

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4819

To amend the Wildlife Services Program of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the use of nonlethal methods of predator control for livestock protection and to target assistance under the program to operators of small farms and ranches through grants, training, and research regarding the use of nonlethal methods to predator control.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Wildlife Services Program of the Department of Agriculture to emphasize the use of nonlethal methods of predator control for livestock protection and to target assistance under the program to operators of small farms and ranches through grants, training, and research regarding the use of nonlethal methods to predator control.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL FARM AND RANCH OP-**  
2 **ERATORS TO USE NONLETHAL MEANS OF**  
3 **PREDATOR CONTROL UNDER WILDLIFE**  
4 **SERVICES PROGRAM FOR LIVESTOCK PRO-**  
5 **TECTION.**

6 Section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1931 (7 U.S.C.  
7 426a), is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL FARM AND RANCH OPER-**  
9 **ATORS TO USE NONLETHAL MEANS OF PRED-**  
10 **ATOR CONTROL FOR LIVESTOCK PROTEC-**  
11 **TION.**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) LETHAL PREDATOR CONTROL.—The term  
14 “lethal predator control” means a lethal method to  
15 control the population of a wild animal that preys on  
16 domestic livestock or otherwise interferes with live-  
17 stock operations, including such methods as aerial  
18 gunning, shooting, denning, leghold trapping,  
19 conibear trapping, neck and body snaring, and poi-  
20 soning.

21 “(2) NONLETHAL PREDATOR CONTROL.—The  
22 term “nonlethal predator control” means a method  
23 to prevent, or reduce the likelihood of, a wild animal  
24 preying on domestic livestock or otherwise inter-  
25 fering with livestock operations that does not involve  
26 the destruction of the animal, including such meth-

1       ods as the use of livestock herders, dogs, burros, or  
2       llamas to guard livestock, night penning of livestock,  
3       and improved fencing.

4           “(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
5       means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through  
6       the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of  
7       the Department of Agriculture.

8           “(4) SMALL RANCH OPERATION.—The term  
9       “small ranch operation” means a farm or ranch that  
10      generates not more than \$250,000 in gross revenues  
11      annually, as determined by the Secretary.

12          “(5) WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM.—The term  
13      “Wildlife Services Program” means the activities au-  
14      thorized by the first section of this Act.

15          “(b) ASSISTANCE RESTRICTED TO SMALL RANCH  
16      OPERATIONS.—In carrying out Wildlife Services Program  
17      operations designed to protect livestock and livestock oper-  
18      ations from wild animals injurious to animal husbandry,  
19      the Secretary shall restrict those operations to small ranch  
20      operations that the Secretary determines—

21           “(1) involve the raising of the types of livestock  
22      most at risk to damage from wild animals; and

23           “(2) are located in those areas where the need  
24      for predator control is greatest, rather than those

1 areas where predator control has traditionally oc-  
2 curred.

3 “(c) EMPHASIS ON NONLETHAL PREDATOR CON-  
4 TROL.—The Secretary shall emphasize the use of non-  
5 lethal predator control methods, rather than lethal pred-  
6 ator control methods, as the preferred way to protect live-  
7 stock and livestock operations under the Wildlife Services  
8 Program.

9 “(d) GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT NONLETHAL PRED-  
10 ATOR CONTROL.—Using funds made available for Wildlife  
11 Services Program operations, the Secretary shall make  
12 grants to operators of small ranch operations and associa-  
13 tions composed primarily of operators of small ranch oper-  
14 ations to assist an operator or association to implement  
15 and use nonlethal predator control to prevent, or reduce  
16 the likelihood of, wild animals preying on livestock or oth-  
17 erwise interfering with livestock operations.

18 “(e) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—  
19 Using funds made available for Wildlife Services Program  
20 operations, the Secretary shall provide operators of small  
21 ranch operations with training and technical assistance re-  
22 garding the availability of nonlethal predator control op-  
23 tions and the use of nonlethal predator control in their  
24 livestock operations.

25 “(f) RESEARCH.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-  
2           duct research, directly or through grants with appro-  
3           priate entities, to determine the following:

4                   “(A) The extent of the damage to livestock  
5                   and livestock operations, particularly in western  
6                   States, resulting from the depredations of pred-  
7                   atory and other wild animals.

8                   “(B) The environmental consequences of  
9                   conducting Wildlife Services Program oper-  
10                  ations, particularly lethal predator control, to  
11                  prevent or reduce predator damage to livestock  
12                  and livestock operations.

13                  “(C) The effectiveness of lethal predator  
14                  control and nonlethal predator control under  
15                  the Wildlife Services Program to protect live-  
16                  stock and livestock operations.

17                  “(D) The overall populations of specific  
18                  wildlife and predatory species on a regional,  
19                  rather than State-by-State basis, with emphasis  
20                  given to monitoring viable wildlife populations.

21           “(2) INFORMATION ON SHEEP LOSSES.—As one  
22           of the research projects conducted under paragraph  
23           (1), the Secretary shall enter into agreements with  
24           wool producers or other appropriate entities in not  
25           more than 12 sheep-raising districts in the western

1 States, with varying degrees of predation problems,  
2 to promptly report sheep losses to predators in order  
3 to more accurately determine the extent to which  
4 predatory animals cause damage to the wool indus-  
5 try despite the use of, or in the absence of, lethal  
6 predator control and nonlethal predator control.

7 “(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall  
8 submit to Congress an annual report describing the  
9 results of the research projects conducted under this  
10 subsection.

11 “(4) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds  
12 made available for Wildlife Services Program oper-  
13 ations to carry out this subsection.”.

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