

Squeal on Pigs Manitoba

2022

Program Update





ABOUT SQUEAL ON PIGS MANITOBA

Background

Squeal on Pigs Manitoba was officially announced on February 16, 2022, under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. Squeal on Pigs Manitoba is jointly funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Manitoba Agriculture, and Manitoba Pork Council.

Vision

Squeal on Pigs Manitoba aims to first control, and then eliminate the threat of wild pigs in Manitoba.

Team

Cam Dahl, general manager, Manitoba Pork Council

Jenelle Hamblin, manager, swine health, Manitoba Pork Council

Wayne Lees, program coordinator

Devon Baete, field operations manager

Ben Waddle, field operations technician, western Manitoba

Doug Larcombe, field operations technician, eastern Manitoba

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

This first official year of the Wild Pig Eradication Project has been a busy, building one. At the same time as we were following up on sightings, contacting landowners, putting up surveillance cameras and trapping pigs, we were also building the capacity to put the project on a solid footing for the long term.

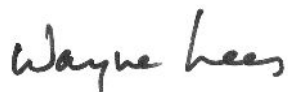
Under the leadership of Cam Dahl and Jenelle Hamblin, our team expanded to include a coordinator, a field manager and two field technicians so we could cover more of the province. We also established the committee structures needed to facilitate collaboration with our Manitoba partner organizations, such as Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba Natural Resources, and Parks Canada. By linking up with wild pig control programs in other provinces, as well as national and academic stakeholders, we were able to get up to speed quickly by sharing best practices and lessons learned. We are grateful that the Squeal on Pigs website has been designated as the wild pig reporting mechanism under Manitoba Natural Resources regulations.

Implementing a Squeal on Pigs media and advertising campaign was a major boost to getting the word out to the public, NGO organizations, and government departments. Through this catchy but simple message, we were able to reach thousands of people through print, radio and television interviews, advertisements, and articles in newsletters, newspapers and online, as well as deliver numerous small group presentations to producer, wildlife and environmental groups and rural municipal councils. Featured prominently are the toll-free number 1-833-SPOT-PIG and website www.squealonthepigsmb.org to report the signs and sightings of wild pigs.

To be able to trap pigs, we need to first be able to locate them. In addition to our public sightings, we enhanced our surveillance capacity through the acquisition of cell-phone-enabled trail cameras and a thermal imaging drone. The cameras send photos to a cell phone which our field manager checks daily, and the thermal imaging drone can fly over areas that are impossible to access on foot, such as ravines and river valleys. We will continue to explore other methods that show promise in being able to locate wild pigs.

We continue to make progress on our goal of controlling and then eliminating wild pigs from the landscape in Manitoba, and look forward to continuing our work in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wayne Lees
Project Coordinator, Squeal on Pigs Manitoba

2022 RESULTS

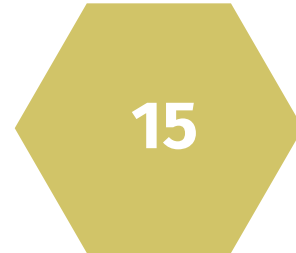
Sightings Reported



Pigs Removed
(Trapped or Hunted)



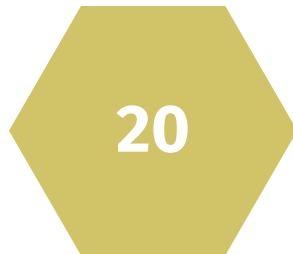
Number of Media
Interviews



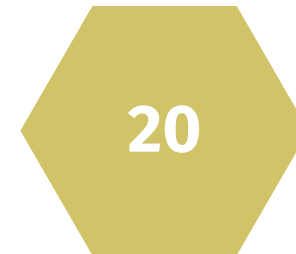
Average Number of
Cameras in Operation
(Monthly)



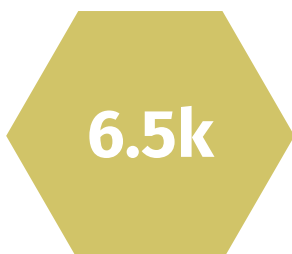
Average Number of
Traps in Operation
(Monthly)



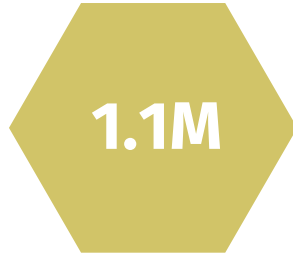
Average Number of
Landowner Contacts
(Monthly)



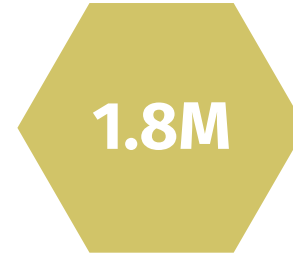
Website Users



Facebook
Impressions



Google Ad
Impressions





LOOK OUT FOR WILD PIGS

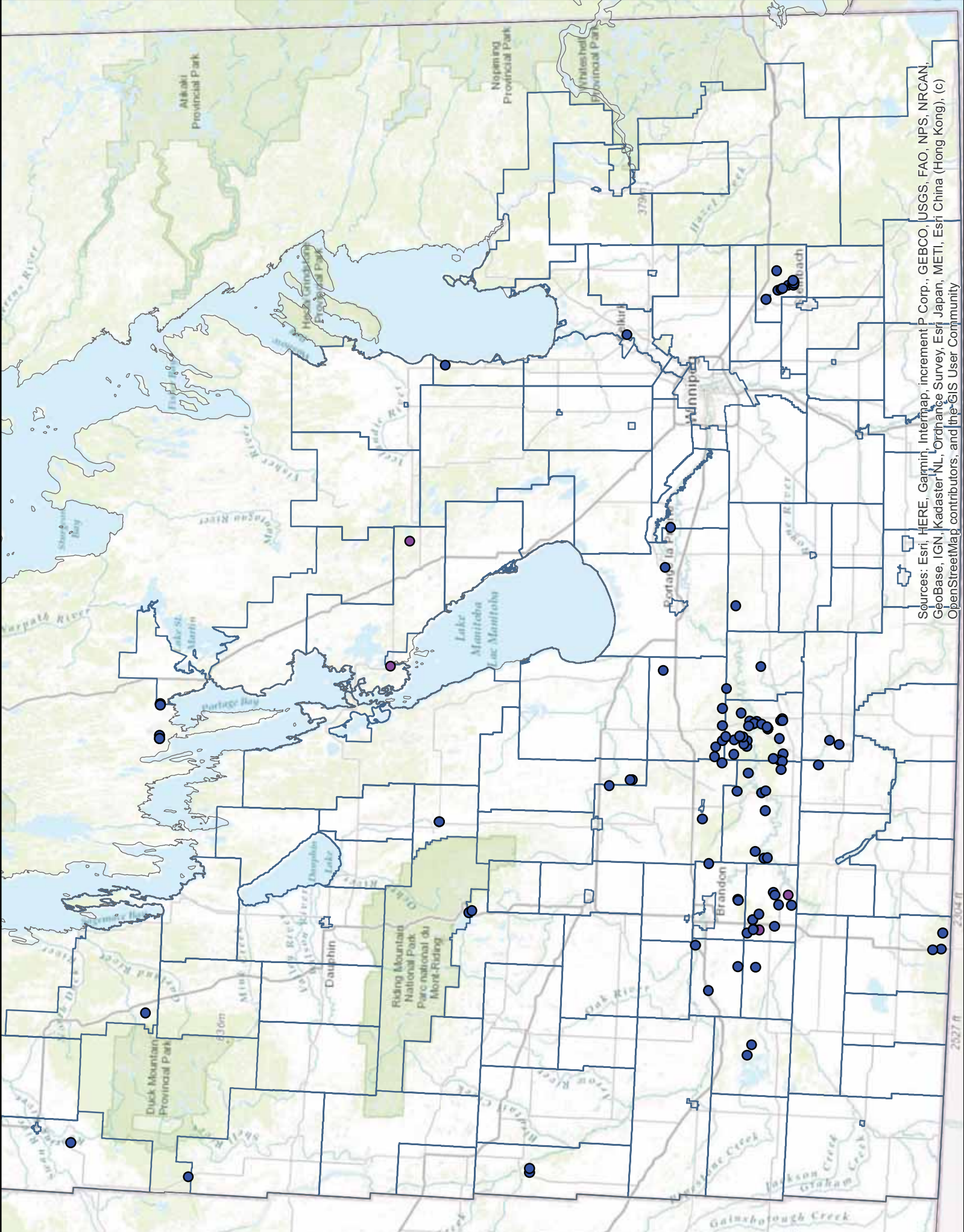
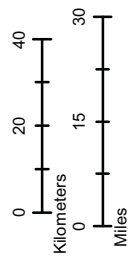
Wild pigs are **WIDESPREAD** in Manitoba



January 17, 2023

Legend

- Wild Pigs 2022
- Wild Pigs 2023
- Municipal Boundary



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

2022 Project Timeline

January

- Project officially approved under Canadian Agricultural Partnership

February

- Began outreach to other wildlife, environmental, provincial, and national organizations

March

- Engaged other collaborators and researchers on latest developments in wild pig control

April

- Began outreach to hog farmers, wildlife groups, agricultural commodity organizations



May

- Launched Squeal on Pigs media and advertising campaign - 15 media interviews conducted
- 1-833-SPOT-PIG hotline and website launched
- Further outreach to Manitoba Association of Watersheds
- Discussion on research options

June

- Outreach to commodity groups and wild pigs programs in other provinces
- Developed reporting module for Farm Health Guardian biosecurity application
- Held field day to demonstrate surveillance and trapping equipment

July

- Developed database to record pig sightings and trappings
- Continued media engagement to report on the project

2022 Project Timeline



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August

- Began presentations to municipal councils
- Initiated planning for international engagement

September

- Completed purchase and testing of thermal-imaging drone
- Attended national Animal Health Forum to promote external collaboration

October

- Field day demonstration of sniffer dogs and thermal-imaging drone with Manitoba Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, and Parks Canada
- Resumed digital and print communications for fall campaign
- Small group presentations took place with producer groups, commodity organizations, and municipal councils



November

- CFIA and AAFC accompanied Japanese trade delegation for a presentation and on-site demonstration of wild pig control initiative
- Received updates from Dr. Ryan Brook and Dr. Danielle Julien on wild pig control efforts

December

- Held consultations with Nature Conservancy of Canada and Prairie Swine Centre on possible collaborations to pursue
- Database testing ongoing

2022 Project Timeline





NEXT STEPS

Controlling and eventually eliminating wild pigs from Manitoba will require a sustained, collaborative effort.

As we build for the future, we want to:

- Put the team on a solid footing with an enduring structure and reliable funding
- Encourage collaboration either formally or informally with stakeholders within Manitoba
- Join with other provinces and territories to build a national coordinating body and adopt a common strategy
- Share best practices with other jurisdictions
- Join with other jurisdictions to support field research
- Innovate and adapt to changing conditions

