

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - September 2019

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for September 2019. Jesse Paul took 82 hogs in September. This brings the calendar year total to 753. This month 49 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 33 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st Place: 14 in a trap.
2nd Place: 12 with dogs.
3rd Place: 9 in a trap.
4th Place: 8 in a trap.
5th Place: 7 with dogs.
6th and 7th (TIE): 6 each with dogs.
8th Place: 5 with dogs.
9th, and 10th (TIE): 4 each with dogs.
11th Place: 3 with dogs.
12th and 13th (TIE): 2 with dogs; 2 in a trap.

The remaining properties had no hogs this month.

Although you can't tell it by the temperatures this past week, fall is upon us, and with it, hopefully cooler weather and a little rain. We all look forward to the changing of the season, but then again, so do the hogs. Cool, wet conditions give them latitude to travel far away from permanent water in search of nutrition. And the most relished delicacies of the season are acorns. Live oak acorns are falling by the bucket load, and even the more inconsistent Texas Red Oaks and Shin Oaks seem to have decent crops of acorns this year. Red oak acorns are especially attractive to deer, hogs, turkeys, and other wildlife, as they have lower tannin levels and are more easily digestible. Regeneration of oaks in our mixed oak juniper woodlands is dependent upon germination of acorns, and survival of seedlings to saplings and ultimately into mature canopy trees. So..... how many acorns can a hog eat in a season? How many seedlings never grow into saplings because they get rooted up? Taking the long view, the ultimate survival of our Hill Country scenic viewscapes depends on there being young oaks and other hardwoods of all ages to replace the trees that get blown down or killed by lightning, oak wilt, or other causes. The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in the Austin area actually addresses this concern in their long-range planning documents by aggressively managing deer and hog populations on preserve properties. Landowners in the Bandera Canyonlands should be no less mindful of the potential impacts of overpopulations of deer and hogs if we want to preserve the scenic nature of our area for future generations. In your walks around your property, look closely for tiny oak seedlings and saplings underneath mature trees. This is a barometer for the overall health of our woodlands.

I'm happy to report that we have met our target for the challenge grant, and a new cell gate has been ordered. A total of 7 landowners contributed to the fundraising effort. The entire program will benefit from this additional equipment. Thanks to all who helped out.

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