

## Coyotes



The coyote is probably one of the most common agricultural pests in Brazeau County. The main issue with the coyote is predation of livestock and pets. Although all coyotes are capable, they rarely attack a large healthy animal and they stick to feasting on sick, vulnerable, and very young animals. Pets are often targets if they are off wandering alone or perhaps taunt the coyote. Birthing cattle are sometimes targeted as well.

One of the best methods of detaining coyotes is to use an electric fence. If an electric fence is too costly or not worth putting up, then you must make sure your yard or land is free of easily accessible food. Any carrion must be disposed of immediately and legally. Keeping any pets or animals safely indoors or properly penned up at night when coyotes are most active is an excellent idea. If you are present with your flock, herd or pet at most times during the day when they are not penned in or out of doors, coyotes are less likely to appear. Choosing a guardian animal such as a donkey may be a good investment, as well.

Frightening devices and repellents are effective temporary methods of control; permanent methods may include scarecrows, sirens, lights, etc. because coyotes are very sensitive and aware of changes to their environment. However, they are also quick to adapt and overcome their initial fear.



Lethal means of managing coyotes includes shooting, which may be done year round on your own land or on other lands with written consent. Other lethal means consist of poison; however they are strictly regulated and registered as restricted pesticides under the Pest Control Products Act of Canada.

For more information about coyotes and possible control methods, please contact the Brazeau County Agricultural Department at 542-7777.

