

WildWise Yukon Presentation

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Our message is simple. When planning our gardens and other activities (raising livestock, keeping pets etc.) which may attract wildlife, the following points are important to consider:

- Vegetable, grain and fruit bearing crops are all attractive to bears, canids, ungulates, rodents and other wildlife in all stages of their growth;
- Wildlife are vulnerable to being destroyed and/or relocated when they access human food (including food...mmmm, they do love those chickens!), wastes and cash crops;
- Negative encounters with wildlife and subsequent destruction of wildlife are unnecessary and preventable and reduce biodiversity as well as the future resource potential of these species. Humans and wildlife both lose from a reactive approach to management. WildWise encourages taking preventative measures;
- We can reduce these incidents by securing our attractants, maintaining pest/rodent control and harvesting crops in a timely manner (no rotting food on the ground in unsecured locations);
- Electric fencing and netting are effective and require minimal investment, especially as compared to the replacement of livestock;
- Local sources keep these products in stock and offer sound advice on how to use them correctly (Feed Store, C&D Feeds);
- Guard animals are also a potentially effective way of diverting wildlife from accessing your attractants but should be used in combination with fencing. Please remember that unsecured pets (and guard animals) are a potential source of food for many wildlife species;
- WildWise Yukon (website upgrades in progress) is a good source of tips and information about being...wild wise! We are always looking for members, board members and partnerships, as well as volunteers and others to help share information which keeps humans and wildlife safe together.

Also of note, the Ag. Branch of EMR has a wildlife damage prevention fund. Look here for more info:

http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/wildlife_damage_prevention.html. Here are their eligibility criteria:

Eligible Applicants An individual who resides in a documented high-risk area or has suffered wildlife damage to crops or improved pasture is eligible for assistance. Applicants must show a firm commitment to preventing and/or reducing the amount of damage caused by wildlife. **Eligible**

Funding Individual producers are eligible for 50% to 60% of costs to a maximum of \$15,000 during the life of the program