

CAHSS PODCAST PEARLS

"WHERE THE WILD PIGS ARE"

WITH COREY KRAMER



ANIMAL HEALTH
INSIGHTS

Mr. Corey Kramer, currently a Biology PhD student at San Diego State University, **investigated the habitat use and movements of invasive wild pigs in Canada. Wild pigs are hardy, omnivorous, smart, and prolific "Habitat Generalists" with no natural predators, making them highly adaptable to a broad range of climates, habitats, food sources, and degree of human activity.**

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Why are wild pigs a problem?

- **Contaminate water sources** with bacteria that puts public safety and health at risk
- **Damage natural habitats**
- **Transmit disease** to livestock, wildlife, and humans
- **Reproduce alarmingly fast**, with females giving birth to 5 to 6 piglets up to twice a year
- **Uproot and trample** crops and other native plants

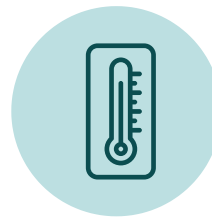


Where are the wild pigs?

The ideal habitat triad for wild pigs include:



Adequate cover



Ability to thermoregulate



Areas with high quality food sources

Forests and wetlands tend to be chosen during the day to avoid humans and to keep cool during summer months, while cropland tends to be favored during the night.



Why should we care?

Understanding wild pig habitats will let us **better manage their populations, reduce crop damage, protect ecosystems, and prevent interactions with domestic livestock.** For example, planting ground crops, like soybeans (instead of corn) close to livestock operations reduces the cover available to wild pigs, reducing the potential for wild pig-livestock contact.

