



# Ontario's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

**Completing a Program Application Form**

A Resource for Investigators

January 2017

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) provides compensation to eligible producers whose livestock and/or poultry have been injured or killed as a result of wildlife predation or whose bee colonies, beehives and/or beehive-related equipment has been damaged as a result of wildlife predation.

OMAFRA maintains its commitment to supporting industry growth and market competitiveness by limiting financial hardship to Ontario producers who have experienced loss or damages due to wildlife predation.



## APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

1.	The owner must contact the municipality/program administrator within <b>48 hours</b> of discovering the carcass or injured animal.  ⇒ Owner is required to preserve the site and is encouraged to take colour photos.
2.	The municipality/program administrator must <b>immediately</b> notify a municipal/territorial investigator.
3.	The investigator must conduct a thorough investigation and take colour photos within three (3) business days of having been notified.  ⇒ The investigator must complete the program application based on the findings of their investigation. The investigator and owner must certify the documented information is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and sign the application.
4.	The investigator must submit the completed application and all additional evidence to the municipality within seven (7) business days of the on-site investigation.  ⇒ If the owner has any additional evidence, it should also be submitted to the municipality within the same seven (7) business days.

## HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

### Step 1 - Owner Identification & Basic Eligibility Requirements

Have the owner complete Step One (1).

### Step 2 - Investigator Information

Fill in your contact information.

### Step 3 - Description of Damages Incurred

- Indicate the type of damages being reported
- Fill in the injury/kill date (date of the attack).
- Include any paid veterinary receipts for relevant livestock/poultry injuries (if applicable).

### Description of Injuries and/or Wounds Sustained

- Include a complete description of **all** the injuries and/or wounds sustained for each injured/killed head of livestock or poultry (includes evidence of bite marks, wounds, lacerations, bleeding, bruising, position of carcass, etc.)
- Describe the location where the incident(s) occurred and any evidence of a predatory struggle (includes blood splatters and trails, drag marks, torn-up earth or vegetation, etc.)
- Attach additional sheet(s) if needed.

## Photographic Evidence

- Provide 3-6 digital colour photos per individual livestock or poultry.
  - Include photo of ear tag(s) or tattoo(s), include photos of all injuries and/or wounds sustained (e.g., bite marks, wounds, lacerations, bleeding, bruising, etc.)
  - Photos of the location where the incident occurred are also required, including any evidence of a predatory struggle (e.g., blood splatters and trails, drag marks, torn-up earth or vegetation, etc.)
- If there are applicable photos taken by the owner that support the evidence you have collected, they will serve as additional evidence.



## Step 4 - Description of Predator

- Identify the wildlife species. Consider the following:
  - Is it known to reside in the area?
  - Is it capable of inflicting the observed injuries/damages?
- Outline relevant site evidence to support wildlife identification (e.g., tracks, killing wounds, damages incurred)

Common Attack Zone on Adult Livestock			
Indications: hemorrhaging/ bruising/lacerations/tears/bite marks/crushed bones			
	Wolf	Bear	Coyote
Tail	X		X
Hindquarter/Groin	X		X
Flank	X		X
Behind and under front leg	X		X
Withers		X	
Spine		X	
Neck		X	X
Throat			X
Skull		X	

### Step 5 - Description of Injured or Killed Species

The information reported in the table will be used to calculate the value of the predated animal. The table **must** include:

- number of head
- sex of animal(s) (one per row)
- species and animal type (e.g. lamb, steer, etc.)
- estimated live weight in pounds (one per row)
- age of animal(s)
- whether any available premiums apply (if required documentation can be provided)

Available Premium	Required Documentation
Pregnant cattle/sheep/goats	Breeding records required.
Registered cattle/sheep/goats	Registration documents linking to the ID tag or tattoo must be provided for the animal. Alternatively, parental registration papers and documentation demon-
Poultry breeding stock	Sales receipts and proof of pedigree.
Other breeding stock	Sales receipts and breeding records.

Assess if there is sufficient evidence to determine that the livestock or poultry death/injury was caused by an eligible wildlife species. Look for:

- Evidence that the livestock/poultry bled from the attack (blood on the body and around the area where it was attacked).
- Signs of tissue damage (bruising or hemorrhaging) under the lacerations and puncture wounds on the hide.
- Kill wounds.
- Predator tracks, hair or droppings near a carcass (could indicate predation or scavenging).
- Signs of a struggle, drag marks on the ground, broken vegetation and/or blood around the site.

### Evidence of Predation

- Indicate which of the listed statements is true based on the kill/injury site evidence. Ensure all indicated statements are substantiated by photographic evidence.

### Step 6 - Reasonable Care

The following information will be used to assess whether reasonable efforts have been taken to prevent the injury or death of livestock or poultry:

- herd/flock size
- health condition of herd/flock
- breeding season
- dead livestock disposal practices
- livestock inspection frequency
- fencing type and condition
- presence of guard animal(s)

Assess whether reasonable care was provided by the owner. Consider the following:

- Farm management practices are in place to prevent the spread of disease.
- Efforts are made to protect vulnerable animals (e.g. lambs or calves.)
- Owner has implemented some predation prevention measures (e.g. fencing, guard animal, frequent herd/flock checks, night confinement, hunting, etc.)
- Efforts to mitigate predation are proportionate to the extent of predation occurring on the property, and increases in predation prevention measures have been demonstrated over time where it is reasonably required.

### **Step 7 - Municipal Investigator Declaration and Signature**

Attest that the findings of your investigation were fully documented and truthful by signing the application.

### **Step 8 - Owner Declaration and Signature**

Have the owner indicate if they will be providing additional evidence, which may not be currently available, to the municipality within seven (7) business days of the investigation. The owner must also sign the application, which binds them to the terms and conditions of the program.

Territorial investigators are responsible for submitting additional evidence provided by the owner, within seven (7) business days of the investigation, to the program administrator via email at [wildlife.damage@ontario.ca](mailto:wildlife.damage@ontario.ca) or mail:

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Attention: OWDCP Program Administrator  
1 Stone Road West, 4th Floor NW  
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

### **Submitting a Program Application**

- Ensure all sections of the application are complete.
- Municipal investigators must submit an application within seven (7) business days of conducting an investigation. A copy of the report should be provided to:
  - The owner of the livestock/poultry.
  - The Clerk of the municipality in which the livestock/poultry were injured or killed.
- Territorial investigators must submit an application within seven (7) business days of conducting an investigation. A copy of the report should be provided to:
  - The owner of the livestock/poultry.
  - The program administrator (OMAFRA).

### **Ineligible Applications:**

- Application is incomplete (e.g. owner has not met the program's requirements to document reasonable care).
- Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) is invalid and/or not associated with the applicant.
- Ontario Provincial Premises Identification (PID) Number is invalid.
- Insufficient evidence to determine cause of death/injury.
- Livestock species is not eligible.
- Predator species is not eligible.
- The livestock or poultry was diseased or sick.
- The owner is not in compliance with *Ontario Regulation 106/09 of the Nutrient Management Act* or *Ontario Regulation 105/09 of the Food Safety Quality Act (FSQA)*.
- Investigator indicated reasonable care measures were not implemented to prevent predation.