Wildlife Damage Compensation Program
The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is available for all Saskatchewan producers who suffer crop or livestock losses due to wildlife. The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) administers this program, but affected producers do not have to be a Crop Insurance customer to receive compensation through the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Producers can receive 100 per cent compensation without any cost or premium to participate. The first 80 per cent of program funding is cost-shared by federal and provincial governments; the provincial government contributes the remaining amount. The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is comprised of: crop damage compensation, predation compensation and prevention.

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Crop Damage Compensation

THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM PROVIDES:

• 100 per cent compensation on damage caused by white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, elk, bears, moose, bison, wild boars, ducks, geese, blackbirds, sandhill cranes, gophers, beavers or other non-domestic species.

• Compensation for flood damage to seeded crop and tame forage due to beaver structures.

• Compensation on claims $150 and over.

• Initial payments are made at 75 per cent of crop prices determined by a survey conducted in September. Final compensation values are set based on a six-month average price survey conducted from September to February.

The crop grade at the time of harvest is used to determine compensation rates.

• Compensation for the cleaning of excreta contaminated grain at a rate set yearly based on a summary of licensed primary elevator cleaning charges. SCIC staff must identify excreta contamination while crops are still in the field. Excreta compensation is not deducted from subsequent yield-loss claims. A handling allowance is available to producers who submit a receipt for cleaning their excreta-contaminated grain. This allowance is paid at 100 per cent and rates may vary yearly.

• For Crop Insurance customers, wildlife losses do not affect long-term individual yields. A customer’s yield before wildlife damage will be used to calculate their long-term yield.

Compensation is not paid on:

• Volunteer crops

• Crops planted too late in the season to produce a normal yield

• Crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for crop production

• Crops left out where harvest was generally completed in the area

ELIGIBLE CROPS

Crops eligible for compensation include:

• All seeded commercial crops, including crops not currently insured by SCIC

• Stacked hay, silage and bales
• Market gardens, tree nurseries, sod farms, honey and leaf cutter bees, including their structures
• Crops used for alternative feeding systems

PRODUCER OBLIGATIONS
To control and limit wildlife damage, producers must implement reasonable prevention measures. These include:
• Use of scare cannons to prevent waterfowl damage
• Working with their rural municipality to eliminate the beaver problem
• Working with SCIC to protect stacked feed, silage, sod farms, market gardens and bales from big game animals
• Working with the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association and SCIC to protect bee structures

If recommended preventative measures are not followed, SCIC may limit or deny claims.

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program will not continually pay compensation for the same loss. If the producer cannot demonstrate they implemented prevention and/or control methods, they may not be eligible for compensation in future years.

CLAIMS
Contact your local customer service office prior to harvesting or feeding and grazing any damaged crop so that it can be assessed. Compensation is provided on a spot-loss basis; compensation will be based on the yield loss of the crop in the damaged area. If you must harvest, feed or graze before an adjuster can inspect the crop, the entire damaged area plus a representative portion of the undamaged crop must be left for inspection. Annual crops should be standing or left in swaths. If you have not made every effort to complete harvest of annual crops in a timely fashion, compensation may not be paid. Grain crop claims will not be paid after November 15 or if harvest was generally completed in the area. This does not apply to alternative feeding systems.

If you are unable to harvest, feed or graze and further damage occurs after inspection, call your customer service office for a reassessment.

Hay, Stacked Forage, Sod Farms, Nurseries, Market Gardens, Bee Structures

Compensation is not retroactive; it is paid from the date the damage is reported.
Notify SCIC as soon as damage is detected in stacked hay, sod farms, tree nurseries, market gardens and bee structures. You will be compensated for damage to hay stacks if all reasonable prevention measures have been taken. In order to receive compensation, hay must be put into stacks.

Producers will not be compensated for unstacked hay left in fields unless it is part of an alternative feeding system.

Prevention Management

FENCING

Producers can receive compensation for steps taken to prevent wildlife damage to feed supplies. Fencing for grain bag storage is not eligible. Funding can be acquired for:

- Fencing around feed yards
- Temporary fencing to protect feed sources
- Electric fencing to protect bee structures
- Fencing to protect nurseries and market gardens

OTHER PREVENTION MEASURES

SCIC may recommend other measures to protect feed supplies. Those could include:

- Lure crops
- Establishing waterfowl feeding stations
- Intercept feeding for forage
- Scare cannons

FENCING COMPENSATION

- To qualify, a producer must first contact a customer service office and explain the wildlife problem.
- An adjuster will visit the farm and make recommendations.
- If the adjuster recommends establishing a fence around a feed supply, the producer can receive funding to offset the material costs. This funding eligibility is based on the current claim and the potential for future damage. Labour costs are not eligible.
- SCIC will compensate a percentage of the electric fencing costs to protect bee structures from bears.
• The producer will have to meet the basic fence specifications. There are size/criteria required for each type of operation. Criteria are available from any SCIC office.

• The customer is responsible for the purchase of fencing supplies.

• Fence packages for nurseries and market gardens are unique and producers requiring fencing should contact a customer service office for more details.

• Verification that the producer has met the feed protection requirements will have to occur before payment is issued.

• If a customer refuses a fence as a recommended prevention method, they may be denied future compensation.

ALTERNATIVE FEEDING SYSTEMS

In these systems, the feed source is left in the field where managed livestock consume it as a fall/winter feed source. Provincial and federal governments recommend this practice because it offers environmental and financial benefits for producers. Swath, bale and corn grazing used as part of a well managed feeding system are eligible for compensation. Well-managed feeding systems are defined as follows:

• There must be fences in place to confine the livestock; the movement of livestock on the feed must be controlled.

• The feed must be suitable for livestock. It must be either baled hay, standing corn or a crop grown with the intention of swath grazing.

• There must be a plan in place to ensure livestock are making full use of feed and there is no excessive waste. The livestock also need to be rotated throughout the field, ensuring the nutrients are returned evenly to the land.

• The livestock must have access to water/snow and shelter/windbreaks.

PRODUCER OBLIGATIONS

To control and limit wildlife damage, producers must implement reasonable prevention measures. These include:

• Contacting SCIC as soon as damage occurs as well as prior to livestock consuming the feed so a yield assessment can be completed.

• Monitoring wildlife numbers as claims are based on a combination of wildlife consumption data and crop yield assessments.
CLAIMS

In the case of alternative feeding systems, evidence is required to show the feed was intended for consumption by livestock. Contact SCIC as soon as you notice damage so an actual yield appraisal may be obtained. SCIC will determine the actual yield in an undamaged area of the field. Subsequent visits may be required.

Predation Compensation

This component of the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program provides compensation to producers for injury or death to eligible livestock, fowl or specialty animals by predators.

COMPENSATION DETAILS

- 100 per cent compensation for death of livestock, fowl or specialty animals due to predation.
- In the event livestock are injured, producers can receive up to 80 per cent of the animal’s value to cover veterinary costs.
- If predation is suspected but cannot be confirmed, 50 per cent compensation will be provided.
- If there is no evidence to prove a predator attack, no payment is issued.
- Compensation is eligible on predation by coyotes, bears, cougars, lynxes, foxes, wolves, eagles, birds of prey, scavenging birds, raccoons, skunks, badgers, minks, weasels or any other wild animal that causes injury or death to eligible livestock.
- Beef calf pricing will be determined using market sales data the week before, the week of, and the week after the loss. The producer will be compensated for the highest of these three values. If the market price is lower than the set minimum, the producer will receive the $400 minimum.
- Compensation for other species is determined using market sales data. Prices will be set using months when sales volumes are high and are based at the time of death not on the future cash potential of the animal. For uncommon species, values will be determined on an as-needed basis.
• Registered livestock, fowl, and eligible specialty animals are compensated at 1.5 times the commercial value. Proof of registration is required.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES
Animals eligible for compensation include:

• Cattle, sheep, goats, bison, horses, hogs (excluding wild boar), elk, fallow deer, llamas and donkeys

• Ostriches, emus, ducks, geese, chickens and turkeys

• Other less common species

PRODUCER OBLIGATIONS
• Producers must contact SCIC as soon as a predator attack is discovered.

• Provide evidence indicating the animal was alive prior to the predator attack. Two-thirds of a carcass should be present to evaluate the attack. Compensation may be denied if this evidence is not present.

• All evidence of the attack should be preserved for the adjuster to view. Pictures are an acceptable way to record evidence. An adjuster will assess loss or injury.

• Producers are expected to utilize the prevention programs that are recommended and available to help protect their livestock from predators.

• Receipts for veterinary costs and drug expenses should be retained as evidence of treatment.

• Producers with purebred livestock will be required to provide evidence of the livestock’s value.

CLAIMS
• The producer must contact SCIC as soon as a predator attack is apparent.

• An inspection is required before compensation is paid.

• Claim assessments are based on the evidence of the carcass, the attack/kill site and indicators of the presence of a predator.

• If the adjuster determines that:
  a) There is sufficient evidence to prove a predator attack, the producer will receive full compensation.
b) The evidence is inconclusive, but the probable cause of loss is a predator, the producer will receive 50 per cent compensation.

c) There is no carcass or there is no evidence to prove a predator attack, no payment will be issued.

Predation Prevention

SCIC can help producers manage their predator attacks through control measures designed to reduce the problem wildlife.

Recommended predator prevention Management strategies:

- Fencing that is effective and specific to livestock/fowl operation
- Fence patrol
- Record keeping/monitoring of livestock or fowl on a daily basis
- Birthing area that is protected versus an exposed area or an area bordering prime wildlife habitat
- Properly trained guardian dogs
- Appropriate dead stock management
- Use of llamas and donkeys as guardian animals
- Paddock/field size suited to the number of guardian animals
- Night confinement close to residence
- Noise, light and other deterrents

A combination of the above methods is often required.

GUARDIAN DOGS

SCIC can provide $100 to help producers offset the cost of purchasing a livestock guardian dog. The use of guardian dogs can be an effective method of preventing predation; however, it does require the commitment from the producer to develop the potential of the dog. Livestock guardian dogs are most effective when complemented by other predation management practices. Producers requesting this funding should contact a customer service office or www.saskcropinsurance.com to complete a Guard Dog Rebate Application form. Receipt of purchase for the dog and breeder information is required to be eligible for compensation. There is no limit on the number of livestock guardian dogs that may be compensated.
Recommended breeds can be found in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Guardian Dogs Fact Sheet.

**PREDATION SPECIALISTS**

On the recommendation of a SCIC adjuster, a predation specialist can be hired to assess the situation and take steps to eliminate the predator problem. These predation specialists are experienced hunters and trappers who can provide effective control of problem wildlife. They can also provide advice and develop strategies to help protect livestock from further attacks. A predation specialist should be used in conjunction with other prevention strategies. SCIC will review and determine whether a predation specialist is suitable for the situation. If so, a specialist in the area will be contacted to help resolve the problem.

The predation specialist will then arrange for the appropriate permits to be in place. A farm visit is made and a producer waiver is signed before work begins. The predation specialist may remove the problem animal(s) and provide the producer with written information and/or training methods to resolve future problems.

**PRODUCER OBLIGATIONS**

Producers are expected to implement the predator control measures recommended by the specialist and, in general, to follow good livestock husbandry practices to minimize the potential for predator problems. Failure to fulfill these responsibilities will result in a producer being denied further predator control services or compensation.

To register a claim, call our toll-free number or visit one of our 21 offices. Staff are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to accept your claims or to answer questions. During busy periods, such as harvest, messages are monitored after business hours and on weekends and adjusters are available on short notice to assess damage.
### Customer Service Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Address Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSINIBOIA</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>401 1st Ave. W. Assiniboia, SK</td>
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<td>DAVIDSON</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESTEVAN</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>Box 1716 #5–419 Kensington Ave. Estevan, SK</td>
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<tr>
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Customer Service Offices

ASSINIBOIA
1-888-935-0017

MOOSOMIN
1-888-935-0005

SASKATOON
1-888-935-0024

DAVIDSON
1-888-935-0020

NORTH
1-888-935-0028

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ROSETOWN
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YORKTON
1-888-935-0013

To register your claim use our toll-free number:
1-888-935-0000

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PO Box 3000
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

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customer.service@scic.gov.sk.ca