

LIVESTOCK PREDATION PREVENTION PROJECT (LPPP)

PREDATOR DETERRENT WITH LIGHT SOURCE RMP



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The use of flashing and irregular timed light sources has been proven to reduce the incidence of livestock predation by canine predators. Scientific studies and producer testimonials agree that night operating flashing lights will increase hesitancy of predators to approach areas with these scare units operating. While no one system is fool proof or predator proof, the option of an inexpensive lights source powered by rechargeable batteries and a small solar panel is appealing based on the ease of installation and limited cost.

“On high mountain summer range, the devices reduced sheep losses on average about 60% ... In the operational evaluations, 84% of our cooperators indicated that coyote predation on lambs was lowered when devices were used.” Linhart et al. 1984),

Solar fox lights have been selected as the simplest predator scare tactic for the Manitoba Livestock Predation Prevention Pilot Project. Solar fox lights are simply charged by the sun, and hung from a fence wire or aerial wire in the vicinity of the lambing/calving area. At dusk the lights start flashing at random intervals with varying multicolor flashing bulbs. The light show is intended to gain the predators attention and confuse or delay their approach for fear of possible human presence. Scare light systems are intended only for temporary use during high risk seasons such as lambing and calving where there is the most compromised livestock. Scare light systems only work at night as such daytime mitigation needs to be done separately, however night monitoring is the most important time because predators prefer the cover of darkness.

The intent of the night light risk mitigation practice (RMP) is to cost effectively reduce predator interactions with livestock during times such as birthing. This RMP will supply 10 farms with four solar powered fox lights each. The producers cooperating will then disperse the solar fox lights around their high risk area and monitor their flock/herd for altered behavior and losses. Any predator observations should be noted and considered in comparison to past experience. Producer will be expected to run these lights only during a high risk period as there is a high likelihood that predators will become habituated to the light show. At the completion of the project producers will report their experiences and success and failure of this RMP. A final report will be written and posted to help disperse the information and knowledge gained from this project.



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Solar Fox lights are built in Australia and are purpose built for livestock predator deterrent.

- The unit has 9 LED bulbs projecting at 360 degrees can be seen over one kilometer.
- Place in sunny location for best recharging or can be charged by USB port.
- Light sensor with 9 LED bulbs flash randomly between sunset and sunrise
- Foxlights give the illusion that someone is walking / patrolling the area with a flashlight
- Set lights at 100 - 150 metres apart around area that needs protection
- The light flash must project from the unit in a horizontal position to maximize the effect
- Canadian Suggested Retail Price \$164.95 per unit.
- Video of a fox light can be viewed: <https://youtu.be/8oOrTbjB0gU>

Photo 2 is a block of four night photos of the fox light show that appear on a random basis in darkness of night.

At the completion of the Livestock Predator Prevention Project a report will be written to help guide producers to the most effective predator reduction practices.

*For more information of the Livestock Predator Prevention Project and other Risk Mitigation Practices
please visit <https://mbbeef.ca/>*



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