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Summary

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Summary

by

Dan F. Dickneite

During this workshop we have heard from some of the leading animal damage control and livestock management specialists in the Great Plains and adjoining states. It appears that western states personnel will likely be involved in wild animal damage control to a greater extent than before as control activities are passed from federal to the separate state agencies--hopefully, with financial assistance for both implementation and research.

There is no widespread agreement on numbers or severity of damage, or on the best damage control techniques to use. What works in one area of the country will not necessarily work in another. Then too, some national publicity and attention have complicated control activities in many areas. More and better surveys of both coyote populations and actual livestock damage are desperately needed so that the animal damage control specialists can handle problems with some degree of perspective and so the public can be shown that predator control activity is necessary and biologically sound.

Ranchers and farmers are in a squeeze in some areas--they need help and that help must be both effective in reducing/eliminating losses and be acceptable to the public body. Mechanical/nonmechanical, lethal/nonlethal methods of control have been explained in some detail. Livestock management is important and cannot be ignored. To be of value all these techniques must be balanced against economic factors, public reaction, and practical application considerations.

Perhaps of some importance is how we approach the different kinds of control methods available to us. A good predator control public relations program is oftentimes well spent. The rancher and farm organizations, university Extension specialists and fish and game departments should take a look at what public information they have available and make sure it is suitable in view of this "environmental decade" we now live in. Where applicable this information should be freely exchanged between states and agencies so that it will reach the most people.

Many of those people opposing predator control are not knowledgeable about the subject. Some even feel the coyote is an endangered species!!! I'm told that we had one complaint from a lady in Missouri opposed to the wolverine shoe and book ads because she felt that wolverines were an endangered species!!!

In summary, we have a long way to go before all interests can be satisfactorily met--if such a state of accomplishment is even possible....If this workshop does no more than give us an overview of each others problems and programs of animal husbandry and animal damage control (which it has done for me) it is a success and should be repeated. In conclusion the program planning committee is to be commended for their handling of both the program and physical arrangements. I have enjoyed my brief stay in Kansas as I am sure have all of the other out-of-state attendees.