

Livestock Compensation / Crop Damage Prevention Programs Agreement

Between:

Alberta Environment and Parks
(AEP)

-and-

Alberta Conservation Association
(ACA)

This agreement is made pursuant to the *Wildlife Regulation*, AR 143/97 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AEP and ACA dated Dec 9, 2021.

Program Description

The Ministry of Environment and Parks (AEP) has the responsibility to manage all aspects of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources on behalf of the Government of Alberta. In carrying out this responsibility, AEP requires both internal and external resources to support management decisions and programs. The Ministry of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (AJSG) is responsible for enforcing fish and wildlife regulations in the province of Alberta. Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), as a delegated administrative organization (DAO) established under the Alberta *Wildlife Act* and *Wildlife Regulation*, undertakes projects and programs to address AEP High Priority Conservation Outcomes (HPCOs) with respect to fish and wildlife resources.

This agreement comprises three delegated programs; The Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program, the Predator Compensation Program and the Shot Livestock Compensation Program. ACA has the fiscal responsibility for implementation of these programs in Alberta.

The purpose of compensation and prevention programs is to contribute to a more positive attitude among landowners towards: a) wildlife, which are often perceived as a liability due to property damage, and b) resource users, whose activities may result in the unintended loss of livestock due to hunting. Financial compensation and/or tools to help minimize economic losses to agricultural producers are intended to enhance the level of support for wildlife and wildlife programs in Alberta,

The **Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program (WCDPP)** provides assistance to agriculture producers to help prevent depredation losses to crops, caused by waterfowl. This assistance entails provision of information on loss-prevention techniques and

provision of scare-cannons to deter waterfowl depredation. These activities complement the joint federal-provincial financial compensation program, which requires that a prevention program be provided in order to qualify for funding. This compensation program is administered in Alberta by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation.

The **Predator Compensation Program (PCP)** provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, goats and bison) due to predation by wildlife (bears, wolf, cougar or eagle), as well as veterinary costs for injured animals. AEP maintains staff to review and consider changes to predator compensation program.

The **Shot Livestock Compensation Program (SLCP)** provides financial compensation to agricultural producers who have incurred losses to livestock due to accidental shooting by third parties, during an open hunting season. Compensation covers horses, in addition to the livestock covered under PCP, as well as veterinary costs for wounded animals. The same AEP staff responsible for the PCP provides input to this program.

This Agreement defines the scope of services delegated to ACA, the roles and responsibilities of the parties, the expected outcomes from this effort and other obligations related to operational conditions and performance measures.

To ensure the delegated programs continue to provide mutually beneficial outcomes to all three parties, this program agreement will be managed under the auspices of the AEP/ACA Joint Program Committee (JPC). Through this committee, ongoing evaluation and adaptation will occur through a collaborative process, defined in the MOU between AEP and ACA.

Outcomes

Yearly outcomes will be determined based the specific HPCOs developed between AEP and ACA through the Joint Program Committee (JPC) process. However, the following outcome form the overarching expectations of the delegated Programs, and offer metrics to help ensure ongoing program success.

- The WCDPP, PCP and SLCP programs are fully resourced by existing levy funding.
- Communications between AEP and ACA are open, balanced and effective in ensuring delegated programs are successfully implemented.
- Agriculture producers are aware of compensation/prevention programs and know how to access them.
- A waterfowl crop damage prevention program is in place, allowing agriculture producers to qualify for funding under the joint Federal-Provincial waterfowl compensation program.

- Agriculture producers qualifying for Wildlife Predator Compensation and Shot Livestock Compensation receive funding in a timely manner.
- Agriculture producers affected by these programs support wildlife management programs.
- The image of resource-users whose activities may result in the unintended loss of livestock due to hunting, is improved in the eyes of non-resource users.
- On a yearly basis appropriate HPCOs are addressed within each program's activities.

Specific Program Activities

1. Implementation of WCDPP

AEP

- leads interprovincial planning and coordination of waterfowl crop damage prevention and compensation programs where required.

ACA

- leads implementation of program;
- provides necessary resources for provision of program and ensure program meets requirements for producers to qualify for federal funding;
- ensures Counties have scare cannons available for producer use;
- ensures information on location of cannons and on crop depredation prevention is posted on the ACA website and the specific ACA webpage is known and available to producers;
- informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine; and
- leads plan refinement.

2. Implementation of PCP

AJSG is responsible for liaising with claimants through the reporting, investigation and application approval process. AEP staff review the application for compensation and approve or deny the claim and hear appeals from claimants and makes recommendations for livestock values. CANFAX provides the listing of livestock values for calculation of compensation amounts. This value is used by AEP to determine the value of each approved compensation claim. ACA's only role in PCP is to receive and ensure timely payment of claims once they have been investigated by AJSG and reviewed and approved by AEP staff.

AEP/AJSG

- are members on the PSLCC;

- notifies ACA of any proposed changes to program prior to ACA budget cycle;
- receives and investigates claims for predation incidents;
- approves claims, calculates claim amounts and notifies ACA of approved claims;
- liaises with claimants through the application approval process and subsequent appeals; and
- ensures funding from the Federal Government is available to ACA according to the terms of the Growing Forward 2 bilateral agreement (60% of 80% of livestock value).

ACA

- is a member on the PSLCC;
- makes payment to producer for approved claims;
- informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine or issues that emerge; and
- reports results annually.

3. Implementation of SLCP

The PSLCC develops the compensation scheme for this program. CANFAX provides the listing of livestock values for calculation of compensation amounts. The RCMP receives and investigates shot livestock incidents, and submits claims to AEP. AJSG is responsible for liaising with claimants through the claim approval process. ACA's only role in SLCP is to receive and ensure timely payment of claims once they have been investigated by RCMP/AJSG and approved by AEP.

AEP/AJSG

- is a member of PSLCC;
- notifies ACA of any proposed changes to program prior to ACA budget cycle;
- approves claims, calculates claim amounts and notifies ACA of approved claims; and
- liaises with claimants through the application approval process and subsequent appeals.

ACA

- is a member of the PSLCC;
- makes payment to producer for approved claims;
- informs on progress of implementation and identifies opportunities to refine; and
- reports results annually.

Livestock Compensation/Crop Damage Prevention Programs Performance Measures

AEP requires an annual report from the ACA at the conclusion of each operating year. This report will contain a synopsis of Livestock Compensation/Crop Damage Prevention

programs implementation, including recommendations for improvement, and will be reviewed by the JPC.

The following metrics will be used to track the success of these programs:

- accounting of levy fund allocation by program (WCDPP, PCP and SLCP);
- 100% of qualified compensation claims successfully processed within 30 days of receipt; and
- number of HPCOs that have been addressed through the programs.

Program Term

This Agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and remain in effect until Dec 9, 2024

This Agreement is subject to annual review and may be amended from time to time as outlined in the MOU signed Dec 9, 2021 between ACA and AEP.