

November 8, 2005

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON LIVESTOCK PROTECTION PROGRAM BY  
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER.**

Dear Supervisors:

**SUMMARY:** On October 31, 2000 the Board approved and funded a five-year strategic plan for wildlife control to be implemented by the County Agricultural Commissioner's office. This program was to develop, implement, and continuously evaluate a livestock protection program with non-lethal components, and assess whether the exclusive application of non-lethal predator management practices might be economically feasible.

This action was taken as the initial step in phasing out the County's Wildlife Services contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The contract with USDA provided services to mitigate predation on livestock and to respond to urban or rural wildlife situations where there were potential health or property impacts. Because of public controversy over the USDA program elements, the agreement was discontinued at the end of fiscal year 2001/02.

Since its initiation, the County's Livestock Protection Program has been a model program providing assistance to ranchers through cost share and indemnification. Cost share funds are used for guard animals, scare devices, fencing and other enclosures to protect livestock; while indemnification helps defray the financial impacts of losses resulting from predation. Program funding does not address urban / wildlife conflicts, a component of the discontinued USDA agreement. Response to these situations has largely been assumed by the Agricultural Commissioner's office who works with appropriate agencies toward issue resolution.

This presentation provides an overview of the current Livestock Protection program outlining components and concerns. It also reviews how ranchers are managing with regard to protection of livestock, as well as provide insights into developing wildlife conflict issues in residential areas of Marin.

Funding for this program is scheduled to run through the end of this fiscal year. Given the success of the program and the needs of the ranching community, the department would like to see the program funded for another five year period, or a permanent adjustment to the baseline budget. This interest will be taken up with the Administrators Office in the course of the FY06/07 budget preparation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** [Approval of report.](#)

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None for FY05/06, funds are already approved and baselined into current years budget. Authorization to continue program beyond five year trial period will be discussed during FY06/07 budget preparation.

**REVIEWED BY:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditor-Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy K. Carlsen,  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures