

# Wildlife Services

Protecting People  
Protecting Agriculture  
Protecting Wildlife

## State Report

FY 2008

# Connecticut



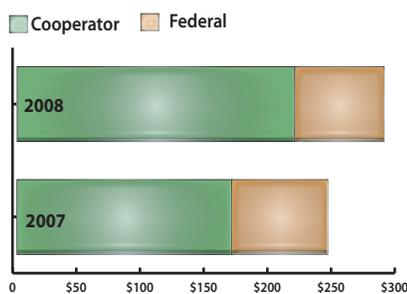
### Contact Information:

Monte Chandler, Connecticut,  
Massachusetts, and Rhode Island  
Wildlife Services State Director  
463 West Street,  
Amherst, MA 01002  
Phone: (413) 253-2403  
FAX: (413) 253-7577  
Toll-Free Number: 1-866-4USDAWS  
1-866-487-3297  
monte.d.chandler@aphis.usda.gov  
www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\_damage

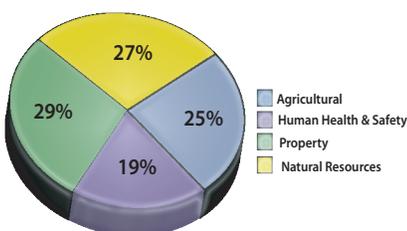
### Major Cooperators

- Connecticut Departments of Agriculture, of Environmental Protection and of Transportation
- Connecticut Extension System
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- University of Connecticut
- Industrial Companies
- Dairies and Farms
- Landfill Authorities

### Total Funding (Thousands)



### Resources Protected % of Total Funds



### USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Connecticut

Every day, residents, industries, organizations, and agencies call upon Wildlife Services (WS) Connecticut for expertise and assistance in protecting agriculture, human health and safety, property, and natural resources from damage or threats caused by wildlife. Although many urban and suburban areas are well developed, Connecticut has a remarkably diverse and growing wildlife population which sometimes means increased opportunities for conflicts with the public. In response WS provides technical assistance and conducts direct wildlife damage management efforts that are biologically, environmentally, socially sound, and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

### Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

WS offers information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable many people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided over the phone. WS may also provide cooperative on-site help, or direct assistance, to address complex wildlife problems that may be difficult or cannot be safely and effectively resolved by others. To support this effort, WS conducts scientific research across the Nation to develop answers to new problems posed by wildlife and to ensure the program benefits from the latest science and technology.

**Protecting Agricultural Resources**—Despite high human population density, agriculture remains economically and socially important to the people of Connecticut. WS provides wildlife damage management expertise to a highly diversified agricultural industry: vegetable, fruit, dairy, turf, ornamental, aquaculture, and livestock production enterprises. These operations occur in urban, suburban, and rural settings, and produce is both locally consumed and exported.

WS personnel conduct seasonal projects in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to manage starling contamination of feed and water at dairy farms, which can cause salmonella infections in cattle. Cattle infected with salmonella may abort their calves, slow down or stop feeding, lose weight, and reduce milk production. Dairy and feed lot farmers who participate in this WS starling management program report improvements in the quality of their cattle and milk production and cost savings because cattle feed is not contaminated or eaten by starlings.

**Protecting Human Health and Safety at Airports**—Wildlife collisions with airplanes cost U.S. civil aviation more than \$625 million annually and pose a hazard to passengers and aircraft. WS provides training, wildlife hazard assessments, and direct wildlife hazard management assistance at Connecticut airports through partnerships with Federal and State agencies and airport management. In FY 2008, WS conducted operational wildlife damage management projects at five airports and provided technical assistance to a total of seven airport facilities. WS also provided two wildlife hazard management workshops for Connecticut airport personnel. WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) conducts research on habitat management practices and wildlife dispersal techniques. NWRC also maintains the National Wildlife Strike Database used by the Federal Aviation Administration and airports to monitor trends and wildlife species that pose the greatest concern to aviation. WS in Connecticut uses the information and technology developed from field research and the strike database to enhance development of wildlife hazard management strategies and methods for application at local airports.

**Wildlife Disease Management**—To enhance preparedness for emergency disease response, WS continues to collaborate with USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services (VS) and several State and local health agencies. Interagency meetings have been conducted, which have significantly improved communications and strategies for responding to potential disease emergencies or other emergencies.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Avian influenza (AI), the bird flu, is caused by a virus that infects domestic poultry and wild birds (geese, ducks, and shorebirds). As with human flu, AI has a season and some forms of the flu are worse than others. The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 strain of bird flu has been found in an increasing number of countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Currently, HPAI H5N1 is not present in the United States, but the U.S. Government is taking steps to prepare for and minimize the potential impact of this disease.

WS continues to lead a national multi-interagency collaboration of an enhanced proactive program to monitor wild migratory birds in the United States for avian influenza. WS Connecticut personnel are working in collaboration with State agencies and other public and private organizations to conduct surveillance activities for avian influenza by collecting samples from wild migratory birds, and within a few months following CY 2008, will bring to a completion the program's third surveillance year.

#### **Protecting Multiple Resources from Canada Goose**

**Damage**—The Canada goose population has been increasing in Connecticut for three decades and continues as a major wildlife problem. Many traditional management methods are becoming limited in effectiveness, while goose populations continue to grow. WS recommends the use of integrated wildlife damage management, in which multiple methods are used to mitigate damage. To manage goose damage, habitat management, exclusion, harassment, and repellents may be used. WS' NWRC is working to develop more socially acceptable and effective management methods, including reproduction through an egg addling regime, which Connecticut WS personnel conduct with towns and homeowner associations to reduce local goose reproduction.

In FY 2008, the WS Connecticut program provided 28 consultations and resource loss evaluations regarding a reported loss of approximately \$364,250 caused by Canada geese. WS provided recommendations to be included with formal applications for FWS depredation permits at no charge.

#### **Looking to the Future**

WS continues to provide citizens of Connecticut with safe, effective, and humane assistance for a variety of wildlife conflicts through cooperatively funded wildlife damage management activities. These will include (1) preventing the spread of wildlife-borne diseases rabies, salmonella, and E. coli, (2) meeting new wildlife damage management challenges for a dynamic Connecticut agricultural industry, (3) and continuing to improve strategies for reducing wildlife hazards at airports.

#### **Connecticut Wildlife Services Funding**

In addition to receiving federally allocated funds, WS also receives money from cooperators; such as producers; private individuals; businesses; and other Federal, State, and local government agencies who have a vested interest in the program. These cooperators have a role in wildlife damage management, because in most cases they need help to resolve wildlife damage problems or conflicts.

#### **Top 5 Major Assistance Activities:**

- Protecting civilian and military aircraft and passengers from wildlife collisions
- Alleviating damage, threats to human health and safety, or other conflicts caused by Canada geese
- Reducing damage caused by pigeons, starlings, blackbirds, and gulls
- Reducing potential wildlife disease transmission to livestock and contamination feed
- Alleviating depredation of State and Federally protected shorebirds

#### **Top WS Research Projects of Interest to Connecticut:**

- Defining and reducing wildlife hazards to aviation
- Refining urban Canada goose integrated management methods including capture strategies
- Evaluating activities of waterfowl and impacts to disease and parasite reservoirs
- Developing new methods or strategies for managing avian predators to protected shorebirds