Nonlethal Methods to Prevent Conflicts Between Livestock and Wolves



Wolves and livestock can peacefully coexist. Strategic animal husbandry practices combined with non-lethal predator deterrents have been shown to significantly reduce wolf-livestock conflicts. Consider using a combination of methods or alternating techniques as an efficient and effective management strategy. Whichever combination is selected, consistency is key for successful implementation.

Reduce Attractants

Properly dispose of dead animals, as wolves can detect decaying carcasses from miles away. In Wisconsin, livestock carcasses **MUST BE PROPERLY DISPOSED OF** within 24 hours between April and November, and within 48 hours between December and March.

Licensed Waste Haulers can be found here: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/wmmps/shellreportviewer.aspx?RID=93&inst=1

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection recommends composting over rotting carcasses on the ground.

DNR composting contacts can be found here: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=composting

Fladry

Mount a line of rope along a fence with hanging strips of red nylon flags to frighten predators from crossing the line.

Switching Grazing Strategy

Move livestock, even temporarily, to an alternative grazing location to avoid conflicts.

Secure Birthing Area

Provide secure places for livestock to give birth, such as a barn or other shelter.

Livestock Protection Animals

Guardian Dog breeds such as Great Pyrenees and Anatolian Shepards who have been properly trained will protect livestock and alert owners to the presence of wolves. Selecting the right breed and number of dogs is key.

Donkeys can be effective by braying loudly if a predator is near and will even kick or bite if the predator approaches.

Human Presence

Be present during calving and lambing periods. Regular human activity around livestock will help deter wolves. This includes frequent range riding on horseback or ATV.

Alarm or Scare Devices

Foxlights use light sensors that automatically turn on at dusk and off during the day and can be seen from a mile away.
Scare Radios emit loud noises that 'scare' wolves away from livestock areas.
Flashtags attached to animals' ears use motion-triggered lights and are an inexpensive, durable, and non-disruptive deterrant method.
Fencing includes protection barriers and fences, sometimes electrified and enhanced with fladry.

Sources:
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