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Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 7:05 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Predator control unfair advantage

This is probably not in the scope of what you are addressing, and no one seems willing to address this subject.

In California we can no longer use posion to control coyotes. For sheep producers who lose a large percentage of lambs, sometimes 50%, at what point the sheep ranch usually ceases to exist, this puts us at a competitive disadvantage.

We have to compete with other states and countries whose policies allow for effective predator control. We need something like an environmental tariff for lamb imported to California from areas where sheep ranchers are not expected to support the predator population.

Coyotes may have a mainly rodent diet but they often kill sheep for sport without eating anything. They are then worthless even if they were not fed upon.

Sheep are also better environmentally for some riparian areas as they do not want to get their feet wet. I find it frustrating that so many government agency employees who work with environmental issues are unaware of this difference between species of livestock.

Thank you,
Sharon Harston