



TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

WORK ACTIVITY

Our farm is located in a natural area where wildlife lives. It is important that we recognize wildlife interaction may occur when you are working. Preparing for wildlife interaction will keep you and others safe.

BACKGROUND

Knowing how to avoid wildlife conflict and understanding what your options are before you have to react to a wildlife encounter are important for your safety.

Key Points

Our Farm is dedicated to making sure that your health and safety is our priority. We are also dedicated to having responsible wildlife management practices. Please feel free to discuss any issues with a supervisor that you feel are affecting your health and safety.

The best wildlife deterrent is to avoid an encounter. We can do this by managing things that might attract wildlife, being alert, and using the human voice reduces the chances of a surprise encounter.

General Animal Interaction Management:

BE ALERT

Watch out for movement or activity on the perimeter of the work area.

CLEAN UP

A tidy farm is less likely to attract wildlife.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you see signs of wildlife (scat, paw or hoof prints, etc.), inform a supervisor.

All Federal, Provincial and Municipal regulations must be followed whenever managing wildlife.

Small Mammal Management: (skunks, porcupines, racoons and foxes)

- If you see an unsealed opening under a

building, let a supervisor know so that it can be sealed.

- If a small mammal enters a garage, barn or other building, leave the door open so it can exit. Do not chase the animal.

Rodent Management:

- Keep all livestock feed stored properly. Make sure to reseal feed containers or bins.
- Wear the proper Personal Protective Equipment when cleaning up any rodent droppings or disposing of rodent carcasses. This includes dust masks, work gloves and coveralls.
- Follow the instructions carefully when handling rodenticides.

Black Bear Management:

- Use secure containers for all garbage and waste.
- Make sure that livestock corrals, pens and runs are clean. Secure all feed and supplies.
- Make sure that you are carrying the provided bear spray and air horn.
- If a bear encounter happens:
 - Stay calm. Stop, assess the situation, speak in a low voice and alert those around you.
 - Move slowly. If the bear hasn't seen you, move away from the area, keeping

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CAUTION

Not all of these potential animal conflicts will arise on your farm. Make sure to discuss the wildlife conflicts that apply to your farm and situation.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

Contact your local wildlife conservation organization to report any aggressive wildlife.

MORE RESOURCES

Living with Wildlife in BC series, available at <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/wildsafe-bc-bear-aware/living-with-wildlife-in-bc/>.

an eye on the bear. Make sure to alert other workers and your supervisor of the sighting.

-If the bear comes towards you slowly raise your arms in a low voice, speak directly to the bear "Whoa Bear", lower your dominant arm to reach for and prepare your bear spray. Begin to back away allowing the bear to see you are a human, not a threat, and that you are moving away. If the bear persists, yell and stomp – alert others. If possible, deploy an air horn with repeated short 3 second blasts.

-If the bear still continues towards you: if the bear is intent on coming at you, when it is within 5 meters/15 feet, deploy the bear spray directly at the bear. Start from just above the ground sweeping upwards and slightly over the head of the bear to form a cloud the bear must move through.

Coyote and Wolf Management:

- The smell of vulnerable livestock is an attractant for coyotes and wolves. Properly dispose of any carcasses or afterbirth.

- If an encounter happens (which is very rare), fight back. Be loud, aggressive, throw sticks and rocks at the animal.
- If a wolf or coyote attacks a dog or other farm animal, do not get involved. It is better to lose a dog or farm animal than risk your own life.

Deer and Elk Management:

- Use noise as a deterrent. Human voices, radios and other noise can keep these animals from entering the work zone.
- Keep your distance. Deer and elk can become aggressive because of the rut (mating season), perceived threats to their young and may respond aggressively.

What are additional types of wildlife that our farm should be concerned with?

What are additional Safety Tips in managing wildlife that come onto our farm?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____

Signature _____



CanadaFarmSafe
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This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan, or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.

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