

Citizen Resolution # 270123



Wisconsin DNR Support of Farmers with Non-lethal Predator Prevention Programs (Legislation Required)

Currently, the WDNR doesn't have access to state funding to provide non-lethal predator prevention education and assistance to Wisconsin farmers. However, one of the main objectives of the new WDNR Wolf Management plan is to mitigate conflicts and leverage non-lethal predator prevention.

Non-lethal interventions are more likely to reduce conflict, whereas translocations and lethal interventions are mostly ineffective and/or harmful to carnivore populations, without fostering successful long-term coexistence. (Lorand, 2022)

Per USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, non-lethal options such as livestock guardian animals and hazing measures with audio/visual deterrents such as scare radios are rated the most effective among livestock producers to help reduce conflicts. (APHIS, 2022) Additionally, farming practices with proper animal husbandry and carcass disposal bins will help reduce predator interest.

Non-lethal programs are also constantly advancing. Scientists have gathered much evidence showing that random blasts of colorful light, noise or motion can protect livestock. Even motion-triggered LED light-up ear tags on cows and sheep are proving effective deterrents for native predators. (Koshmrl, 2022)

For a program like this to succeed, financial assistance will need to be flexible. Ideally a grant program would be available. Minnesota has a program in place with grant money to purchase guard animals, pens, fladry, fencing, lights, alarms, calving or lambing shelters on an 80:20 matching cost share. The WDNR's Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program (UWDAC) could be used as a template.

To get the abatement where it's really needed, the WDNR should be empowered with a budget to identify locations where the funding is best spent to prevent conflicts. This should include funding for purchases of non-lethal abatement supplies/materials to use and re-use at properties as needed as well as educational materials.

Do you support helping Wisconsin's farmers mitigate livestock conflicts with non-lethal predator preventative solutions using education and state funded financial assistance?

Additional Information provided by author:

Optional Supporting Data:

Lorand, C., Robert, A., Gastineau, A., Mihoub, J. B., & Bessa-Gomes, C. (2022). Effectiveness of interventions for managing human-large carnivore conflicts worldwide: Scare them off, don't remove them. *Science of the Total Environment*, 838, 156195.

APHIS: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/pos-ws-nonlethal-methods.pdf

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