

LIVESTOCK PREDATION PREVENTION PROJECT (LPPP)

PREDATOR DETERRENT WITH COW BELLS



mbbeef.ca | 204-772-4542

Bells have been used on cattle and sheep for centuries. Some of the reasons are for easier ability to find herds and flocks, while other reasons include identification and predator scaring. While a bell making small amounts of noise on a regular basis will become a normal sound of the pasture, a rapidly ringing bell will alert other livestock and predators that there is something unusual going on.

Livestock bells will be tested as a risk mitigation practice (RMP) with the intent of determining if they:

- Reduce predation
- Reduce the harassment of compromised animals such as older, slower cows
- Reduce the harassment of slower calves if their mother carries a bell and tries to defend her young
- Reduce the harassment of yearlings or breeding heifers on pasture
- Increase ability of rancher to find the cow group in treed pastures
- Increase the stress levels of flighty animals such as yearlings or breeding heifers
- Draw predators to herds by the sound of the bell
- Receive negative comments from rural residents who live next to pastures.

Producers who use this RMP will be asked if any or all of the above questions are relevant or correct. Simple logic would indicate that a rapidly ringing bell would attract attention of the remaining herd and hopefully reduce predator incidents by grouping the cows. Participants should be cautioned that the first few hours of bell wearing could be quite stressful, as cows and heifers may react vigorously to the ringing noises.



Note: Producers may want to avoid putting bells on bulls during breeding season due to riding and rough use, a bell may be damaged quite quickly.

Bells for this project are from the Bevin Bell company and are “Kentucky-style” bells. They are not the traditional Swiss bells which are often ceremonial or decorative. A sound test can be heard by going to the following website and testing the sound of the 1K 4 ¾ diameter bell. See: <https://bevinbells.com/product/kentucky-bells-agriculture/>



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Costs of Kentucky-style bell:

- Canadian suggested retail price \$20.55 per unit.
- Collars will be nylon webbing; Retail Price of \$10.35 per unit.
- As an RMP participant the producer will be provided with 10 bells and collars and the costs will be covered 75% by the LPPP project and 25% by the producer.

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

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



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