COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences

Predator Management Incentive Program

Annual Program Guidelines

2026/27 Program Intake

This project has been financially supported by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society's Wildlife Management Fund (WMF)

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Predator Management Incentive Program is to protect and support agricultural operations within the County of St. Paul No. 19 by reducing predator pressure on livestock.

The Program provides an incentive for the lawful harvest of coyotes and wolves within the County during the approved program period. Reducing predator numbers is intended to help limit livestock losses, support farm and ranch viability, and assist producers in managing ongoing predation risks.

The Program is designed as a practical agricultural support measure and is administered in alignment with County agricultural priorities, applicable legislation, and available funding.

Program Authority

The Predator Management Incentive Program is authorized under Council approved Agricultural Service Board policy.

Council approval of the policy and the annual operating budget provides authority for the Program to operate. These Guidelines are an administrative document and do not supersede Council approved policy, bylaws, or budget authority.

Program Period

The Program operates on an annual basis and applies only to the approved program year.

For the 2026/27 program intake, the Program will operate during the following period:

- November 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027

Only eligible predator species lawfully harvested within the County of St. Paul No. 19 during this approved program period are eligible for incentive payment.

The Program may be suspended or closed early if the approved budget or program targets are reached.

Eligible Species

The Program applies only to the following predator species:

- Coyote
- Wolf

Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for the Predator Management Incentive Program, participants must:

- Be a resident of a community within the boundary of the County of St. Paul
- Lawfully harvest eligible species within the County during the approved program period
- Provide the legal land location and approximate GPS coordinates where the animals were harvested
- Comply with all Program requirements and procedures
- Comply with all applicable federal and provincial legislation and regulations, including the Wildlife Act, Firearms Act, Petty Trespass Act, and Alberta Hunting Regulations
- Provide all required participant, harvest, and payment information at the time of submission

Animals harvested outside the boundaries of the County or submitted by individuals who do not meet residency requirements, are not eligible for incentive payment.

Additional eligibility requirements may apply where required by external funding agreements.

Incentive Rates and Limits

Incentive rates and participation limits are established annually based on available funding.

For the 2026/27 program intake:

- Coyotes are eligible for an incentive of $20 per verified animal
- Wolves are eligible for an incentive of $250 per verified animal
- A maximum of 100 coyotes per participant applies for the program intake

Incentive payments are issued only for verified harvests and are subject to remaining program funds. Participation in the Program does not create an entitlement to payment.

The County reserves the right to adjust incentive rates, participation limits, or close the Program early to ensure expenditures remain within the approved budget.

Program Targets and Allocation Limits

Program targets are established to manage overall program expenditures and apply to the full program year.

For the 2026/27 program intake, the program is anticipated to fund incentives for approximately:

- Up to 1,220 coyotes, and
- Up to 8 wolves

These targets are estimates only and may be adjusted based on participation levels, species composition, and available funding.

Total incentive payments under this program are capped by the approved program budget. Program targets represent maximum allocations and do not guarantee payment for all submissions. Once the program budget is fully committed, no further incentives will be issued.

Verification and Submission Process

To qualify for an incentive payment, eligible coyote or wolf carcasses must be presented to the County at the designated verification location.

All carcasses must be delivered to the Public Works Shop located at 5618 57 Street, St. Paul, by appointment only.

Participants must contact the Agricultural Services office at 780 645 3006 (option 4) to schedule a verification appointment. Submissions without an appointment will not be accepted.

Only whole, unskinned animals are eligible for incentive payment. Pelts alone are not eligible.

Animals must be transported in a safe and respectful manner and must be covered by a tarp or other suitable means during transport.

Participants claiming an incentive may be required to provide additional information, including a Registered or Resident Fur Management Licence number, where applicable.

Agricultural Services staff will conduct verification and may retain identifying information for recordkeeping purposes. For coyotes, the right front paw will be removed to identify the animal as having received an incentive payment. Wolves will be documented through photographic records.

Following verification, the carcass and any retained parts will be returned to the participant. The participant is responsible for proper disposal of the carcass.

Payment Process

Incentive payments are issued by the County following submission of the completed Program form and verification by Agricultural Services staff.

Payments will be processed through the County's standard accounts payable process. Cheques are issued once per month to eligible participants after verification is complete.

Payment will only be issued for eligible animals that meet all Program requirements and where information provided can be verified. Participants may be required to submit additional information for payment processing purposes.

All payments are subject to:

- Successful verification
- Compliance with Program requirements
- Available program funds

Participation in the Program does not create an entitlement to payment. Once the approved budget or program targets are reached, no further payments will be issued.

The County reserves the right to withhold or deny payment where information is incomplete, inaccurate, or cannot be verified.

Funding and Budget Controls

The Predator Management Incentive Program is subject to annual funding availability.

Program funding may include allocations approved through the County operating budget and or external grant funding. Where external funding is used, the Program shall comply with all applicable funding agreements and reporting requirements.

Total program expenditures, including incentive payments and approved administrative costs, shall not exceed the amount authorized for the approved program year.

Incentive payments are issued on a first come, first served basis and are subject to remaining program funds at the time of verification.

Recordkeeping and Reporting

The County maintains records for all verified submissions, including:

- Participant information
- Species harvested
- Harvest location
- Date of verification
- Payment amount

A seasonal summary is prepared for review by the Agricultural Service Board and for reporting to funding partners, as required.

Roles and Responsibilities

County of St. Paul Agricultural Service Board and Agricultural Services

- Program oversight
- Annual review of Program Guidelines
- Verification procedures
- Recordkeeping
- Payment processing
- Reporting
- Administration of approved funding

St. Paul Fish and Game Association

- Program promotion and outreach
- Membership confirmation when requested by County

Compliance and Enforcement

The County reserves the right to deny payment where Program requirements are not met or where submitted information cannot be verified.

Agricultural Services staff may disqualify carcasses if there is reason to believe eligibility criteria have not been met.

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Animals originating from outside the County boundaries or submitted by individuals who do not meet Program eligibility requirements, will not be accepted for payment.

Regulatory Information

Participants are responsible for complying with all applicable provincial wildlife regulations, including those related to hunting, trapping, and snaring. For information on applicable regulations, participants are encouraged to contact Alberta Fish and Wildlife at 780-645-6313.

Program Review

These Annual Program Guidelines are reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board on an annual basis and apply only to the approved program year.

The Guidelines may be updated to reflect operational experience, funding conditions, or Agricultural Service Board direction, provided they remain consistent with Council approved policy and budget authority.