



## Dealing with Conflict: Black Vultures & Coyotes

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Slides and all resources posted here:

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**THEWILDSIDE@OSU**  
News, Education, and Conversations on Ohio Wildlife  
[u.osu.edu/wildside](http://u.osu.edu/wildside)

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### Black Vultures

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- ▶ Property damage
- ▶ Health & safety concerns
- ▶ Livestock losses
- ▶ Aesthetics

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### Ohio's Vultures

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Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Pictures courtesy ODNR, Division of Wildlife

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### Ohio's Vultures

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▶ Hang out with turkey vultures

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### Ohio's Vultures

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Black Vulture

hold its wings flat while soaring

rounded trailing silhouette

Turkey Vulture

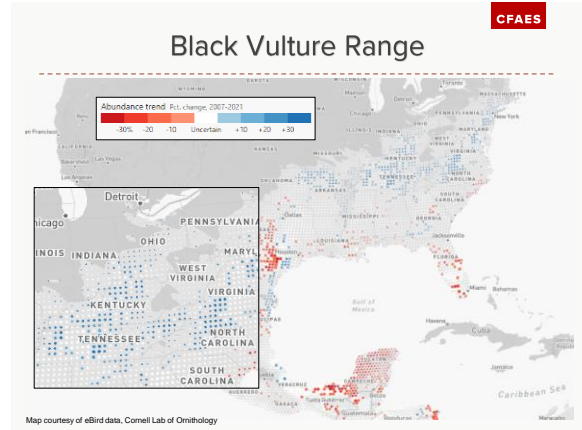
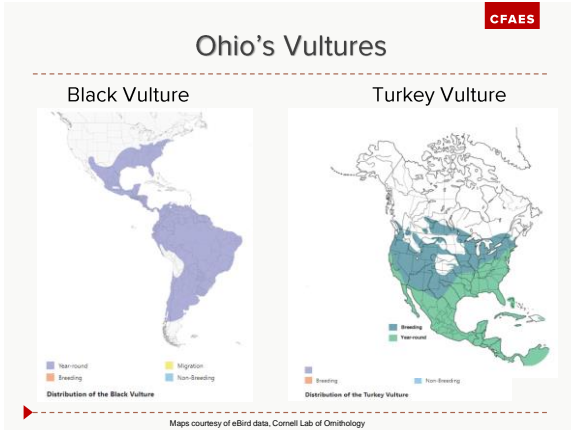
hold its wings in a 'W' shape formation while soaring

angular trailing silhouette

ODNR, Division of Wildlife

- ▶ Black vulture - most numerous vulture species in the Western Hemisphere, range expanding
- ▶ Will soar higher than turkey vultures

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### Preferred Habitat

- ▶ Open areas near woods (trees for perching)
- ▶ Nest once/year (2 eggs) – nest located in barns, buildings, stumps, or ground

### Group Dynamics

USDA/APHIS/WS

- ▶ Social, live in groups, share food
- ▶ Hunt with eyes in open areas near woods

### Feeding Habits/Damage ID

- ▶ Much of damage occurs during the day
- ▶ Isolate/surround livestock during calving & may attack and kill during birth or immediately after
- ▶ Damage to face (eyes, nostrils, tongue), udders, anus, and other soft tissues

### Preventing/Minimizing Losses

- ▶ **Habitat Modification**
- ▶ **Scare Devices**
  - ▶ Effigies
  - ▶ Lasers
  - ▶ Pyrotechnics
  - ▶ Guard dogs
- ▶ **Shooting**
- ▶ **Exclusion**
- ▶ **Trapping**

**Integrated Pest Management – employ multiple strategies, monitor, & reevaluate**

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### Habitat Modification/ /Animal Husbandry

- ▶ Roost characteristics largely unknown
- ▶ Remove potential food attractants - livestock carcasses, afterbirth
- ▶ Make the area less inviting/more human presence
- ▶ Consider moving calving and lambing from pastures into barns, or to areas closer to human activity.
- ▶ Healthy animals are less susceptible to predation than unhealthy ones.



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### Preventing/Minimizing Losses

- ▶ Habitat Modification
- ▶ **Scare Devices**
  - ▶ Effigies
  - ▶ Lasers
  - ▶ Pyrotechnics
  - ▶ Guard dogs
- ▶ **Shooting**
- ▶ Exclusion
- ▶ Trapping



**Integrated Pest Management – employ multiple strategies, monitor, & reevaluate**

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### Scare Devices – Effigies/Carcass

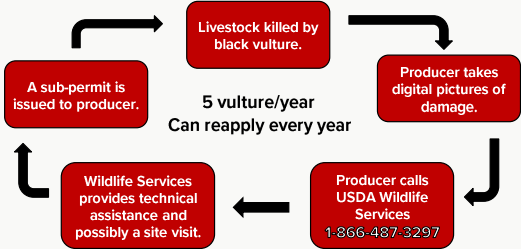


- ▶ Effectively scares vultures away – takes advantage of their vision and group dynamics.
- ▶ Use a carcass (permit required), taxidermist mount, or effigy/replica (the realer, the better)

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### Shooting/Obtaining a Carcass

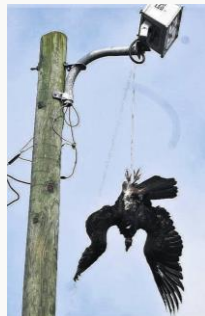
- ▶ Steps for obtaining a Migratory Bird Depredation Sub-Permit for black vulture damage in Ohio:



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### Using Depredation Permit & Carcasses

- ▶ The process of obtaining the carcass is also effective.
- ▶ Permit is not intended to lower the population – unrealistic.
  - ▶ Use it to supply carcasses throughout the breeding season(s).
- ▶ Carcass will last several weeks – month
  - ▶ Shoot one, hang it, shoot another, hang it, etc.



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### Tips on Carcass Placement



- ▶ Need to be seen
  - ▶ Open area
  - ▶ Middle of pasture
- ▶ 6-8 feet off ground
- ▶ Hang upside down, by feet
- ▶ Place before or during calving

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## Don't want a permit?

- ▶ Effigies available for purchase OR make your own
  - ▶ U of Kentucky Extension effigy plans
  - ▶ Plans at [u.osu.edu/wildside](http://u.osu.edu/wildside)



UK Extension

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## Scare Devices – Laser and Pyrotechnics

- ▶ Pyrotechnics – bangers and screamers, propane cannon from dusk to dark
- ▶ Red or Green Lasers - shined on roost 30 mins before and after sunset
- ▶ Division of Wildlife Tech Sheets - linked at [u.osu.edu/wildside](http://u.osu.edu/wildside)
  - ▶ Note the supplier lists!



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## Scare Devices - Others

- ▶ Mylar tape and balloon suspended in roost tree
- ▶ Motion activated sprinkler
- ▶ Guard dogs
- ▶ Firing ammunition (do not kill or wound without permit)



USDA/APHIS/WS

### General Rules of Harassment/Scare Device Use:

- ▶ Must be diligent and constant (may require 7-10 days)
- ▶ Use a variety of methods to lessen # of required days

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## Farm Service Agency (FAS) Disaster Assistance Livestock Indemnity Program

1. Immediately contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to file a notice of loss and complete an application upon discovery of loss.
2. It is also recommended to take digital photos of the predation/injuries as soon as they are discovered.
3. Provide documentation for proof of livestock to the FSA (see Fact Sheet for acceptable documentation)
4. Producers have 30 days to file a notice of loss, however because of decomposition it is best to file as soon as possible. A follow up on-site investigation may be necessary to be eligible for compensation.

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## Let's Review

- ▶ Black vultures are here to stay.
- ▶ Use multiple management options to mitigate and prevent damage.
  - ▶ Cultural practices, carcasses, lasers, pyrotechnics, permits
- ▶ If you lose an animal(s)
  - ▶ Contact USDA Wildlife Service to confirm & for help starting an indemnity claim with FSA
  - ▶ Bury the animal to prevent attracting more vultures and other predators



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## FYI – Vultures with red wing patches?



These are black vultures that are tagged as part of a research project by West Virginia's USDA-Wildlife Services program.  
PLEASE REPORT TO - [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)

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## Coyotes

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## Coyote Range: Past to Present

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Pre-settlement




Coyotes had to outcompete and outwit larger predators... and continued to exist despite extreme persecution.

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## Group (Pack) Dynamics

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- ▶ Strongly monogamous mated pair
- ▶ Other pack members – past litters and pups of the year
- ▶ Pack dedicated to survival of the pups (2-8 coyotes)
  - ▶ 4-7 pups/year/mated pair



Pups are born April-May.



Peak breeding is in February.

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## Food Habits

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- Carnivores
- Opportunistic
- Flexible



Coyote can adapt to the availability of food resources.

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## Managing Coyote Conflicts

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- ▶ Prey on livestock
- ▶ Damage to crops

- ▶ Human health and safety
- ▶ Property damage



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## Coyote Damage ID

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- ▶ Damage more likely to occur overnight
- ▶ Use trail cameras to monitor

**Dog:** Back end attacked; carcass mauled, skin striped, less feeding or none at all, jaw spread  $\geq 1.5"$

**Coyote:** Jaw spread  $\leq 1.5"$ , puncture marks on neck, feeding evident (belly first, chest, and legs), bone crunched or picked clean

Coyote kill 2

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## Protecting Livestock

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- ▶ Fencing ([u.osu.edu/sheep](http://u.osu.edu/sheep))
- ▶ Guard animals – llamas, dogs
- ▶ Scare devices – fladry, bells, lights
- ▶ Pesticides
- ▶ Habitat Modification
- ▶ Hunting/trapping




Flags spaced 11 inches apart

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## Habitat Modification/Animal Husbandry

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- ▶ More human presence/guard animals
- ▶ Consider moving calving and lambing from pastures into barns, or to areas closer to human activity.
- ▶ Fall birthing programs or early weaning
- ▶ Healthy animals are less susceptible to predation than unhealthy ones.
- ▶ Record keeping helps to identify patterns of loss and critical problem areas.
- ▶ Carcass removal



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## Hunting and Trapping

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- ▶ Snares or foot holds
- ▶ Calling & sharp-shooting
- ▶ More info:
  - ▶ Best Management Practices: Trapping Coyotes in the Eastern United States
  - ▶ [Linked on blog!](#)

- Smart removal of problem coyotes
- OSU Sheep Team Blog - [u.osu.edu/sheep](http://u.osu.edu/sheep)
- Search 'predator' tab

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## Keeping Poultry Safe

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- ▶ Strong, fortified enclosures are the best way to prevent predation.
- ▶ Sturdy fencing, fully enclosed, extending into the ground
- ▶ Overhead protection (from birds of prey)
- ▶ Motion sensor lights and sounds may provide temporary protection until other protective measures are in place
- ▶ Trapping/hunting to eliminate problem coyotes

[go.osu.edu/predators](http://go.osu.edu/predators)  
[u.osu.edu/poultry](http://u.osu.edu/poultry)

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## USDA Wildlife Fact Sheets

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**Coyotes**

**Key Message**

**Human-Wildlife Conflicts**

**Vultures**

**Key Message**

**Human-Wildlife Conflicts**

Posted on blog:  
[u.osu.edu/wildside](http://u.osu.edu/wildside)

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## Questions??

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## Contact Info

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Resources posted here:

**[u.osu.edu/wildside](https://u.osu.edu/wildside)**