

## **The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program**

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program has two major components—wildlife and predation. Damage under the wildlife component pays up to 80% of the damage to eligible agricultural products. Where crops or other agricultural commodities are damaged by waterfowl or big game, the claim must be equal to or greater than \$100.00.

The predation component reimburses producers for losses to domestic livestock due to predation--up to 80% of the animal's commercial value (maximum of \$2,000.00).

This program cost shared by the Governments of Canada (60%) and the Province of Manitoba (40%). MASC administers the program on the governments' behalf.

### **Producers' Responsibility**

Producers must take all necessary precautions to prevent wildlife damage and predator attacks.

The producers must take all reasonable action to mitigate any injury to livestock, and ensure that injured livestock receives prompt and professional veterinary or other treatments. Eligible agricultural products damaged, destroyed or contaminated by deer, elk, bear, moose, bison, ducks, geese or sandhill cranes are eligible for compensation unless the wildlife or waterfowl that caused the damage is privately owned, held under authority of a permit or license or held in captivity without lawful authority.

Livestock injured or killed by: wolves, coyotes, cougars or foxes are eligible for compensation.

### **Eligible Agricultural Products and Livestock**

Eligible agricultural products include:

- Wheat, oats, barley, flax, rye, canola, rapeseed, mixed grain, buckwheat, triticale, tame mustard, field peas, corn, sunflowers, sugar beets, lentils, canaryseed, fababeans, soybeans, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, cooking onions, lettuce, other vegetables, tame millet, alfalfa, timothy, sweet clover, red clover, tame grasses and legumes. To qualify, these crops must have been seeded in accordance with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation's (MASC) Contract of Insurance;
- Forage crops (excluding native hay) during the growing season; and
- Forage crops (including native hay) stored for the winter. To qualify as a stored crop, the crop must be baled, collected from the field and placed in a monitored storage site.

Eligible honey products include:

- Honey, honeybees or broods, beehives and related equipment if the damage is caused by bears.

Eligible leafcutter products include:

- Leafcutter eggs and larvae, field shelters, nesting materials and equipment.

**NOTE:** In all cases, there must be a minimum of \$100.00 damage.

**Eligible livestock includes:**

- Cattle, horses, sheep, donkeys, hogs, wild boars, goats, elk, fallow deer, bison, llamas, ostriches, emus and other ratites.

**Ineligible Crops and Livestock**

An eligible product subject to any of the following is ineligible for this program:

- Crops damaged after harvest (except for stored forage crops);
- Crops susceptible to damage because of poor farming practices;
- Crops grown on land that is uninsurable for crop insurance;
- Products planted or located on public lands such as provincial or federal parks, public shooting grounds or wildlife management areas;
- Crops used for lure or intercept feeding;
- Crops cut or swathed for grazing;
- Volunteer crops;
- Honey lost or damaged between December 1 and March 1;
- Leafcutter products lost or damaged between October 1 and May 1;
- Leafcutter bee field shelters if the shelter was not properly secured or not in use in the field;
- Straw or other by-products; and
- Loss or damage as a result of insufficient surveillance or improper storage.

**Livestock is ineligible if:**

The death or injury to the livestock occurs on public lands such as provincial or federal parks, public shooting grounds or wildlife management areas.

**Who is Eligible to Claim for Losses**

All producers may apply for compensation for damage to agricultural products grown and/or livestock raised in Manitoba even if they do not have an MASC Contract of Insurance.

This program pays 80% of the damage to eligible agricultural products including eligible honey and leafcutter bee products.

### **Compensation for Livestock**

For a confirmed kill by natural predators, compensation is calculated at 80% of the commercial value of the animal killed (maximum value of \$2,000) as established by MASC. However, if the death of the animal cannot be confirmed as predation but there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the probable cause of death was predation; MASC pays 40% of the established commercial value. In all cases, there must be sufficient animal remains to determine the cause or probable cause of death.

All reasonable veterinary and medical expenses (up to 80% of the commercial value of the animal) incurred to treat injured livestock are covered. Should the animal die after receiving proper veterinary care, the producer may be eligible for additional compensation (up to 80% of the commercial value of the livestock less the veterinary and medical expenses previously paid).

### **Claims**

Losses to crops, agricultural products and livestock must be reported to MASC within three days of discovering the loss or damage.

MASC can only compensate producers for verifiable losses. It is, therefore, important for producers to preserve all evidence of damage to or loss of eligible agricultural products, honey products, or leafcutter bee products by wildlife or waterfowl. Producers must not harvest, bale or in any way alter or damage the site until MASC and/or the Appeal Tribunal completes its assessment.

In the event that an animal is injured, it is vital that while removing the injured animal or having the animal treated, the evidence of the cause and circumstances of the injury is not disturbed until after MASC has completed its assessment. If an animal is killed, to preserve evidence, the producer must not remove the dead animal or otherwise destroy evidence until after MASC has completed its assessment.

In all cases, the maximum payment is \$1,600 (80% of \$2,000).

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