

*Wild boar (frequently referred to as “invasive swine”) are not native to Manitoba; they can cause significant damage to Manitoba’s ecosystems and agricultural operations.*

## INVASIVE SWINE IN MANITOBA

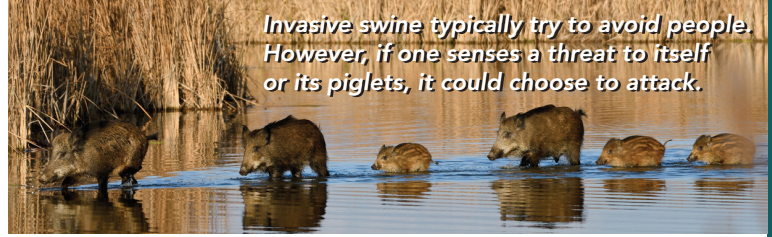
Manitoba is striving to control and ultimately eradicate all wild boar in the province. Wild boar are not a native species in Manitoba. They were brought over from Europe in the 1980s as part of an agricultural livestock diversification initiative. Current free-ranging wild boar are the result of escaped farm animals or their descendants. Many of these animals are the result of interbreeding between wild boar and domestic pigs. Because of the mixed genetics between wild boar and domestic pigs, as well as the extensive damages they cause, any swine in Manitoba that are not contained within an enclosure are termed “invasive swine”.

Invasive swine cause damage to natural ecosystems and agricultural land, and pose a disease transmission risk to livestock and native wildlife. Manitoba is working with landowners, wildlife associations and other interest groups to eliminate all invasive swine populations in the province. This fact sheet provides some helpful advice for actions you can take to protect yourself, your family, your property and Manitoba’s ecosystems and pork industry.

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVE SWINE

- Invasive swine are omnivores, which means that they eat both plants and animals.
- Rooting, grazing, wallowing and trampling activities of invasive swine damage native plant communities that provide habitat and food sources for native wildlife, and also pose a threat to any species in their area whose populations are already at risk.
- Invasive swine can do significant damage to agricultural crops.
- They compete for food and space with native wildlife such as deer and black bears.
- Invasive swine can prey upon ground-nesting birds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.
- They cause problems in waterbodies by increasing soil erosion and bacterial contamination.
- Invasive swine can sometimes prey upon livestock or damage livestock fencing.
- They can carry diseases and parasites that could impact the health of people, livestock and wildlife. Some examples include brucellosis, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, pseudorabies and sarcoptic mange. African Swine Fever is a pig disease, caused by a virus, that is devastating the pork industry in parts of Asia and Europe. The presence of free-roaming invasive swine in Manitoba is a significant risk factor for Manitoba’s domestic swine production. If this virus arrived in Manitoba, it could potentially become widespread by invasive swine and threaten Manitoba’s multi-billion dollar pork industry.
- Invasive swine are highly adaptable, prolific and intelligent animals.
- Invasive swine populations usually consist of lone males and family groups (called “sounders”) that consist of several adult females and multiple young piglets.

- Invasive swine typically try to avoid people. However, if one senses a threat to itself or its piglets, it could choose to attack. Invasive swine have been known to injure people by charging, biting, or slashing with their tusks.



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## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONFLICT

### Report Invasive Swine Presence and Harvest

- If you observe invasive swine or evidence of invasive swine presence, please report the location and details to Manitoba's Squeal on Pigs initiative. Reports can be submitted online at [squealonthepigsmb.org](http://squealonthepigsmb.org) or by calling 1-833-SPOT-PIG (1-833-776-8744).

By law, any free-roaming invasive swine harvested in Manitoba must be reported to Manitoba's Squeal on Pigs initiative within seven days and the hunter must provide details about the animal's sex and the location where the animal was killed.

### Reduce Risks to People

- Never feed or approach invasive swine or any wild animal.
- In areas where you may encounter invasive swine: be alert, make noise, travel in groups, keep dogs on a leash, and carry deterrents such as a walking stick and noise-makers.
- Monitor your surroundings for signs that invasive swine may be in the area. Signs could include:
  - tracks, wallows, or areas where the vegetation has been trampled, grazed or rooted up
  - droppings
  - the sound of pigs grunting
- Sows (female pigs) may growl a warning if you approach too closely to her piglets. If you encounter this behaviour, talk calmly to the sow to reassure her that you are not a threat and slowly move away.
- If you are attacked by an invasive swine, try to remain upright to reduce your risk of serious injury. If possible, move to a secure area, such as in a shelter or up a tree (minimum 1.8 metres off the ground). Putting obstacles between you and the pig may also help to block a charge.

### Reduce the Risk of Damage to Property and Ecosystems

#### Help reduce invasive swine populations

- Past efforts to reduce invasive swine populations in Manitoba have involved the assistance of resident hunters. Manitoba now recognizes that it is unlikely to eradicate invasive swine via hunting. The province is collaborating with Manitoba Pork Council for the delivery of a Squeal on Pigs initiative. In addition to public education, the initiative is monitoring invasive swine presence in Manitoba and utilizing large corral traps to remove entire sounders of pigs from the landscape.
- Landowners are encouraged to grant access to their land for the removal of invasive swine through corral trapping efforts.
- Attempted removal of swine through the use of firearms is discouraged, particularly for the removal of groups larger than two individuals. Use of firearms that fails to remove all individuals can disperse pigs into new areas and shift their behaviour to become more active at night. This can cause problems in new areas and make invasive swine more difficult to remove from the landscape.

#### Secure food attractants

- Secure garbage or food compost where invasive swine can't access it, in a wildlife-resistant container/building or with electric fencing.
- Feed pets and keep their food dishes indoors.
- Remove all fruit from your yard as it ripens.
- Remove bird feeders from April to November. If you use bird feeders during the winter, don't allow them to hang below two metres, and clean up any spilled seed.

**For more information about invasive swine, visit Squeal on Pigs at [squealonthepigsmb.org](http://squealonthepigsmb.org), Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at [cwhc-rcsf.ca](http://cwhc-rcsf.ca) or [manitoba.ca/human-wildlife](http://manitoba.ca/human-wildlife).**

**To report the presence of invasive swine, or the killing of invasive swine (as required by law), contact Squeal on Pigs at [squealonthepigsmb.org](http://squealonthepigsmb.org) or 1-833-SPOT-PIG (1-833-776-8744).**

**For more information about being Wildlife Smart visit [manitoba.ca/human-wildlife](http://manitoba.ca/human-wildlife).**