

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - September 2018

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for September 2018.

This may be the shortest monthly summary in HOGMOP history. Jesse Paul took 2 hogs from one ranch in September. This brings the calendar year total to 485.

I've heard it said that Texas weather is "prolonged periods of extreme drought, randomly interrupted by epic flooding". July and August represented the former, and September was the latter. September was the wettest month in recent memory, with some places in Bandera County recording 30 inches of rain. Jesse Paul, being the conscientious guy that he is, evaluated ranch road conditions weekly and concluded that he couldn't get in and out of most properties without either getting stuck or tearing up the roads. Almost all of his traps were inaccessible with a vehicle, and in several cases he had to walk in to disable a trap so he didn't catch a bunch of hogs that he couldn't get to with the trailer.

The rain isn't the only thing working against us right now. Acorns are falling, and this seems to be a bumper crop year for live oaks, shin oaks, and red oaks alike. Hogs much prefer the native food sources, and acorns are high density nutrition, packed with carbohydrates, protein, and fat, so there won't be much activity around corn feeders until the acorns are gone. With cooler weather, hogs, like other wildlife, are scrambling to fatten up for the winter. The moisture and cooler weather have allowed hogs to disperse throughout the landscape, since they don't have to deal with heat or limited availability of water, so you may find evidence of hog damage in places you never expected. Let JP know about it, and when it dries up enough to use the roads, he will put the dogs back to work.

October is renewal month for the HOGMOP program. I will be sending out letters by email to save the costs of snail mail, so watch for an email in the next few days with "HOGMOP Renewal" in the subject line. Fees are due by the end of October. I appreciate timely submittal of your fees.

Don't forget the October meeting of the BCA on the 27th!.

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