

# Canada-Alberta

## Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 2021



Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation, serving Albertans across the province. AFSC provides crop insurance (AgriInsurance) for annual and perennial crops as well as honey, bee overwintering and livestock price insurance. AFSC delivers provincial and federal agricultural support programs, including AgriStability and provide producers, agribusinesses and commercial enterprises with lending products.

### **Protecting your privacy**

AFSC adheres to privacy procedures compliant with current legislation and is committed to securing our clients' personal information. Personal information is defined as any information about an identifiable individual that is recorded in any form, subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act). As an individual, it is your right to control when, how and to what extent your information is communicated to others.

### **Reporting fraudulent activity**

AFSC does its best to ensure that only clients who legitimately qualify receive the amounts for which they are eligible. AFSC is responsible for protecting the integrity of the programs it administers, and ensuring the taxpayers' dollars are properly accounted for. Some examples of fraudulent activities are:

- Falsifying documents
- Not disclosing all production
- Not disclosing all relevant information
- Selling production under someone else's name

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of AFSC programs, including insurance, income stabilization, lending or the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, please contact AFSC and ask to speak with the Compliance and Investigations Department. Reports of fraudulent activity can be made anonymously at 1.877.685.9317 or by visiting [www.clearviewconnects.com](http://www.clearviewconnects.com).

### **Deferrals**

To facilitate tax planning, clients can choose in advance to defer payments to the following tax year. There will be no recourse to defer payment once a cheque has been issued. Deferred payments will not be applied to outstanding premiums or balances until the deferred date and interest will continue to accrue.

### **Outstanding accounts**

Premiums, administrative fees and all other amounts owed to AFSC are due and payable upon billing. Outstanding amounts owed to AFSC will be deducted from payments and indemnities payable to the client.

### **Insurance claims paying for other programs**

Insurance claims paying for other programs AFSC reserves the right to use Wildlife Damage Compensation payments to offset outstanding accounts for all insurance, income stabilization, and lending programs AFSC administers.

## What's new in 2021

### Changes to Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 20 per cent top up payment will be eliminated in 2021. AFSC will continue to administer the program for Alberta producers, which compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage.

The federal and provincial government share costs for this program, up to 80 per cent. In the past, the Alberta government has provided an additional 20 per cent 'top up' to producers who experience wildlife damage and apply for this program. There is no premium or administration costs to participate in the program except a \$25 appraisal fee.

The process to determine wildlife damage remains the same; however, AFSC will now pay 80 per cent of the dollar coverage. For example, if a producer received \$250 in wildlife damage compensation last year, this year they will receive \$200. Applications will still be accepted online through AFSC Connect.

## What was new in 2020

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program provides compensation for eligible claims on damaged acres with or without production-based insurance. In previous years, payments were determined based on an in-field, estimated, potential yield.

From 2020 onward, the process to determine eligible wildlife claims has changed.

- Damaged crops with production-based insurance will use the insured's yield from the Harvested Production Report (HPR) or the determined yield;
- Damaged crops without production-based insurance will use an area average yield for the crop.

## Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops. Producers wishing to participate in the program are not required to have insurance to qualify for a claim.

All costs for this program are paid by the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost except for the appraisal fee. A non-refundable appraisal fee of \$25 per inspection type is required for each section of land or portion thereof on which the damage has occurred.

### Perennial Crops

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested hay crops that is caused by ungulates, upland game birds and waterfowl.

AFSC also offers the program for stacked hay and haylage in pits and tube. It provides compensation for damage caused by ungulates to harvested hay.

Wildlife Species
<b>Ungulates</b> Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
<b>Waterfowl</b> Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes
<b>Upland Game Birds</b> Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan

#### What is eligible for a claim

All unharvested hay crops that can be insured under AFSC insurance are eligible for compensation under this program.

Swath grazing and bale grazing are eligible for compensation up to October 31.

Stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes are not insurable under any of AFSC's insurance programs but are eligible for a claim under this program.

The following crops are not eligible:

- grazing land or native pasture;
- the acreage of the damaged crop has been harvested prior to inspection;
- it is determined that the damage occurred after the majority of the crops in the same vicinity were harvested;
- the crop was seeded on land considered unsuitable for crop production.

#### Payment

**Unharvested hay:** In order to be compensated under the program, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged hay crops cannot be cut until inspected, as wildlife claims cannot be adjusted from representative strips.

For AFSC Hay Insurance clients, the wildlife claim will be deducted from any Hay Insurance payments.

Compensation is based on the percentage of damage, multiplied by the yield before damage, multiplied by the higher of:

- The highest price option offered under the current year's Hay Insurance and Export Timothy Hay Insurance, or
- The price offered under the Variable Price Benefit for hay, which is determined in the fall.

**Stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes:** To initiate a wildlife claim on stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes, a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations for the Fish and Wildlife Officer during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a full claim. If the recommendations have not been followed, the producer is only eligible to receive 50 per cent of the claim amount.

On third and subsequent claims, if minimum recommendations are not followed, no claim will be paid.

Claims filed over the winter will not be finalized until all damage has ceased and the total damage can be determined.

The maximum compensation for stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is \$5,000 per inspection.

## Responsibilities

**Unharvested hay:** Insured and uninsured producers will be required to file all wildlife claims online via AFSC Connect. AFSC requires at least 72 hours notice prior to harvest to allow AFSC time to arrange to have an adjuster perform an on-farm inspection.

Producers should check their fields to identify the damaged areas prior to filing a claim. Producers are expected to take the adjuster to the damaged fields when AFSC completes the damage assessment.

**Stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes:** Producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information.

## Annual Crops

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible annual unharvested crops, wildlife-excreta contaminated crops, and silage in pits and tubes.

Wildlife Species
<b>Ungulates:</b> Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
<b>Waterfowl:</b> Ducks, geese and Sandhill cranes
<b>Upland Game Birds:</b> Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan
Bear

### What is eligible for a claim

**Unharvested annual and wildlife-excreta contaminated crops:** These programs apply to all commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under AFSC insurance and Straight Hail Insurance programs.

Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation up to October 31.

**Silage in pits and tubes:** Silage in pits and tubes is not insurable under any of AFSC's insurance programs but is eligible for a claim under this program. Compensation is provided for wildlife damage caused by ungulates to harvested silage.

The following crops are not eligible:

- The acreage of the damaged crop has been harvested prior to inspection;
- It is determined that the crop was seeded too late to reasonably expect normal yields;
- It is determined that the damage occurred after the majority of the crops in the same vicinity were harvested;
- Volunteer crops;
- Crop was seeded on land considered unsuitable for crop production.

## Payment

**Unharvested annual crops:** In order to be compensated under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged crops must not be harvested until an AFSC adjuster inspects them. Loss assessments are not made from representative strips or swaths.

Compensation is based on the percentage of damage multiplied by the commercial value of the crop. Commercial value is determined by the intended use of the crop and the yield and grade of the crop as follows:

- Damaged crops with production based insurance will use the insured's yield from the Harvested Production Report (HPR) or the determined yield;
- Damaged crops without production-based insurance will use an area average yield for the crop.

The yield is multiplied by the grade factor (the value of the crop in the field relative to the designated grade, when applicable) and the highest price including Variable Price Benefit used for production insurance that year. Clients with wildlife claims on damaged crops may be eligible for higher rates of compensation provided the eligibility criteria for the higher coverage under crop insurance is met; example: malt barley or organic.

For unharvested crops, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program claims are deducted from any production insurance payments. If the Variable Price Benefit triggers under annual crop insurance, Wildlife Damage Compensation Program claims are paid at the higher price.

**Wildlife-excreta-contaminated crops:** Compensation is provided to producers who have incurred cleaning costs and/or market value loss for crops contaminated with wildlife excreta. In order to be compensated, there must be at least a \$100 calculated loss.

Producers must not have sold, disposed of or cleaned the crop prior to initiating the claim; otherwise, their request for inspection will be rejected. For further details on compensation for cleaning costs and market loss value, please contact AFSC or visit [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca).

**Silage in pits and tubes:** A provincial Fish and Wildlife Officer will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid. If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations for the Fish and Wildlife Officer during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a full claim.

If the recommendations have not been followed, the producer is only eligible to receive 50 per cent of the claim amount. On third and subsequent claims, if minimum recommendations are not followed, no claim will be paid.

Claims filed over the winter will not be finalized until all damage has ceased and the total damage can be determined.

Maximum compensation for wildlife damage for silage in pits and tubes is \$5,000 per inspection.

## Responsibilities

**Unharvested annual crops:** Insured and uninsured producers are required to file all wildlife claims online via AFSC Connect with the exception of excreta damage to an unharvested crop. AFSC requires at least 72 hours notice prior to harvest to allow AFSC time to arrange to have an adjuster perform an on-farm inspection.

Producers should check their fields to identify the damaged areas prior to filing their claims and are expected to take the inspector to the damaged fields for AFSC to complete the damage assessment.

**Wildlife-excreta contaminated crops:** Producers must contact AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing excreta contamination and request an inspection. To be eligible for a payment, the grain or crop must not be cleaned, disposed of or sold prior to AFSC completing an initial on farm inspection.

**Silage in pits and tubes:** Producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection.