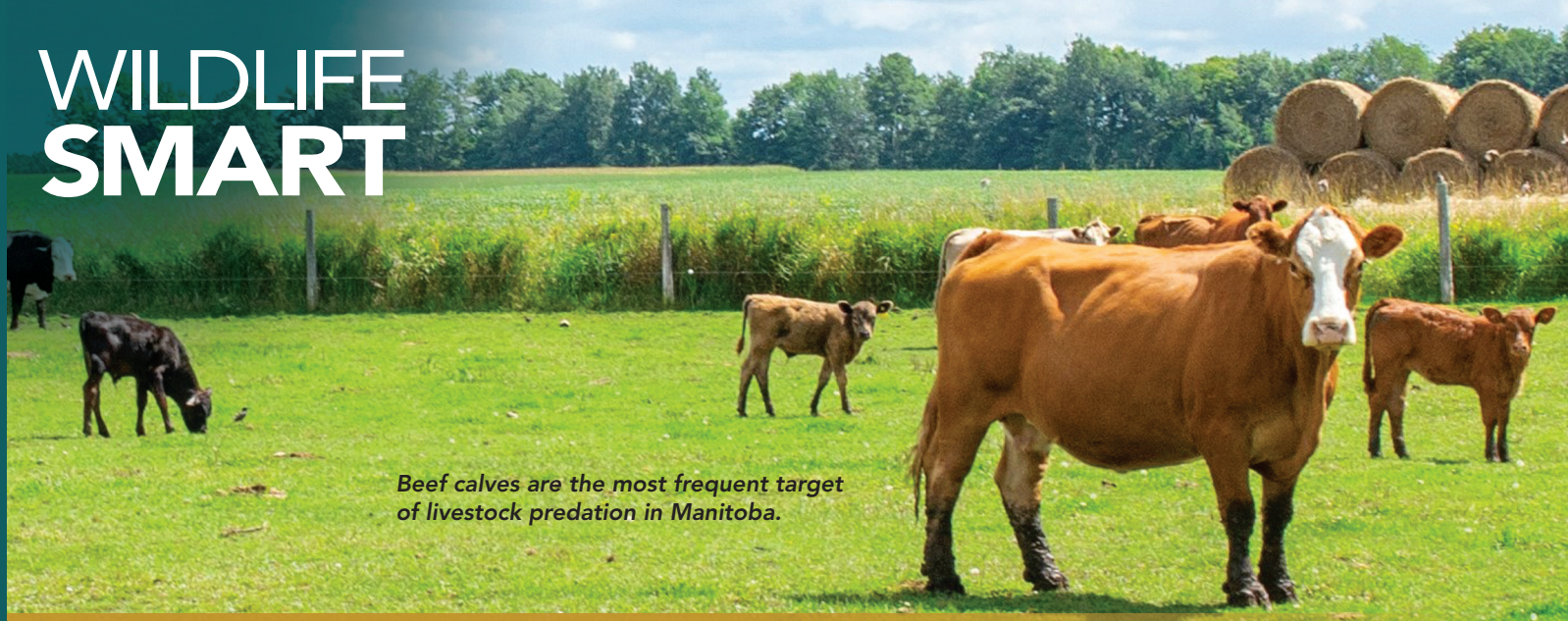
WILDLIFE
SMART



Beef calves are the most frequent target of livestock predation in Manitoba.

COEXISTENCE OF LIVESTOCK AND WILD PREDATORS

Manitoba is home to sustainable populations of black bears, wolves, coyotes and other wild predators, as well as a thriving livestock production sector. Because Manitoba's landscape is shared by these two groups, occasional damages to livestock by wild predators occur. This fact sheet offers some advice to help livestock producers reduce the risk of livestock damage by wild predators, and information about related provincial programs and services.

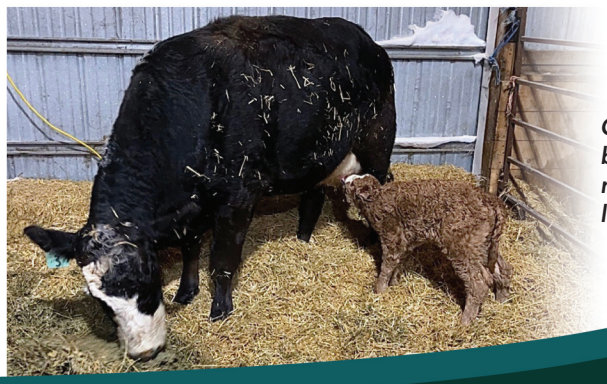
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIVESTOCK PREDATION

- It is not possible to prevent all wild predator attacks on livestock, however, there are management practices that can help to reduce your risk.
- Breeding has resulted in a reduced ability for livestock to protect themselves. For example, cattle are more docile than their ancestors, most no longer have horns, and they frequently disperse across their pasture rather than bunching up together.
- Deadstock can be a significant attractant for predators. Under the Environment Act, deadstock must be disposed of through burial, burning, composting or delivery to a rendering plant in accordance with the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation. It is illegal to allow wild predators to access your deadstock.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF LIVESTOCK PREDATION

Animal Husbandry

- Good herd or flock management can reduce the potential for attacks from common predators.
- Work with a veterinarian to optimize the health of your livestock.
- Maintain a frequent human presence; target daily wellness checks at varying times of day. Daily monitoring allows you to spot problems immediately and deal with them before they become critical.
- Maintain calving and lambing facilities in buildings (preferred), or in pens surrounded by predator exclusion fencing and near buildings where there is human activity.



Calving in a secure building can greatly reduce the risk of livestock predation.

Manitoba

- Ensure calving and lambing occurs in a compressed season early in the calendar year so that livestock are all larger in stature when moved out to pasture in early summer. Six months is the optimal age to move cattle to pasture.
- Use pens surrounded by predator exclusion fencing to house livestock at night and locate them away from protective cover like shrubs, trees, or tall grasses.
- Ensure sick or injured livestock are kept in a secure building or predator-exclusion pen until well.
- Avoid pasturing in problem areas (ex: heavy brush, near watercourses, on hilly terrain or near active wolf dens or rendezvous areas) where livestock will be more vulnerable.
- When on pasture, utilize tools and techniques that encourage livestock to bunch up, particularly at night. A herd at a relatively high stocking density reduces the rate of encountering predators and maximizes the probability that the entire herd will detect a predator while reducing an individual's need for vigilance. It can help promote mothers remaining paired with young, and active anti-predator behaviours such as standing ground and defending young.
- Provide watering locations that are close to a human dwelling and don't have a steep draw, deep muddy soil, or heavy brush growth.

Permanent Predator Exclusion Fencing

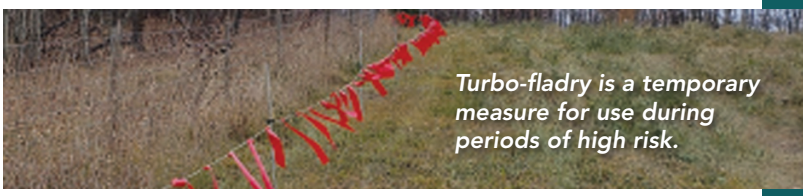
- Predator exclusion fencing should be utilized on birthing pens, deadstock compost pens and for protecting sick or injured livestock. It can also be used to protect larger pens and pastures.
- Predator exclusion fencing is recommended to be a minimum height of 137-183 cm (54-72") and as a combination of electric fencing and woven wire.

  Options for predator exclusion fencing include:

  1. Woven wire fencing that includes a wire mesh apron extending at least 40 cm (16") (recommended 61 cm/ 24") from the base, and a minimum of one electrified strand at the top.
  2. 9-strand or 11-strand electric fencing. Alternate hot and grounded wires, with both the top and bottom wire being charged. A 40-61 cm (16-24") wire mesh apron can also be installed at the base.
- Any electrification of predator exclusion fences should deliver 6,000 volts or more over the full distance of the fence and requires an energizer with a rating of at least 0.7 joules.

Electric fencing can exclude predators from accessing livestock.

- Wires should be 11-14 gauge with a minimum tensile strength of 200,000 psi and a minimum break strength of 1,500 pounds.
- Barbed wire should not be used in an electric fence.
- Additional specifications for predator exclusion fencing are available from a provincial biologist by emailing wildlife@gov.mb.ca.


Turbo-fladry is a temporary measure for use during periods of high risk.

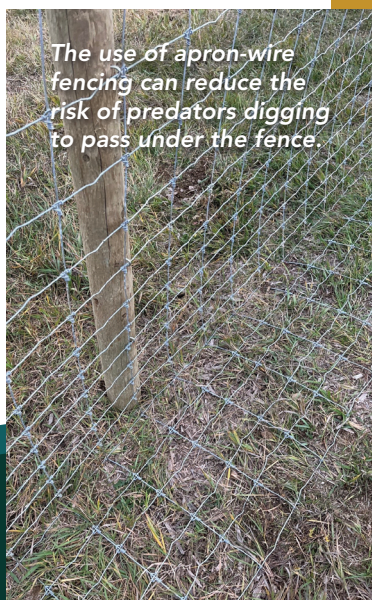
Temporary Predator Exclusion Fencing

Fladry

- Fladry consists of a line of cordage from which coloured flags are suspended at regularly spaced intervals. Fladry is a temporary measure that uses the natural fear of wild canines (wolves and coyotes) for novel elements in their environment, in order to keep them out of an area. Turbofladry, the use of fladry mounted on an electrified line, increases the effectiveness and extends the length of time which the fladry is effective.
- Fladry can be used as a coyote and/or wolf deterrent for periods of time up to 45 days (fladry) or 90 days (turbo-fladry).
- Recommended fladry and turbo-fladry specifications are available from a provincial biologist by emailing wildlife@gov.mb.ca.

Portable Electric Fencing

- Portable electric mesh fencing can provide temporary predator exclusion. Ensure that the height is a minimum of 1.37 m (54"), though 1.83 m (72") is preferable.
- Ensure the fence delivers 6,000 volts and uses an energizer with a rating of at least 0.7 joules.


The use of apron-wire fencing can reduce the risk of predators digging to pass under the fence.

Guardian Animals

- Guardian animals, such as dogs and donkeys, can reduce the risk of livestock predation.
- Dogs are particularly recommended, using a minimum of two for their protection. Purchase from a reputable breeder, choosing a breed recognized for its skill in protecting livestock.
- Numbers of guardian dogs required will vary based on the specifics of an operation. However, a reasonable ratio might be three dogs per 100 sheep and seven dogs per 100 cattle.
- Consider outfitting your guardian dogs with a GPS collar (for containment) and a spike collar (for their protection).
- Dogs must be properly bonded to the livestock herd/flock to be effective.
- Donkeys are less protective than dogs. They are inherently aggressive toward dogs and coyotes, but they don't have any protective instincts toward livestock. If you choose to use donkeys, use of a jenny is recommended.

Removing Attractants

- Predators may be attracted to a livestock operation for many reasons, including the presence of deadstock, after-birth, food compost, pet food and ripened fruit. Junk piles can provide protective cover for prey animals that predators like to consume. Remove these attractants as soon as possible to reduce the reasons for predators to investigate and linger in the area.

Scaring Devices and Repellents

- Many of these methods of deterring predators are short-term solutions because predators quickly adapt to their use. However, they are useful as a stop-gap measure until more permanent methods can be adopted. Options include motion-activated alarms and lights, radios and chemical repellents.
- The use of flashing predator control lights may help to boost the effectiveness of exclusion fencing and guardian animals by giving the illusion of human presence.

LETHAL REMOVAL OF WILD PREDATORS

Protection of Property

- Under the Wildlife Act, if a producer is experiencing wildlife damage to their property (i.e., livestock), they are able to remove (shoot or trap) that wild animal (other than a moose, caribou, cougar, deer, antelope, elk or game bird) in order to protect their property.
- A permit or licence is not required for this activity.
- Any removal of a wild animal must be reported to a conservation officer within 10 days.
- This provision is applicable on private land or leased agricultural Crown land.
- The Department recommends using the services of a licensed trapper where applicable.

Hunting and Trapping

- In Manitoba, unless you are a rights-based harvester, you must have a valid licence to hunt or trap wild animals, including predators. All hunting and trapping regulations apply.
- Manitoba's hunting and trapping guides are available at manitoba.ca/wildlife.

Do Not Use Poison

- The Wildlife Act prohibits the possession of poison or a poison device for the purpose of hunting, trapping, taking or killing a wild animal, or using it in a manner that is likely to result in the killing or taking of a wild animal. Poison cannot be used for predator removal.

IF YOUR LIVESTOCK IS DAMAGED BY WILD PREDATORS

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for Livestock Predation

- Upon discovery of livestock suspected to be injured or killed by a wild predator, a producer needs to preserve the evidence and prevent it from being eaten or dragged away.
- It is helpful to take photos to document the situation. Be sure to include photos that show any sign of a struggle, blood spatter, predator tracks (with a ruler for scale) and droppings, as well as the injuries to the stock animal, both from a distance and up close.
- Within 72 hours of discovering an attack, contact your local Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) office to register a claim. An adjustor will assess the loss or injury. Claim assessments are based on the evidence of the attack on the carcass, the attack site, and indicators of the presence of a predator.
- Additional program details are available at masc.mb.ca.

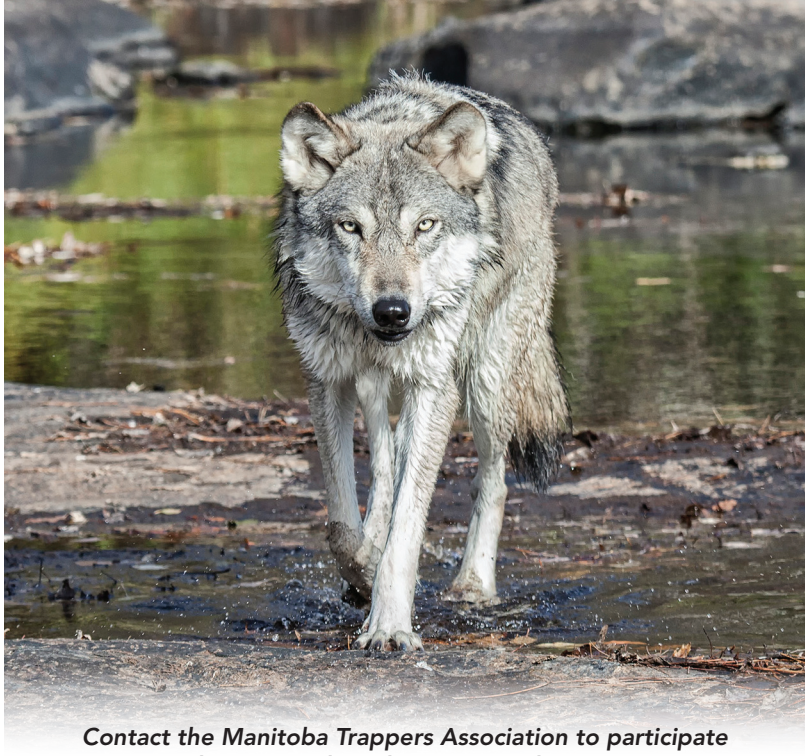
Targeted Predator Removal Program

Province-wide Services

- If a producer is eligible for compensation under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program for losses due to wolves, coyotes or foxes, they can contact the Manitoba Trapper's Association (MTA) to request a predator trapper be deployed to remove the associated predators. There is no cost to the producer for this service.
- The producer must provide the applicable MASC compensation claim number, their contact information, and details about the incident.

On-Demand Services in Areas of High Risk for Wolf Damage

- Manitoba has identified areas of higher risk for wolf damage to livestock.
- In these higher risk areas, eligible livestock producers can request an on-farm risk assessment which will be undertaken by a provincial biologist and livestock specialist.



Contact the Manitoba Trappers Association to participate in the Targeted Predator Removal Program.

- Based on the risk assessment, recommendations will be provided to the livestock producer for risk mitigation practices to reduce the risk of livestock predation on their operation.
- Once the producer has implemented the identified risk reduction measures, they will qualify for on-demand access to Targeted Predator Removal Program services. This means they will not be required to have a MASC compensation claim number in order to request a predator trapper be deployed.

Conservation Officer Service

- For incidents of predator activity that do not qualify for the MASC Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, or for livestock predation incidents that don't involve a wolf, coyote or fox, a producer should contact a local conservation officer to report the incident.
- Conservation officers document these reports, and the information will be available to wildlife managers.
- Conservation officers can trap and remove black bears that are causing property damage.
- Conservation officers can provide advice, information and in some cases a permit or other tools that may be able to assist.

To participate in the Targeted Predator Removal Program, contact the Manitoba Trappers Association (1-204-739-2624).

For more information on coexisting with wildlife visit manitoba.ca/human-wildlife.

For more information on Manitoba's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program visit masc.mb.ca.