

Citizen Resolution # 120422

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Funding for WI Farmers for Non-Lethal Predator Prevention Programs

Wisconsin does not provide a non-lethal depredation prevention program. There is an obligation to be met to provide mentoring and funding to Wisconsin farmers to offset costs for safeguarding livestock and poultry from Wisconsin's native predators. Farmers need funding to prevent livestock depredation. Most predators can be discouraged by non-lethal means such as funding for carcass disposal bins, proper animal husbandry and hazing measures per USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Killing predators especially wolves and coyotes are often counterproductive as the pack will fragment, increasing the chances predators may target easier to catch prey such as livestock. Non-lethal methods were more effective than lethal methods in preventing carnivore depredation generally per study (1). Farm Service Agency (2) has existed since the 1930's to assist farmers with funding for a host of programs which should include a non-lethal predator prevention program separate from Wildlife Services. The proposed Recovering America's Wildlife Act (3) should include funds for non-lethal predator prevention measures as farmers serve as caretakers of our private lands. Serving as an example to WI; Minnesota has a non-lethal depredation prevention 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 WCC, WI DNR and legislature need to act to secure funding for long-term solutions for Wisconsin's farmers. Do you support funding for farmers for non-lethal preventative measures to mitigate livestock and poultry depredation?

Additional Information provided by author:

Sources: 1. http://faculty.nelson.wisc.edu/treves/pubs/Treves_Krofel_McManus.pdf 2. <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/farm-service-agency> 3. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2773/all-info>

**Forest Jahnke
43199 Guthrie Rd
Rolling Ground, WI 54631
608-632-2183
forestjahnke@gmail.com
Crawford County**

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Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.