



POLICY NO. 11.07

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

TITLE: COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Westlock County will provide a program to its residents to control coyote predation on private and public land.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry administers and coordinates programs to control coyote predation in the agricultural area of the province in cooperation with Agricultural Service Boards. Coyote control is conducted under the authority of the *Agricultural Pests Act*. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry prepares and supplies devices for coyote predation control operations and enforces appropriate sections of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and its regulations.

PURPOSE:

Westlock County's Agricultural Service Board cooperates with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to provide a Coyote Predation Management Program for livestock producers in the County.

DEFINITIONS:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is a department of the Government of Alberta. It was formerly named Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development,

Form 7 permit is as described in the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*. Form 7 permit holders referred to in this policy are employees of Westlock County. Form 7 permit holders have been trained by the Province and are authorized to

- train landowners for the purpose of issuing landowners Form 8 permits,
- issue Form 8 permits to landowners so landowners can control coyotes on their own land, and
- issue the restricted devices and poisonous materials for controlling coyotes listed in section 2 of this policy to landowners who hold Form 8 permits.

The Province means the Government of Alberta.

Westlock County means the municipal corporation, Westlock County.

1. AUTHORIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1.1. The Manager of Agricultural Services / Agricultural Fieldman

- (a) is a pest inspector of Westlock County under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Agriculture Service Board Act*,
- (b) shall be properly trained and certified by the Province,
- (c) shall operate in accordance with the *Agricultural Pests Act*, and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Coyote Predation Management Program Operations Policy and Procedures (Schedule A), and this policy,
- (d) shall supervise the Coyote Predation Management Program in Westlock County's jurisdiction,
- (e) shall ensure that
 - (i) all of Westlock County's Pest Inspectors operating under this program hold a valid Form 7 permit,
 - (ii) copies of all form 8 permits they, or their certified staff, issue are forwarded on to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and
 - (iii) submitting any written reports on the program to the Province that the Province requires.

1.2. All other Pest Inspectors appointed by Westlock County

- (a) shall report to the Manager of Agricultural Services / Agricultural Fieldman,
- (b) shall be properly trained and certified by the Province,
- (c) shall ensure they hold a valid Form 7 permit while carrying out their duties under this program,

- (d) forward to the Agricultural Fieldman copies of all Form 8 permits they issue.

2. COYOTE CONTROL MATERIALS AND DEVICES:

The devices and materials Westlock County is authorized to provide to landowners for controlling coyote predation under this program are

- (a) compound 1080 tablets, and
- (b) self-locking neck snares.

3. DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES:

On private property, the Form 8 permit holder (landowner or occupant) is responsible for the proper disposal of carcasses.


4. OTHER MEANS OF COYOTE CONTROL:

Westlock County recommends that landowners also take proactive measures to control coyote predation in order to minimize their reliance on toxicants such as 1080 tablets. Examples of proactive measures include, but are not limited to:

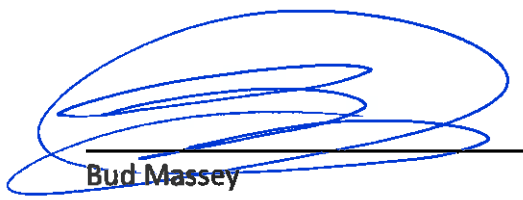
- (a) close supervision of stock,
- (b) proper carrion disposal,
- (c) use of guardian animals,
- (d) predator-proof barrier or electric fences,
- (e) scare devices,
- (f) shooting,
- (g) other lawful methods of protecting livestock from coyote predation, and
- (h) a long-term plan to control coyote predation that includes any or all of the measures listed in (a) to (g) above.

MOTION: #58/16

DATE: February 9, 2016



Peter Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer



Bud Massey
Reeve

Schedule A

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CPMP)

OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

(Alberta, 2010)

Introduction

The purpose of the Coyote Predation Management Program (CPMP) is to inform and assist landholders in managing coyote predation of their livestock. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) administers the CPMP throughout the agricultural regions of the province.

ARD and participating rural municipalities (Agricultural Service Boards) administers the CPMP through a joint co-operative arrangement; ARD supervises the program provincially and municipalities deliver the program within their jurisdiction in accordance with this document and municipal policy.

Included in the written municipal policy on coyote predation management will be the list of coyote control materials and devices approved by council (or Agricultural Service Boards [ASB]) for use within their jurisdiction for the purposes of the program.

Municipal personnel are trained and authorized by ARD as inspectors under the Alberta *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA) to carry out the CPMP.

Authorized municipal inspectors respond to landholder complaints of coyote predation and provide advice and, where needed, direct assistance to landholders in managing coyote predation on their property.

General Background

Conflict between coyotes and farmers began with the arrival of European settlers and livestock domestication in the Canadian west. Despite early attempts of elimination, the coyote has expanded its range and increased its numbers significantly throughout the province.

The coyote is an important and valuable wildlife species and an ally of agriculture, eating many species of rodents and insects harmful to agriculture. The coyote is also a valuable furbearer bringing thousands of dollars annually to the fur industry.

Unfortunately, the coyote occasionally causes problems by preying on domestic poultry and livestock. Today, predation by coyotes is recognized by the livestock industry and the Department as a potential, but manageable risk to livestock production. Recognizing the risk of predation, livestock producers should follow acceptable and appropriate management practices, and procedures aimed at reducing or preventing coyote damage.

ARD advocates the use of pro-active measures to prevent or reduce coyote predation. This includes close supervision of stock, proper carrion disposal, use of guardian animals, predator-proof barrier of electric fences, scare devices, shooting and other lawful means of protecting livestock from coyote predation. ARD also supports selective removal of coyotes with appropriate use of specific predator pesticides (called predacides) and neck snares.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada has approved the use of several restricted pesticides in Alberta for the protection of livestock where coyote predation has been confirmed by an authorized municipal inspector on: cattle, sheep, goat, hogs, poultry, bison, farmed elk, deer and other recognized livestock (i.e. llamas).

Agricultural Pests Act (Alberta)

Management of coyote predation on livestock is regulated, in part, by the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations* (406/86). The regulation declares the coyote to be 'nuisance' which allows authorized municipal inspectors to set out or issue coyote control devices and materials to landholders at the discretion of municipal policy and in accordance with provincial and federal legislation. Authority is also granted under the regulations to permit landholders to use coyote control materials issued to them by an authorized inspector to control coyotes.

In addition, the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations of the APA allows landholders and others authorized by him, to destroy coyotes on land which the landholder owns or controls by:

- Shooting coyotes

- Destroying coyote dens

- Use of authorized poisons under the requirement of the APA and *Pest Control Products Act Canada* (PCP Act) (mentioned above)

- Use of ARD approved neck snares is in compliance with the APA.

ARD does not use or supply leg hold traps for coyote predation management. Landholders who wish to trap coyotes or authorizes someone else to trap coyotes on their property should inquire at the local Fish & Wildlife office for further information.

Inspectors

Upon appointment by municipal council to carry out the CPMP, the appointee will be required to complete a training course from ARD on the program. Included in the initial training will be an overview of coyote predation prevention and avoidance, non-lethal and lethal control strategies, procedures of storage, transportation and use of coyote control devices, hands-on instruction and the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the program. Training may be in the form of a home study manual or via the internet. At the conclusion of the training and having successfully completed a written and practical exam on the use of toxicants, the appointee will receive his/her provincial "Form 7 Permit" authorization from ARD. The "Form 7 Permit" is valid for five years.

All authorized municipal inspectors ("Form 7 Permit" holders) are required to participate at the next provincial problem wildlife training seminar and attend at least one every five years thereafter. The exam is provided quarterly at Lethbridge, Olds, Edmonton and Fairview.

One or more municipalities may share an authorized inspector(s) who must be appointed and identified in the ASB or council meeting minutes as the designated person to conduct the CPMP in that municipality.

A municipal inspector certified by ARD is authorized under "Form 7 Permit" to use, within his municipal jurisdiction, the coyote control material specified on his/her "Form 7 Permit" Permit. The inspector may issue these materials to a landholder within his/her municipality after the inspector has trained the landholder in coyote predation management and the specific use of the control device(s).

Landholders must be in possession of a valid Form 8 Permit, issued by the "Form 7 Permit" Permit holder to receive and set out ARD approved poisons and snares or authorize the municipal inspector to set out these devices on property he/she owns or has under his/her control identified on the permit.

Under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Pest and Nuisance Regulations*, the municipal inspector is authorized to issue Form 9 Permits to landholders to use dogs for coyote control. The Form 9 Permit may be issued to the landholder where confirmed coyote predation has occurred within 30 days of application. A landholder who is in possession of a valid Form 9 may authorize a person who is a resident of Alberta to use dogs on property that he/she owns or controls identified on the Form 9 Permit. The Form 9 Permit is valid for a period of 30 days.

Inspectors are to promptly submit an annual written report, which is due January 30th of the following year to ARD on the use of all toxicants and control devices (see Appendix I, "Annual Control Device Use Report Form").

Pest Control Products Act (Canada)

All predacides used for coyote control in Canada are registered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada and classed as "restricted products".

Restricted products may only be used by provincially authorized personnel for specific uses and, as such, are closely monitored and supervised for accountability and compliance with appropriate legislation. Each coyote control product has a 'product use' label provided by ARD for the coyote predation management program including:

- Compound 1080 tablets
- Livestock Protection Collars
- M-44 Devices
- Gas cartridges

ARD poisons and devices are registered for the control of coyotes causing confirmed predation of designated livestock. They are not to be used to control coyote predation of unconfined poultry, pets or hobby animals or for any other reason not directly associated with livestock predation. Municipal inspectors must store and transport these materials and devices in a locked, properly labelled plastic or metal container (i.e. lockable tool box). Landholders should not be issued, at one time, more than:

3 M-44 cyanide ejectors

6 M-44 cyanide cartridges

6 Tablets of compound 1080

Livestock protection collars will be determined by an inspector.

Only ARD approved and identified devices and materials will be issued or set out. M-44 stakes are sequentially stamp numbered as belonging to ARD. Compound 1080 tablets and the livestock protection collar contain a tracer dye that identifies them as belonging to ARD. Neck snares can be used and are commercially available, but must be properly identified by a unique number as identified on the Form 8.

Requests for repeat issuances of devices must be closely examined to ensure restricted product use is justified, including steps taken by the landholder to manage the coyote problem.

Only ARD personnel will load livestock protection collars. All restricted products and devices listed above are the property of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

Predation Reporting and Response Action

1. All complaints of livestock harassment or predation by coyotes should be reported immediately to the local municipality office where the problem occurred. Predation by other wildlife such as eagles, bears, wolves, etc., is to be directed to Fish & Wildlife. Complaints of livestock damage or predation by domestic or feral dogs should be directed to the local RCMP detachment office. Feral pigs (wild boar) should be reported to your local Agricultural Service Board.
2. All complaints of coyote predation must be investigated by an authorized municipal inspector for verification and for recommended course of action. This will involve a physical examination of the predation site by the inspector to assess the situation and to talk to the landholder. The landholder should take steps to preserve the carcass and any other evidence as best as possible (i.e. covering with a tarp, etc) until the investigator arrives.
3. Coyotes can kill healthy, sick and injured livestock and commonly scavenge dead animals. Occasionally, observations of coyote(s) at a carcass that may have died of other causes may be incorrectly identified as predation. That is why it is important that all coyote predation complaints be completely and thoroughly investigated by the municipal inspector.

4. In the event of confirmed coyote predation, the landholder should take immediate remedial action to protect his livestock from further damage. For information on appropriate action to prevent and control predation, refer to ARD publication “Coyote Predation of Livestock” (Agdex 684-19). Landholders are expected to provide adequate protection for their livestock.
5. The role of the inspector is to gather and consider all evidence on the property to confirm coyote predation and what course of action is required. The attack site should be closely inspected for evidence such as carcass remains, blood, hair, tracks, and signs of struggle to assist in the confirmation of coyote predation. Eye witness accounts, visible injury to livestock and other indirect evidence are often present at the attack scene and should be gathered for confirmation of predator damage. Municipal inspectors are trained in identifying coyote predation on livestock.
6. A useful publication on identifying types of predation is entitled:
“Methods of Investigating Predation of Livestock”, Agdex 684-14. Cost: \$8.00.
ARD publications are available by calling 1-800-292-5697 or ordering online from RopinTheWeb: www.agric.gov.ab.ca.
7. Only after all physical and other evidence is considered can the municipal inspector confirm coyote predation has occurred or not and what course of action is required including the use of toxicants or snares.
8. Toxicant use may be warranted where coyote predation is confirmed and toxicants deemed integral to an overall plan that includes other strategies of livestock protection. Using toxicants alone without a long-term plan will only result in increased reliance and use of toxicants without an appreciable reduction in predation losses.
9. Where the municipal inspector decides to set out or issue restricted products, all parts of the PCP Act label for the poison used must be reviewed with the landholder (and a copy given to the landholder). The inspector must emphasize to the landholder the potential hazards associated with poison use including the accidental poisoning of non-targets such as livestock or pets; dogs should be tied or confined during poison use. Toxicants should not be used where a landholder is unwilling to take measures to prevent poisoning of non-target animals.
10. The landholder is responsible for informing close neighbours when restricted devices are used and must set out department provided warning posters when poison or snares are set.
11. Where snares are set out the municipal inspector must provide a copy of the neck snare information sheet to the Form 8 Permit holder on the use and management of the device. All snares must be marked with a unique identifying number which is recorded on the Form 8.

12. Unused tablets, cyanide capsules or other devices must be returned to the issuing municipal authority by the expiry date of the Form 8 Permit. The municipal inspector is to collect pertinent information from the landholder for the municipal report to ARD.

For assistance in resolving difficult or complex coyote predation cases, the municipal inspector should contact ARD inspection staff. ARD staff will provide resolution consultation as it relates to interpretation of policy, provincial legislation or federal labels and predation management methodology.