

January 22, 2025

Wendy Keefover & Brianna DelDuca
The Humane Society of the United States
Humane Society Legislative Fund
1255 23rd St. NW.
Washington, DC. 20037

Dear Wendy Keefover and Brianna DelDuca,

This letter is in response to the Humane Society of the United States' comment left on the Federal Register for Docket No. APHIS-2024-0053, "A Survey of Livestock Producer Perceptions of Predators and Predator Damage Management Methods." We thank you kindly for your thoughtful comment. Please see below for our responses:

A recent article by Carlisle et al. (2023) sheds promising light and should inform this effort... In addition to the nonlethal methods tested in Carlisle et al. (2023), livestock carcass mitigation (e.g., burial, removal, lye treatment) must also be considered.

- Congress has appropriated funding to USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) since 2020 specifically for the implementation and further development of nonlethal methods for reducing livestock-predator conflict (referred to as the Nonlethal Initiative). The scope of our upcoming study is specific to evaluating the Nonlethal Initiative, which narrows our assessment to the specific nonlethal methods and tools WS implemented under the initiative. These methods and tools include range riding, fladry, fencing, and livestock guardian dogs. In our survey, however, we ask several questions about other methods that respondents may have used or would like to use (e.g., livestock carcass mitigation). Responses to these questions will allow us to gauge participant interest in other methods, subsequently informing whether such methods should be considered key components of this initiative.

Thank you again for the thoughtful feedback.

Sincerely,



Megan M. Cross, PhD
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