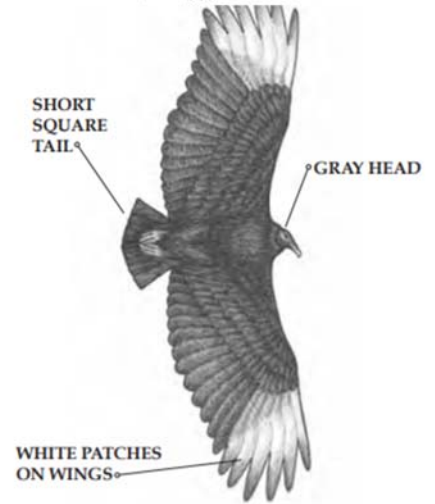


Management Tips From: **Farm Talk Breakfast** Dealing with Predators of Cattle, Sheep, Goats, and Chickens



black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) Species of Concern



Predators are important...

- Indicators of a healthy ecosystem.
- Control populations of nuisance animals.
- Contribute to carcass cleanup.
- Add conservation interest.

When the predator's prey is your livestock...

- Consider all possible factors leading to livestock death, including environmental.
- Get a positive I.D. of the culprit
- Use integrated control strategies.
- Frequently check livestock.
- Obey Federal and State Laws.
- Report livestock deaths to ODW & USDA.

Comparing coyote and dog damage...

- Coyotes kill for food.
 - Experienced hunters will strike at the neck and drag the animal away.
 - Usually less than 3 animals at a time.
 - Preferably weaklings or young animals.
 - Small animals may be consumed entirely.
 - Begin feeding at the abdomen.
 - Organs and fatty tissues consumed first.
- Dogs kill for sport.
 - Usually very traumatic.
 - Many animals may be injured or killed, in a sloppy manner.
 - Rarely consume or relocate the animal.
 - Begin feeding on the hindquarters and rarely return to feed again.

Regulations...

- **Bears, Bobcats, and Black Vultures** are protected species.
 - Must apply for a permit if damage is incurred and control necessary.
 - Damages from animals reintroduced to the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law are eligible for compensation through the Livestock Indemnity Program, which is overseen by the Farm Service Agency.
 - A federal migratory bird depredation permit can be issued for black vulture problems.
 - Secure a permit before killing any protected animals.
- **Snakes**
 - Although the law is patchy on snakes, every effort should be made to avoid euthanization. Snakes are highly valuable for rodent control. Problem snakes should be captured and released at least 1 mile from the problem area.
- **Dogs & Cats**
 - Issues with domestic animals should first be addressed neighborly.
 - The presiding contact for issues with domestic (or feral) dogs is the County Dog Warden.
 - Issues with domestic or feral cats are not regulated or under public administration. The general rule of thumb is "trap, neuter, return."
- **Coyotes*, Foxes*, Raccoons*, Skunks*, Opossums*, Weasels*, Mink***
 - Nuisance or sick animals* may be trapped without a permit, but it is illegal to live trap and relocate them to a new area. In order to prevent the possible spread of diseases in Ohio, all live trapped animals* must be released again on the homeowner's property or humanely euthanized.
 - Hunting/Fur/Trapping Season: Nov. 10- Jan. 31. No Limit. Coyote never closes. All others close during deer gun season.

Full regulations can be found at: wildlife.ohiodnr.gov