

We are cattle ranchers in Morrison County. We run between 450 and 500 cow/calf pairs. We have had wolf issues here since 1996; that was our first verified documented kill. We have had deprivation every year since, some years less than others. In 2023, we lost two cows and seven calves, all verified as wolf kills. We are short calves every fall when we gather and wean calves. They have just disappeared, dragged off by wolves. This wolf problem is a substantial financial burden, as there is no compensation unless you find a carcass. Even when the kills are documented, we are at the mercy of the USDA, which determines the value of the calf at the time of loss, considerably less than it would bring in the fall. Plus, we only get paid if funding is available. Several times, we were told there was no money left. As a rancher and an avid sportsman, it is tough to watch wolves kill our livelihood and have no legal recourse. I firmly believe that the Minnesota DNR's numbers on the wolf population are extremely low, and there needs to be a wolf hunting season. Wolves should be delisted so that those of us whose livelihood is affected can protect what is ours.

Thank you,

Sam and Diane Scott

Hillman, MN