

CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

April 29, 2025, 8:30 a.m. to noon CDT



animalhealthcanada.ca/wild-pig-summit



Funding by the Government of Canada under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

Agenda

APRIL 29, 2025

8:30 AM - NOON CDT

	Topic	Host/Presenter
8:30 AM	Welcome and Introductions	Animal Health Canada
8:45 AM	Saskatchewan Wild Boar Aerial Survey	Doug Schindler, President and Senior Scientist, Joro Consultants, Selkirk Manitoba
9:15 AM	Monitoring Wild Boar Using Remote Cameras	Hannah McKenzie, Wild Boar Specialist Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation & Devin Fitzpatrick, PhD candidate, University of Calgary
9:45 AM	Indigenous Engagement and the Canadian Wild Pig Strategy	Gabby Nichols, Programs Manager Invasives Canada
10:15 AM	Wild Pig Monitoring in Ontario Using Drones	Travis McGee, Wildlife Research Technician Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
10:45 AM	Use of eDNA to Identify Presence or Absence of Invasive Wild Pigs	James Hood, Faculty Researcher Russ Edwards School, Agriculture & Environment, Assiniboine College
11:45 AM	Determining Wild Pig Presence in and Near a Control Zone	Doug Larcombe, Field Operations Technician Squeal on Pigs Manitoba

Michelle Follensbee at
mfollensbee@animalhealthcanada.ca.

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CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

Speakers



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Erica Charlton

*Director, Emergency Management Division
Animal Health Canada
echarlton@animalhealthcanada.ca*



SASKATCHEWAN WILD BOAR AERIAL SURVEY

*Doug Schindler, PhD., M.Env., B.Sc, President & Senior Scientist
Joro Consultants Inc., Selkirk, Manitoba
d.schindler@joroconsultants.com*

Dr. Doug Schindler brings over 40 years of experience in wildlife ecology, management, and monitoring in the prairie provinces and arctic. Joro specializes in wildlife monitoring surveys, including aerial helicopter surveys to support developers, government agencies, and First Nations in achieving their management goals and policy objectives. Joro has extensive experience in planning and conducting field surveys for ungulates, carnivores, and furbearers, as well as designing monitoring programs, managing data, performing statistical analyses, and reporting results. Dr. Schindler has also been involved in wild pig management in Manitoba since the issue first arose in 1997, leading early investigations into their distribution, abundance, and control through trapping and hunting. Currently, he is engaged in developing and implementing wildlife monitoring programs in Nunavut for the construction of a major hydro transmission corridor, focusing on aerial helicopter surveys for caribou, muskox, and polar bears.

CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

Speakers



MONITORING WILD BOAR USING REMOTE CAMERAS

*Hannah McKenzie, Wild Boar Specialist
Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation
Hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca*

Hannah graduated from the University of Alberta with an MSc in Mathematical and Statistical Biology and an MSc in Applied Mathematics. Prior to taking on her current role as Wild Boar Specialist, Hannah worked with the Alberta Aquatic Invasive Species program along with her K9 partner Seuss. Hannah employs her quantitative skills to support evidence-informed policy and program decisions. She lives on an acreage near Innisfree with her husband, dogs and chickens.



MONITORING WILD BOAR USING REMOTE CAMERAS

*Devin Fitzpatrick, PhD Candidate, University of Calgary
Devin.fitzpatrick1@ucalgary.ca*

Devin is a PhD candidate at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). For her PhD, she is studying the spatial ecology of invasive wild boar in Alberta to inform population and disease control. Prior to joining UCVM, Devin completed a Master of Research and a Master of Science in Conservation, studying invasive grey squirrels in Scotland and invasive little fire ants in Gabon, respectively. She is passionate about providing important scientific evidence to inform conservation actions.

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INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND THE CANADIAN WILD PIG STRATEGY

Gabby Nichols, Programs Manager, Invasives Canada
programs@canadainvasives.ca

Gabby is committed to working collaboratively to increase awareness and stimulate action to protect ecosystems in Canada. Through her role as Programs Manager at Invasives Canada (previously the Canadian Council on Invasive Species or CCIS), she works with organizations across Canada, including the Invasives Canada's provincial/territorial Chapter Network, to collaboratively develop strategic tools and resources to increase public awareness, industry leadership, and preventative actions to stop the spread of invasive species. Gabby's role includes supporting the implementation of six national behaviour change campaigns, including the "Squeal on Pigs!" campaign. Gabby joined the Invasives Canada in 2020, bringing her experience of invasive species education and management from her previous roles within provincial government, municipal government, and non-profit sectors. Gabby calls Guelph, Ontario home, the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (the Between the Lakes Treaty No.3).



WILD PIG MONITORING IN ONTARIO USING DRONES

Travis McGee, Wildlife Research Technician – Wild Pig Team
Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
travis.mcgee@ontario.ca

Travis McGee obtained a diploma in forestry from Sir Sandford Fleming College. He has worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for 26 years. With experiences ranging from 18 seasons with the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services section as a crew leader, working in the Cochrane District as a Resource Technician, and with the Far North Unit - Mid Canada radar site remediation project. Currently he has worked as a Wildlife Research Technician with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring section in the rabies program for the last 8 years with this last year as the Senior Technician for the Wild Pig team.

CANADIAN WILD PIG SUMMIT II

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USE OF EDNA TO IDENTIFY PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF INVASIVE WILD PIGS

James Hood, Faculty Researcher, Russ Howard School, School of Agriculture & Environment, Assiniboine Community College
hoodj@Assiniboine.net

Mr. James Hood is an instructor in the Russ Edwards School of Agriculture and Environment at Assiniboine College in Brandon, Manitoba. His research interests include water quality monitoring, habitat restoration and environmental DNA (eDNA) surveillance in surface water. He is leading a three-year, Sustainable CAP funded project in partnership with Squeal On Pigs Manitoba and Manitoba Pork on using eDNA to track invasive wild pigs. He also coordinates the Land and Water Management student capstone projects at Assiniboine College.



DETERMINING WILD PIG PRESENCE IN, AND NEAR A CONTROL ZONE

Doug Larcombe, Field Operations Technician
Squeal on Pigs Manitoba
doug@squealonthepigsmb.org

Doug Larcombe educates the public on signs of wild pigs, an invasive species, and how to report their presence. He also works with landowners using drones, cellular trail cameras, bait and traps to remove wild pigs from the landscape. Doug grew up on a mixed farm that included outdoor pigs and continues to be involved in the family farm. He also has farming experience from Denmark and New Zealand. Doug is a volunteer with Winnipeg Search and Rescue filling Training officer and Team Lead roles. Doug's search and rescue work has provided him with experience in Incident Command System (ICS) implementation, GPS use and mapping.

Doug has many years of experience with Risk Management and Leadership as the District Manager of a large Canadian Bank. Wild pig eradication has turned into one of Doug's retirement projects.



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