

CRD Regional Deer Management Strategy

Citizen Advisory Group Meeting

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BC Ministry of Agriculture

Insurance/Compensation Programs

- Production Insurance (PI)
 - helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by specified perils not predictable in nature
 - PI covers tree fruits from uncontrollable deer & elk (only when the producer has constructed a fence built according to specified standards)
 - PI covers silage corn and grain from uncontrollable wildlife and waterfowl

Insurance/Compensation Programs

- Agriculture Wildlife Program (AWP)
 - Compensates losses on standing forage/cereals as livestock feed by bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain sheep, bear, cranes and waterfowl
 - pays a maximum of 80% of the verified losses of the crop
 - minimum 10% visual plant loss required for compensation & minimum damage claim is \$1000
 - 2011 AWP paid \$552,000 to VI farmers; \$18,000 for a combination of deer and waterfowl damage to 3 CRD farmers

Farm Practices for Wildlife Damage Control

- fences - woven wire & electric;
- netting
- scare tactics – audible/visual
- repellents - natural & chemical repellants
- trapping (live & lethal) where allowed (Wildlife Act)
- firearms (Wildlife Act/local gov't bylaw)
- poisoning (rodents)
- habitat modification
- cultural management

Ag Wildlife Mgt Options

- Advertise the AWP to CRD farmers for forage/cereal crop damage compensation
- Seek to expand PI insurable crops to include waterfowl/wildlife damage
- Encourage FLNRO and MoE to develop hunting regulations that assist in reducing wildlife damage
- Encourage the use of fences for high value crops
- Establish an on-going Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee under the Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program

Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program (PAZWP) [TOR]

- Establish Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee to address:
 - wildlife damage prevention, mitigation and compensation on private agricultural land, including policy/legislation, program development, funding and implementation
 - private land environmental stewardship programs/initiatives or Crown stewardship that impacts private lands
 - access programs that will allow landowners to grant access to individuals while ensuring that safety, workload and liability issues are addressed.

Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee (RAWC)

Scope and Tasks - RAWC empowered to comment, make recommendations and advise:

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) to develop hunting regulations and implement policy (*Wildlife Act*) to address agriculture/wildlife conflicts and/or environmental stewardship;

Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) to implement the Agriculture Wildlife Program for crop losses;

BC based organizations (e.g.: BC Agriculture Council, BC Wildlife Federation, etc) to develop and implement programs/projects that address wildlife damage, environmental stewardship or private land access;

BC regional/local governments, agencies and organizations involved in activities that regulate wildlife populations, habitat or stewardship on private land

Successful Examples of Ag Wildlife Management

- Environmental Farm Plan Beneficial Management Practices Program - Wildlife Damage Protection (2005-2009)
 - 318 projects in BC, 24 in CRD
 - Highest demand provincially from tree fruit growers (35%) and grape growers (28%)
 - Deer was species of interest with 94% of respondents
 - 88% of respondents indicated average wildlife crop damage \$5454 annually prior to BMP adoption
 - For the most part, fencing resulted in complete protection.

Questions?

- Links:

- EFP/BMP Program – www.ardcorp.ca
- Ag Wildlife Program: www.agf.gov.bc.ca/awp

- LOCAL CONTACTS:

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