig numbers and may be biased. There is a positive correlation between sightings and media attention, as well as a relationship between sightings and human population density. For example, in remote areas where there are fewer inhabitants, there tend to be fewer reports of wild pig sightings, while reports of sightings are more common in areas with more inhabitants and where public awareness campaigns are established and successful. Reports of sightings are skewed towards escaped domestic pigs. This is because Eurasian wild boar are very wary of humans. They often feed at night and hide during the day, whereas escaped domestic pigs are much more likely to be active during daylight hours and in areas closer to human activity.

Provincial and territorial programs work to verify and respond to all reports. The verification of reports may involve review of photographs, site visits to look for additional signs of wild pig presence (such as rooting), interviews with local residents, drone and trail camera deployments, or placement of bait.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

There are no known established populations of feral pigs in British Columbia, however feral pigs have been reported in low numbers in several regions throughout the province. Most incidences involve domestic pigs that have been released or have escaped from private property and are subsequently recaptured or eradicated. Any pig that is not in captivity or not otherwise under a person's control is considered a feral pig under the provincial *Wildlife Act* and it is an offence to release or abandon a pig. It is legal for licensed hunters to harvest feral pigs and reporting is compulsory. Feral pig incursions are coordinated by the BC Feral Pig Working Group and dealt with on a case-by-case basis by provincial biologists, conservation officers, landowners, and other partners.

A surveillance program investigates occurrence reports and follows up with management actions. BC also collaborates with the Invasive Species Council of BC on the Squeal on Pigs education campaign.

For more information on feral pigs in BC and to report sightings, visit *gov.bc.ca/invasive-species* or *bcinvasives.ca/squealonpigs*.

ALBERTA

Alberta has established populations of European wild boar and their hybrids. Wild boar are classified as pests when at large under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*.

While farming of wild boar is generally allowed in Alberta, many municipalities have prohibited the possession of wild boar through bylaws. Wild boar farms must meet *minimum containment standards*. It is legal to hunt wild boar provided other laws are followed, including firearms and land access regulations.

The *Alberta Wild Boar Control Program* works in partnership with Alberta Pork, the Alberta Invasive Species Council, municipalities, and many other partners to prevent, detect and control wild boar. This includes an active monitoring and trapping program, crop insurance, and disease surveillance.

For more information or to report a sighting or sign visit *alberta.ca/wildboar* or call 310-FARM(3276).

SASKATCHEWAN

Feral wild boar have been declared as a regulated pest under the *Plant Health Regulations* in Saskatchewan. Feral wild boar are primarily found in wetlands, such as large sloughs or small self-contained waterbodies. Management of these animals occurs on both public and private lands.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is responsible for delivering Saskatchewan's Feral Wild Boar Control Program. From 2017 to 2025, over 1,000 wild boars were removed under this program which operates as part of SCIC's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

Saskatchewan's feral wild boar population is largely concentrated within two small areas of the province. Ongoing surveillance data between 2020 - 2024 has shown that the harsh winter climate and SCIC's ongoing management efforts have reduced the population significantly.

The *Animal Production Regulations* were proclaimed July 1, 2024. These regulations require wild boar farms in Saskatchewan to be licensed and mandate regular inspections, fencing requirements, reporting of escapes and maintaining records of wild boar farm inventories. A moratorium is now in place, prohibiting any new wild boar farms from being established within the province of Saskatchewan.

For more information or to report a sighting, visit *www.scic.ca* or call 1-833-PIGSPOT.

MANITOBA

Squeal on Pigs Manitoba, established in 2022, is the collaborative program to control wild pigs in the province. It is funded by federal and provincial governments through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Program and managed by Manitoba Pork.

Wild pigs in Manitoba are comprised of Eurasian wild boar (and their hybrids) and escaped domestic pigs. Most commercial pork production takes place in the southeast corner of the province, and wild pigs spotted in this region are typically those that have escaped from domestic enclosures. Sightings of wild pigs throughout the western part of the province are more likely to be Eurasian wild boar. There have been no wild boar farm permits issued for several years but escaped animals have established breeding populations in two areas, one near Spruce Woods Park southeast of Brandon and the other near Peonan Point, along Lake Manitoba.

Active public outreach, surveillance, and trapping efforts occur throughout the province in response to reports from the public. The Spruce Woods population is currently being targeted through enhanced control efforts.

For more information or to report a sighting visit *www.squealonpigsmb.org*.

ONTARIO

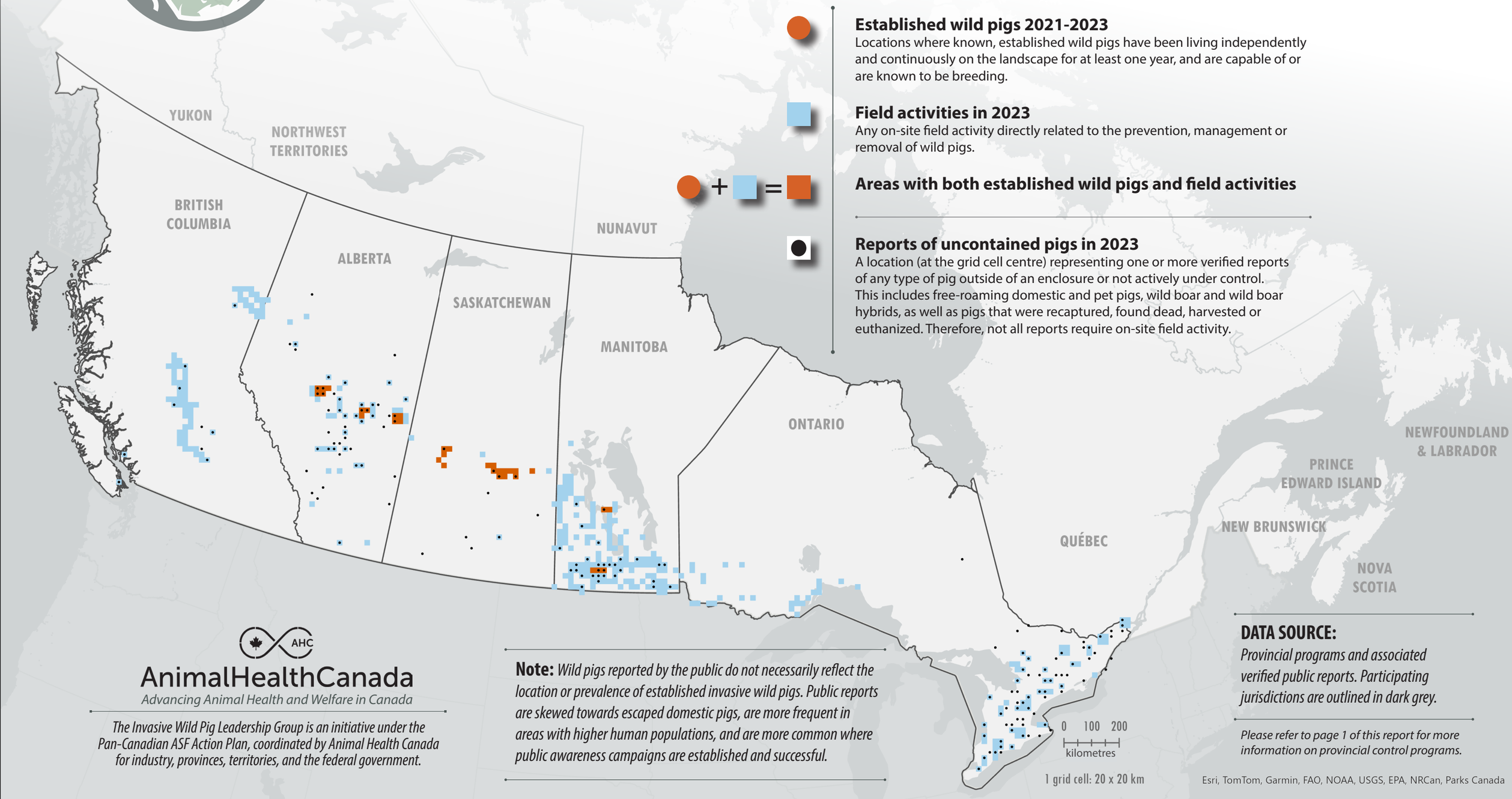
The Ministry of Natural Resources recognizes the importance of taking a prevention-first approach to address invasive wild pigs in Ontario. The ministry has been gathering data since 2018 and in 2020, began actively researching, detecting, and investigating wild pig reports from the public and ministry trail cameras, and launched a communication campaign to share information and solicit public reports of any pigs outside of a fence. The ministry follows up on all wild pig reports, and on a case-by-case basis communicates with the reporter, conducts on-site investigations, engages with municipalities, local businesses, and residents, and where appropriate, traps and removes wild pigs from the natural environment. Ontario is preventing the establishment of invasive wild pigs in the province, as outlined in *Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs*. Wild pigs are regulated as a restricted invasive species under the *Invasive Species Act, 2015*, *hunting and releasing pigs* is banned, and *live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids are prohibited* in the province.

There is currently no evidence to suggest that there are established populations of invasive wild pigs in Ontario. As described in the *Annual Report on Invasive Wild Pig Sightings: 2023–2024*, most wild pig sightings are reported from southern Ontario and the majority are domesticated pigs that have escaped from enclosures or containment.

The ministry partners with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to *detect wild pigs* by deploying trail cameras in Northwestern Ontario, a less populated area of the province. In 2023, no wild pigs were documented in over 154,000 photos submitted by member volunteers.

For more information visit *www.ontario.ca/wildpigs* or to report a sighting, email *wildpigs@ontario.ca* or call 1-833-933-2355.

2023 Canadian Invasive Wild Pig Report



Established wild pigs 2021-2023
Locations where known, established wild pigs have been living independently and continuously on the landscape for at least one year, and are capable of or are known to be breeding.

Field activities in 2023
Any on-site field activity directly related to the prevention, management or removal of wild pigs.

Areas with both established wild pigs and field activities

Reports of uncontained pigs in 2023
A location (at the grid cell centre) representing one or more verified reports of any type of pig outside of an enclosure or not actively under control. This includes free-roaming domestic and pet pigs, wild boar and wild boar hybrids, as well as pigs that were recaptured, found dead, harvested or euthanized. Therefore, not all reports require on-site field activity.

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Note: *Wild pigs reported by the public do not necessarily reflect the location or prevalence of established invasive wild pigs. Public reports are skewed towards escaped domestic pigs, are more frequent in areas with higher human populations, and are more common where public awareness campaigns are established and successful.*

DATA SOURCE:
Provincial programs and associated verified public reports. Participating jurisdictions are outlined in dark grey.

Please refer to page 1 of this report for more information on provincial control programs.