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FAGERSTONE, KATHLEEN A. Pesticide use in the wildlife management profession—an overview of professional animal damage control. USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Denver Wildlife Research Center, P. O. Box 25266, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0266.

Wildlife damage management is an important, often neglected, part of the wildlife management profession. Wildlife sometimes causes significant damage to private and public property, other wildlife and their habitats, agricultural crops and livestock, forests, rangelands, and urban and rural structures. Wildlife can also threaten human health and safety. Prevention of wildlife damage may involve use of pesticides and drugs. These include anticoagulant toxicants, acute toxicants, fumigants, repellents, frightening agents, aversive conditioning agents, contraceptives, immobilizing agents, and some use of herbicides to alter habitat. Risks to wildlife associated with use of vertebrate pesticides are usually less than those associated with use of conventional herbicides and insecticides—amounts used are very small, use sites are limited in area, and the pesticides generally show some specificity in their action. Also, rather than managing vertebrate pests on a species level, the trend in current wildlife management is to deal selectively with problem animals or problem situations on a local basis.