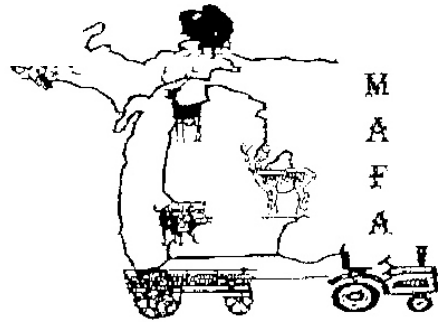


Michigan Animal Farmers Association

Michigananimalfarms@earthlink.net



February 8, 2012

Rodney Stokes, Director
MDNR
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Stokes:

Last week a number of us attended the MDNR "Shooting Swine Facility Owners Meeting" on February 1, 2012 in Grayling, MI. We believed this meeting was to be our first opportunity to have MDNR explain the exact implementation protocols, procedures and most importantly, how MDNR plans to determine which swine are illegal to own under Invasive Species Order Amendment No. 1 of 2011 (ISO).

The meeting lasted for approximately 15 minutes, and then the MDNR staff adjourned the meeting refusing to have a discussion or answer any questions with the group as a whole about any of the issues. This procedure guaranteed that there would be no uniform understanding of the MDNR position and that our confusion over the ISO would continue. It was a great disappointment to everyone who attended that we were not afforded the opportunity to discuss this entire mess with MDNR staff.

We are now inside of 60 days from your stated time for implementation of the ISO, and there continues to be massive amounts of inconsistent, conflicting, and wrong information coming from your department. Referring us to Dr. Jack Mayer, Savannah River Company in South Carolina for answers to our questions is not acceptable. This is MDNR's job to explain, justify and execute the ISO that you signed.

We do believe one thing is very clear, and that is your ISO is being implemented based on how swine are raised by their owners. If swine are being raised and harvested a certain way, the department is claiming that they are an Invasive Species, an impossibility given the ISO language combined with how the Michigan Legislature has defined what a domestic animal is.

Your department is either purposefully or mistakenly implementing the ISO upon all domestic swine involving hundreds of small farms and heritage swine breeding operations. If swine are not raised within confinement facilities, they will be eligible for MDNR's arbitrary judgment of any one of the phenotype standards listed in the Declaratory Ruling.

This is not a legal, political or legislative question. Our position is supported by science and biology. If animals are raised outside of animal confinement facilities and depending on the swine's age, breed and the number of acres they are contained within, all swine will take on one or more of the expressions as listed in the MDNR Declaratory Ruling. Undoubtedly, this is why the Legislature has chosen to define domestic animals as those living under the husbandry of humans.

The swine we, along with many others raise, are “domestic animals” and “swine” as defined by Michigan laws. MDNR’s stated position that they are not domestic animals based on color, shape, under-fur, size, personality, straight or curly tails or straight and flopped ears is completely irrelevant.

Swine are all the same species and no matter how beautiful or ugly they may be to the trained eyes of MDNR staff, they are all under our management, husbandry and utilized for human consumption.

The ISO, along with your Declaratory Ruling, are scientifically and biologically flawed in that you are attempting to invent a new species of swine that are under human management and proclaim them to be an Invasive Species. Your department and staff has and is continuing to misinform and misrepresent this issue to the public, elected officials, administration and producers in your attempt to implement the ISO upon those who own domestic animals.

We again ask you to amend the MDNR ISO limiting the scope of invasive species to feral swine only which are clearly defined by the Michigan Legislature.

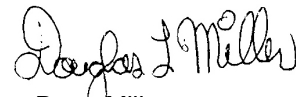
Sincerely,



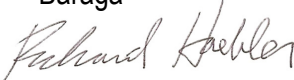
Roger Turunen,
Hogan Land & Livestock
Baraga



Jeff DeBacker,
Superior Game Ranch
Cornell



Doug Miller
Thunder Hills Ranch
Concord



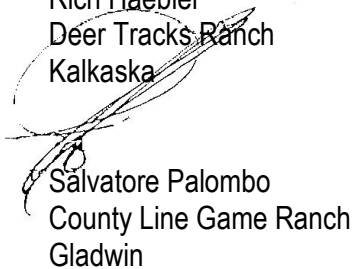
Rich Haebler
Deer Tracks Ranch
Kalkaska



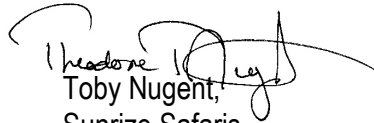
Greg “Mooseman” Johnson
Bear Mountain LLC
Negaunee



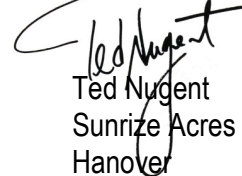
Ron McKendrick
Renegade Ranch
Cheboygan



Salvatore Palombo
County Line Game Ranch
Gladwin



Toby Nugent,
Sunrize Safaris
Hanover



Ted Nugent
Sunrize Acres
Hanover

CC: Governor Rick Snyder
Senator Casperson
Senator Booher
Senator Moolenaar
Representative Daley
Representative McBroom
Representative Lindberg
Representative Huuki
Representative Tyler
Ag Commissioner Hansen
Ag Commissioner Coe
Ag Commissioner Kennedy

NR Commissioner Madigan
NR Commissioner J.R. Richardson
NR Commissioner Steinman
NR Commissioner Schlaybaugh
Shannon Hannah, MDNR Special Projects Coordinator
Daniel Eichinger, MDNR Policy and Reg. Unit Supv.
Dr. Ron Bates, MSU Swine Specialist
Tom Guthrie, MSUE Pork Educator, Jackson County
Dr. Janice C. Swanson, Acting Chair, MSU Animal Science,
Director, MSU Animal Welfare Department