



Reducing the Impacts of Meat Production on Wildlife

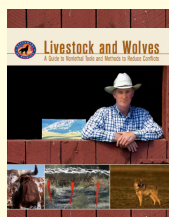


As efforts to restore wolves to their historical ranges succeed, conflict with ranchers inevitably arises. Should a wolf kill a sheep, often a rancher's first response is to call wildlife control agents to eliminate the animal. Sometimes the agents even track and shoot entire packs from an airplane. This lethal approach to wolf control threatens the survival and recovery of wolves and does nothing to keep other wolves from moving in and repeating the behavior.

Fortunately, there is an excellent alternative: a suite of preventive tools and methods pioneered and tested by Defenders of Wildlife. To protect wolves and livestock, ranchers can adopt these tools and consumers can insist on purchasing meat from ranchers who do. Here are some guiding tips for livestock producers and consumers.

Livestock Producers

- Learn about and use nonlethal tools and methods, including:
 - Fladry**, a barrier of rope with red or orange flags attached at fixed intervals—a highly portable, easy-to-install, inexpensive way to keep wolves away from livestock.
 - Livestock guarding dogs** such as Great Pyrenees and Anatolian shepherds, rugged breeds developed to protect flocks and herds from predators.
 - Alternative animal husbandry practices** such as lambing and calving in sheds rather than in the open and shifting calving and lambing seasons to times when wild prey for wolves is abundant.
 - Increased human presence** such as range riders and herders to monitor wolf and livestock activity and discourage approaching wolves.
- Seek assistance with implementing nonlethal predator deterrents from agencies such as U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service and your state extension service.



For more information, see *Wolves and Livestock: A Guide to Nonlethal Tools and Strategies for Reducing Livestock Depredation*, available at www.defenders.org/sites/default/files/publications/livestock_and_wolves.pdf

Consumers

- Create market demand. Purchase products from ranchers certified by the Wildlife-Friendly Enterprise Network. (Look for “certified wildlife-friendly” or “predator-friendly” labels.) Find more information at www.wildlifefriendly.org/.
- Request that your local grocers carry “predator-friendly” or “certified wildlife-friendly” products—if they don't already.
- Learn about how producers resolve wildlife conflicts and shop with those who use nonlethal tools and techniques. Ask producers at your local farmer's markets if they use lethal control on their farms. If they are receiving assistance from USDA Wildlife Services, a state extension service or the Natural Resources Conservation Service, urge them to explore and adopt nonlethal deterrents.



“Because we sell Lava Lake Lamb to consumers across the United States, we are acutely aware that a great many Americans won't knowingly buy food that is produced using unsustainable practices... what could be less sustainable than shooting wolves from a plane?”

—Brian Bean, Owner, Lava Lake Lamb
Hailey, Idaho