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September 1987

The Probe, Issue 75 - September 1987

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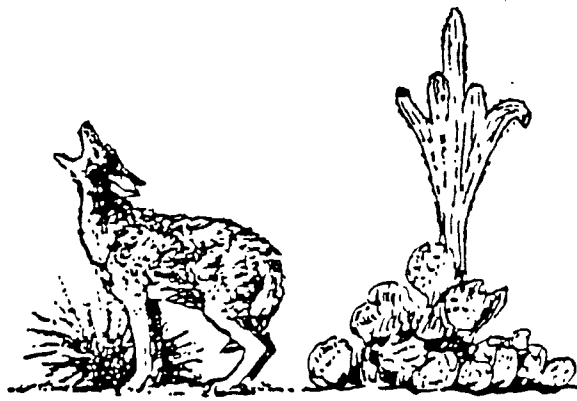


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"The Probe, Issue 75 - September 1987" (1987). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 147.
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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

SEPTEMBER, 1987

NUMBER 75

HOW WILL WE TELL ?

In the July issue (#73) of THE PROBE, the President of NADCA speculated whether proponents of the transfer of the ADC program to USDA may have made a "mistake". In truth, we will never know because we can never be sure of the results of some other alternative. While I can accept the comments made as a personal opinion and some "facts" are not in dispute, some of the interpretations and insinuations may merit more reflection.

The rhetoric about the appointment of the current Deputy Administrator for APHIS-ADC seems a bit misplaced. First, it is too early to make judgments regarding his competency: he is new in the position; is still operating under budget constraints developed under USFWS; and the 'budget shambles' was inherited (nobody can create the fiscal problems in which the Program found itself in just a couple of months). Comments were also made to the effect the Program should be administered by 'professional wild-lifers.' If this were really important, wouldn't it have been more appropriate to have left it under USFWS? By the same token, does a good hospital administrator necessarily have to be a doctor? My point is that as comfortable as it may be to have a 'wildlifer' and a protegy of the ADC Program in the lead position, at that level it is far more important to have an excellent 'politician' with good administrative skills. I have known some mediocre biologists that made excellent State Supervisors (oops, my vintage shows, they are Directors now) because of

their political skills. The abrupt shift in Administrators could also suggest a sudden need for someone who was qualified for the Senior Executive Service. Guess I would prefer to see our organization take a more deliberate and benevolent attitude, pending completer information upon which to base our judgment.

Perhaps now more than ever, it is important to recognize that if NADCA is to achieve its' objectives, it needs to forge a partnership with the political-administrative elements governing the Program in a way that will build a productive Program. FREDERICK F. KNOWLTON, NADCA RD II.

I can't speak for George as he's been out of town for several weeks now, but I do have to eat crow at least concerning Dr. Fichtner. I spent last week (Sept. 21-4) at the DWRC and got 'straightened' out by all the ADC 'brass' as well as research personnel regarding that gentleman. It was made very clear that in the general concensus, ADC problems haven't changed with the Administrator. They are what they always have been - budget constraints. And I intend, personally, to back off and give Dr. Fichtner some room to operate.

ON THE OTHER HAND I have a lifetime background in ADC which definitely warps a personality. In my book if you weren't brought up in ADC you just aren't good enough and JIM LEE was one of us. A lifetime of having everyone against a philosophy you believe in does tend to

make one distrustful of outsiders. The old PARC bunch was a tight-knit, hard-working organization that tried to do what it believed was essential to the well-being of the country without expecting to be thanked. Mistakes were made, mostly in PR but also, mostly, honest mistakes. I guess that also applies to NADCA. Except for some of our 'working' RDs the rest of us may be out of step with the current Program. The people we worked with have either died or retired. I, for one, would be happy to give up the responsibilities that help keep the organization going. That 40+ hours a month minimum that goes into NADCA could be put to better personal use (though I would miss the interchange it offers me with old friends). I feel I've accomplished what I set out to do when I helped found NADCA - - create a more favorable administrative atmosphere for ADC, despite some setbacks, than existed under Interior. WILLIAM D. FITZWATER, YE ED

Every argument has two sides. Sorry I haven't time for yours.

HELP AGAIN YET

While I've got the soapbox - - I'll repeat my request for help in the last newsletter. Lyle Stemmerman, Thurman Booth, Al Stickey, Bernice Constantin, and a very few others responded to my request for information on city bird programs. Attached is a copy of the questionnaire I want to mail out but need specific names and addresses. Would you please help me ?

Neptotism is not so bad if you keep it in the family.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS and the TEXAS TRAPLINE for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not to be considered a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.

ARMADILLO: (TX) An armadillo taken in Hill County tested positive for rabies.

BEAVER: (CA) ADC Dist. Super. JOHN MAESTRELLI had a 98% reduction of beaver

on two ranches using a crossbow equipped with night vision goggles, an infrared laser aiming light, and an attached fishing line.

(TX) Beaver damned themselves when they blocked two watershed dams during the rainy season this year. The water rose nine feet over the riser. The ADC employee scouting nearby creeks found the beavers also scouting. He was able to kill 6 beaver with a pistol from his boat during the hottest part of the day. In another county where beavers had flooded 350 acres, ADC took 105 animals.

CANADA GEESE/SANDHILL CRANES:

(ID/MT) Problems with geese to malting barley in Montana and both goose and sandhill crane damage to grain in Idaho are expected to increase. Despite the scare tactics being used, there is a general dissatisfaction by growers due to the limited effectiveness of these labor intensive control methods.

(NJ) ADC State Director ED BUTLER was requested by Kurlington County Health Department to assist in a nuisance goose problem. Four of their five beaches have been closed due to high bacterial counts they are blaming on geese.

COYOTES: (NY) A Yates County rancher reported to ADC Dist. Super. THOMAS TOMSA, JR. the loss of two lambs. These were confirmed coyote kills and brought the total lost to coyotes to eleven within the last three weeks.

(WV) ADC State Director LEONARD WALKER attended a sheepraisers meeting where the farmers were concerned about their losses to coyotes and some feared they may go out of business because of this new loss.

(NE) Coyote depredation complaints have been coming in from Nebraska lately. The latest report of two lambs and four calves includes two calves that were embryo implants and worth \$3,000.

(ID) Coyote damage has been high in the higher elevations of Idaho. The problem of control is complicated in that this is an area of high recreational use and trapping is not permitted.

GULLS: (AK) Sitka and Fairbanks airports have experienced problems with concentrations of gulls feeding on spawning herring near the airports. Alleviation of the problem was achieved at Fairbanks but was not successful at Sitka.

MEADOW MICE: (ID) An outbreak of these animals is occurring in south-central Idaho. Currently 20-30% damage to individual fields (alfalfa & standing grain at present) is being reported. Normally some 3,000 pounds of zinc phosphide-treated wheat is used per year, but 24,295 pounds have been used so far this year.

MOUNTAIN LION: California Fish & Game has amended its cooperative agreement to make \$5,000 available to the ADC program to respond to human health and safety problems created by mountain lions.

PLAGUE: (AZ) ADC is helping the Arizona Dept. of Health Services monitor bubonic plague in the State by taking blood samples of carnivores, primarily coyotes. So far the samples have been 29.5% positive for plague with an incidence of 76% in Yavapai County where a human death occurred last winter.

RACCOONS: (TX) Two raccoons caught in live traps lent by SARA DRUM to homeowners got more than a hot foot. They were killed by fire ants over night.

RAPTORS: Michigan DNR recently applied to the USFWS for a permit to take hawks and owls to protect a planting of Sichuan pheasants. The permit they got only permitted hawks and the omission of owls was not explained.

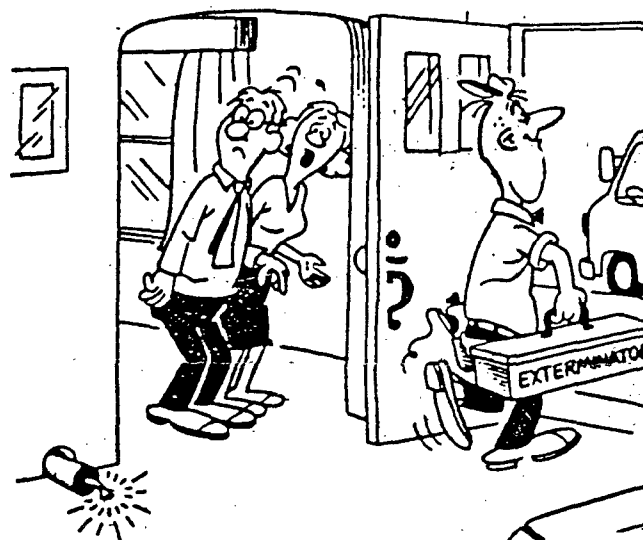
RAVENS: (UT) Some 200 ravens killed 11 lambs and 1 ewe. Chicken eggs, injected with Starlicide, were all consumed by the morning of the second day after placement. Damage stopped.

ROCKCHUCKS: (ID) A Special Local Need registration was given Idaho to use a 4.9% strychnine paste on marmots. A 98% reduction was achieved by ADC on two ranches without adverse effects on non-target species.

TREE SQUIRRELS: (TX) A county park estimated that squirrels have done \$50,000 worth of damage to pecans in the park.

WOLVES: (MT) DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, USFWS, and ADC discussed a plan of compensating livestock producers for livestock lost as a result of confirmed wolf depredation. The funding would originate from private sources through DOW & USFWS with ADC getting the dirty end of the stick by confirming wolf kills and capturing the offending individual.

All you need to grow fine, vigorous grass is a crack in the sidewalk.



“JUST WHERE DID YOU HIRE THIS EXTERMINATOR?”

M-44 ALERT

Familiarity breeds contempt and we tend to get careless with the familiar but lethal tools we handle. In Texas recently a trapper bent over an M-44 to bait it. Even before he touched the unit, it misfired shooting cyanide in his eyes and nose. He was immediately blinded, unable to breathe, and started to vomit. Fortunately, he was carrying the cyanide antidote in his shirt pocket. He broke two ampules and by holding them to his nose was able to breathe. He could see good enough to differentiate the road from the pasture and drove to the ranch house about one quarter of mile away. There he flushed his eyes, nose, and mouth with a water hose. They called emergency and while waiting for the

ambulance he used the last of his 6 capsule antidote kit. They continued to flush his face on the drive in but he still had chest pains, blurred vision, and vomiting. At the hospital they proceeded through cyanide detoxification during the night and he was released the next morning.

This is a frightening situation when you're back in the boonies alone. Every trapper should review his procedures under similar circumstances. The fact that Texas trapper carried the antidote kit in his shirt pocket where he could find it even though blinded probably saved his life. But this would have not been enough if he had an out-dated kit or one destroyed by heat. He usually carried water, but unfortunately had switched trucks that morning. Water to flush the affected areas would have been very helpful. Read over the instructions on cyanide poisoning treatment again and drill yourself in the necessary actions so your actions are automatic. Make certain that when you are handling M-44s you have the proper safety equipment.

Squeaking wheels may get the grease, but empty wagons make the most noise.

WE PAUSE FOR STATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attached is a brochure describing in more detail the bobcat trapping book I reported on in the last issue. ELK RIVER PRESS is a new member of NADCA.

IN MEMORIAL

Just had a note from BOB ISAAC that his wife, Beth, died September 2nd. Bob's address is 1304 Lynnwood Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80521.

PERSONNEL

NORM JOHNSON, Western Regional Director, Denver, CO will be retiring October 2. His going will leave a big hole in the old ADC ranks and he will be missed. Furthermore, he's going back in the brush in Wisconsin of all places after having lived in New Mexico. We wish Barb and Norm many happy years.

GLENN HOOD, Denver Wildlife Research

Center Biologist, retired in August. He is another old friend that will be missed. He was assigned to forest animal damage problems, then served as Chief of the Mammal Section, Chief of the Bird Section, and finally Chief of the Wildlife Damage Branch. He and Donna are going to stay in Lakewood (CO).

Honest confession is good for the soul but hard on the reputation.

RECORDS TO SHOOT AT

In Warden (WA) they are going to have to wait another year for a record-breaking attempt to stuff a man and 250 rattlesnakes into a sleeping bag. The attempt to break the old record of 224 rattlesnakes was given up when the locals could only provide 100 of the crawly critters. (They don't make a sleeping bag big enough to get me and ONE DEAD rattlesnake into.)

The best comment on the IranContragate hearings: The best soap operas have been produced in Washington lately - "As the Shredder Turns" and "The Shower of Babble." As the saying goes, "Many a man's reputation depends upon what wasn't found out about him."

In a different concept of "shoot" Maryland Health officials have embarked on an ambitious program of vaccination of 4-5,000 thousand raccoons in an attempt to stop the spread of rabies by raccoons into the Delmarva Peninsula. Thirty technicians will be turned loose to capture, "shoot", and release the 'coons at an estimated cost of \$270,000 for the three-month project. Oh well! Thanks to JOHN JONES, NADCA RD, Bethesda (MD) and the WASHINGTON POST (2 Jul.)

Be yourself today, but don't overdo it.

MORMONS STOP HOSPITALITY

BUD WRIGHT (B&G CO., Dallas, TX) sent me a clipping from the WALL STREET JOURNAL (20 Aug.) about this. It seems that the Hotel Utah where every U.S. President since Howard Taft has slept on a visit to Salt Lake City will be closed to all overnight guests except a family of peregrine falcons. This prestidous hotel

has been a money-loser since it started, because it can't get a liquor license being so close to the Mormon temple. Fortunately, they are not knocking down this magnificent structure but are turning it into church office space, classrooms, and meeting facilities. The peregrine falcons moved in on the ninth floor the spring of '86 and raised a brood. The two closest rooms to "their" ledge have been deemed out of service by the management. According to the hotel's registration book, the rooms are occupied by "P. Falcon" the only guests in the hotel since last month.

Apparently falcons are making the most of their "endangered status". Another pair have taken up residency on the top floors of the Golden Nugget casino in Atlantic City (NJ). To explain nature in the raw and carnivorous habits, the upper suites will each display a printed card on a golden easel: "These distinctive birds, with obvious discriminating and excellent taste, chose the Golden Nugget to take up residency. We want to share with you this knowledge, so that you would be able to appreciate the basic needs of these magnificent birds." That's, as graphic as they can get to explaining to the sheltered urbanites the gutted bodies of pigeons on the ledges.

Money is what things run into and people run out of.

LETTERS TO YE ED

ANONYMOUS APHIS, ???

As a paid up member of this august body, I would like the leadership to "earn their keep" and lodge a formal protest with APHIS on my behalf. A substantial sum was paid to an itinerant cowboy who claims to be able to sing for a piece of literary flotsam disguised as a song. Webster defines a song as a short METRICAL composition intended or adapted for singing, especially one in rhymed stanzas. The turkey they selected demonstrates little knowledge of meter. I have enclosed a copy of my composition which was forwarded to my supervisor but, for reasons unknown to me, was not selected. It is possible that my civil rights have been violated. However, I decided that I would contact you prior to enlisting the aid of ACLU. I also need

to thank you for serving as the inspiration for this composition. I got down to the last line and could not come up with anything that fit. Then I remembered your recent treatise on felids and voila!

THE APHIS FIGHT SONG

(sung to "A Bicycle Built for Two")

Rat shit, bat shit, blackbird shit smells too,
We'll clean roosts out, or kill a few squabs for you,
The rat-choking men of APHIS,
Will show those kids what safe is,
Just call us up,
We'll den those pups,
Or turn neighbors' cats to glue.

Dear AA:

We certainly feel you have grounds for civil action at the lack of recognition accorded those haunting lyrics. However, your meter instead of equaling three feet appears to be only one big one - - in the mouth.

HOWARD A. MERRILL, rtd. NADCA RD,
Green Valley, AZ:

Did you happen to hear recently about releasing red wolves on a refuge in the Carolinas ? Interesting. Nothing personal but I think elections should include ALL officers. (I agree, Howard, and hope we can do that next year but we need more volunteers.)

MARK WORCESTER, rtd, USFWS, McGregor
(MN):

Nice to get a newsletter again. Am sure you had a good trip, but really miss them. Am enclosing a clipping concerning wolves and logging roads. As you noted in your newsletter - people who want to protect predators don't have to live with them and feed them. Have had implants in both eyes which are working out well. Bessie will have one this month. Is Dr. Dale Wade the same Wade I knew from Marion (SD) ? (That he is, Mark) You could have picked a place to live that is easier to spell !

GRANT BIRMINGHAM, Modesto (CA):

Thought you might like to see the letter I received from Penney's. It pays to write:

"Your letter to Mr. David F. Miller, President of the JCPenney Company, has been referred to this office, since the matter concerns Customer Relations. This is to inform you that the JCPenney Company is planning to discontinue the sale of "Snuggles the Seal" merchandise. s/Carol A. Stronach, Customer Relations, Executive Office.

NORMAN E. TRASK, Deputy Comm. Maine Dept. of Inland Fishers & Wildlife:
A note about Maine's ADC Program in your recent newsletter was brought to our attention by several of our ADC trappers. The implication that Maine Fish & Wildlife is 'teaming' up with the DEFENDERS to develop a new ADC program is way off base. Over the past few years, the Department has worked very closely with UM's Wildlife Dept. and USDA Extension Service (AES) to develop a wildlife extension program in Maine. The program is designed to distribute a wide variety of information to Maine citizens regarding such things as habitat management, ADC, protection of critical habitats, and a variety of related topics. Approximately two years ago, the DEFENDERS' proposed federal legislation to establish a non-lethal ADC extension/demonstration type program in ME, MA, NH, and VT within the AES. The Dept. was asked by AES to attend a meeting to discuss the proposal. From the very beginning, this Department has been very concerned over the DEFENDERS' initiatives, and has expressed its concerns to Roger Leech, Director of AES in Maine. Since that time, the Department has met with Roger Leech to insure that the DEFENDERS' initiatives does not adversely impact Maine's operational ADC programs and associated extension efforts. (Attached was a copy of a letter to Leech dated May 11th very clearly setting out Mr. Trask's objections to the program. In addition, JIM MILLER called up to express his dismay at the implication that Extension was cutting in on ADC. He also sent a memorandum of understanding between APHIS-ADC and the Extension Service which calls for close agreement between the two organizations in field actions.)

Did it again, Fitzwater! I'm really getting a whuppin in this issue, but you

must admit that despite my bias for ADC I am willing to print opposing views!

MARIE HINTZE, Richfield (UT):

I received and have just finished reading your #73 issue from cover to cover and thought it was hi-time I sent a nominal check to you. I do appreciate receiving the PROBE and know it's a hard battle and all up-hill.

Thanks, Marie. It's support like yours that makes it all worthwhile. That is a cliché' but I mean it.

TO : ADC Employees
FROM : Deputy Administrator
SUBJECT: Audits, reviews, etc.

It has come to my attention that the subject actions have been largely left undone in recent years, accounting for the sorry state of affairs in this outfit.

Therefore, I have decided that all ADC employees will begin immediately to evaluate, review, and write reports on the work of all others. These reports will be evaluated by the thousands of APHIS personnel in Hyattsville, MD. I cannot assign these tasks to specific offices for no mortal man knows the names of all these offices.

Following these evaluations, the solicitors, OIG, OGC, OMB, and other legal and para-legal persons will tear the resulting findings apart. The entire mass of paper will then be given to me and I will begin to appoint working groups, advisory boards, management teams, and study teams to resolve every minute point that has been raised.

This plan should effectively stop all program activity for several years. As Pogo says, "We have found the enemy, and he is us."

I said I would lay off personally but the Doc is fair game for everybody else.

PAUL WORNOCCKI, APHIS, Sandusky, OH:
Keep up the way you have provided the ADC profession with information and what is happening in the field. I'll see you in California in March. I guess you

received my message concerning JOHN DEGRAZIO's death. (I lost it! That disturbs me no end as John was a good personal friend. It must be psychological as I couldn't believe he would go that way. Will pay my respects in detail in the next issue.)

To get them to work on time, provide 95 parking spaces for each 100 employees.

MEETIN'S

THIRD EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Oct. 18-21, 1987 in Gulf State Park Resort, Gulf Shores, AL. Early registration is \$55 (postmarked Oct. 11). Student registration is \$25; at the door \$30 (without Proceedings). Contact Dr. H. Lee Stribling, Dept. of Zoology/Wildlife Science, 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Oct. 28-31, 1987 in Boise (ID). Meeting features a symposium on raptor migration in western North America. Contact: Rich Howard, USFWS, Rm. 576, 4696 Overland Road, Boise (ID) 83705.

THIRTEENTH CALIFORNIA VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 1-3, 1988. Papers on the largest and oldest conference on vertebrate pest control. Contact: Rex Marsh, Dept. Wildlife, Fisheries, & Biology, Univ. of California, Davis, CA 95616.

SIXTH ASTM SYMPOSIUM, Mar. 4, 1988 in Monterey (CA). Methods, tests, techniques, etc. in vertebrate pest control measures. Contact: DR. WILLIAM B. JACKSON, Dept. of Biological Sciences, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

The major side effect of medical treatment today is bankruptcy.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

My "newspaper clipping" file was threatening to take over the works so I just had to get to work on them. I really appreciate those faithful few who provide me with the news. However, it sometimes takes more time and ingenuity than I have available to work them out into a readable piece. So they pile up.

In defence of my space, I rolled up my sleeves and tackled the pile and whittled it down to a sizable number. In the process some things which were outdated or repetitious or I lacked inspiration to treat got thrown out. What follows is a brief of what I had left. Some credits are missing, but please keep sending me the clips that interest you. The pile that is left is no longer intimidating and like the regs, I'm now uptodate pretty much and anxious for more.

A mongrel dog, "Pee Wee Corn" (so help me!), was chosen by the NM Veterinary Medical Assn. to be the first canine hero. PWC stepped between his mistress and a foot-and-a-half rattlesnake. He grabbed the snake and shook it, getting bit three times in the right shoulder. He survived the bites but his master doubts if he will repeat this act of bravery because now, "When you turn on a ratchet wrench, the sound causes Pee Wee to raise his hackles, then he growls, barks - - and leaves."

The town of Newport News (VA) has lost the fight against seagulls despite the installation of a \$20,000 screen, fireworks, and ultraconic devices. The screen worked for about a month until the birds learned to get under it. The pyrotechnics scattered the birds and irritated the neighbors. Thanx to JOHN JONES, NADCA RD, Bethesda (MD).

A Pakistani \$30 million dollar F-16 air force plane was completely destroyed when the nose wheel hit a wild boar. The two pilots ejected safely but the plane was a complete wreck and it didn't do the boar any good either. (MIKE FALL, DWRC, Denver (CO) - Pakistani newspaper)

It was udder madness when a pig started nursing from a cow. The owner ran her off but the cow didn't seem to mind. Since this discovery the pig has grown to about 40 pounds and occasionally spars with the calf for bottle rights.

The 550,000-member Audubon Society has cut staff in an attempt to avoid an anticipated \$2.5 million budget deficit. This from a budget of \$28.6 million for FY 87-8. As their income from membership and endowments is climbing, the

difference between them and NADCA must be in the salary and perks they give their officers compared to the shaft we give ours.

Dr. Milton Avol, tagged the "Rat Lord" because of his rat-infested slum properties, was sentenced to spend 30 days in his own buildings until the situation is corrected. "PINK" MADSEN (rtd. NADCA RD, Florence, AZ) points out that "Coyote Landlords" who refuse to cooperate in control operations should be given the same notoriety.

The town of Warden (WA) made another newsitem (see RECORDS TO SHOOT AT). Their drive to collect rattlesnakes from a virtually snake-free part of the state has aroused the ire of you know who along with sage comments like, "Once you kill the rattlesnakes, your fields are overrun with a bunch of rats and mice and you have to use pesticides. Then you've got a bunch of dead rodents laying around filled with pesticides, which are eaten by hawks that suffer a buildup of pesticides." Sound familiar ? (GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, Twin Falls, ID)

BOB SCHMIDT (Hopland Field Sta., CA) points out the differences between a rancher and a farmer (CALIF. FARMER, 15 Aug. 87):

1. Ranchers live in the West, farmers in the Midwest and South, except sugarbeet farmers in ID, cotton farmers in AZ, wheat producers in MT. Or cattle ranchers in Florida and mink ranchers in MI.

2. Farmers wear seed-company caps, except when they are attending the PCA banquet, annual cattlemen's meeting, or touring a foreign country. Ranchers wear western hats except when they're roping, putting up hay, or feeding cows at 30° below.

3. Ranchers wear western boots except when they're irrigating and sleeping. Farmers wear western boots except when they go to town.

4. Farmers work cows afoot or from a tractor, motorcycle, snowmobile, road grader, canoe, ultralight - virtually any mobile contraption except a horse. Ranchers work cows only from horseback.

5. Farmers can identify grass. Ranchers have trouble distinguishing grass from

weeds since they see it so seldom. Farmers think grass is green. Ranchers think it is yellow.

6. Ranchers haul their dogs around in pickups and pretend they are stock dogs. Farmers haul their dogs around in the pickup for company.

7. Farmers think a rope is good for towing farm equipment, tying bales down on a flatbed, and staking the milk cow out along the highway. A rancher's rope hangs on the saddle and is only used to throw at critters.

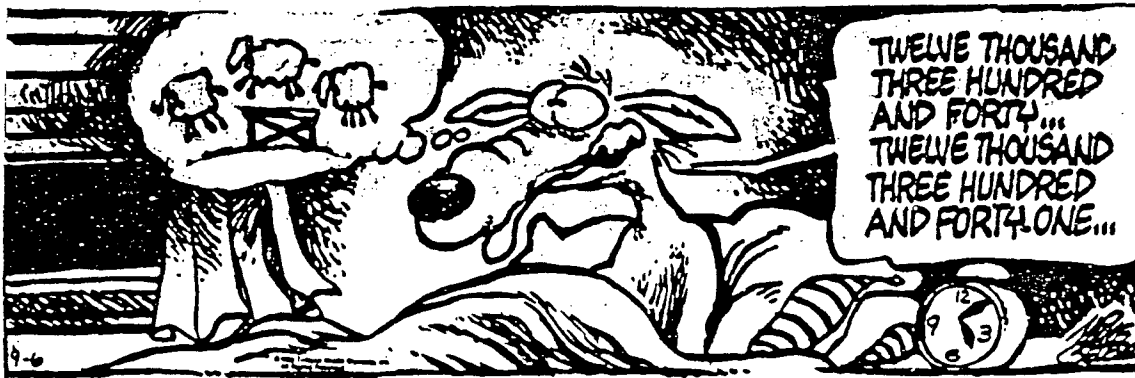
8. A rancher wouldn't be caught dead in overalls. A farmer never wears a scarf or spurs.

9. Farmers complain about the weather, the government, taxes, the banker, county roads, the price of seed, equipment, veterinary work, pickups, tires, and kids. So do ranchers.

Now that that is perfectly clear, let's assume you see a man on Main Street in Gallatin, MO. He's wearing western boots, a seed-corn cap, and has a pocketful of pencils. He's driving his pickup complete with a dog, saddle, and a three-wheeler in the back. Which is he? He's either a rancher on his way to a roping or a farmer coming back from the flea market. The only way to be sure is to examine his rope. If it has more than two knots in it, he's a farmer.

Anti-control people will stop at nothing. A sheep-herder's mobile home was destroyed in seconds by explosive shells from a three-barrel Gatling gun capable of firing 3,000 rounds per minute mounted on an Army Cobra attack helicopter. It was claimed that the home was parked near targets on the Yakima (WA) firing range during a practice run, but we know it was the work of protectionist fanatics. Fortunately, the shepherd who had leased grazing rights from the government was in town at the time. (Thanx to RON JOHNSON, NADCA RD V, Lincoln (NE))

Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming ranchers visited the Minnesota wolf recovery program and came away with these objections: (1) the State has little control over the program. In 1984 they tried to issue 65 permits in areas where the wolves were becoming a livestock problem and were stopped by a DEFENDERS'



lawsuit; (2) Several lawsuits have been filed by environmentalist organizations to stop road building, logging, etc. on the premise it would be detrimental to wolf habitat; (3) Wolves cannot be taken by APHIS/ADC trappers until damage is caused and only offending animals can be taken from certain zones; (4) Minnesota ranchers were unhappy with the compensation program as proof is needed the animals were killed by wolves and often carcasses are never found. While the ranchers the group contacted were supposed to be exceptions rather than the rule, the West will object to any wolf recovery program especially one in the hands of the Federal government. (GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, Twin Falls (ID))

A study of waterfowl nesting success in the prairie pothole region of the USA showed that nesting success of practically all duck spp. was not sufficient to maintain the populations.

What is most interesting is that mammalian predation was the major cause of nesting failure (54-85%) compared with 37% failure in croplands due to farming operations and 27% in hayland.

(GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, Twin Falls (ID))

The Idaho Legislature approved a bill that requires wolf owners to tattoo their pets or be subject to \$1,000 fines. While there were some humorous comments about how the tattoos should read, there is a serious intent on the part of ranchers to protect themselves from depredations by pets hiding under the 'rare and endangered' label. (GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, Twin Falls (ID))

Woodstream Corp. (old Animal Trap Co.) sells a mousetrap that captures mice

alive. However, they had to change their packaging on the recommendations of a test group of "consumers". They objected to the instructions for 'disposing of' the trapped mouse as it made the mouse seem dead. New wording? 'releasing the mouse'. Ain't semantics wonderful! Reminds me of the time I was in India and stopped a lad with a trap cage of two black rats. He'd caught them in his shop. When asked what he was going to do with them, he was going to take them down the road a piece and release them. (RON JOHNSON, NADCA RD V and WALL STREET JOURNAL 6/15/87)

When in doubt hesitate.

AHHH ! A KINDRED SPIRIT

A Maine Legislator, Paul Jacques, introduced a bill that opponents have described as, "barbaric, sadistic, warped, moronic, simplistic, and frightening." Pretty bad, huh? The bill? Oh, just one that puts cats on equal footing with dogs caught killing domestic animals - the offending cats can be killed. He introduced the bill at the request of a couple whose prize waterfowl were attacked by a neighborhood cat. In one attack a goose lost five eggs worth \$250 each. He does have some friends, but as in my case he finds placid cat lovers become tigers when someone suggests cats aren't always lovable creatures. (GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RED III, Twin Falls (ID))

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