

To whom it may concern,

I manage a cow calf operation in Ontonagon of 500+ head and also raise grass fed pork and lamb of 150 head for myself. In the last 2 years we have lost over 50 head to predators. Most of the losses are due to wolves. Before 2 years ago I might have lost 1 or 2 per year. We have been compensated for the ones we have proof for, but that is very few and does not cover the cost of getting the baby animal on the ground. We do have permits to remove the animals and have taken 5 so far this year with many more in the vicinity.

In regards of a wolf hunting season I am in support, however, that will not stop the losses the farmers are having as a state or regional season will not target the problem packs around the farms with the trouble. We still need damage permits(maybe we could get a permit that is longer than 1 month as I have more important things than wolf paper work to do!!!!), and loss payments(I can get deer damage permits without as many \$ lost!!!). It has been hard to find people to hunt and trap the wolves when they cannot keep the animal after they get it. We have to turn it over to the DNR. A season would probably have a short amount of time the animals can be harvested and we have had losses year around.

Wolves are a very efficient predator and I have seen them in action 200 feet from my house. There was a time there was a bounty on these animals, and we managed them to an endangered species and now we have allowed them to make a comeback. This is a testament to our ability to manage our surroundings. Maybe the people in support of the wolf's comeback should pay me for the wolf food I supply.

I'm sorry for the sharp words with this issue, but if left unchecked this will drive me out of business in less than 5 years. Upper Michigan used to have a thriving animal agricultural community and with out proper legislation we could manage that to extinction also. Agriculture is one of the largest segments of Michigan's economy, the Upper Peninsula has much more potential than is used currently. I am sure there are other producers with these same concerns.

Sincerely,

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