


WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND CLAIMS PROGRAM



If you have damage to:

- agricultural crops*
- orchards*
- nursery stock*
- livestock*
- beehives*

Caused by:

- deer*
- bear*
- Canada geese*
- wild turkeys*

the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program can:

- Help you prevent or lessen additional damage (abatement)
and/or
- Provide payments for damage that has already occurred (claims)



Certain requirements must be met in order to be eligible:

- ✓ Must be the landowner or operator
- ✓ Enrollment in the program
- ✓ Notify the Animal Damage Specialist within 14 days of the beginning of eligible damage in order to be eligible for claims payment.
 - in other words, fields and other potential damage areas should be checked on a regular basis.
 - the 14 day requirement does not apply to abatement assistance (practices designed to lessen or prevent damage).
- ✓ Notify the Animal Damage Specialist at least 10 days prior to harvesting enrolled fields so that the fields can be inspected.
- ✓ Follow abatement measures that are prescribed by the Animal Damage Specialist.
 - practices such as fencing, scare devices, repellents, and shooting permits.
 - the measures used are dependent on the situation.
- ✓ Must have control of hunting access to owned and leased contiguous properties (except for beehives).
- ✓ Follow the minimum hunting requirement for all enrolled properties.
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✓ **Two hunting options:**

1. Open Public Hunting

- hunting access is unrestricted
- hunters are required to notify the enrollee of their intent to hunt.

2. Managed Hunting Access

- land suitable for hunting will be determined by the Animal Damage Specialist.
- must allow at least two hunters at any given time per forty acres of suitable hunting land.
 - Hunters must register
 - Enrollee must keep a log.
- most enrollees used the Managed Hunting Access option

- May not charge a fee in either option.
- Regular hunting seasons and regulations apply.

➤ **Hunting under animal damage shooting permits**

- This is separate from the regular hunting requirement and options noted above and is regulated separately.
- Eligibility for claims payments is dependent on meeting certain permit program requirements:
 - Adhere to the hunting access requirement.
 - Harvest a certain percentage of their prescribed quota by specific date.
 - Make sure all participating hunters wear blaze orange.

Payments:

- Damage abatement practices are paid on a 75/25 (county/enrollee) cost-share basis.
- The standard deductible on claims is \$500.

***** Additional rules and regulations may apply *****

The Taylor County Land Conservation Department administers the program under a contract with USDA– Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and Wisconsin DNR.

**For additional information and requirements,
contact the APHIS Animal Damage Specialist, Ed Zydzik (800.228.1368)**