

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.

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

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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