

Wolf–Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program 2020-2021 Requests for Proposals



Contents

- Background 2
- Eligible Applications 2
- Eligible Expenses 2
- Grant Requirements and Ineligible Expenses 2
- Ineligible Expenses 2
- Review Process 2
- Data Privacy Notice 3
- Application Information 4
- Frequently Asked Questions..... 8
- Audits 9
- Assistance and Support 9
- Evaluation Criteria 9
- Review Process and Timeline 9

Mail Completed Application to:

Attn: Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant
 Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 Plant Protection Division
 625 Robert Street North
 St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

Or Email Completed Application to:

MN_MDA_elkandwolf@state.mn.

Application Submittal Deadline:

Applications for the 2020 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant program must be emailed or postmarked by 5:00 PM January 15, 2021. Late applications will not be considered. The MDA is not responsible for any email problems resulting in MDA not receiving a proposal on time. It is the responsibility of the responder to ensure that any email submittals are received by MDA before the deadline. If unable to fill-out electronically, please use black ink. Keep a copy of your application for your own records. Incomplete grant applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Submitted applications will not be returned.

Background

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program which is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. These grants are available to Minnesota livestock producers and provide reimbursement for costs of approved practices to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. Projects funded through this program must be completed by August 31, 2021.

Eligible Applicants

Livestock producers within Minnesota's wolf range or on property determined by the commissioner to be affected by wolf-livestock conflicts. The Minnesota wolf range can be found here: www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html. Grant recipients will continue to be eligible for depredation payments under Minnesota Statute 3.737 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1515.

Eligible Expenses

- Purchase of guard animals
- Veterinary costs for guard animals
- Wolf-barriers which may include pens
- Fladry and fencing
- Wolf-detering lights and alarms
- Calving or lambing shelters

NOTE: Other measures suggested by the applicant that are likely to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts will be considered

Grant Requirements and Ineligible Expenses

Grant recipients must make a good-faith effort to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts, make a good-faith effort to care for guard animals paid for with grant funds, retain proper documentation of expenses, report annually to the commissioner (within 30 days of project end) on the effectiveness of the nonlethal methods employed and allow follow-up evaluation and monitoring by the commissioner. The terms of the project will be defined in a grant agreement between the grantee and the MDA.

Cost Share

New this year, grants must be matched 1:1 by producers. For example, a \$10,000 project would consist of \$5,000 in grant funds and \$5,000 funded by the producer. Documentation must be provided to the department for the entire amount spent on the project. For this example, that would be \$10,000.

Ineligible Expenses

- Any measures that are not implemented in a good-faith effort to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts are ineligible. Only measures approved by the MDA will be considered eligible for reimbursement. ATV's or other vehicles are considered to be ineligible expenses. Salary expenses not related to the construction of barriers, shelters, lights or alarms are also considered ineligible expenses.

Review Process

Grant applications will be scored competitively using an evaluation profile and then ranked based on total score. Please pay special attention to the evaluation profile when answering the questions on the application. A review committee comprised of representatives from Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior, and producer organizations will evaluate applications.

Data Privacy Notice

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant under the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program. The decision to apply for this grant is voluntary, and applicants are not legally required to provide any of the requested information. Applicants may decline to complete this application without any legal consequence. However, only completed applications will be considered for a grant; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Data provided in this application is initially classified by the Minnesota Data Practices Act as private or non public, although some or all of the data will generally become public at various points of the application process unless the data are otherwise classified by state or federal law. Access to private or non public data is limited by law. Parties that may gain access to private or non public data include MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant or named in a valid court order, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, the legislative auditor, and any other person or entity authorized to receive the data by state law, federal law, federal regulation, or federal subpoena. If necessary, MDA may also share the data with the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General.

Per Minn. Stat. 13.599:

- Names and addresses of grant applicants, and the grant amount requested, will be public data once all application responses are opened.
- All remaining data in application responses (except trade secret information, see below) becomes public data after the evaluation process is completed (for the purposes of this grant, when all grant agreements have been fully executed).
- All data created or maintained by the MDA as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret information, see below) will be public data after the evaluation process is completed.
- Trade secret information (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37) is classified as private or nonpublic. In order for an applicant to protect data submitted as part of this application as trade secret information, the applicant must identify the specific formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process that the applicant believes qualifies for trade secret protection, and provide a detailed and well-reasoned explanation on how each data element identified as a "trade secret" meets the definition found in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, subd. 1(b). Determining what constitutes trade secret information is ultimately the responsibility of MDA, and MDA cannot guarantee that data marked by an applicant as trade secret information or marked "confidential" will be classified as such. If MDA determines that data do not meet the definition of trade secret information, that data will be available to the public unless the applicant secures a court order saying otherwise. Marking information as "trade secret", "confidential", or "proprietary" without supporting justification has no effect on the data's legal classification.

Applicant Information

Legal - First Name:		Middle Initial:	Last Name:	
Name of Farm (If Applicable):				
Mailing Address:				
City:		State:	Zip:	County:
Phone #:	Cell #:		Email:	

Organizational Structure				
Sole Proprietorship	Partnership	LLP	LLC	Corporation
Other:				

How Did You Hear About the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program?			
Newspaper	Radio	Word of Mouth	Other

Minimum Eligibility Requirements		
I am in good standing with the State of Minnesota (no back taxes)	Yes	No
I am a current Minnesota resident or entity authorized to farm in Minnesota	Yes	No
I am a principal operator of the farm (actively involved in the operation of the farm)	Yes	No
I certify that expenses will be incurred between the project start date and August 31, 2020	Yes	No
I certify that I live in the Minnesota wolf range or have had documented wolf issues	Yes	No

Optional Documentation
You may attach a letter of support (no more than two (2) pages) from someone other than yourself. (i.e., Lender, Farm Business Management, Extension, Educator, Consultant, etc)
See the frequently asked questions and evaluation profile sheet for clarification

Contact For Further Assistance	
Wolf-Livestock Prevention Grants: 651-201-6020	MN_MDA_elkandwolf@state.mn.us

Application Questions		
How many livestock do you maintain and what type? (i.e., how many cattle, sheep, etc.).		
Have you had documented livestock losses from wolves in the past?	Yes	No
Have you had any livestock losses from wolves in the past 24 months?	Yes	No
If yes to either question, describe what animals have been lost, how many and the approximate value of the losses. Describe recent losses (past 24 months) separately from older losses.		

**Following are the grant eligible activities.
Complete the requested information for the project(s) you want to implement.**

Guard Animals Will Be Purchased		
What types of guard animals will be purchased, how many of each type will be purchased and what is the approximate cost per animal?		
Type Of Animal	Number To Purchase	Approximate Cost Per Animal
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Cost For Guard Animals		\$
Describe How These Animals Will Be Used To Prevent Wolf-Livestock Conflicts		

Veterinary Care For Guard Animals			
Are these existing guard animals?	Yes	No	
Have you consulted with a veterinarian about the type of care needed and the anticipated cost?	Yes	No	
What types of animals and how many will receive veterinary care? Also, what care is anticipated and what is the anticipated cost?			
Type of Animal	Number Receiving Veterinary Care	Veterinary Care Anticipated	Anticipated Cost Of Veterinary Care Per Animal During Grant Period
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Cost For Veterinary Care			\$

Wolf Barriers (Pens, Fladry, Fencing, Etc.)		
Describe the barriers that will be installed and where they will be placed to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts.		
Provide an estimate of how many feet of each type of barrier will be installed and the anticipated cost per foot for each type of barrier.		
Type Of Barrier	Number Of Linear Feet To Install	Approximate Cost Per Foot
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Cost For Barriers		\$

Wolf-Deterring Lights And / Or Alarms

Describe the lights and / or alarms that will be installed and where they will be placed to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts.

What types and how many lights and / or alarms will be installed and what is the anticipated cost per light / alarm?

Type Of Light Or Alarm	Number To Install	Approximate Cost Per Unit
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Cost For Lights / Alarms		\$

Calving or Lambing Shelters

Describe the shelters that will be installed and how they will prevent wolf-livestock conflicts.

What types and how many shelters will be installed and what is the anticipated cost per shelter?

Type of shelter	Number to install	Approximate cost per shelter
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Cost For Shelters		\$

Methods Not Listed On This Application

What are the methods that will be implemented and how will they be used to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts?

Itemize the costs that will be incurred while implementing these measures.

Cost For Other Measures \$

Total Project Costs For Each Activity That Is Implemented	
Cost for guard animals	\$
Cost for veterinary care for guard animals	\$
Cost for barriers	\$
Cost for lights / alarms	\$
Cost for shelters	\$
Cost for other measures	\$
Total cost of projects	\$

The Applicant Certifies that:

1. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the data in this application are true and correct and supporting documentation for the claims and assertions made within this application is available to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for review.
2. I understand that submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may result in the applicant being found ineligible for financial assistance under the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program. I further understand that receiving public funds as a consequence of false representations constitutes an act of fraud.
3. I understand that MDA may conduct audits, check references, and conduct site inspections after grants are awarded and prior to dollars being disbursed.
4. I understand that I am responsible for 50% of the cost of a funded project.
5. I have read and understand the Privacy Notice located on pages 2-3 of this application, and that data not explicitly classified by law as not public will be available to anyone for any reason. Any information I wish to protect as a trade secret has been clearly identified and I have provided in writing a detailed and reasonable explanation on how the data meet the requirements of a trade secret, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, subd. 1(b). I understand MDA has the discretion to determine what data constitutes a trade secret under the law.
6. In accordance with the legislation enabling this grant program, I will
 - a. Make a good faith effort to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts
 - b. Make a good-faith effort to care for guard animals paid for under this section
 - c. Retain proper documentation of expenses
 - d. Report annually to the commissioner on the effectiveness of the nonlethal methods employed
 - e. Allow follow-up evaluation and monitoring by the commissioner.
7. I verify all information supplied in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant’s Signature (Required) _____ **Date** _____

Mail completed application to:

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant Program
 625 Robert Street North
 St Paul, MN 55155-2538

Or Email Completed Application to:

MN_MDA_elkandwolf@state.mn.us

Applications must be electronically date stamped or postmarked by 5:00 PM January 15, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants?

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has granted \$60,000 to the MDA to grant out to Minnesota livestock producers for measures that will reduce wolf-livestock conflicts. Projects selected for funding must be completed by August 31, 2021.

Who is eligible?

Livestock producers within Minnesota's wolf range or on property determined by the commissioner to be affected by wolf-livestock conflicts. The Minnesota wolf range can be found here: www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html. Grant recipients will continue to be eligible for depredation payments under Minnesota Statute 3.737 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1515.

What livestock species are eligible?

Any animal produced for profit and has been documented to have been killed by wolves in Minnesota in the past is eligible. This includes but is not exclusive to the following animals which the MDA has paid depredation claims for in the past: bison, cattle, chicken, deer, donkey, duck, geese, goat, horse, llama, mule, sheep, swine and turkey.

What does the grant cover?

Grants are available to reimburse costs associated with the following practices: the purchase of guard animals, veterinary costs for guard animals, the installation of wolf-barriers which may include pens, fladry and fencing, the installation of wolf-detering lights and alarms, calving or lambing shelters, or other measures suggested by the applicant and considered by the review panel likely to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts.

Ineligible expenses

Any measures that are not implemented in a good-faith effort to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts are ineligible. Only measures approved by the MDA will be considered eligible for reimbursement. ATV's or other vehicles are considered to be ineligible expenses. Salary expenses not related to the construction of barriers, shelters, lights or alarms are also considered ineligible expenses.

Other grant requirements

Grant recipients must make a good-faith effort to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts, make a good-faith effort to care for guard animals paid for with grant funds, retain proper documentation of expenses, cover 50% of the cost of the project, report annually to the commissioner (within 30 days of project end) on the effectiveness of the nonlethal methods employed and allow follow-up evaluation and monitoring by the commissioner. The terms of the project will be defined in a grant agreement between the grantee and the MDA.

How are grants awarded?

Grant applications must be electronically date stamped or postmarked no later than 5:00 PM January 15, 2021. Grant applications will be evaluated by a review panel and scored using the evaluation criteria (page 10). Applicants will be notified by March 19, 2021 and approved expenses for successful applicants will be eligible for reimbursement after a specified date until August 31, 2021. Applicants must pay for expenses up-front and then submit documentation of expenses to the MDA to receive payment of grant funds. Only expenses incurred after the grant agreement start date will be eligible for reimbursement through this program.

Is my application considered public data?

The classification of grant application data is governed by Minnesota Statute §13.599. While some of the data in the application will be unavailable to the public during the evaluation process, ultimately everything in grant applications will be classified as public and available to anyone who asks for it. The lone general exception to this is if data constitutes a "trade secret" based on the definition found in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, subd. 1(b). It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify what application data they believe is a trade secret and to credibly justify that determination, in writing, at the time the application is submitted. MDA bears the ultimate responsibility for determining what data meets the § 13.37 definition of "trade secret," and may disagree with the applicant's reasoning. In that case, barring a court order to the contrary, MDA is legally required to provide the data to anyone who asks for it. Marking information as "trade secret", "confidential", or "proprietary" without supporting justification has no effect on the data's legal classification.

Audits

Per Minnesota Statute §16B.98 Subdivision 8, the grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the grantee or other party that are the grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant agreement end date, receipt, and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Assistance and Support

Applicants may submit questions regarding the application to the MDA using the contact information provided on page 1. Responses to all questions will be posted on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/wolf as soon as possible. All questions must be asked prior to 5:00 PM January 8, 2021.

Evaluation Criteria

This is a competitive grant program. Applications will be scored using the evaluation profile and ranked on their relative merit in each category. Give special attention to the evaluation profile when answering the questions on the application.

Evaluation Item	2 points	4 Points	6 Points	8 Points	10 Points
Documented losses from wolves	No documented losses from wolves	Documented losses but not in last 24 months	Documented losses from wolves in past 24 months < \$2,000	Documented losses from wolves in past 24 months \$2,000-\$5,000	Documented losses from wolves in past 24 months > \$5,000
Evaluation Item	1 points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Completeness of application	Not complete	Not legible, hard to read and / or understand	Everything filled out and readable	Does not leave many questions in the mind of the reviewer	Detailed description of plans and itemized costs
Demonstrated knowledge	No knowledge demonstrated of how to implement proposed tactics	Limited knowledge demonstrated, assistance may be required	Knowledge is probably sufficient to implement tactics independently	Knowledge is very likely sufficient to implement tactics independently	Knowledge is clearly sufficient to implement tactics independently
Effectiveness of tactics	There is not sufficient detail to know if plan is likely to help	Plan proposed is not likely to reduce conflicts	Plan will probably reduce conflicts	Plan is likely to reduce conflicts	Plan is very likely to reduce conflicts
Cost efficiency	Sufficient cost information not provided	Costs are not reasonable for work proposed	Some costs are ok but others are not	Costs are reasonably good estimates	Costs are clearly in line with work proposed
Past grant funds received	\$5,000 or more	\$2,500 - 4,999	\$1,000 - 2,499	< \$1,000	\$0

Review Process and Timeline	
RPF posted on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website	October 2020
Questions due no later than 5:00 PM Central Time	January 8, 2021
Applications postmarked or emailed no later than 5:00 PM Central Time	January 15, 2021
Committee begins review of applications	January 22, 2021
Committee recommendations submitted to commissioner for review	March 12, 2021
Selected grantees announced, grant agreement negotiations begin	March 19, 2021
Work plans approved and grants begin	April 2021