

Predation and How It Affects Ewe as the Consumer



- On average, 3,335 sheep and baby lambs are killed or injured every year by coyotes, wolves and bears (average based over four year period). These losses have been compensated at \$508,891/year. Sometimes the lambs are never found since the predators carry them out of the pastures; in this case, producers do not get compensated for them.
- Currently only 41% of the domestic demand for lamb is met by Canadian Lamb Producers, the industry cannot expand further without the help of predation tools to control predators.
- Producers are only compensated for 45% of the value of lambs less than 1 week of age, 50% for lambs 1-2 weeks of age and at 12 weeks of age, are compensated up to \$200. Replacement ewes and rams are generally worth more than \$200, the farmer loses money in this situation.
- It costs \$650 - \$900 per year to keep a Livestock Guardian Dog with the flock. Most producers need several in order to help protect against predation. Livestock Guardian Dog's are not always effective since coyotes can lure the dogs away while the rest of the coyote pack kill lambs.
- The majority of farmers use the philosophy 'live and let live'. They employ several non-lethal methods to help control the predator problem such as electric fences, livestock guardian animals, lights, etc. If these control measures do not work, other steps and tools need to be utilized to ensure the safety of our sheep and baby lambs.
- Some producers have to pay a fee when the livestock valuer comes to assess the sheep and lambs killed or injured by coyotes. This fee causes the farmer to lose more money.
- Coyotes can carry Rabies and C. Ovis along with Sarcoptic Mange that can be picked up by your pets. Coyotes can also prey on pet cats and dogs.
- Coyotes kill sheep by latching on to the throat and crushing the windpipe, in small lambs, coyotes will crush their tiny skulls.

PLEASE HELP FARMERS KEEP OUR ANIMALS SAFE!

WRITE TO:

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