

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA – July 2020

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for July 2020. Jesse Paul took 68 hogs in July, bringing the calendar year total to 461. This month 47 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 21 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st Place: 5 with dogs and 8 in a trap
2nd Place: 4 with dogs and 8 in a trap
3rd Place: 11 with dogs
4th Place: 7 with dogs
5th and 6th (TIE): 5 each with dogs
7th and 8th (TIE): 1 with dogs and 3 in a trap; 4 with dogs
9th Place: 3 with dogs
10th and 11th (TIE): 2 in a trap

The remaining 5 properties: had no hogs this month.

WOW, it's Hot! This is the hottest week of the summer so far....temps well over 100 degrees through the weekend. Rainfall has been spotty or nonexistent across much of Central Texas and the Hill Country, and even the hardy native plants are suffering. Heat and drought tend to force hogs to stay close to water sources and venture out only in the middle of the night when temperatures are more moderate. On the up side, this makes it a little easier to predict where hogs may be holed up, and the rock-hard soil and withered plants make the corn in the traps look like an easy meal. Trapping totals were up this month as a result. On the down side, the heat is hard on the dogs, (and people, too), so the best solution is to work at night and sleep during the heat of the day. The concentration of hog activity near water also has the down side of increased spring and streambank damage, so if you notice bank damage or murky flow in your stream, let us know so JP can get the dogs to the right location.

To get away from the subject of hogs for a minute.....don't forget about your local songbirds during this heat spell. Unless you are right on the banks of a stream, it's likely that the local birds would benefit from a birdbath or fountain. I've noticed that when I run my sprinkler system early in the morning, there may be 20-30 songbirds flying through the spray and bathing on branches of wet shrubs. The hummingbirds seem to really be consuming a lot of sugar water, too, even though there are multiple natural nectar sources in the vicinity. We don't usually think about filling bird feeders with seed during the summer, but I've found that if it is available, birds will certainly take advantage. I suppose they would prefer not to have to work too hard in the heat, either.

Stay safe, and stay cool. Thanks for being a part of the BCA Hog Management Program.

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