

**Subject:** Hog Management Report for BCA - October 2018

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for October 2018. Jesse Paul took 86 hogs in October, bringing the annual total to date to 571. This month 56 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 30 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 5 with dogs and 15 in a trap.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 12 with dogs.  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (TIE): 8 with dogs;8 in a trap.  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (TIE): 7 with dogs;7 in a trap.  
7<sup>th</sup> Place: 6 with dogs.  
8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>( TIE): 5 each with dogs.  
10<sup>th</sup> Place: 4 with dogs.  
11<sup>th</sup> Place: 3 with dogs.  
12<sup>th</sup> Place: 1 with dogs.

The remainder of the properties: had no hogs this month.

If you suddenly feel like you're being inundated by hogs, with tracks and rooting showing up everywhere, well, it's probably not literally true, but it certainly feels that way. A cold snap in the fall seems to stimulate all the local wildlife to step up their preparations for winter, and hogs are no exception. If you've ever looked at a hog up close, you will likely notice that their "hair" is actually comprised of stiff bristles. Some hogs have more hair than others, but in most cases you can actually see their skin through the hair. Hog bristles don't provide much insulation from the cold compared to, say, a deer's coat or the fur on your pet dog or cat. To protect themselves from the cold, hogs depend on a thick layer of fat under the skin. In order to develop that insulating layer, they have to... well, eat like a pig (sorry!), and maintain that high caloric intake throughout the cooler months. Consequently, we can expect them to be moving far and wide in search of the most nutrient-dense foods they can find. While this presents a challenge for our hog control operation, it also presents an opportunity. Corn is not a high-quality food for wildlife, but it is high in starch (carbohydrate), which I'm sure your dietician has told you to avoid because it 'goes straight to your hips'. In the hogs case, this is a desirable outcome, so we expect that the traps will be more attractive during the winter months.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

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