

# INFORMING THE COST OF CO-EXISTENCE: WILDLIFE AND CATTLE

## UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

Alberta is the largest beef producing province in Canada. There are 26,500 farms supporting over 5.5 million cattle sharing the landscape with native wildlife species. Wildlife species are an important component of our natural landscapes, providing recreation and hunting opportunities for Albertans. For a beef producer, co-existing with wildlife often results in economic impacts: animal or feed loss, property damage or loss, as well as the costs of prevention and management activities. Ignoring these concerns can result in reduced tolerance toward wildlife, and in some cases leads to persecution of specific species.



How do we support this important industry in Alberta while maintaining healthy wildlife populations? The purpose of this project is to help us better understand the economic impacts of wildlife to Alberta beef producers. For healthy wildlife populations to co-exist on private lands in Alberta, it is important to understand the economic burden faced by beef producers. If beef producers are doing well, and we are addressing wildlife and cattle concerns then it is assumed the tolerance of wildlife will be higher.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- Identify the species most involved in conflict with beef producers.
- Evaluate the economic costs to beef producers in Alberta and within Alberta Beef Producer zones from ungulates, carnivores and birds co-existing on agricultural lands.
- Develop comprehensive lists of costs associated with animal and feed loss, property damage, and prevention and management activities, including both direct and indirect costs.



## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Understanding the economic impacts of wildlife to the livestock community in Alberta is important because it:

- provides context of how wildlife affect the financial health and stability of beef producers,
- informs policy and programs earmarked to reduce conflicts or address the economic burden to beef producers,
- identifies higher risk communities in Alberta where prevention, management and compensation programs need to be modified or directed.

## PARTNERS:



[www.albertabeef.org](http://www.albertabeef.org)



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