



## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT GAME, FISH AND PARKS

4500 SOUTH OXBOW | SIOUX FALLS, SD

December 19, 2025

Dear County Commissioners:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) *2025 Annual Wildlife Damage Program Report* for your review. I would ask that you review the letter from GFP Secretary Kevin Robling on the inside front cover of this report which outlines the important program services that are provided to ag producers across the state. If you have any questions about this report or would like a Wildlife Damage Specialist and/or their supervisor to appear at one of your future County Commission meetings to provide additional information on our wildlife damage management program services, please feel free to contact me and we'll make arrangements to have someone attend one of your meetings.

Since 1974, all counties in South Dakota have played an important role in providing funding to the state Animal Damage Control Fund (ADC Fund) via the provisions of SDCL 40-36-11 (see text attached to this letter). Under this statute, all South Dakota counties provide funding for this important landowner assistance program based upon a formula using the numbers of sheep and livestock found in that county through the USDA National Ag Statistics Service 'Census of Agriculture'. The original law setting up this program provided for a 1:1 match where \$1 in county funds was matched by \$1 in GFP hunting license revenue funds. Since 1999, however, GFP has matched the county funds at a 2 to 1 ratio. In 2013, the SD Legislature enacted legislation that added an additional \$1 surcharge for most hunting licenses sold and those dollars were also directed to the ADC Fund. Finally, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, another important partner, provides federal aerial predator control operational services under a memorandum of understanding to help GFP further assist livestock producers across South Dakota.

As you can see, this important program utilizes a variety of partner funding sources in order to aid livestock producers in protecting their livestock from predator losses. These dollars are critical in helping to ensure livestock producer losses are kept to a minimum each year.

If you'd like more information or would like someone from our staff to appear at an upcoming county commission meeting, don't hesitate to give me a call at 605.362.2700. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Brad Baumgartner, Regional Wildlife/Wildlife Damage Program Supervisor



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SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
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### **SDCL 40-36-11 County appropriations to animal damage control fund--Certification of amounts--State matching funds.**

Each county shall annually appropriate a sum equal to an assessment on all cattle and sheep based on the most current United States Department of Commerce census of agriculture, and the money shall be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state animal damage control fund. Each county shall be assessed at a rate of twenty-five cents per head for all sheep and six cents per head for all cattle. The Department of Game, Fish and Parks shall certify, to each county auditor, the amount to be appropriated. The state animal damage control fund shall be matched two dollars for every one dollar of county appropriation by funds of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

**Source:** SDC 1939, § 25.1101; SL 1943, ch 42, § 5; SL 1945, ch 36, § 3; SL 1963, ch 142; SL 1966, ch 72; SL 1978, ch 72, § 6; SL 1983, ch 292, § 12; SL 1984, ch 273, § 37; SL 1990, ch 329, §§ 1, 2; SL 1999, ch 210, § 14.