



**Benton
County**
OREGON

Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program

Guide for Grant Applicants



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Introduction to the AWPP

The **Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program (AWPP)** is a community-based program funded by Benton County and managed by County officials in partnership with representatives from Oregon State University Extension Service, Chintimini Wildlife Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and additional Program Advisors.

The AWPP is a Benton County funded program designed to encourage the proactive use of non-lethal animal damage deterrents in an effort to foster the coexistence of local agriculture and wildlife in Benton County. The majority of AWPP funds go towards a merit-based reimbursement grant program for Benton County residents with a 10% cost share component.

Agricultural operations in Benton County that wish to prevent conflicts with wildlife may qualify for **up to \$5,000 in reimbursement grant funds** for the purchase of proactive non-lethal wildlife deterrents to protect livestock and crops. Individuals experiencing conflicts with beavers may also qualify for grant funds for the purchase of deterrents to protect trees or prevent flooding.

The goals of the Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program are to:

- 🐔 **Protect livestock and crops** while coexisting with wildlife;
- 🐔 **Encourage the proactive use** of non-lethal animal damage deterrents to prevent conflicts with wildlife;
- 🐔 **Offer a wildlife-friendly,** non-lethal animal damage control program;
- 🐔 **Educate farmers and the community** about wildlife conflicts and non-lethal methods to avoid conflicts;
- 🐔 **Foster collaborative relationships** between the farming and wildlife conservation communities, and Benton County government built around common goals.

General Grant Information

The AWPP program requires an application for non-lethal wildlife deterrent reimbursement funds.

Applications for the normal grant cycle can be submitted online or mail/email by November 30th at 11:59PM to:

Benton County AWPP
360 SW Avery Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97333

or: AWPP@co.benton.or.us

- 🐿 Applications for beaver deterrents or emergency funds for those experiencing predation issues are evaluated as they are received.
- 🐿 Normal (non-emergency) applications will be evaluated by the grant review committee annually in December.
- 🐿 Successful applicants for the normal AWPP grant cycle will be notified of the amount awarded the first working week of January.

The total number and amount of grants awarded will be based upon availability of biennial funds, with the committee typically awarding the majority of funds within the first year of the biennium.

Successful applicants may purchase and install the approved deterrents and submit reimbursement request forms and receipts to Benton County after an on-site visit by County staff.

Non-lethal wildlife deterrents described in the grant recipient's project plan must be installed by **May 30th** to be eligible for reimbursement. Beaver deterrents must be installed four months after grants are awarded.

Checks in the name of the applicant are issued after County staff conducts a site visit and confirms that deterrents have been installed. Successful applicants are required to keep project records, report conflicts, evaluate their project, and abide by program requirements. After a successful award, annual reports will be required for three subsequent years by grantees, due on January 31 annually.

Who is Eligible for Grant Funding?

Agricultural operations in Benton County, of any size, on owned or leased land, that are anticipating or have experienced conflicts with wildlife may apply for reimbursement funds. Commercial and hobby or lifestyle farms are eligible to apply. Individuals anticipating or experiencing conflicts with beavers may also apply. Though the non-lethal deterrents project must be located in Benton County, it is not necessary to be a resident of Benton County to apply. Applicants must plan to use their non-lethal deterrents at the project location(s) for three years to be eligible to receive grant funds.

What is Eligible for Grant Funding?

Non-lethal wildlife deterrent equipment devices, and housing which proactively protect livestock and crops are eligible for funding. Beaver deterrents to protect trees or prevent flooding are also eligible for funding. Deterrents for deer and elk are not eligible for funding. Examples of non-lethal deterrents include, but are not limited to: livestock guardian animals, certain types of fencing, birthing sheds, visual and acoustic scare devices, and flow devices such as beaver pond levelers.

Non-selective lethal wildlife control methods such as traps, snares, calling-and-shooting, denning (killing animals in their burrows or dens – usually with poisons), or poisons are not reimbursable, or allowed, under this program.

Reimbursement funds can only be applied to new purchases made after the grant award date. Retroactive costs or purchases made prior to the grant award date will not be allowed.

How Much Grant Funding is Available?

The AWPP for 2021 includes \$40,000 for the cost share reimbursement grant program - \$35,000 for general anticipated conflicts with wildlife – (including beavers) – and \$5,000 specifically for unexpected conflicts with beavers that arise outside of the grant application window. Each applicant may request up to \$5,000 in reimbursement grant funds. Partial awards may be necessary based on fund availability and strength of individual applications.

Selecting Non-Lethal Methods and Tools

Applicants can select which non-lethal methods they believe will work best for their particular operation and describe how they will be used in their plan for conflict prevention in the grant application. The specific technique(s) employed will depend on the wildlife species present history of conflicts, type and size of the operation, site characteristics, cost, and available

resources. A single non-lethal method is rarely successful in most situations, so it is important to review all methods and match several tools to your specific situation and vary their use frequently. Non-lethal deterrents work best if used before conflicts with wildlife occur. Once wildlife has learned to exploit an unprotected resource, it can be challenging to prevent future conflict.

For more information please visit:

Benton County AWPP Website: <https://www.co.benton.or.us/awpp>

UC Davis Livestock-Predator Hub: <https://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/predator-hub/current-research>

Farming with Carnivores Network: <https://farmingwithcarnivoresnetwork.com/animal-husbandry>

Non-Lethal Solutions to Reduce Conflicts: <https://tinyurl.com/y9eyed3h>

The Encyclopedia of Animal Predators: <https://www.iandohner.com/resources>

Safeguarding Livestock: <https://mountainlion.org/portalprotectlivestock.asp>

Resolving Conflicts with Beaver: <https://www.beaverinstitute.org/>

Questions?

For questions about the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program, the application form, or help designing a proactive wildlife deterrent program and selecting non-lethal methods and tools, please contact:

Benton County Public Works

360 SW Avery Ave

Corvallis, OR 97333

AWPP@co.benton.or.us

Applying for an AWPP Grant

Grant Application and Selection Process

Grant Awards are based on responses to questions in the reimbursement grant application form. All grant applications will be evaluated by a selected grant review committee and County officials using a blind review process. *Applicants that have not received funding in past years will be given priority consideration.*

Application Judging Criteria

In general, grants are judged based on three primary factors:

1. Agreement between the applicant's philosophy of animal damage control and the goals of the AWPP.
2. Likely effectiveness of the proposed non-lethal deterrents project plan.
3. Availability of funds.

Grant Program Requirements and Terms

IMPORTANT: Please read this section in its entirety before beginning your application as it includes information on which types of expenses and projects are qualified for funding.

Failure to meet grant terms may disqualify reimbursement.

Reimbursement Funds

The AWPP is a reimbursable grant program. Grant funds can only be used to reimburse purchases of non-lethal deterrents to prevent wildlife-caused damage to, or loss of, livestock, crops, or property. Reimbursement occurs after project completion and an in-person site visit from County staff to verify installation of non-lethal wildlife deterrents.

Qualifying for Reimbursement

Applicants should **NOT** purchase materials or initiate a project in expectation of funding until receiving the final grant award document signed by an authorized County official.

Reimbursements will be provided based on your approved budget and provided receipts.

Labor

BENTON COUNTY CAN NOT REIMBURSE COSTS FOR LABOR, but labor at a rate of \$15/hour can be documented in budget tables and applied as 'match' to meet cost share requirements (see next section).

10% Cost Share Requirement

Grant recipients agree to make a cash and/or in-kind (non-cash) contribution of at least 10% of the total cost of the project. The 10% contribution may include funds used for the purchase of deterrents approved through the AWPP and/or in-kind contribution of the expected labor costs for the installation of deterrents during the three-year period of the grant program.

Record Keeping

Grant recipients agree to maintain a record of their non-lethal deterrents project operations for three years from the date the grant is awarded via the [Record Keeping Form](#). The records will include descriptions of any conflicts with wildlife which were prevented or resulted in damage or loss. The [Record Keeping Form](#) is included in the Application Packet.

Reporting of Losses

Grant recipients agree to immediately report any damage to, or loss of, livestock or crops, or flooding by beavers resulting from a failure of the deterrents used. Reports should be made to the Benton County [Environmental Project Coordinator](#) so that consultation with wildlife conflict experts is initiated and adjustments to deterrents can be discussed.

Project Evaluation

Grant recipients agree to submit annual [Project Evaluation Reports](#) by January 31 (2024-2027 inclusive). This report evaluates the effectiveness of grant-funded non-lethal deterrents over the previous calendar year ending on December 31. This information will be used by County officials to evaluate the effectiveness of the AWPP and help identify effective methods and projects.

Restrictions

Grant recipients are prohibited from using non-selective lethal wildlife control methods anywhere on the property where the funded non-lethal deterrents project will be implemented until **December 31, 2027**. Non-selective lethal methods can kill non-target species and non-offending individuals. Indiscriminate killing may have unintended consequences.

Attractant Removal

Grant recipients agree to remove all wildlife attractants at the project site including excess animal feeds, afterbirth, and sick, injured or dead livestock.

Exceptions

Targeted killing (e.g. shooting) of an offending individual wild animal is allowed under the program but *only when the animal is caught in the act of biting, wounding, killing or chasing healthy livestock*. Shooting wildlife that respond to calls (calling-and-shooting) is not allowed under the program. Wild animals engaged in scavenging dead or dying livestock may not be killed.

NOTE: Any use of lethal control must fall within the rules and regulations set forth by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Threats to human health and safety involving wildlife should be directed to ODFW.

Site Visits

County staff will schedule site visits to farm properties or other locations where AWPP project activities are conducted to verify installation, use and success of non-lethal deterrents. **To be eligible for reimbursement, projects must be completed by December 31st of the year of award.**

Completing Your Application

The Grant Application form provided by the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program must be completed in order to be considered for reimbursement grant funds.

Your response on this application form will be used to evaluate your application.

Agricultural operations in Benton County that wish to prevent conflicts with wildlife including predators and beavers **may apply for up to \$5,000 in reimbursement grant funds.**

Individual rewards may be adjusted based on fund availability and number of qualified applicants. In general the AWPP funds only complete (not partial) project components. Grant recipients agree to make a cash and/or in-kind contribution of at least 10% of the cost of the total project which should be included in the initial budget.

The AWPP Grant Application includes the following sections:

1. **Questionnaire** – to assist in understanding of your farm operation, needs for the program services and grant funding, project site characteristics and conflict history, understanding of non-lethal methods and their use, and philosophy of animal damage control.
2. **Proposed Non-Lethal Deterrents Project Plan** – a description of the methods, tools, implementation plans, and expected costs that will be used to evaluate the likely effectiveness of your proposed deterrents.
3. **Budget Summary** – tables of items, costs, and amounts requested for reimbursement.
4. **Agreement Checklist** – a list of program requirements that must be agreed to and initialed.
5. **Release and Signature**

Please provide an answer to every question. If a question does not apply to your situation please indicate 'None' or 'Not Applicable (N/A)'. Unless otherwise noted, questions pertain only to livestock or crops on the property where the funded non-lethal deterrents will be implemented.

If you plan to use your non-lethal deterrents at more than one project location please complete a [Grant Application Additional Site Form](#) for each additional site. Additional Site Forms are necessary, for example, if you apply for different deterrents for use at different sites or if you move your livestock seasonally and plan to use the same deterrents at different site. Please return your Additional Site Form(s) with your Grant Application Form.

The Reimbursement Process

Applicants should NOT purchase materials or initiate a project in expectation of funding until receiving the final grant award document signed by an authorized County official. *Purchasing materials prior to grant award may disqualify reimbursement.*

In order to receive reimbursement for purchases, awardees must complete a W9 Form and Check Request Form (available on the AWPP 'Apply for an AWPP Grant' webpage) and return with matching receipts. Reimbursement is directly based on the amounts shown in receipts provided so please retain all receipts from grant-related purchases.

Labor is NOT a reimbursable expense. You may include labor at a rate of \$15/hour in your budget to meet 10% match requirements but it should not be included in the request for reimbursement.

All approved and funded deterrents described in the grant recipient's project plan must be in place and operational by deadlines set forth in the offer letter. A County staff member will conduct an on-site visit to verify installation of non-lethal deterrents, after which awardees can submit a reimbursement request. A check from Benton County will then be issued and mailed to the recipient within a few working days.

Applications must be received by 11:59pm on November 30 annually and submitted via mail or email to:

Benton County AWPP
360 SW Avery Ave
Corvallis, OR 97333

or:

AWPP@co.benton.or.us

Questions and Assistance

For questions about the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program, this application form, or help designing a proactive wildlife deterrent program and selecting non-lethal methods and tools, please use the contact information above, or visit the AWPP Website at co.benton.or.us/AWPP.

Section-by-Section Application Instructions

Name, Date, Contact Information

Please complete this section with the date, name, farm name (if applicable), project location and your contact information.

Questionnaire

This section tells us more about your farm operation. Please complete each question, and leave non-applicable sections blank.

Lethal Deterrents History

The purpose of the AWPP is to create a proactive non-lethal wildlife deterrent program where Benton County farms can protect their livestock, poultry and crops while successfully co-existing with wildlife. Understanding your history of lethal wildlife deterrent methods helps us understand the success and effectiveness of AWPP projects over time.

If you have not had any conflicts, please be sure to mark Not Applicable / No Conflicts where appropriate. Applicants do not have to have a history of livestock loss to qualify for an AWPP grant, and grants can also be applied for *before* acquiring or raising certain livestock or crops if applicants want to have non-lethal deterrent measures in place ahead of time.

Example: a farmer may want to add sheep to their operation but the neighborhood has a history of losses to cougars. The farmer thus may not wish to get new animals until they have a secure enclosure. This farmer can apply for AWPP funds and explain their situation in the application.

Non-Lethal Deterrents History

This section helps us assess your familiarity and efforts with non-lethal deterrent methods. If you have employed these methods and have experienced losses, this information can also help us advise you as to how to make your deterrents more effective or how to better protect livestock or crops.

Proposed Non-Lethal Methods

Please indicate the resources you used when you developed your proposed non-lethal deterrents plan for AWPP. We encourage you to contact the AWPP coordinator or other listed resources when developing your plan in order to improve effectiveness and increase your chances of a successful application.

Please answer questions honestly and as thoroughly as possible. Benton County farmers can apply for AWPP funds more than one time but can only submit one application every year. Applications are not scored differently for new or returning applicants, however the Committee prioritizes applicants who have not previously received an AWPP award.

Proposed Non-Lethal Deterrents Project Plan

This is perhaps the most important part of your AWPP Grant Application. It is important to provide as much information as possible about your project including:

- Fencing or shelter dimensions and specifications;
- Whether your fencing will be electrified and in what manner;
- Materials used for proposed projects

The Budget Tables allow us to understand the estimated costs of your project and will make the reimbursement process easier. Reimbursement is made based on the expenses detailed in your original application and the receipts supplied at the end of project implementation. ***Save your receipts! Benton County cannot provide reimbursement for items that do not have a matching receipt.***

BUDGET TIPS:

- Be as specific as possible for items. For example, you can visit a vendor's website (such as Home Depot) and estimate costs based on the type and number of items you will need to purchase. If you need 30 [fence posts](#) at a cost of \$9.78 you would include a budget request for \$293.40.
- You may round up to account for potential price changes, but reimbursement will be made directly based on receipts and may not exceed the original approved grant award at \$5,000 maximum.
- You cannot be reimbursed for a money amount above your approved application. If there are changes in your budget during project implementation, please contact the AWPP Coordinator to have the changes approved.

PROPOSED NON-LETHAL DETERRENT PROJECT PLAN

Please give a detailed description of your non-lethal deterrents project plan, including any plans to use non-lethal methods to deter beaver. Table 1 below may be used to assist in selection non-lethal methods and tools for your project plan. This table was originally produced by agricultural professionals with the [University of California-Davis Livestock-Predator Hub](https://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/predator-hub/) and combines observations and data from scientific studies as well as credible, on-the-ground experience. A single non-lethal method can rarely be used successfully in most situations so it is important to review all methods and match several tools to your specific situation and vary their use frequently. Table 2 below may be used to assist in selecting non-lethal methods to deter beaver.

Table 1. Non-lethal wildlife deterrents and their effectiveness

Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program Non-Lethal Predator Deterrent Resource Card

		Predator Species						
		Dog	Coyote	Bobcat	Cougar	Blk Bear	Fox	Wolf
Nonlethal Deterrents	Livestock guardian dog	●	●	●	●	●	●	▲
	Donkey	●	●				●	
	Llama	●	▲				▲	
	Wire fencing w/ trip wire	●	●					
	Permanent electric fencing	●	●	●	▲	◆	●	▲
	Temporary electric fencing	●	●	●	◆		●	▲
	Electro-net fencing	●	●	●			●	
	Fladry or turbo fladry		◆					▲
	Attractant (carcass) removal	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Human presence							▲
	Night pen	●	●	●	●	●	●	▲
	Fright tactics/devices		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
	Lambing/calving shed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Multi-species grazing	▲	▲	◆	◆	◆	◆	
		Highly Effective		Mod. Effective		Mixed Results		No Data

Original Table and Information available via UC Davis Rangelands Program:

<https://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/predator-hub/current-research/>

Table 2. Non-lethal beaver deterrent methods

Non-Lethal Beaver Deterrence Methods and Tools	
METHOD	DESCRIPTION
Devices to protect culverts and prevent flooding	
Beaver Deceiver	Trapezoidal fence to prevent damming of culverts
Double Filter System	Culvert fence filter and round fence filter connected by two flexible pipes
Flexible Pond Leveler	Flexible pipe and round fence filter to prevent flooding by lowering pond height
Castor Master	Double-walled flexible pipe and round fence filter to lower pond height
Beaver Baffle	Fence-covered pipe through culvert
Clemson Pond Leveler	Perforated solid pipe installed through dam to prevent flooding
Pipe and Fence Systems	Trapezoidal fence and pipe system encourages beavers to build away from culvert
Devices to protect trees	
Galvanized welded wire fencing	Encircle single trees or small groves
Electric fencing	Encircle small groves and vineyards
Abrasive tree paint	Sand/paint mixture applied to tree trunks

C. PROPOSED NON-LETHAL DETERRENTS PROJECT BUDGET

Please fill in all applicable budget tables in regards to methods, tools and costs for items requested for reimbursement through AWPP. In the questions following each table, describe your implementation plans for items requested for reimbursement. **Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 in reimbursement grant funds.**

Grant recipients agree to make a cash and/or 'in-kind' (non-cash) cost share contribution of **at least 10% of the total cost of the project.** This may include cash used for the purchase of approved deterrents, and/or an 'in kind' contribution of labor or labor costs for the installation of deterrents. **Labor is not a reimbursable expense.**

In-kind cost share contributions can include, but are not limited to: construction of protective housing, or installation or other devices or deterrents purchased with grant program funds. Please estimate your cash and/or in-kind cost share contribution for each type of deterrent and open it in the appropriate tables below.

The more detailed and specific the budget the better. Applications supplying insufficient information may be disqualified or the County may request more information or a revised budget before the application is approved.

1. GUARDIAN ANIMALS

Background for Applicants

Guardian animals are specific breeds and species used to protect livestock and crops. These can include Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGD's), llamas, donkeys, geese, etc. Selecting, training, and utilizing a guardian animal, especially a Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) that is appropriate to your circumstances is an important consideration that ensures that particular animal will work effectively for you.

The following webinars, by Jan Dohner, LGD expert, might be helpful to you:

“A Deeper Dive into Livestock Guardian Dogs” provides an overview of recognized LGD breeds, as well as training and handling tips.

<https://www.anymeeting.com/afjsvfb/bb/E958DF88824D39>

“Troubleshooting Livestock Guardian Dog Behaviors” provides information on guarding poultry, multiple LGDs, and using invisible fence to help prevent roaming.

<https://www.anymeeting.com/976-407-717/E958DE85894631>

Labor costs for training, feeding, or veterinary are NOT reimbursable. One time costs such as a doghouse, or labor costs for constructing a shelter may be applied towards the minimum cost share contribution.

Here is an example of a cost breakdown:

If a trained Great Pyrenees guardian dog has an initial purchase of **\$2,250**, and initial supplies for a dog house or shelter total **\$750**, and a cost share contribution of \$150 is made for initial pet supplies like a collar, dishes, etc., *the \$150 could be used towards the 10% match requirement.*

Example Budget Table

GUARDIAN ANIMAL EXPENSES	BREED (IF APPLICABLE)	# OF ANIMALS	COST
Grant Request:			
<i>Trained dog purchase</i>	<i>Great Pyrenees</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$2,250</i>
<i>Plywood and dog supplies</i>			<i>\$600</i>
Proposed Match:			
<i>Labor - dog house construction, 6 hours at \$15/hr</i>			<i>\$90</i>
		TOTAL COST	

2. FENCING

Background for Applicants

This section is for **new** fencing or **improvements** to fencing which serve to reduce conflicts with wildlife (for example, electrification or fladry) or to contain guardian animals.

What is not eligible for funding?

- **Fencing to exclude deer and elk**
- **Fencing for the sole purpose of containing livestock** (e.g. electric single wire, high-tensile fence with horizontal wires more than 6" apart, or any fence less than 60" high)
- **Labor costs for installing or moving fencing – however these expenses may be applied toward your minimum 10% match (cost share) contribution.**

Please note that the most effective predator deterrent fencing is at least 60" (5 feet) high with at least one strand of electrified wire hanging 6" from the top of the fence.

3. SCARE DEVICES

Horns, lights, radios, bells, noisemakers, lasers, and scarecrows are all examples of scare devices.

Labor costs for installing scare devices are NOT reimbursable but may be applied toward your minimum 10% match (cost share) contribution.

4. PROTECTIVE HOUSING

Protective housing includes constructing or improving barns or sheds for lambing/calving/kidding, night pens (protected and secured areas for animals to sleep), and other protective housing.

Labor costs for constructing protective housing are not reimbursable but may be applied toward the minimum 10% cost share contribution.

5. PROTECTIVE HOUSING

Please include a drawing of your plans for protective housing at your project site **including measurements and materials.**

Materials for constructing or improving barns or sheds for lambing/calving/kidding, night pens (protected and secured areas for animals to sleep), and other protective housing is a reimbursable expense.

Labor costs for constructing protective housing are NOT reimbursable but may be applied toward your minimum 10% match (cost share) contribution.

6. BEAVER DETERRENTS

Non-lethal beaver deterrents are typically methods or devices to protect trees or prevent flooding. Materials for integrated fence and pipe systems (flow devices) and fending such as culvert fending, galvanized welded wire fencing, abrasive tree paint, or electric fencing can be used and are reimbursable.

Labor costs for constructing beaver deterrents are NOT reimbursable but may be applied toward your minimum 10% match (cost share) contribution.

This concludes the AWPP Guide for Grant Applicants. Please refer to the application form itself for any additional information and instructions.