What and where are they?
Feral wild boars are essentially Eurasian wild pigs that have escaped from game farms and are therefore free ranging. They were introduced in Saskatchewan during the 1990’s as an agriculture diversification initiative. Escapees from these farms have created hybrids with domestic pigs and proliferate rapidly. Sows are capable of producing between four to twelve piglets each litter, up to two litters a year.

They are highly adaptable and can live in many different terrain and climates. Wild boar typically eat plants, worms, adult and larval insects. They are not selective, and if given the opportunity, they will eat eggs and other mammals. They are most active at night time. Once pigs reach about 40 pounds, few natural predators pose a serious threat.

Why should I be concerned?
Property owners, recreationists, farmers and ranchers should be aware of the extensive damage feral wild boar can cause to their property and livestock. They can be quite destructive: Rooting and wallowing activities can cause serious erosion to riverbanks, damage crops and farm fields. They have been known to tear through livestock and game fences and consume animal feed, minerals/supplements, harass and kill young livestock. Their sharp tusks can pose a serious threat to pets, livestock and human safety if they attack.

Wild pigs are susceptible to several serious swine diseases: swine brucellosis, pseudo rabies, classical swine fever, and African swine fever. Brucellosis can be transmitted to other animals such as domestic pigs and cattle. Humans can contract it from direct contact with infected tissues.

While feral wild boar are not currently a major problem in Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, this can quickly change with food availability and the fast reproductive rate of the species.

What should I do if I see feral wild boar?
Report any sightings to your local RM office. The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) administers The Feral Wild Boar Control Program, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. SARM has a group of qualified hunters and trappers who will work with RMs and landowners to investigate and take appropriate action.

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) provides 100% compensation for damage over $150 to crop and/or feed caused by feral wild boar through The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. There are no premiums and producers do not need to be Crop Insurance.
contract holders. Call the SCIC for more information, toll-free: 1-888-935-0000.

**Precautions**

*Hunters*
- Always wear disposable gloves when field-dressing, cleaning, and butchering wild boar carcasses. Avoid direct contact with blood and reproductive organs.
- Wash hands with soap and hot water soon after dressing meat.
- Burn or bury gloves and remains.
- Cook wild boar meat thoroughly.

*Livestock producers*
- Do not introduce wild swine into herds or attempt to market pigs caught in the wild.
- Have blood tests performed prior to transporting swine.
- Blood-test all new stock before adding them to the existing herd.
- Fence out feral and wild pigs from areas with domestic swine.
- Do not butcher wild pigs on the farm or feed offal from field-dressed wild pigs to domestic swine.

**Sources**

