

Every producer and every pasture is different. The strategies outlined in this brochure will not guarantee protection, but may help minimize the number of predator-livestock conflicts.

Because some non-lethal tools can be very effective in certain situations, some people believe that a single method can be the solution for all livestock-wildlife conflicts. This is not the case. **There are no magic answers - no one non-lethal method will always work in every situation.** Managing predation requires an integrated approach where good husbandry is combined with additional control methods.

Livestock losses may occur despite the use of multiple management tools and techniques to safeguard livestock. Predators that kill once are more likely to return. But, without these added protection measures, livestock losses could be as much as 2-3 times higher. The best option is to quickly change management practices if needed to prevent or reduce future problems.

This publication can serve as a source of ideas that can be incorporated into new or existing livestock operations to help reduce livestock losses to predators. However, not all of the suggested management practices in this booklet will be applicable to every situation, operation or location.

*To report wolves that are
killing livestock call the **DNR
RAP hotline 800-292-7800.***

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)**

Baraga 906-353-6651 Cadillac 231-775-9727
Newberry 906-293-5131 Gaylord 989-732-3541
Marquette 906-228-6561
Crystal Falls 906-875-6622
www.michigan.gov/dnr

MICHIGAN DNR WOLF COORDINATOR
906-228-6561

USDA APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES
Toll-free number: 866-4USDAWS
www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/statereports/michigan.html

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
906-228-4830 (Regional Office)
906-439-5880 (MSU - UP Extension)
www.msue.msu.edu

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Toll-free number: 888-684-1158 (Escanaba)
Toll-free number: 800-292-3939 (Lansing)
www.michigan.gov/mda

LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG ASSOCIATION
www.lgd.org

INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER
www.wolf.org

MICHIGAN LANDFILLS
Check with your local landfill operation to determine if they accept dead livestock.



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HOW TO MINIMIZE LIVESTOCK LOSSES TO PREDATORS

A Guide for Livestock Producers



Inside this pamphlet, you will
find various management
practices that may help reduce
livestock losses to predators.

Prevention

LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY

Quickly remove dead livestock - Dead and decaying livestock attracts predators. Carcass disposal is especially important during the winter because carcasses remain edible for a longer period and food for predators is in short supply. Disposal alternatives include: pre-dug burial pits, composting, commercial landfill.



Protect young animals - Delay turnout of young or pregnant livestock until they are more capable of eluding predators. Pasture larger, hardier livestock in rougher, distant pastures; pasture young, vulnerable livestock in areas with sparse vegetation cover, close to buildings and humans.

Monitor your livestock - Frequently check livestock; human presence may discourage predators from stalking or hunting livestock. Livestock are more vulnerable to depredation at dawn, dusk, and during the night. For small operations, corralling may help decrease livestock-predator conflicts.



Avoid problem areas - If possible, avoid using pastures with a history of depredation and pastures next to dense cover or rough terrain. If possible, thin or clear a buffer around remote pastures.

Keep records - Accurate, up-to-date records provide documentation to help identify when and where predation problems may occur.



Avoid feeding wildlife - Baiting and feeding to attract wildlife, such as deer, may also attract predators to your property.

DIAGNOSE THE SITUATION

- ② **Did my livestock die of natural causes or was my animal killed by a predator? Can I identify the predator?**

➔ Please see the brochure, *Did a predator kill or injure my livestock?*, for information (www.fw.msu.edu/wolf).

- ② **Are there additional husbandry practices I can use to help prevent future problems?**

➔ Contact MSU Extension for tips on building a dead animal composter, and general farm management procedures.

- ② **Who do I call if I suspect a wolf or coyote killed my livestock?**

➔ Contact the DNR (800-292-7800). The DNR or USDA Wildlife Services will help identify the problem animal and may recommend ways to reduce predator-livestock conflicts.



ARE SCARE TACTICS SUITABLE FOR MY SITUATION?

Predators can be frightened by strange odors, sights or sounds. Frightened predators may leave the area without disturbing livestock. Scare devices have the best success when they are triggered by the problem behavior, rather than applied continuously. Varying the position, appearance, duration or frequency of the scare devices, or using the devices in various combinations, may increase effectiveness. Predators get “used to” and are unafraid or ignore devices after repeated use. Examples of scare tactics include: night lighting corrals, propane exploders, and movement activated guard (MAG) devices. Contact the DNR for more information on predator scare tactics.

ADDITIONAL NON-LETHAL TOOLS



FENCING - A fence is not an absolute predator barrier. Some livestock predators will not be stopped by barriers. When determining fencing design you should consider: density and behavior of predators in the area, availability of prey, size

of pasture, type of terrain, season of the year, quality of construction, and maintenance. The DNR or USDA Wildlife Services can provide information on how to build wildlife exclusion fences and fence regulations.

LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS - Guard dogs may help prevent isolated attacks. Wolves and coyotes tend to either avoid guard dog territories or be distracted into other behaviors (greeting, ritualized contests to determine status, play, etc.). In some cases, guard dogs are killed by predators while protecting livestock. For more information visit the livestock guardian dog web site (www.lgd.org).



from wolves or coyotes. Prey availability outside the flagging boundary and the predator's level of motivation may influence whether flagging is an effective barrier.

FLAGGING - Hanging long rows of closely spaced flags on a fence; flagging is used to confuse wolves and coyotes. Flagging may be useful for temporarily protecting a small pasture