

June 17, 2015

Following the presentation on Strategies for Deterring Predators by Brent Smith the meeting was called to order by Dena at 8:48 PM.

### Strategies for Deterring Predators, Brent Smith – June 17, 2015



Brent Smith had a display of predator pelts and skulls for examination.

Brent stated that he was not representing any organization.

Coyote – weigh about 35 pounds, live 12 to 14 years, good vision, keen sense of smell, able to triangulate a prey from a mile, able to travel 100 km per day, known to kill foxes, go for the windpipe and take their feet off the ground and hang onto their prey. Coyotes are active in March to April and mid August to late fall. In October the young are on their own and might head to a barn.

January and February are difficult for wildlife because it is usually cold and miserable and animals are starving.

Fox – very quick, light weight and able to travel on top of the snow.

Wolves – run in packs, their territory is 100 square miles, kill coyotes, eat moose, efficient killers, run in relays, attack at the hamstrings, tendons shredded, take chunks off their prey and eat alive piece by piece, males weigh about 110 pounds, females about 80 pounds.

Bobcats – will kill sheep, hide in the bush, take one and feed on it and then return for more.

Eagles (Golden and Bald) – kill up to 80 pounders; rake the back of prey while in flight.

Ravens – attack eyes of lambs.

Cougar – they hide, are visual hunters, will walk on the edge of ridge looking down for prey, knock over prey with front feet and then move forward on the prey and bite the top of the head.

Bears – go through fences, unpredictable, transient, attracted to fruit, grain and corn; migrate to vineyards, orchards, oat fields. Bears don't usually do multiple killing.

Layout of a farm and predator control measures:

- Fenced area, 4' page wire usually keeps coyotes but may gain access by digging under the fence
- Electric fencing should be at least three strands
- Sight lines from the house, i.e. kitchen window view of the flock and/or view of lambing
- Avoid providing cover in order to deter cougars, i.e. trees and bush
- Bears tend to climb posts
- Dig proof a fence by using an 18" trench to bury fencing, using 12 to 14 gauge galvanized (after welding otherwise wire will rust). Using pig rings to anchor wire placed on the ground on the outside of the page wire fencing. Connect every three feet.
- Night penning the flock as predators are around in the early morning and during the night.

- Random series of light flashing lights
- Radio in the barn
- Propane canon – noise
- Motion lights
- Guardian dogs

Other behaviour traits:

- Predators watch for activity patterns, i.e. watch you leave for work, etc.
- Bears become bolder and behaviour can't be changed.
- Cougars attack kids because they are noisy and their movements are jerky. Cougars often make kills because they are in shape or an opportunity presents itself. Multiple kills for fun and practise. Male will stockpile kills to encourage a female to join him.

Hunting as predator control:

- There are limits, i.e. time of year, area, other requirements
- Skill set, ability and interest
- Be familiar with Hunting & Trapping Regulations

For Hunting & Trapping Regulation Synopsis:  
[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/1416/docs/Hunting-TrappingSynopsis\\_2014-2016.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/1416/docs/Hunting-TrappingSynopsis_2014-2016.pdf)

Trapping as predator control:

- Permit is required for trapping
- Traps and snares work 24/7
- Useful to thin out predators such as coyotes
- Trapping on own land only during open season
- Be familiar with Hunting & Trapping Regulations

The Law and you

- Know your rights and responsibilities
- Report losses and/or wildlife conflict to Conservation Officer Service Reporting Line: **877.952.7277**
- Don't shoot and shovel
- Don't set your own snares
- Don't use set guns
- Don't use poison



Dena Finlay, Acting President, presenting a thank you gift and card to Brent Smith – Cheese and crackers from The Village Cheese Company, along with a bottle of Gray Monk wine supplied by Claudine of Gray Monk Estate Winery.

Brent is available for consultation for farm layout, etc.  
 Brent also has a permit for trapping.