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USE OF VIDEO TAPES IN WILDLIFE DAMAGE EXTENSION - EDUCATION

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The purpose of this paper is to report on a telephone survey to 15 professional wildlife damage control workers in 9 of the 10 Great Plains states. North Dakota was the only state that was not contacted. In this survey we asked the following five questions:

1. Do you have any video tapes on wildlife damage control? 2. How many counties are there in your state? 3. How many County Extension Offices have videocassette recorders (VCRs)? 4. What is your opinion of video tapes? 5. Do you see a future for VCRs in wildlife damage control extension education?

Another purpose of this presentation is to show you a review of short excerpts of some wildlife damage control extension education video tapes. Only 3 of 9 states currently have wildlife damage control video tapes.

The 9 states represented in this survey contained about 763 counties. Nearly all of the county extension offices have or soon will have the capability to show video tapes. It is estimated that in homes with television sets in the United States, nearly one third have VCRs.

There are only about 7 or 8 video tapes on wildlife damage control. There are, however, some very good hunting video tapes on the commercial market. The enthusiasm for video tapes was shown in our question #4 about the opinion of those interviewed concerning the use of VCRs in extension wildlife damage control education. Nine of the 15 people interviewed made remarks concerning the material being easier to understand in comparison to slides or publications, material being more like real life, and the VCR format being more personal and less expensive than the 16mm film to produce. They also felt that more information could be presented in a shorter time span than is possible with slides.

Two of the 15 people interviewed indicated that too much effort was necessary to use the VCR and reported difficulty in taking pictures. Four of the 15 indicated that they had never used VCRs for the purpose mentioned in the survey.

However, all 15 people interviewed agreed that VCRs have a good future in extension wildlife damage control education.

Since I am not a video tape expert, I will not go into a discussion of all the different formats available. I will say that this subject is similar to computers in that there are several formats and most are not interchangeable. Cameras and recorders cost between $3,500 and $45,000. Picture quality increases with price but I have found that we can produce sufficient quality tapes with lower priced equipment.

The Great Plains Wildlife Resource Committee will consider preparing and updating a catalog of stock footage available.

We would like to thank the Extension Service in Arkansas, Nebraska, -New Mexico (especially Jim Knight), Kansas and the New Brunswick Wildlife Conservation agency for the use of these films.

/A selection of wildlife damage control video tapes was shown following the oral presentation./