

Hi Scott, As the Regional Wildlife Supervisor for the Upper Peninsula, I'm writing this note to strongly encourage the US Fish and Wildlife Service to authorize the USDA Wildlife Services agents to use of lethal control to help manage wolves on the Tom Dykstra Farm in Ontonagon County. This farm has experienced chronic wolf problems each of the past several years. This year the problem has persisted. The aggressive nature of the depredation on this farm and brazen attitude toward people is becoming disconcerting. Over the past approximately two week period, this farm has had 12 calves killed and four others injured by depredating wolves. **In one case the wolf was sufficiently bold as to enter the pasture and kill a calf at the very moment one of our Wildlife Technicians was in the same field investigating a previous kill.** We believe there may be three wolves hunting this particular farm. We have captured two of those animals, fitted them with GPS collars, held them in a crate, and fired cracker shells over their heads at the time of release in an effort to discourage them from further activity on the farm. This effort appears to have failed. Within two days of capturing and harassing these animals, three more calves were killed. The GPS data suggest these wolves have not abandoned the farm and, in fact, continue to occupy the area within one mile of the capture location.

With these facts in mind, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources feels strong that the three wolves frequenting the Dykstra Farm should be euthanized before they develop into a serious threat to human safety.

Thank you for your considerations.

Terry R. Minzey, CWB

Upper Peninsula Regional Wildlife Supervisor

Michigan Department of Natural Resources