

**RESOLUTION 5-24**  
**WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT**

- WHEREAS:** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:**

that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:**

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Stettler No. 6

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**BACKGROUND:**

Wild boar at large have been an issue in Alberta since they began to escape from livestock operations in the 1980s. Since then, they have continually reproduced, uncontained. Wild boar are not native to Alberta; they came to the province in the 1980s and '90s as livestock. At that time, there were no requirements for secure containment. Over the years, wild boar have escaped and subsequently established feral (wild) populations.

In 2008, Wild Boar at large were designated as pests under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act. The Alberta Government created '*Minimum Containment Standards*' for Alberta Wild Boar Farms in 2013(attached). These standards have only ever been used as guidance, as there are no penalties under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to enforce with wild boar.

In 2023, the number of trapped or caught wild boar in Alberta has begun to decline, due to the fact that wild boar are getting smarter at evading capture. They are becoming wise to the traps, weary of hunters.

Alberta Pork is assessing the Economic Impact Assessment of the wild boar sector. Their determinations will help inform the Province on the cost to destroy wild boar and compensate producers.

Wild boar at large are an invasive pest that can:

- damage property, agricultural crops, pastures and the environment, including through rooting (digging)
- endanger people and animals
- harass livestock and consume their feed, and prey on young livestock and wildlife
- spread diseases that could be transmitted to wildlife, livestock, pets and people (they are a known vector for African Swine Fever)
- alter the ecosystem, including through wallowing that can contaminate water supplies, promote erosion and destroy fish habitat
- compete with wildlife and destroy other sensitive natural habitats
- consume the eggs of ground-nesting birds

### Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms

#### CONTAINMENT STANDARDS

##### Fence construction:

There will be two acceptable minimum containment standards. Wild boar producers have a choice of either building a fence that is partially buried into the ground (Standard 1) or using a double fence system (Standard 2). Both of these fencing systems require an electric fencing component.

Standard 1 Buried fence with an electric wire.		Standard 2 Double fencing system with an electric wire.	
Fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres	Outer fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence depth below surface	Minimum depth of 45 cm	Inner fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.	Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.
Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.	Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.
		Distance between fences	A minimum of 1.2 metres and a maximum of 5.0 metres

Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.	Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.
Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.	Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.

\* Fence height must be such that a minimum of 1.5 metres are above the ground surface or above any other surface including snow drifts.

\*\*If two electric wires are used then it is suggested that the wires be placed at 20 cm and 40 cm above the surface and that separate fence chargers be used for each wire.

**Maintenance:**

It is expected that at all producers will maintain their fences in good condition at all times. This will include, but not limited to, maintaining proper tension on the fencing material, ensure that vegetation is trimmed below the electric wires, and replacing the fence posts as required.

**EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONTAINMENT STANDARDS**

**Existing fences:**

The following exception to Containment Standards is available for those producers with existing fencing systems:

- The bottom of the existing fence must be anchored to the surface with stakes spaced no more than 1.5 metres apart and the stakes must be a minimum of one metre into the ground sloped at a 45° angle to the outside of the enclosure. This will be considered as equivalent containment to buried or double fencing.
- All other fencing requirements regarding height, fencing material, electric wire and fencer output must be met.

**Repair or replacement of fences:**

Repairs, replacement, or modifications to existing fences may require an upgrade to the existing Containment Standards. Producers will be encouraged to consult with inspectors.

All existing wild boar fencing systems will be required to conform to the Containment Standards no later than December 31, 2018. This will give producers five years in which to upgrade their existing fences to meet the existing containment standards. It is estimated that buried fences could have a life span of four to seven years depending on the type of soil and moisture conditions. A double fence could last longer with fencing material lasting up to 15 years.

