

Each cattle rancher had a deductible as follows:

herds of up to 200 heads	first animal killed or missing per year
herds of 201-500 heads	first two animals killed or missing per year
herds of 501-800 heads	first four animals killed or missing per year
herds over 800 heads	first five animals killed or missing per year

Each sheep rancher had a deductible as follows:

herds of up to 300 head	first one animal killed or missing per year
herds over 300 head	first two animals killed or missing per year

The program lasted one year (July 1998 – August 1999), and a total of NIS 160,000 (about US\$ 48,000) was paid out in compensation.

The program was discontinued after Tnuva withdrew its support, deciding instead, to help subsidize the purchase of fences and guard dogs. Tnuva felt that its money would be better spent on protection rather than compensation. The government subsequently decided to direct its support to these ends too.

The ranchers have since received substantial government subsidies to purchase electric and conventional fences, and trained livestock guarding dogs, and these are in wide use today. They are very effective in reducing wolf depredation on sheep; their efficacy for protecting cattle against wolves is highly variable.

The ranchers' point of view

The ranchers felt that compensation rates were very low compared to the actual losses they incurred, but they felt that the program was better than no compensation at all. The ranchers also were left with the impression that they were not paid for many cases of what they felt was wolf depredation, but which were not approved as such by the wildlife ranger.

LIFE Starter Project about Wildlife-Agriculture Conflicts

The LIFE Starter program funds 10-month projects that aim at gathering the background information needed for preparing LIFE III proposals. The Institute of Applied Ecology (IEA) of Rome has received funds for the project: Wildlife and Agriculture: Minimizing the Conflict through Damage Prevention. The co-ordinators of the project are Annette Mertens and Valeria Salvatori. The aim of the project is to gain insight into the extent and distribution of the major conflicts between wildlife (large carnivores, large herbivores, golden jackal and porcupine) in the European Mediterranean (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia and Greece). A second step is the analysis of possible strategies to reduce these conflicts. Our local partners are 1. Luis Pinto de Andrade, University of Castelo Branco, Portugal, 2. Juan Carlos Blanco, Fundacio Oso Pardo, Spain, 3. ONCFS, France, 4. Djuro Huber, University of Zagreb, Croatia and 5. Constantinos Godes, Arcturos, Greece. They will provide data about wildlife-agriculture conflicts in their countries. Together we will then identify special conflict situations in target areas for which to design conflict resolution strategies. A more in-depth research and the implementation of the strategies will be the contents of a LIFE III proposal we will submit in summer 2003. In this proposal each partner organisation will then be responsible for the implementation of the management strategy in the own country, as well as monitoring the status of conflicts. IEA will be responsible for the implementation of the project in Italy and the overall coordination.

As we are still in an initial phase we are looking for input for the project, which can be an exchange of opinions or the participation of additional organisations on the local level. We will be happy about any kind of input you can give!

Many thanks!

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