Smoky Lake County Policy

Title:	**Coyote Reduction Program Policy**		
		Policy #	Version
Category:	Agricultural Services (AG)	**AG-31**	**01**

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE:

- Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta
- Municipal Government Act (MGA)
- Wildlife Management Fund Grant Requirements

PURPOSE:

To reduce coyote predation on livestock and wild game species, such as deer by offering an incentive-based program for ratepayers and ensuring that carcass handling, verification, and disposal are conducted safely, humanely, and in compliance with County and grant standards.

STATEMENT:

Smoky Lake County supports agricultural producers by implementing a Coyote Reduction Program funded in fully through the Wildlife Management Fund at the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society. The program provides compensation for coyotes harvested within the County, ensures proper verification through staff removal of the left front paw, to ensure program integrity and compliance with environmental and safety standards.

This program is subject to available funding and may be terminated prior to March 31 deadline due to budget limitations or abuse of the program.

As the program is grant-funded, it will be reviewed annually.

Cancellation or Denial: Permits and applications may be cancelled or denied at any time without liability or obligation to the County

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an incentive payment of **$15.00 per coyote** from **November 1 to March 31** annually, subject to program funding.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE:

Participants must complete Schedule A – Coyote Reduction Permit. Applications made under Schedule "A": Coyote Reduction Permit must be approved by the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.

1. Applications & Eligibility

- One participant per household is eligible.
- Coyotes must originate **within Smoky Lake County boundaries**.
- Imported carcasses are **not** eligible.
- Non-resident trappers that trap within the boundaries of Smoky Lake County may participate; to participate they **must** provide GPS location and WA-19 for preapproval before they can bring in an animal.

- WA-19 is an authorization to hunt fur-bearing animals in Alberta, used by landowners to grant permission for licensed trappers to trap furbearers on their private property. The form serves as the required written consent for trapping on lands not directly owned or occupied by the trapper, ensuring legal compliance under Alberta's wildlife regulations.

- Non-resident **trappers only** can only bring in 20 coyotes per approved site.

2. Program Limits

- Maximum **20 coyotes per week/participant**.
- Maximum of **1500 coyotes will be accepted per season in total** due to budget limitations**.**
- Residents are advised that it is illegal to sell whole or unskinned carcasses to anyone other than a licensed Fur Buyer.

3. Carcass Handling & Verification

- Coyotes may be hunted without a license at all times of the year throughout the province by a resident who has right of access (permission) to hunt on lands that are not public lands or by the owner or occupant of their privately owned land.
- Participants must bring in **whole carcasses only**.
- ASB staff will remove the **left front paw** for verification. The paw will then be put into a bag for disposal.
- A coyote missing any front limb will not be accepted, as intact front limbs are required to verify eligibility and compliance with program requirements.
- Carcasses must be **covered with a tarp** during transport to avoid public display.
- Carcasses must be **accessible**, not frozen tightly together, and suitable for inspection.
- Carcasses will only be accepted at the Public Works shop, **outside** at the Agricultural Bay.
- ASB staff are required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the duration of the verification process.

4. Appointments

- Carcasses are accepted **by appointment only**.
- Staff may inspect disposal locations at any time without prior notice.

5. Disposal Requirements

- Carcasses are returned to the participant for **proper disposal**.
- Participants must provide a **legal land location** for potential disposal site inspection.

6. Grant Reporting Requirements

- Staff will maintain full records of payments issued.
- Staff will prepare and submit required reports and invoices to the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society.
- Records will be retained in accordance with County retention schedules.

7. Abuse or Non-Compliance

- Participation may be **immediately suspended or terminated** for:
  - False declarations
  - Importing carcasses
  - Exceeding program limits
  - Any misuse of the program
  - Any form of disrespectful behaviour toward county personnel
- Program may close early if **funding is depleted**.

	Date	Council Resolution #	Version
Adopted	January 27th, 2026	Motion # 20260127-038	01
Amended			
Reviewed			

Signature Apon Request

REEVE,

Craig Lukinuk

SEAL

Signature Apon Request

Interim CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,

Brenda Adamson



Schedule “A” Coyote Reduction Permit

Applicant Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	

Legal Land Location(s):

¼	Section	Township	Range	W4M
¼	Section	Township	Range	W4M
¼	Section	Township	Range	W4M

Declare:

I (We), do hereby declare to SMOKY LAKE COUNTY that only Coyote Paws from the above approved locations will be brought in for a DOLLARS ($15.00) per coyote. service fee of FIFTEEN.

I (We) hereby agree that, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the activities described above, I (we) shall indemnify and save harmless Smoky Lake County, its Councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person, or death (including, without limitation, legal fees of Smoky Lake County on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis) that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performance of the above-described activities

Program is subject to available funds. Coyotes will not be paid for when funds have been depleted. If abuse of the program is conducted, the applicant will be banned from participating.

I, the undersigned, have read this application and am aware of its contents and agree to the conditions

Signature of Participant:		Date:_____
Signature of Agricultural Fieldman or Delegate:		Date:_____