

JULY 2022

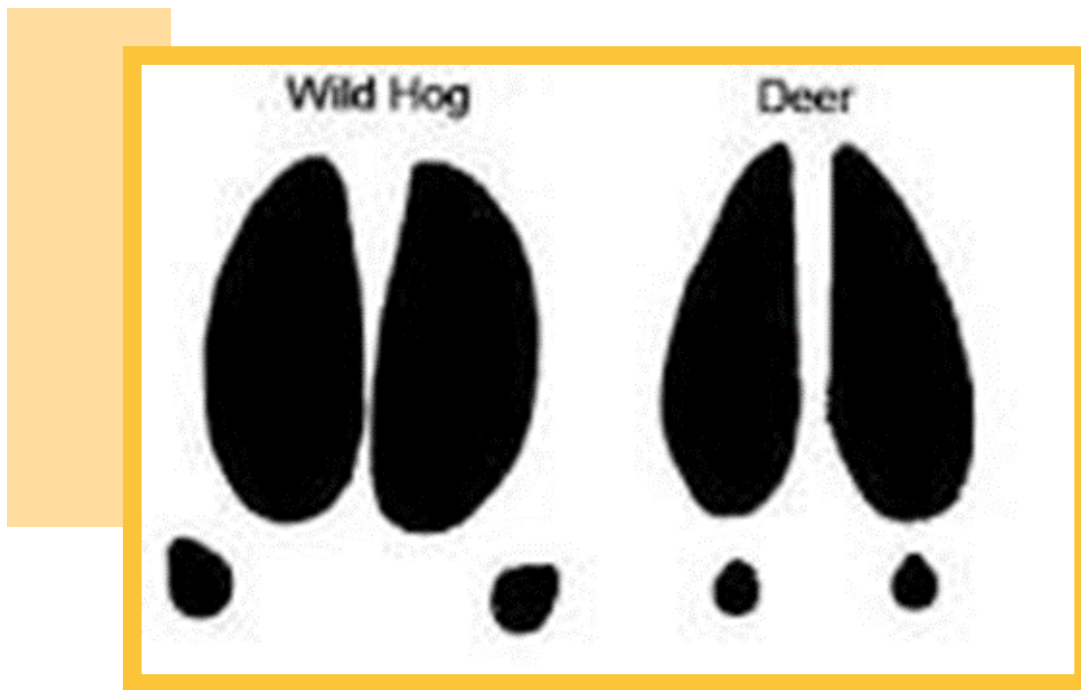


WILD BOARS

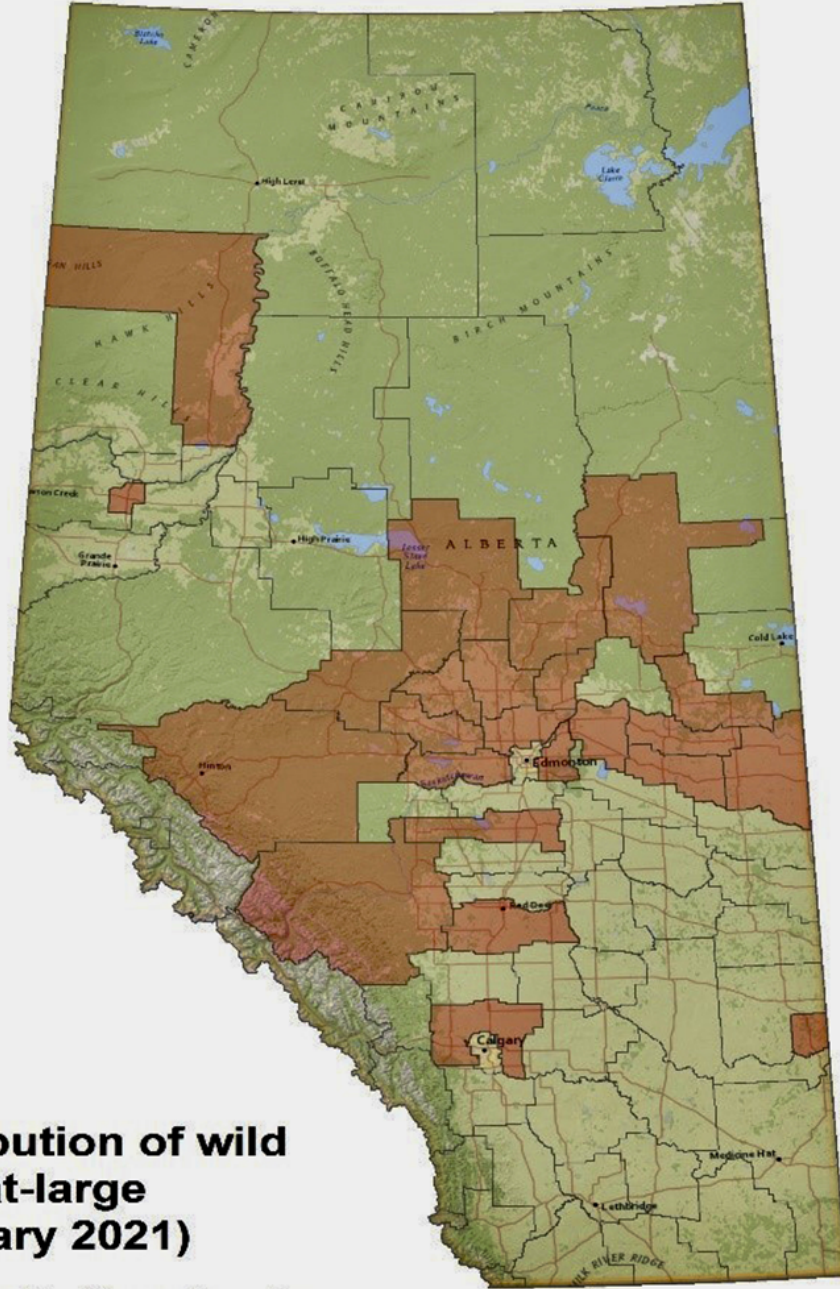
If you are out scouting your fields this summer, be aware that we have a growing issue with feral pigs/wild boars here in Alberta. It's something that I was vaguely aware of, but I had never really given it any thought until I heard a report at the beginning of June that wild boars had been spotted within the town limits of Lamont. These animals are notoriously smart and hard to spot, so if there are sightings being made in towns, you can bet we have more of them in our area than we suspect. With that in mind, I did a little reading to learn more about these animals.

They were first introduced into Alberta in the 1980's as livestock. Inevitably some of them escaped and established wild populations. Wild boars are certainly not just an Alberta problem - one report I read said that they are established in 39 states and 4 provinces now. They tend to prefer areas with some brush cover and proximity to water and are most active near dawn and dusk. You are much more likely to see the signs left by a boar than you are to see the boars themselves, so I would advise taking the time to become familiar with how to spot their activity. A good place to start is with the Provincial website; <https://www.alberta.ca/about-wild-boar-at-large.aspx>

Wild boars can do considerable damage to crops and pastures, foul water sources for cattle, carry diseases and can be a danger to pets and people. Look for their scat, tracks and signs of rooting and wallowing. The tracks they leave are similar to deer, but rounder in shape and the dewclaws make a mark wider than the hoof.



I am certainly no expert, but I believe I have seen hog tracks on more than one occasion this summer, as well as some rooting along a field edge. If you suspect you may have an issue with wild boars, the link above walks you through the procedure for reporting them. It is not advised that you go hunting them yourself. Wild boars are incredibly intelligent and quickly change their habits when hunted. The only recommended method is to eradicate the entire nest (called a sounder) at one time. Reporting can be done online or using the Alberta Invasive Species Council App (EDDMapS), by emailing AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca, or by contacting your municipal office.



Distribution of wild boar at-large (January 2021)

 Municipalities and counties with confirmed wild boar at-large

National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.

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