



Wolf Depredation Program Finances

Wolf Depredation Revenue, Program Expenses and Claim Payments Made by the
Minnesota Department of Agriculture FY 2020-2024

12/15/2024

Peder Kjeseth
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Division
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6607
peder.kjeseth@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$750 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Background

Wolves are present through northern and parts of eastern Minnesota and cause depredation of livestock through portions of this range. To mitigate the economic damage to livestock producers, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) manages the Wolf Damage Compensation Program under Minnesota Statute 3.737. Livestock producers are eligible for 100% compensation for livestock that have been confirmed as lost to wolves from a minimum value of \$100 to a maximum amount of \$20,000 per producer per fiscal year.

This report is submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statute 3.737 Subd. 7:

The commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture and environment and natural resources by December 15 each year. The report must include:

- (1) all payments made under this section, by county and statewide, in the previous five fiscal years;*
- (2) the program's total revenue by funding source including state appropriations; and*
- (3) how each revenue source is used in expenditures including administrative costs used to carry out this section.*

Wolf Depredation Payments by County and Statewide for Past Five Fiscal Years

[Depredation claims in Minnesota](#) are filed with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Claims are initiated by producers and submitted to a local authority with expertise to inspect the site of the loss and determine if evidence supported the loss was due to wolves. Authorities qualified to make this assessment in Minnesota are primarily Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services staff in counties within Minnesota's wolf range. Additionally, in Kittson County, the sheriff's department has also been trained to make depredation assessments due to high amounts of depredation.

If the investigating authority determines that wolves were likely the cause of the loss, then the claim is passed on to an employee of the University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension qualified to assess the current market value of the animal or animals lost. The individuals who perform this service are livestock experts for UMN Extension and are well-qualified to make these determinations. These values are based upon the claimant's typical first point of sale. If a livestock owner has received an insurance settlement or payments from any other source, the amount of that settlement must be deducted from the market value estimate before any payment can be made. The MDA pays UMN Extension for the evaluation service they provide. When a valuation has been made, the UMN Extension expert completes that portion of the claim form and returns it to the MDA. Claim payments are capped at \$20,000 per fiscal year, per owner. Claims are paid from a General Fund appropriation and federal grant funds when available.

Table 1. Wolf Depredation Payments made by the MDA for state fiscal years 2020 – 2024 by Minnesota county. Counties are sorted by the amounts of claim payments made during the past five fiscal years.

County	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY20-24
Kittson	\$15,500	\$12,950	\$11,950	\$14,150	\$20,450	\$75,000
Pine	\$9,650	\$12,400	\$7,150	\$15,950	\$22,950	\$68,100
Beltrami	\$9,450	\$12,050	\$11,750	\$5,700	\$21,750	\$60,700
Saint Louis	\$13,650	\$11,450	\$7,825	\$13,600	\$9,600	\$56,125
Marshall	\$10,900	\$5,900	\$2,700	\$14,050	\$14,800	\$48,350
Clearwater	\$19,500	\$16,800	\$5,000	\$1,650	\$4,750	\$47,700
Carlton	\$3,150	\$3,450	\$8,200	\$9,500	\$18,250	\$42,550
Cass	\$7,700	\$4,550	\$9,450	\$3,950	\$14,450	\$40,100
Morrison	\$0	\$2,400	\$5,200	\$20,288	\$8,212	\$36,100
Aitkin	\$7,850	\$6,550	\$2,700	\$3,400	\$12,000	\$32,500
Koochiching	\$4,400	\$3,550	\$8,650	\$8,950	\$3,950	\$29,500
Roseau	\$3,650	\$4,950	\$4,900	\$6,800	\$4,800	\$25,100
Itasca	\$2,650	\$2,600	\$5,500	\$6,600	\$6,350	\$23,700
Clay	\$1,650	\$5,650	\$1,450	\$1,800	\$0	\$10,550
Crow Wing	\$2,100	\$2,850	\$0	\$1,350	\$3,900	\$10,200
Norman	\$0	\$8,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,600
Kanabec	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$3,300	\$7,850

County	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY20-24
Mille Lacs	\$2,350	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,750	\$1,800	\$7,200
Mahnomen	\$3,650	\$0	\$1,250	\$0	\$2,050	\$6,950
Hubbard	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$0	\$5,600	\$6,800
Wadena	\$1,050	\$0	\$0	\$3,600	\$1,850	\$6,500
Polk	\$0	\$4,850	\$1,250	\$0	\$0	\$6,100
Becker	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lake of the Woods	\$0	\$1,150	\$1,450	\$1,800	\$0	\$4,400
Red Lake	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,130	\$3,130
Lake	\$0	\$2,875	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,875
Otter Tail	\$1,050	\$1,350	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,400
Chisago	\$0	\$0	\$1,350	\$0	\$0	\$1,350
Pennington	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Statewide	\$121,700	\$129,125	\$100,275	\$136,388	\$187,942	\$675,430

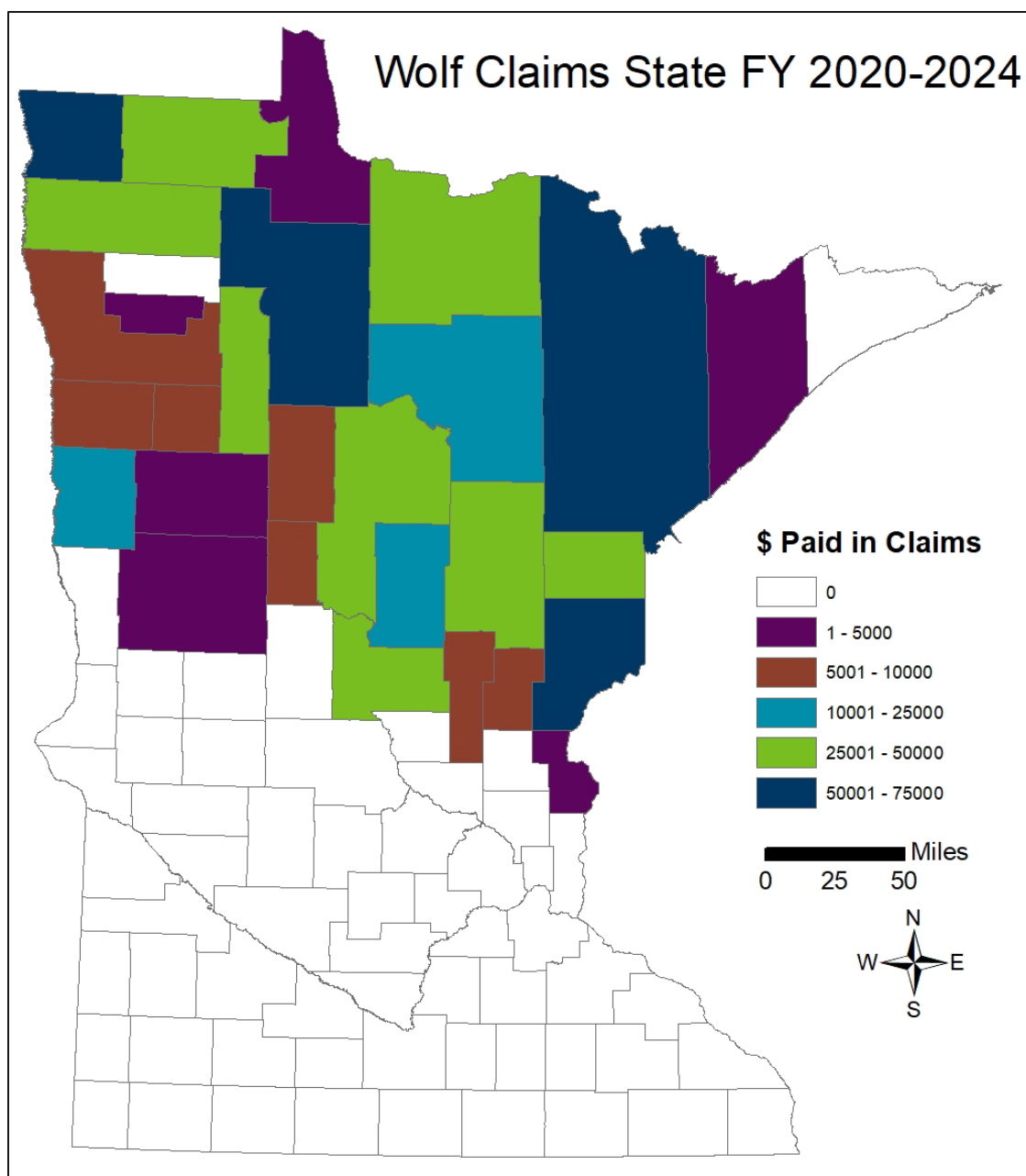


Figure 1. Claim payments made by Minnesota county summed over the past five fiscal years (FY 2020-2024).

Wolf Depredation Revenue and Program Expenses

The MDA received an appropriation of \$175,000 per fiscal year from the General Fund from 2020 – 2024 to pay livestock depredation claims. Those funds were used exclusively to make payments to producers; although beginning in FY20, the funds were also eligible to reimburse University of Minnesota Extension for staff time spent assigning monetary value to lost animals. During fiscal years 2020 – 2022 and 2024, the MDA also received federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to make compensation payments. These funds are eligible to help cover MDA staff time spent administering the project as well as to pay claims.

A complete list of all appropriated funds as well as expenditures by category are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Amounts appropriated for wolf depredation payments by fiscal year and expenditures by category. A description of each column follows the table.

FY	Appropriation	Amount	Roll forward	Salary	Indirect Costs	PT Services	Claims Paid	Claims Encumbered	Transfer in	Transfer out	De-obligated
2020	F47	\$51,173	\$0	\$4,969	\$1,010	\$0	\$45,194	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2020	G46	\$175,000	(\$95,494)	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$76,506	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2021	F47	\$45,385	\$0	\$7,336	\$2,100	\$0	\$35,950	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2021	G06	\$9,340	\$0	\$9,340	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2021	G46	\$175,000	\$95,494	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$93,175	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$165,319
2022	G47	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2022	G46	\$175,000	(\$54,332)	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$68,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2022	F47	\$56,053	(\$25,321)	\$370	\$88	\$0	\$30,275	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023	G46	\$175,000	\$54,332	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$136,388	\$0	\$12,141	\$102,085	\$0
2023	F47	\$25,321	\$0	\$4,984	\$1,186	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,151
2024	G46	\$175,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$138,538	\$0	\$0	\$33,462	\$0
2024	F47	\$112,464*	\$0	\$7,298	\$1,668	\$0	\$49,403	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Column description:

Appropriation = G46 and G06 are from the General Fund and F47 is federal funding. G47 is also from the General Fund but is appropriated for elk depredation claim payments. One wolf damage claim was mistakenly paid from G47 in FY22.

Amount = the amount appropriated each fiscal year.

Roll forward = an amount that was rolled in from a previous fiscal year (positive values) or rolled into a subsequent fiscal year (negative values).

Salary = expenditures for administrative time.

Indirect Costs = expenditures to cover department costs.

PT Services = expenditures to cover UMN Extension staff time.

Claims Paid = the total claims paid to producers.

Claims Encumbered = dollars still available to pay claims.

Transferred in = dollars transferred from G47 (elk damage claims).

Transferred out = dollars transferred to G47 to pay elk damage claims.

De-obligated = dollars not expended and returned to funding source.

*Prior to FY2024, funds in F47 were split between claims and grants and only dollars spent on claims were required by the enabling legislation. Beginning in FY2024, funds for claims and grants are intermingled and \$54,095 were paid to grantee's which balances the spending reported for this appropriation.