

## WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM

**Authorization:** ss. 29.885 and 29.889, Wis. Stats.

**Budget:** Funding is dependent upon the number of hunting licenses issued each year.  
2005-06 Fiscal Year = \$4.52 million (est., includes funding for CWD mgt.)  
2006-07 Fiscal Year = \$5.17 million (est., includes funding for CWD mgt.)  
2007-08 Fiscal Year = \$4.57 million (est.)

NOTE: A \$2 surcharge on all hunting licenses sold and a \$4 surcharge on all Conservation Patron licenses sold generates roughly \$2.0 million a year for use on wildlife damage and abatement. In addition, revenue generated from the sale of resident (\$12 each) and nonresident (\$20 each) bonus antlerless deer permits generated approximately \$446,000 in FY 08, \$926,000 in FY 07 and \$2,095,000 in FY06. New in 2002, purchasers of hunting licenses can donate an additional \$1, or more, to the deer donation program.

**Objective:** Establish a county-administered wildlife damage abatement and claims program to assist landowners with excessive levels of agricultural crop damage from deer, bears, geese, elk or turkeys.

**Eligibility and Applications:** Counties are eligible to participate after passing a resolution endorsing participation and completing a DNR-approved plan of administration. A person is required; to file a statement of claim with the department on a form acceptable to the department within 14 days after the wildlife damage first occurs, to have hunting access control, and to implement recommended abatement measures.

**Level of Assistance:** 100% of county administration costs and 75% of abatement projects are reimbursable. Damage claims (\$250 deductible) up to \$15,000 may also be paid if funding is sufficient.

**Priorities:** Monies are allocated based on a statewide tiered priority system:

- Deer Donation Program
- County administrative costs
- Abatement cost
- Damage claim payment

**Eligible Types of Projects:** The type of wildlife damage that is eligible for wildlife damage claim payments shall be limited to damage to commercial seedlings or crops growing on agricultural land, damage to crops that have been harvested for sale or

further use but have not been removed from the agricultural land, damage to orchard trees or nursery stock or damage to apiaries or livestock.<sup>2</sup>

**History:** In 2007, 70 counties participated in the program which 500 wildlife damage claims were filed reflecting \$1,913,651 in appraised losses, with \$1,540,359 eligible for payment, and assisted with abatement projects totaling \$418,452. The county administration costs were \$1,255,540. In 2007, 52 counties participated in the deer donation program with a total cost of approximately \$600,000. A total of 9,200 deer were donated, generating roughly 414,000 lbs. of ground venison that was distributed to local food pantries.

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