

**Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA – June 2020**

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for June 2020. Jesse Paul took 50 hogs in June, bringing the calendar year total to 393. This month 44 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 6 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

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

The remaining properties had no hogs this month.

Trapping was very slow in June. This was not unexpected, since natural forage was abundant and hogs didn't have to go far to find good nutrition. Since the beginning of July, however, the summer heat and dry conditions have changed the situation dramatically. Pastures are browning out and the ground is cracked and dry. Hog foraging activity is mostly limited to the coolest hours of the day, roughly midnight to sunrise, so that corn on the ground in the traps is probably beginning to look pretty good by now. Sows with new litters of piglets will be particularly stressed and looking to pick up some calories wherever they can.

The heat is hard on the dogs, too, so JP has become mostly nocturnal as well. So, don't be surprised if you hear the dogs running at 3am; just go back to sleep knowing that JP is on the job and the hogs are running scared. ;)

Jesse Paul is in the process of revamping hog trap design to make it easier to load out the hogs and make the trap less intimidating for those old, trap-shy hogs. This involves a lot of welding and handling of the current hog trap components to create panels that are 6' tall that can be pinned together into a round corral with no roof. This configuration is much easier to set up and break down for moving from one property to another, and can be set up around trees to blend in better with the landscape. That said, this is a labor-intensive project, and JP needs some assistance. The fee increase in the fall will provide some additional funds that will be directed toward part-time help, and we had some limited participation in the spring funding drive, but not nearly enough to give JP the assistance he needs right now. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the hog management program, either through BCA or directly to Orion, to help us make these necessary improvements to the program. We need roughly \$3,000 as soon as possible. Call, text, or email me if you can help, and I will give you details on how to direct your gift. Thanks in advance.

As always, let JP know if you see fresh hog damage. Right now they should be hanging close to water sources, but if we should get a soaking rain, all bets are off.

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