



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 102, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

August 4, 2006

Mr. Ed Schweighofer
10 Twin Brook Farm Lane
Tyler Hill, PA 18469-4037

Dear Mr. Schweighofer:

We have received a report of damage to your livestock caused by coyotes.

The Bureau of Dog Law reimburses for such losses for total indemnities up to \$20,000.00 per calendar year. The indemnity is set by legislative statute 3PS459-707(i).

We regret the \$20,000.00 cap has been reached for the 2006 calendar year; therefore your claim cannot be paid by the Dog Law Restricted Account.

Giannelli, John

From: SprignTwig [sprigntwig@ezaccess.net]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 10:42 AM
To: Giannelli, John
Subject: Fw: lambs killed by coyotes in Wayne County

----- Original Message -----

From: sprigntwig@ezaccess.net
To: estaback@pahouse.net ; sprigntwig@ezaccess.net ; agdave@ptd.net ; strawn6@comcast.net ; jegrove@PFB.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 11:12 PM
Subject: lambs killed by coyotes in Wayne County

Honorable Rep. Staback,

As promised I am forwarding to you some shots of lambs killed by coyotes on our farm in Wayne County. I will gladly send you more if they would be of some help to you as you consider possible legislative remedies. Just let me know.

Hopefully you can offer some suggestions of how we can best deal with the problem of coyotes causing predation in Wayne County. Across the Nation predators account for 42 percent of all sheep death loses. On our farm it is the single largest cause of sheep mortality. I am sure the National Agricultural Statistic Service will have current figures for total predator kills on sheep. Not having checked the figures recently I can not give you updated numers in this email. But I can assure you that greater than 50% of these kills will be directly attributed to coyotes

Sincerely Marian Schweighofer, 570 224 4352 Wayne County

Get Kodak prints of this picture, and all your other favorites, at www.kodakgallery.com!

Giannelli, John

From: SprignTwig [sprigntwig@ezaccess.net]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 10:39 AM
To: Giannelli, John
Subject: Coyote damage unfunded program
Attachments: Dog law letter.jpg

Dear John and Lisa,

As per our telephone conversation yesterday re topics for the listening session I am forwarding to you some of my correspondence from last fall with Stabak. This might help bring you up to speed with the coyote issues we face here on the farm

Marian Schweighofer 570 224 4352

Honorable Rep. Stabak,

As promised I am forwarding to you a copy of the letter from the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement stating that they are unable to pay out claims.

Let me know if you can not see the attached letter and I will try again.

For your information let me tell you how this program works from a constituents view point.

First we find an animal that has been attacked. If she or he is not dead they do not pay. If we put her down then she did not die of coyote attack so there fore she is not eligible for payment either. If the animals udder has been torn off, as one of ours was last year her productive life of raising lambs is over for farm purposes. We were not allowed to put her out of her misery. If we had she would have been ineligible for payment. We had to care for her as best we could. The program does not allow for vet services to be reimbursed, at least that was never offered to us. After 10 days of caring for her the wounds filled full of maggots which were eating her while she was alive. I asked my husband to put her down. Last year we had 5 sheep that survived coyote attacks but all eventually died. One Sunday after noon at 2-2:30pm my husband was coming down off the hill on the tractor when he saw the coyotes come across the field and grab the sheep. He had enough time to come to the house for his gun and shoot toward them. (he shot but it wasto far) but they ran off. Both 50-60 pound animals were still alive but with fatal wounds. one with a hole in the chest cavity and throat. The other with severethroat injuries. Eventually they both died too.

Those animals you find that are dead, can not get moved until they are photographed. In the summer the buzzards will clean them up fast but if you cant show the coyote evidence then you are ineligible for the program. In otherwords buzzards would make short work of a 25-40 pound lamb carcass and you would not get reimbursed. Before you can file the claim you must call the dogwarden. The nearest dogwarden to us is in Tunkhannock Pa about 1 1/2 hours drive away. Even if he comes the very next day it is hard to protect the carcass as evidence. The Dog Warden photographs the animal collects evidence to determine what predator did the attack and fills out several reports which the owner does not get a copy off. (I have started taking photo copies of his reports for my records but not everyone has a copier handy) The dogwarden submits the reports to the Director of Enforcement. They usually sit on his desk for 2-3 months. Eventually Rick Burds office sends us another 2 forms to fill out,one is a "report of claim" the other form is an insurance verification form. He sends these 2 small forms in an oversized envelope, a 9x12" type envelope that requires extra postage. We then have to mail these signed forms back. Then eventually we will get a check less 10% of the animals value.

One of the problems I see are a waste of resources. I am not sure how to correct them but it is absurd to send the dog warden with an official vehicle on a 3 hour round trip to see a dead chicken or even a 50 dollar lamb. There are apparently so few dog wardens that Ray Smith is our nearest one. Ray does a fine job when he comes out. He is always though and courteous but I feel like he probably has better things to do with his time. There are so many more Game wardens around and often I have called on them for help with these coyote related problems. Then the mailings seem redundant. They ask me to verify my SS#. But the SS# was collected by the initial intake claim paperwork. I am sure it is for some legal

3/23/2007

rigmarole but it would seem that all those forms could be signed when Ray Smith comes out to inspect the kill. Eventually a check is mailed. It used to take 3-4 months although recently they were becoming more timely about 2 months. That is until they ran out of money. Our lambs killed in May were ineligible for indemnities because the funds for the calendar year had reached its cap. So we stopped turning in claims. This fall I thought that 5 months later they would surely have the funding problem straightened out so I submitted our most recent claim of the bred ewe but I hear that the funding is still not resolved so I decided to write to you.

I really dont understand why Coyotes which have become a severe problem are in the Dog Law. These are not dogs that ran away from someones home. These are a very cunning and adaptive wild species. Foxes are not in the dog law. You need a fur takers license to trap them so why are they not under the jurisdiction of the Game Commission? A dog does not have the same pattern of kill as a coyote. Coyotes are efficient dogs are messy. Dogs have many animals wounded, wool all over the place, lots of nonsense wounds on the animal they targeted. Coyotes are clean killers. with jugular throat holds. TThey frequently hunt in packs. The only time they are not as efficient is if they are training pups to hunt lambs. Even then the throat hold wounds are apparent. In 1999 I drafted policy that recommended the coyotes be placed in the game code and I still feel that way.

I will mail you copies of the documents we fill out for coyote damage.

Please let me know if I can provide you with additional infromation.
Sincerely Marian Schweighofer 570 224-4352 Wayne County PA

Giannelli, John

From: SprignTwig [sprigntwig@ezaccess.net]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2007 10:44 AM
To: Giannelli, John
Subject: Fw: Coyote Kills

----- Original Message -----

From: sprigntwig@ezaccess.net
To: sprigntwig@ezaccess.net ; estaback@pahouse.net ; agdave@ptd.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 10:42 PM
Subject: Coyote Kills

Honorable Staback,

Ever spring I have the priveledge of meeting with you in Harrisburg when I come down with a delegation of farmers from Wayne and Pike Counties to discuss issues of concern to us and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. We always have a lively discussion and it is wonderful to be so well recieved by you and your staff. (Thanks for sitting with us at meal time too). .

Today I am writing to you about a problem that is personally affecting our farm. Coyote Kills. We are a commercial sheep farm. We have about 400 production ewes to produce lambs for the butcher market on our farm.(At lambing we have double or triple that number) We realize that as long as sheep have been on farms there have been problems with preditors. The coyote kills that have been gradually escalating need a better solution. In 2004 we had 70 sheep killed by Coyote. In 2005 we lost 125 to coyotes. We built a concrete walled barn yard where the sheep are confined at night to minimize looses. I placed a bounty on the coyotes on our farm and by feb 2006 there had been 16 coyotes killed here. The largest was 45 pounds. This was not the largest ever killed on our farm just the largest of the 16 killes this year. A few years ago we killed one that was just about 60 pounds. The killing of the 16 certainly slowed down the killing of our animals but it did not stop.

Early on this year I got a letter stating that the funds had been depleted to help with the reimbursemet of coyote killed animals.

My question to you is how can the fund be totally depleted this early in the season? Have coyote damages increased so drastically? Obviously the coyote damage fund is severely underfunded? Should you and co workers consider funding it more in up coming years. Should the cap per individual claim be lowered if the funds became depleted by a single or a few large claims. I understand that \$20,000 is all that is placed in the fund and that one claimant can claim a maximum of \$10,000 per incident. Our lambs are all turned in at market price of \$80.00 each. Pictured is a bred ewethat was killed this past sunday. She was pregnant with twins. We turned her value in at 150 dollars. I know there is no money so we won't be paid for this one either.