

WILD PIGS IN MICHIGAN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JULY 2012

•2002 - COMPLAINTS

LEGISLATOR ATTENTION AND MEDIA COVERAGE ON ESCAPED RUSSIAN/SIBERIAN BOARS IN BARAGA COUNTY

- Who has jurisdiction?
- Scientific thoughts on pig survivability in the wild
- *The Mining Journal* September 22, 2002
 - *“Winter would be tough on wild boars”*
 - *“Although some Baraga County residents believe otherwise, it’s unlikely that wild boar from a local game preserve can live year round in area woodlands”,...“they’re just not equipped to handle the winters up here”*

BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

- 2002-2005
 - Generally considered a minor problem, though concern growing
 - MDA and DNR began collaborative effort
 - Multiple stakeholder and interest groups beginning to engage
 - 2005 – 9 counties with sightings
- 2003/2004 about 1,000 Russian Boars legally imported

BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

- 2006 – 2010
 - Feral Swine Working Group
 - First sightings of piglets
 - MDA work with local prosecuting attorneys regarding animals at large
 - USDA WS trapping and testing – learning curve
 - 2008 Pseudorabies virus (PRV) on a Saginaw County game ranch in pigs inside and outside the facility
 - 2010 Act No. 69 amends Animals Running at Large law to allow for shooting of pigs outside enclosures



BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

- 2011
 - FSWG discuss strategy for wild pigs
 - MDARD and MDNR continue efforts with sightings – MDNR website enhanced
 - MDARD and USDA WS cooperative agreement (\$100,000 from MDARD to WS)
 - Conduct reconnaissance of selected areas to define scope of local feral swine populations
 - Establish outreach and communication with key organizations and individuals
 - Implement control of feral swine as opportunities allow
 - Conduct disease surveillance in feral swine

BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

- 2012

- MDARD cooperative agreement with USDA WS funded through September 30, 2012
- USDA WS follows up on all sightings and calls – 116 new contacts from October 2011-June 2012
- Trapping expertise and success greatly improved
- New areas of wild pigs, younger age classes, more agricultural damage
- Obtaining reliable data, documenting, and reporting
- As of April 2012, sightings from 75 counties

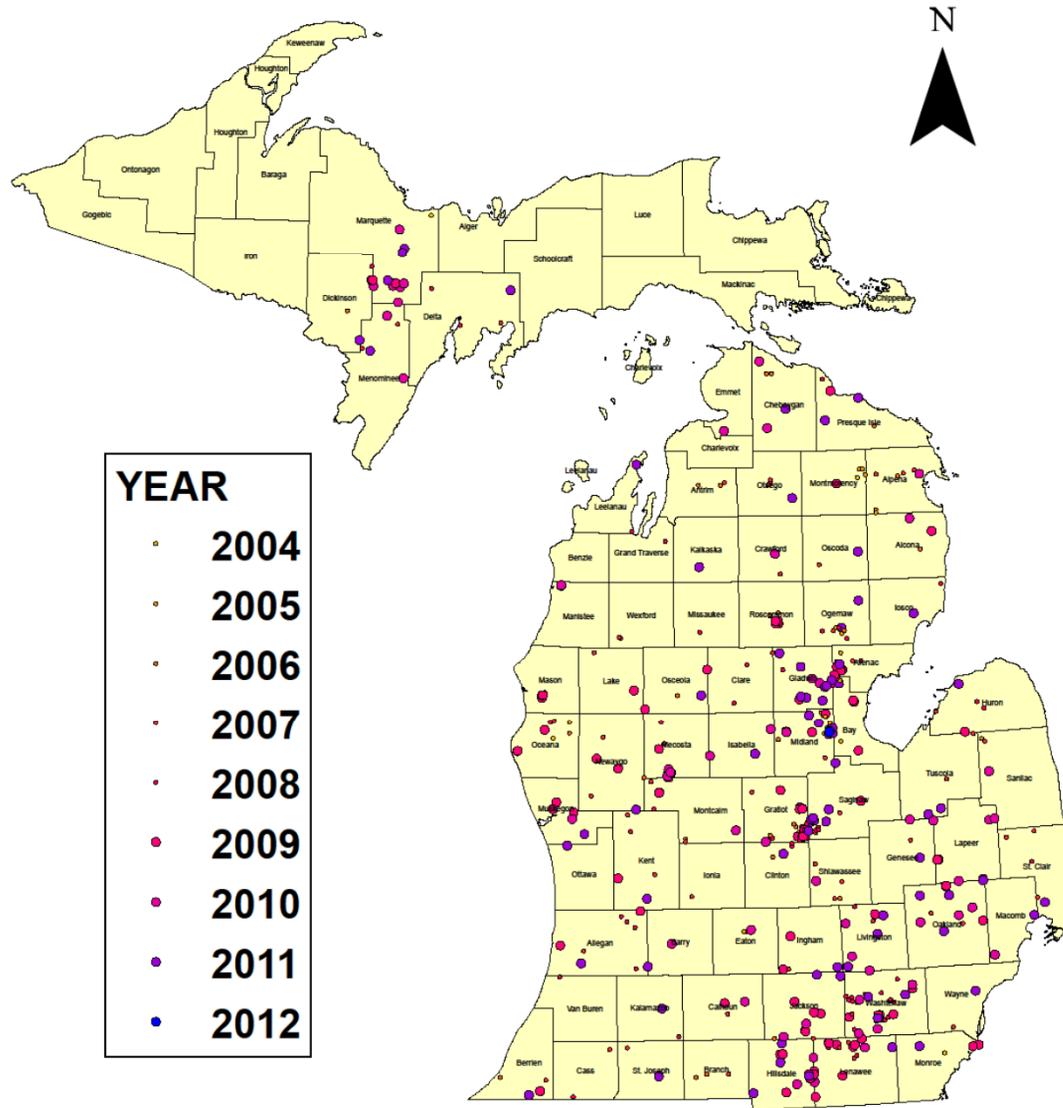
EXAMPLES OF SIGHTINGS 2012

- February - Ionia County – *“I saw the swine about 20 yards off the road in a field eating.”*
- March - Clinton County – *“Saw two adult pigs along Howe Rd. in ditch rooting. Have pictures on phone.”*
- May - Alger County – *“We encountered the wild swine on the trail to the Miner’s Fall...”*
- June - Montcalm County – *“Dead along the side of the road, hit by a vehicle. Medium size feral pig.”*

EXAMPLES OF SIGHTINGS 2012

- June - Midland County – *“I sighted two black pigs at 7:45 am from my living room. They were walking North to South through an oak grove next to the pond on our private property. I believe they were juveniles (not piglets) since they were not the size of deer in body length (which I am used to seeing in that location). My husband and I looked for positive identification and could only find what looked like deer tracks. Our camera battery was dead so we are going to set up trail cameras ASAP to seek positive proof. In the meantime, our grandchildren are no longer allowed free run of the woods and we will be watching with our rifles handy! We have also notified our families and neighbors.”*

Wild Hog Sightings and Kills 2004-2012



CURRENT SITUATION



Midland County

CURRENT SITUATION



 60°F  05/14/12 08:57 PM MYCAMERA

Mecosta County

CURRENT SITUATION



WILDLIFE SERVICES TRAPPING SUMMARY (2005 TO 6-28-12)

- 48 traps in inventory
- 36 deployed to field
- 68 hogs trapped
 - Bay County - 11
 - Hillsdale County - 3
 - Mecosta County - 13
 - Midland County – 32
 - Ogemaw – 2
 - Saginaw – 6
 - Washtenaw – 1



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



Questions?