

## **BEEHIVE DEPREDATION**

- WHEREAS:** Alberta agriculture has a spectrum of different farming and ranching operation;
- WHEREAS:** The Ungulate Damage Prevention Program, offers producers advice and assistance to prevent ungulates from spoiling stored feed and unharvested crops;
- WHEREAS:** All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation;
- WHEREAS:** The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Beekeepers, as an Alberta Agricultural Producers, also experiences wildlife damages such as hive destruction every year by bear depredation but is not covered by a program;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to amend the Wildlife Compensation Program to include coverage for hive destruction by bear activity.

**SPONSORED BY:** Northern Sunrise County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

## BACKGROUND

Source: <https://afsc.ca/news/wildlife-damage-compensation-program-what-you-need-to-know/>

With the onset of harvest season, an intense effort by producers around the province is underway to ensure the crops are being taken off the field in a timely manner.

Circumstances surrounding harvest may not always be suitable for a swift completion of the effort. There might be some damage to crops stemming from the presence of wildlife in the area.

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP), administered by AFSC in Alberta and funded completely by the federal and provincial governments, provides coverage for producers who suffer crop loss or degradation due to wildlife.

To benefit from this program, a producer does not have to have an insurance policy with AFSC, but it is important to know that not all crops are eligible under WDCP.

Here are some basic guidelines of how WDCP works:

- WDCP compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops, wildlife excreta contaminated crops, silage or haylage in pits and tubes; and stacked hay.
- While producers pay no premium to be eligible for indemnity, a non-refundable \$25 appraisal fee per inspection is required for each section of land (or portion thereof) on which the damage has occurred with at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 loss per crop must be assessed for payment eligibility.
- All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation. Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation only up to October 31.
- To initiate a wildlife claim on Stacked Hay and Silage or Haylage in pits and tubes, a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.
- Crops under the following circumstances are not eligible: Crops in granaries, bins, stacks or bales left in the field (exception: silage in pits and tubes are eligible); crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops seeded too late in the season to produce a normal yield; volunteer crops; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

Source: <https://afsc.ca/crop-insurance/perennial-crop-insurance/wildlife-damage-compensation-program/>

The Wildlife Damage Compensation program compensates agricultural producers for damage to eligible unharvested hay crops that is caused by ungulates, upland game birds and waterfowl.

Producers wishing to participate in the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program are not required to have insurance to qualify for a claim. All costs for this program are paid by the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost except for the appraisal fee. A non-refundable appraisal fee of \$25 per inspection type is required for each section of land or portion thereof on which the damage has occurred.

In order for a producer to be compensated under the program, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged hay crops must not be harvested until an AFSC inspector inspects them.

The following crops are not eligible: grazing land or native pasture; crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

For stacked and haylage in pits and tube, producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection. A provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-predator-compensation-program.aspx>

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators.

Funding for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program comes from dedicated revenue from the sale of recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta and from the federal government.

Compensation is paid only for	Compensation is not paid for
Cattle, bison, sheep, swine and goats.	Any other animal, including horses, donkeys or exotic animals, such as llamas, alpacas or wild boar.
Attacks by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles.	Attacks by other types of predators, such as coyotes.
The costs of veterinary care and medication associated with the incident or the loss of an animal, up to the value of the animal based on the average for the type and class of livestock.	Incidents of feeding on livestock that had already died of disease or other causes not related to wildlife predation.