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# AN UPDATE ON THE REVISION OF THE HANDBOOK, "PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE"

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Wildlife species have an important role in our environment and they provide many recreational, economic, and aesthetic benefits. Management of these species is necessary, however, when they cause damage to agricultural, industrial, and natural resources, and threaten personal property, public health, and safety. Published estimates indicate that commensal rodents, field rodents, and predators combined, cause >\$2 billion in damage in North America annually. Because of the social and economic impacts of wildlife damage, there is a need for up-to-date information on the prevention and control of wildlife damage for producers, resource managers, administrators, and the public.

The book, "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage," edited by Robert M. Timm (1983) (Handbook) has served as the principal reference in this field. The Handbook currently contains 65 chapters (650 pages) by 45 authors who are recognized as authorities in wildlife damage management. Over 8,500 copies have been sold and are being used by personnel from

the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Extension Service (ES) and Division of Animal Damage Control (ADC), natural resources agencies, municipalities, private pest control operations and others throughout the United States, as well as other countries. The Handbook has been reprinted four times and was recognized by the Natural Resources Council of America as "Outstanding Book for 1983." Previous Handbook sponsors include the University of Nebraska-Cooperative Extension (UNCE), ES, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Great Plains Agricultural Council.

It has been 7 years since the current edition of "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage" was developed. New technologies, products, laws, and regulations have had an impact on wildlife damage management. The current Handbook primarily addresses wildlife species of the Great Plains. Many of these species, however, occur outside of the Great Plains and about 60% of the Handbooks are sold outside this region. Because of widespread

interest, we proposed in December 1989, to conduct a comprehensive revision and update of the Handbook, to include a national scope and perspective, applicable to all regions of the United States. Our objective is to completely revise and print 5,000 copies of "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage." The revised handbook will: 1) provide up-to-date information in a form which is easily accessible, practical, and understandable to persons interested in wildlife damage prevention and control, 2) include details on species biology, damage identification, and economic impacts, 3) outline all currently registered and recommended damage prevention and control measures, 4) emphasize prevention of wildlife damage through habitat modification, exclusion, frightening stimuli, repellents and other non-lethal methods, and 5) emphasize safe and selective use of lethal control methods through pesticides, trapping and shooting when their use is justified.

## METHODS

We initiated the revision of the handbook in September 1989 and have progressed forward at a slow but steady pace. Fifty-two authors have been enlisted to contribute 83 chapters or sections to the handbook revision. We are currently in the middle of the chapter development and revision process. All existing chapters are being revised to contain the most up-to-date, accurate and useful information available. Seventeen new species-chapters have been identified to address the needs of Handbook users throughout the United States. To date, we have received 41 chapters for review. Gary A. Larson, Technical Editor, and his staff have done an exceptional job in reviewing and returning manuscripts. Scott E. Hygnstrom and assistant editors Dallas R. Virchow and Kurt C. VerCauteren have reviewed about 75% of the manuscripts that have been submitted. Activities have

slowed, however, because of responsibilities associated with hosting the Tenth Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop and editing this proceedings. Twenty-eight chapters have been requested but have yet to be received by the editors. Four sections that are associated with pesticide registration or supplies and materials will be developed shortly before going to press to maximize the timeliness and accuracy of the information.

During Fiscal Years 1990 through 1992, the UNCE will contribute \$177,259 and ADC \$68,567 for the revision. These funds will be used to support an Editor (1.0 FTE), Production Technician (0.5 FTE), Illustrator (0.5 FTE), Secretary (0.3 FTE), and Typesetter (0.3 FTE). In addition, funds are requested to cover benefits, production consulting services, operating supplies, and communication expenses.

The Handbook will be a two-volume set. It will be loose-leaf, punched, and contained in ring binders. Individual chapters will deal with species that cause damage throughout the United States. Additional chapters will address general aspects of wildlife damage prevention and control. The revised edition will be computer typeset and will include species illustrations and illustrations of damage, damage control tools, methods, and materials.

At this time, 52 authors have agreed to contribute chapters for the revision. They represent the ES, ADC, EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, universities, state wildlife agencies, and private consulting firms. All contributing authors have been mutually agreed upon by UNCE and ADC prior to final selection. James E. Miller, National Program Leader, Fish and Wildlife, ES, has acted in an advisory role in selection of these authors.

Scott E. Hygnstrom and Robert M. Timm, Project Coordinators, will serve as editors for the handbook revision, and will be responsible for handbook design, layout, development, and communication with contributing authors. Gary A. Larson, ADC, has been assigned to serve as technical editor for the handbook revision and will represent ADC in matters regarding policy and regulations. The three editors will review and edit all drafts of new and revised chapters that are submitted by contributing authors. James E. Miller, ES, will serve as a project liaison and resource in matters regarding ES policy and regulations.

We propose that UNCE, ES, and ADC, as cooperating agencies, mutually agree on the content and format of the revised handbook. Equal credit and prominence will

be provided UNCE and ADC in all handbook covers, chapter headings, displays, advertisements and publicity. Additional sponsors will be properly acknowledged and requested to support the use of the revised handbook.

We recognize that this revision will require extensive effort and resources. We believe, however, that it will provide significant benefits to those involved and concerned with wildlife damage control management throughout the United States.

### LITERATURE CITED

Timm, R. M. 1983. Prevention and control of wildlife damage. Great Plains Agric. Council and Univ. of Nebraska-Extension. 650 pp.

