

Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife

State Report

FY 2015

Kansas

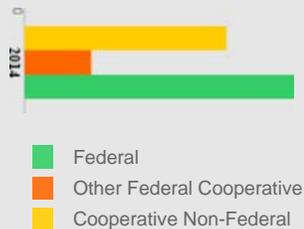


Contact Information:

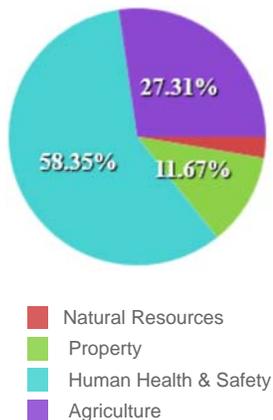
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Total Funding (\$ Million)



Resources Protected % of Total Funds



USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Kansas

Every day, the Wildlife Services (WS) program in Kansas helps citizens, organizations, industries, and Government agencies resolve conflicts with wildlife to protect agriculture, other property, and natural resources, and to safeguard human health and safety. WS' professional wildlife biologists and specialists implement effective, selective, and responsible strategies that value wildlife, the environment, and the resources being protected. WS manages wildlife damage according to its public trust stewardship responsibilities as a Federal natural resource management program. WS supports the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, based on the principle that wildlife resources are owned collectively and held in trust by Government for the benefit of present and future generations.

Applying Science and Expertise to Help the Public

WS frequently provides information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided in person, by telephone or through the mail or internet. During 2014, WS delivered technical advice and recommendations to more than 1.6 million people.

In most cases, landowners and resource managers use technical information to implement habitat management and other methods to reduce damage on their properties. WS-Kansas provides technical assistance to people by telephone or site visits. Each issue is unique and most technical assistance problems involve migratory birds or urban wildlife damage. Most urban technical issues are handled by providing expert advice and/or equipment, or they are referred to the private sector. For migratory bird assistance, a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit is recommended as needed.

WS also implements solutions on-site, through direct management assistance, when the wildlife-related problem is complex and cannot be safely or effectively resolved by others. WS' National Wildlife Research Center conducts scientific research and assessments to refine methods and develop new science-based solutions to wildlife challenges.

WS applies and recommends an integrated wildlife damage management approach that incorporates biological, economic, public, environmental, and other information into decision making.

Protecting Crops and Other Agricultural Resources — Agricultural landscapes provide abundant wildlife habitat. WS assists farmers and ranchers throughout the United States to protect crops and other agricultural resources and facilities from damage caused by waterfowl, deer, wild turkeys, gulls, black bears, and other species.

Protecting Livestock from Predation — Despite producers' best efforts to protect their livestock, thousands of domesticated farm animals are killed by predators each year. The most recent reports by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for cattle (2011) and sheep and goat (2010) indicate predation on nearly 450 thousand head of livestock annually, resulting in combined losses of more than \$119 million. Producers often turn to WS for assistance in reducing and preventing further predation. The integrated approach implemented by WS includes recommendations that are applied by the producers and, in many cases, operational wildlife management implemented by WS.

Protecting Human Health and Safety at Airports — Wildlife strikes cause more than 590,000 hours of aircraft down time and cost the nation's civil aviation industry approximately \$937 million annually. American military aircraft sustain losses exceeding \$10 million annually. WS has assisted the Nation's airports for decades and collaborates closely with the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, and other Government agencies. WS provided assistance to 839 airports in 2014, including advice, training, on-site evaluations, and assessments of wildlife hazards, and direct operational management to reduce wildlife strikes.

In 2012, WS-Kansas provided wildlife hazard training to 5 airports, assistance and comprehensive wildlife hazard assessments to 4 airports and 1 military airfield, and direct operational management year round to 2 airports.

Protecting Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Natural Resources WS contributes to the conservation of species listed as threatened and endangered (T&E) through partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), State wildlife agencies, organizations, and landowners. During 2014, WS safeguarded populations of 162 T&E species nationwide by reducing the impacts of predation and competition from more abundant species, consulting with the FWS to ensure that WS programs do not jeopardize listed species, and developing and sharing information that contributed to conservation of listed species.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WS-Kansas provides black-tailed prairie dog management to landowners in support of black-footed ferret recovery.

Monitoring and Controlling Wildlife Diseases — WS works with Federal and State wildlife, health, and agriculture agencies to monitor and conduct surveillance for diseases in wildlife that could impact agriculture or human health. The program's Wildlife Disease Biologists act as WS' first responders through the National Wildlife Disease Program's Surveillance and Emergency Response System. Information obtained through disease surveillance in wildlife populations enables agencies to better prepare for and respond to outbreaks and emergencies.

The Wildlife Disease Biologist for WS-Kansas conducts disease surveillance for feral swine, coyotes, and raccoons. Feral swine are tested for classical swine fever, pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, leptospirosis, and toxoplasmosis. Coyotes and raccoons are tested for plague, tularemia, and leptospirosis.

Protecting Kansas from Invasive Species — Nonnative species that cause harm are collectively known as invasive species. Invasive species may prey upon, displace, or otherwise harm native species. Some also alter ecosystems, transport disease, interfere with crop production, or cause illnesses in animals and humans. WS-Kansas conducts invasive species activities in partnership with State agencies and others to protect property, utilities, equipment, crops, and natural resources from feral swine and European starling damage.

Reducing the Negative Impacts of Feral Swine — Feral swine, an invasive species, are prolific breeders and thrive in rural, suburban and urban habitats. By 2014, their populations had expanded to at least 40 States, numbering approximately six million animals. This expanding population and distribution is associated with property damage and negative effects on public health, domestic animal health, crop production, and natural resources. Currently, the total aggregate cost of damage is estimated to be at least \$1.5 billion annually, with at least \$800 million related to direct costs to agriculture.

WS-Kansas assists the Kansas Department of Agriculture with feral swine management. Feral swine pose a disease threat to the domestic swine industry. Swine brucellosis and pseudorabies have been detected in feral swine. Feral swine also cause significant damage to crops, pastures, property, and natural resources as well as compete with native wildlife for resources.

Responding to Emergencies — WS has a long history of responding to emergency requests for assistance from farmers, ranchers, and others. Increasingly, WS is asked to assist in responding to natural and manmade disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and oil spills. On emergency response teams, WS employees use their specialized skills to capture and safely handle almost any wildlife species found in the United States. WS expertise has been instrumental in recovering wild and domestic animals, hazing wildlife away from contaminated areas, and conducting wildlife disease surveillance and emergency control. WS' National Wildlife Disease Program biologists have extensive training in the Incident Command System and can be mobilized within 24-48 hours of a request.

Looking to the Future

WS continues to provide the citizens of Kansas with safe, effective, and responsible management assistance for a variety of wildlife damage problems. The potential for human-wildlife conflicts likely will increase and WS' ability to respond will depend on the availability of personnel and resources, as well as legislative authorities to support these activities.

WS-Kansas is receiving increasing numbers of requests for assistance with problems associated with feral swine, wildlife at airports, coyotes in urban/suburban areas, blackbirds, starlings, beaver, crows, and waterfowl.

WS strives to meet the demands for assistance within the constraints of its existing resources and capabilities so that all citizens have access to program services. Collaborative, partner-based approaches will be increasingly important among natural resource, agriculture, and health agencies to meet public needs.

Wildlife Services Funding in Kansas

In addition to receiving federally allocated funds, WS also receives funding from program beneficiaries such as agricultural producers, airports, individual citizens, businesses, organizations, and other Federal, State, and local Government agencies. (See charts for sources of funding and resources protected.)

Top 5 Major WS Assistance Activities in Kansas

- Providing feral swine management and disease monitoring across the State
- Managing wildlife hazards at airports
- Protecting property and public utilities from pigeon and starling damage
- Protecting livestock facilities from starling and blackbird damage
- Providing prairie dog damage management to landowners

Top 5 WS Research Projects of Interest to Kansas

- Developing tools and methods to reduce feral swine damage to property
- Quantifying and assessing the damage caused by starlings and blackbirds to livestock facilities
- Evaluating and monitoring feral swine for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis
- Investigating the biology, ecology, and behavior of feral swine
- Conducting sampling efforts for multiple diseases including swine PEDV and Avian Influenza

Major Cooperators:

- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Wichita Mid-Continent Airport
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
- U.S. Army - Fort Riley Military Base