

**COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
POLICY #62.2.1**

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1. The purpose of the Coyote Predation Management Program (CPMP) is to provide information and assistance to landowners on managing coyote predation of their livestock. Council of the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 supports the Coyote Predation Management Program by providing local administration and program services through Agricultural Services in accordance with the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (PCNR, AR184/2001) of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA).

Alberta Agriculture advocates that livestock producers use pro-active measures to prevent and manage coyote predation. Close supervision of stock, proper carrion disposal, predator-proof fences, use of guard animals, scaring devices, shooting and other legal means of removing coyotes are accepted methods which can limit coyote predation.

When long-term coyote predation management methods have failed to prevent or stop livestock losses, other short-term control measures to alleviate the immediate predation problems may be approved:

- 1.1.1. Use of Approved Neck Snares
- 1.1.2. Use of Authorized Poisons
- 1.1.3. Hunting Coyotes with Dogs

1.2. These methods must not be used as the first and only way to manage coyote predation and must be approved only in accordance with *Agricultural Pests Act (Alberta)*. Before use of these methods may be approved, coyote predation must be confirmed by an authorized municipal inspector. This requires an initial visit to the site, a physical examination of the evidence and a discussion with the landowner.

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## 2. PROCEDURES

2.1. All coyote predation complaints will be directed and handled by the Agricultural Fieldman. The Agricultural Fieldman must be certified by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) as an authorized municipal inspector to use, within his municipal jurisdiction, the coyote control materials specified. Use of Approved Neck Snares.

### 2.2. Use of Approved Neck Snares

AAFRD does not use or supply leg hold traps for coyote predation control. A landowner who wants to trap coyotes or authorize someone else to trap coyotes on his property may inquire at a local Sustainable Resource Development Office for authorization under a Damage Permit or the appropriate fur management license. However, the use of AAFRD neck snares may be approved.

2.2.1. Only neck snares supplied by AAFRD may be used. These must be stored and transported in a locked and properly labelled box. When not in use they must be kept in a locked storage facility.

2.2.2. Once a coyote predation has been confirmed, the use of AAFRD neck snares may be approved. If approved, the municipal inspector must provide a neck snare information sheet to the Form 8 recipient.

2.2.3. The municipal inspector will instruct the landholder on the proper and safe method of setting snares. The municipal inspector will initially be involved in setting the snares in the presence of the landholder as part of the Form 8 permit training so the landholder better understands the setting procedures and requirements.

2.2.4. Warning signs must be posted when snares are set.

2.2.5. No more than six (6) AAFRD neck snares are to be issued at one time.

2.2.6. Form 8 permits are to be issued for a specific period of time to allow for the effective control of coyote predation to a maximum of thirty (30) days.

2.2.7. All neck snares must be returned to the County Office by the expiry date of the Form 8 permit.

### 2.3. Use of Poison

The County is aware of the hazards and controversy associated with the use of poisons. However, it also recognizes the value and effectiveness of poisons that should be used selectively in support of other predation management approaches for temporarily relieve of livestock predation while more permanent methods livestock protection are incorporated.

2.3.1. Only poisons that are supplied by the AAFRD may be used. These are:

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- 2.3.1.1. Compound 1080 tables (5 mg)
- 2.3.1.2. Compound 1080 collars (600 mg)
- 2.3.1.3. Sodium cyanide capsules (840 mg)
- 2.3.1.4. Fumigant cartridges (240 mg)

These materials must be stored and transported in a locked and properly labelled box. When not in use they must be kept in a locked storage facility.

- 2.3.2. Once a coyote predation has been confirmed, the use of poison may be approved. If approved, the municipal inspector must review all parts of the *Pest Control Products (PCP) Act* label with the producer. This includes a review of restricted uses, use limitations, precautions, disposal, proper storage, first aid instructions and toxicological information. The inspector must emphasize to the landholder the potential hazards of the poison to all other animals including people and pets.
- 2.3.3. The municipal inspector will provide the landholder with a copy of the *PCP Act* and advise the landholder to notify other family members in his household of the poison and the associated hazards.
- 2.3.4. The municipal inspector must provide the landholder with a Form 8 permit before the landholder receives poison for coyote control. The inspector must have a completed Form 8 authority from the livestock producer before setting poison on the producer's land. Only the person named on the permit (Form 8) to use poison shall handle the poison provided.
- 2.3.5. The municipal inspector will instruct the landholder on the proper and safe method of handling poisons, including the preparation, setting and disposal of poisoned baits. The municipal inspector will initially be involved in setting out poison in the presence of the landholder as part of the Form 8 permit training so the landholder better understands the setting procedures and requirements.
- 2.3.6. Warning signs must be posted when poison has been set.
- 2.3.7. The livestock producer is responsible for informing close neighbors when poisons are used.
- 2.3.8. The municipal inspector will always provide and instruct the landholder to use the minimum amount of poison to resolve a coyote predation problem. The amount of poison issued to a landholder should elate to the inspector's assessment of how many coyotes are involved. Livestock producers must not be issued more than:
  - 2.3.8.1. 3 M-44 cyanide ejectors;
  - 2.3.8.2. 6 M-44 cyanide cartridges; or
  - 2.3.8.3. 6 tables of compound 1080  
at any one time.
- 2.3.9. Unused tablets and cyanide capsules are to be returned to the County Office by the expiry date of the Form 8 permit. The municipal inspector is to collect information from

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landholders who were issued poison and provide a written report to AAFRD on a quarterly basis.

### 2.4. Hunting Coyotes with Dogs

Authorizing the use of trained dogs to control coyotes may only be issued by an Agricultural Fieldman or inspector appointed under Section 9 of the Agricultural Pests Act.

2.4.1. Once a coyote predation has been confirmed within 30 days of the application, the use of trained dogs to hunt coyotes may be approved.

2.4.2. A permit may be issued to the livestock producer if he has his own dogs. If the producer does not own dogs the producer may designate on his permit a resident of Alberta to do the control work for him.

2.4.3. Permits are valid for thirty (30) days and must be signed by the livestock producer.

2.4.4. The blue copy of the permit is to be returned to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the pink copy of permit shall be retained for County records.

2.5. It is at the municipal inspector's discretion as to what method(s) of coyote predation management is required. This will be based on the circumstantial evidence, prior predation on the farm, and the credibility of and information provided by the livestock producer.

2.6. Request for AAFRD to become directly involved with Coyote Predation Management must come directly from an authorized municipal inspector. AAFRD will only become directly involved in the following situations:

2.6.1. Predation control attempts by both the complainant and municipal inspector have not been successful and predation is ongoing;

2.6.2. Complexities in the case are beyond the skills of either the complainant or municipal inspector; or

2.6.3. Overlapping authorities or other complication of jurisdiction or legislation complicate or hinder control efforts. In this case, the Head of the Inspection Services Section or his designate will be consulted by the municipality before taking any further action.

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