

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - February 2019

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for February 2019. Jesse Paul took 65 hogs in February. This brings the calendar year total to 147. This month 44 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 21 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st and 2nd (TIE): 8 in a trap; 5 in trap/3 with dogs.

3rd and 4th (TIE): 7 in a trap; 7 with dogs.

5th and 6th (TIE): 6 with dogs.

7th Place: 5 with dogs.

8th, 9th, and 10th (TIE): 4 with dogs.

11th Place: 3 with dogs.

12th Place: 2 with dogs.

13th Place: 1 in trap.

The remainder of properties: had no hogs this month.

For the hogs, the buffet salad bar is open, so corn in a trap is probably not going to be particularly attractive. Hogs are both omnivorous and opportunistic, meaning they will eat anything, and they will eat whatever is most available at the moment. Right now, that is all the spring wildflowers and weeds that are popping up everywhere. Spring rains soften the soil and make rooting easier. Temperatures are mild, so hogs don't need to stay close to water. They may show up anywhere on your property, so get out and enjoy the spring flowers while you keep an eye out for new damage.

Cowbird trapping will begin this month, or as soon as the migratory flocks start showing up. For the past couple of years, they have been late in arriving, and trapping didn't really get going until April. The recent unstable weather, with 50 degree temperature swings from one day to the next, may disrupt normal migratory patterns if it continues. We have a couple of cowbird traps available for placement, so call JP right away if you would like to have a trap on your place. Remember, cowbird traps work best if they are out in a wide-open pasture, rather than in tight brushy areas.

Mark your calendar for the April 6 BCA meeting, held in conjunction with TNC's Spring BBQ and Open Preserve Day.

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