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Duane Kolpack  
Dykstra Cattle Farm Manager  
13670 HWY M38  
Ontonagon, MI 49953  
1 906 883 3151

To who it may concern;

We have seen first hand what can happen when a predator type of animal infringes upon ones livelihood. I am an advocate for all animals and for endangered animals especially. The Wolf population in Upper Michigan is not below the threshold that the DNR has set for them and is starting to become a nuisance as the animals start to have more interaction with the public. This interaction is dangerous to people who are outdoors and for producers in the fields and working livestock. If there are predator type of animals that are becoming habitual problem animals I feel that measures should be taken to keep the public and privately held livestock safe. It doesn't matter if I can take matters into my own hands or leave it to the authorities to take the appropriate action with the problem animals, BUT, we should be able to protect ourselves and our livestock!

This spring we have lost 11 calves, 2 cows, 1 yearling steer, and 3 lambs to predator deprivation (Wolves, Coyote, and Eagle attacks). I also am having problems with herd management when I am identifying and tagging the new calves. I am out there 1 to 3 times/ day and the last 2 weeks I have not been able to get close to the newborns as moms are very agitated and have chased me off a number of times. This is very dangerous for me to take care of my animals as these cows are 1300 lb and can run at least 20 MPH. I have been out in my fields when there are predators there and have been stalked by them and don't have any legal method of defending myself, it isn't a good feeling even if you have a gun and are ready to shoot.

We have been working with the local DNR officials and have brought in donkeys as protection animals. We have shooters for coyotes at least 30 hours per week and we rotate our animals as close to the main farmstead as possible at calving time. We remove dead animals as soon as possible, with wolves especially there isn't always a body as they take them away.

Some of our losses will be reimbursed by the DNR but it is a miniscule amount compared to the production losses we will incur. Our animals are sold directly to the consumer as packaged meat. and each animal is worth over \$2000 per animal at slaughter time, it takes a year of feeding a cow to get a calf. This cost is \$400 to get a live calf on the ground. The payment for the calf will be under \$200. Our young cows that have been taken have a productive life of up to 10 years this makes these animals worth \$4000. Cull prices are \$500-1000. The production losses we have incurred this year come to \$63,000. The reimbursement will be approximately \$3000.

We are in this business as our sole livelihood and hope to retire before we are physically wore out, these losses come directly out of our pocket. If someone feels that a predator animal should be protected, they should pay for the full damage of that animal on privately held stock held on private property! This is NOT public property.

We live and work with these predators around us every day. This is our home, we have 4 children and I pray nothing happens to one of them. 2 years ago we had 3 sheep taken from the shed beside the house. All we found was some hair from 1 of them. This is only 100 feet from the house, these predators can get very bold. Legally I can not do anything to protect my family!

I hope the people deciding these laws understand the gravity of their actions. If there are real concerns about extinction of a species steps should be taken to protect them, but the full cost of these type of predators should be considered not just the lowest possible market value. These predator animals are in abundance in my area. If a bigger population is needed in the country, please trap and relocate to areas in need of wolves.  
Duane Kolpack