

Canada-Alberta

WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM 2022



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.

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 IS NEW IN 2022

Wild boar at-large have been added to the list of eligible species to the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Producers will need to contact the Provincial Wild Boar Specialist with Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED) by email at AFWildBoar@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 1.866.252.6403, and will be provided with mitigation options.

Unlike other wildlife damage, producers are not allowed to hunt, or allow others access to hunt wild boars on their property. Instead, to be eligible for a payment, producers will allow access to their property to AFRED for the implementation of mitigation strategies for the control of wild boars at-large on their property.

WHAT WAS 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 cost 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 percent of the dollar coverage. For example, if a producer receives \$250 in wildlife damage compensation last year, this year they will receive \$200. Applications will still be accepted online through AFSC Connect.

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops, stacked hay, stacked greenfeed, as well as silage and haylage in pits and tubes.

Producers wishing to participate in the program are not required to have AFSC insurance to qualify for a claim. Producers do need to have an insurable interest in the crop that is damaged; cash rent landlords are not eligible. For eligible crops, other than stacked hay or stacked greenfeed, the producer's crop needs to be located and was damaged in Alberta.

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 caused by ungulates, upland game birds, waterfowl, and wild boar at-large.

AFSC also compensates for wildlife damage to harvested perennial crops stored as stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes caused by ungulates or wild boar at-large.

Wildlife Species
Ungulates: Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
Waterfowl: Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes
Upland Game Birds: Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan
Wild boar at-large

For wildlife damage caused by wild boar at-large, producers must not hunt or trap the wild boar on their property including the section where the damage has occurred and each section of the same producer that borders the damaged section. As well, producers must not permit access for other persons to hunt or trap wild boar on the same properties. The producer must permit AFRED Wild Boar Specialist access to their property to conduct wild boar eradication.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A CLAIM

Unharvested perennial crops: all unharvested hay crops that can be insured under AFSC's Hay Insurance or Export Timothy Hay Insurance programs 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 after they have been inspected, as wildlife claims cannot be adjusted from representative strips.

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 Insurance, which is determined in the fall.

For AFSC perennial crop insurance clients, the wildlife claim will be deducted from any insurance payments.

Damage caused by wild boar at-large: to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must notify a provincial Wild Boar Specialist with AFRED 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 from the Wild Boar Specialist 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, no claim will be paid.

Damage to stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes: to initiate a wildlife claim 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 FW 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 for stacked hay, and haylage in pits and tubes 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.

CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Unharvested hay: Insured and uninsured producers are 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 and are expected to take the adjuster to the damaged fields when AFSC completes the damage assessment.

Damage caused by wild boar at-large: Producers are responsible to notify the Wild Boar Specialist with AFRED and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information. Producers can contact AFRED by emailing AFWildBoar@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 1.866.252.6403.

Damage to 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, stacked greenfeed, and silage in pits and tubes.

Wildlife Species
Ungulates: Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
Waterfowl: Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes
Upland Game Birds: Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan
Bear, Wild boar at-large

For wildlife damage caused by wild boar, producers must not hunt or trap the wild boar on their property including the section where the damage has occurred and each section of the same producer that borders the damaged section. As well, producers must not permit access for other persons to hunt or trap wild boar on the same properties. The producer must permit AFRED Wild Boar Specialist access to their property to conduct wild boar eradication.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A CLAIM

Unharvested annual and wildlife-excreta contaminated crops: this program applies to all commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under AFSC's annual crop 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, and stacked greenfeed: are not insurable under any of AFSC's insurance programs but are eligible for a claim under this program. Compensation is provided for damage caused by ungulates and wild boar at-large.

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 WDCP, 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 after they have been inspected, as wildlife claims 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 the Variable Price Benefit, used for production-based 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 WDCP claims are deducted from any production-based insurance payments.

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, producers can contact AFSC, or visit www.AFSC.ca.

Damage caused by wild boar at-large: to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must notify a provincial Wild Boar Specialist with AFRED 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 from the Wild Boar Specialist 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, no claim will be paid.

Silage in pits and tubes, and stacked greenfeed: to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must first contact 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 for stacked greenfeed and silage in pits and tubes 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.

CLIENT 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 adjuster 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.

Damage caused by wild boar at-large: Producers are responsible to notify the Wild Boar Specialist with AFRED and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information. Producers can contact AFRED by emailing AFWildBoar@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 1.866.252.6403.

Silage in pits and tubes, stacked greenfeed: 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.