

Damage Prevention and Control Methods

Exclusion: Fences provide the most consistent control: 8-foot (1.4-m) woven wire fence, or wooden snow fence around small plots or haystacks. Several configurations of electric fences are available as well. Individual tree protectors include: woven wire or plastic cylinders.

Cultural Methods and Habitat

Modification: Plant trees and shrubs that are resistant or less susceptible to deer damage. Harvest crops as early as possible to reduce vulnerability. Lure crops may divert deer away from areas that are susceptible to damage. Habitat modification generally is not recommended.

Repellents: A wide variety of commercial formulations is available: area repellents--applied near plants to be protected, repel by smell; contact repellents--applied directly to plants to be protected, repel by taste.

Shooting: Sport hunting can reduce populations and should be encouraged. Some states may issue permits to shoot outside normal sport hunting seasons.

How to Enroll

To enroll in the WDACP, call the Conservation Program Coordinator in the Land and Water Conservation Department at (715)-421-8475.

The coordinator will meet with you to assess crop damage. Following this assessment, a recommendation will be made as to what type of solution is most practical.

Steps may then be taken to reduce future crop damage and compensate for damage already done by deer, bear, geese and turkeys.



Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP)



What Can WDACP Do For You?

Wisconsin has a program that assists farmers when wildlife damages their agricultural crops. The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers when wild deer, elk, bear, geese and turkeys damage their agricultural crops. Wildlife managers issue agricultural damage shooting permits to farmers for removal of deer - and occasionally bear, geese and turkeys - that cause damage.



Abatement Requirements

- Ownership of the crops being damaged.
- Control hunting access on each crop field and all contiguous acres under the same ownership and control.
- Allow public hunting during the open season for the specie(s) requesting abatement or claims assistance. Exception: public hunting is not required for deer hunting if issued a deer damage shooting permit only and forfeit eligibility for deer damage compensation payments.
- Follow normal agricultural practices.
- Agree to be cooperative. Abusive language, behavior or threats of violence will be considered a failure on the part of the enrollee to cooperate.

The permittee may not charge any form of a fee to a participant. NOTE: This includes any form of a trespass fee, stand or blind rental or any other activity that includes hunting the species causing damage.



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Compensation Eligibility

- File a complaint with the county, or the county's agent, within 14 days of the first damage each year.
- Follow the county, or the county's agent, recommended abatement and all abatement eligibility requirements listed 1-5 to the left.
- Call the county, or the county's agent, 10 days prior to harvest to conduct an appraisal. Call for the first cutting of alfalfa, for each additional cutting, and for each crop/field. If a field is harvested before an appraisal is conducted, that field/crop WILL NOT be eligible for compensations that year.
- Crops subject to the claim are not planted or manipulated to attract eligible species.
- If the enrollee has been issued a deer shooting permit, the enrollee has complied with the deer harvest objectives.
- Maintain an accurate hunting log if enrolled in Managed Hunting Access option.
- Provide parking which is accessible to the land suitable for hunting.
- The land subject to the claim has been in cultivation or in an approved stabilization and conservation service set-aside program for at least 5 years.
- **FAILURE TO MEET ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS WILL MAKE YOU INELIGIBLE FOR DAMAGE COMPENSATION IN THAT YEAR AND THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**