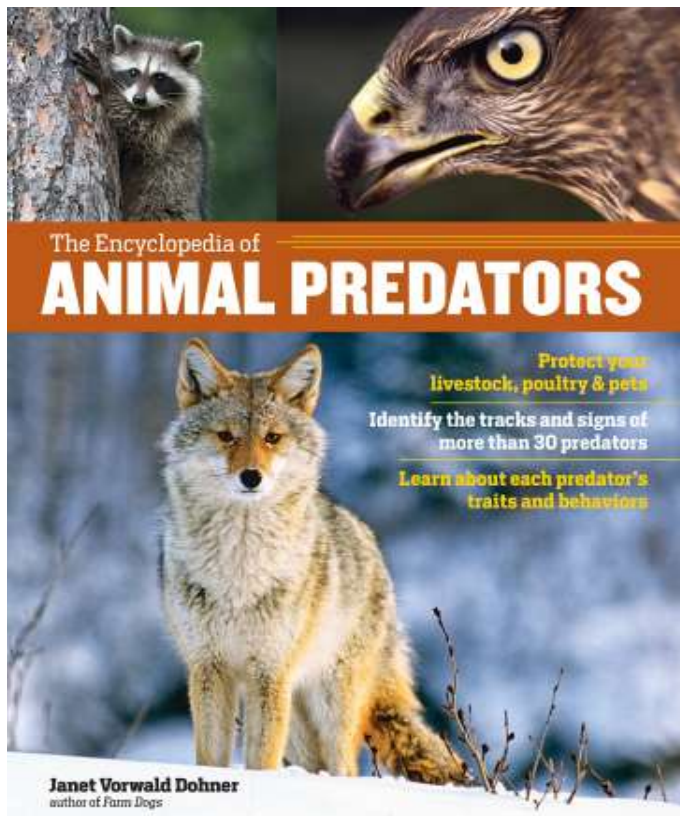


- JANUARY 7, 2019 -

Predator Protection for Poultry



- PRESENTED BY -
Jan Dohner

- HOSTED BY -

FACT
Food Animal Concerns Trust

Introductions



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.



Larissa McKenna

Humane Farming Program Director

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Website: foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer

FACT's services for livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**
- **Conference scholarships**
- **Free webinars**
- **Humane Farming Mentorship Program**

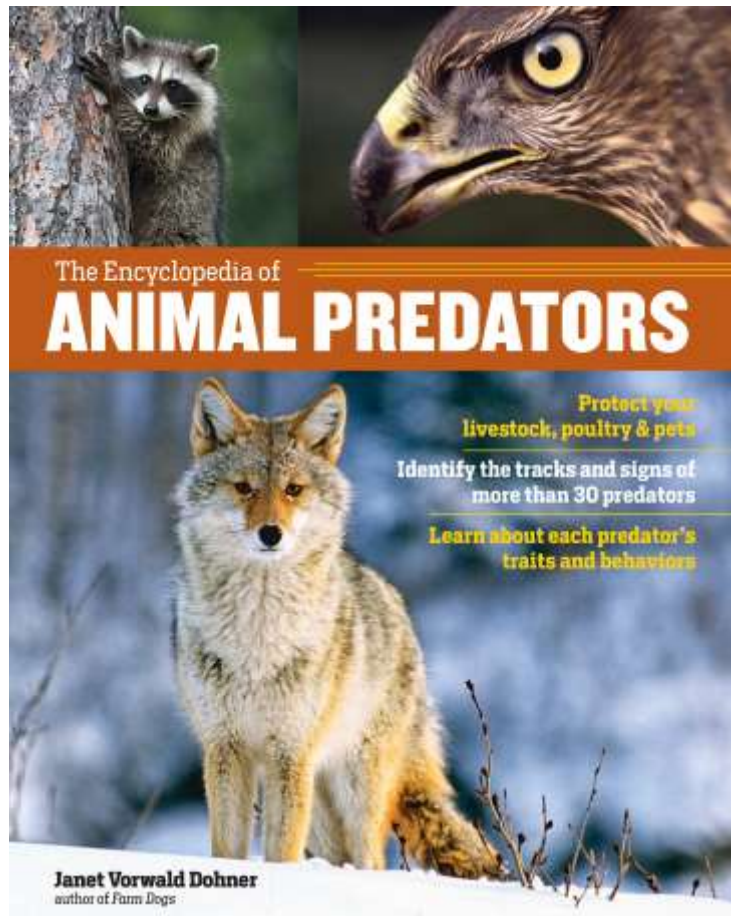
Our Presenter



Jan Dohner

*Author of *Livestock Guardians: Using Dogs, Donkeys and Llamas to Protect Your Herd & The Encyclopedia of Animal Predators.**

Predator Protection for Poultry



Food Animal
Concerns Trust
2019

Jan Dohner

Webinar Overview



- Assess potential threats
- Identify predator damage
- Adopt prevention strategies

Poultry



- Chickens
- Ducks and Geese
- Turkeys
- Guineafowl
- Quail, Squab
- Exotic birds – peafowl, swans

Predation



Assess Potential Threats



Who's Out There?



- Predator ranges
- Future movements
- Regional statistics, local news
- Terrain
- Seasonal changes
- Personal identification



Possible Predators

- Coyote, fox
- Weasels, mink, fisher, badger
- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Opossum
- Mongoose
- Bobcat, lynx
- Rat
- Snake
- Birds of prey - eagle, hawk, owl, black vulture, crow, raven, magpies
- Domestic or feral cats and dogs
- Mountain lion, bear, wolf
- Snapping turtle, snakes, alligator, crocodile

Coyote and Fox



Bobcats



Fishers, Weasels, Minks, Badgers



Small Asian Mongoose



Invasive in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and parts of Hawaii

Northern Raccoon



Skunk



Striped Skunk

Eastern Spotted Skunk

Western Spotted Skunk



Virginia Opossum



Rats



- Black or roof rat
- Norway or brown rat
- Cotton rat
- Polynesian rat



Hawks and Eagles



Owls

Great Horned owl

Barred owl



Crows, Ravens, Magpies



Snapping Turtles, Snakes, Crocs and Gators



Large Predators



The Big Three



Dogs and Cats



Domestic, roaming, or feral



Factors that Affect Your Risk



- Terrain
- Predator attractions
- Husbandry practices
- Seasonal changes



Most Attacks Occur

- At night – dusk through dawn
- Near water
- Rugged or brushy terrain
- Where animals give birth or very young raised outside
- Spring/Summer (young to feed)
- Natural prey is hard to find due to weather/drought/disaster

Identify Predator Damage



Determine Likely Suspects



Step 1 – Evidence

- Rapid observation
- Scavenging or attack?
- Photos
- Field autopsy

Step 2 - Research

- Damage ID
- Track, scat, bite, gait evidence
- Your records and knowledge
- Identify likely suspects

Field Autopsy



- If feather base is smooth and clean, bird was plucked soon after kill. Beak marks may be found on the shafts
- If feathers have small amount of tissue attached at base, they were pulled from a dead bird already cold = scavenging

What attacked my poultry?

Poultry Damage ID Guide – Common Predators

After identifying potential culprits below, check individual profiles in Part II for additional details, observations, tracks, and scat.

Note: Predators can occasionally be active during nonnormal times or behave in atypical ways.

	Badger	Bobcat	Cat	Coyote	Crow	Dog	Eagle	Fisher	Fox	Hawk	Human	Lynx	Magpie	Marten	Mink	Mountain Lion	Opposum	Owl	Raccoon	Rat	Raven	Skunk	Snake	Vulture, Black	Weasel	
Time	Day		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dusk		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	Night	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Dawn		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Eggs	Eggs eaten				✓	✓			✓				✓			✓	✓	✓								✓
	Eggs missing				✓								✓													
Missing Birds	One bird missing	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓								
	Multiple birds missing										✓															
	One or more chicks missing			✓																						✓
Dead Birds (Partially or Mainly Eaten)	One or two birds killed	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓								
	Several birds killed			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓								✓
	Chick or chicks killed			✓		✓							✓													
	Heads removed or eaten	✓	✓							✓							✓	✓								✓
	Bodies piled together															✓										✓
	Missing limbs or heads pulled through fence					✓														✓						
	Breast or anal area eaten							✓							✓											
	Abdomen eaten																	✓				✓				
	Breast and legs eaten								✓											✓						
Teeth or Talon Marks	Taken punctures on head or body					✓			✓																	✓
	Bites on neck			✓																		✓				
	Bite on head or neck	✓					✓				✓		✓													
	Many bites on head, neck, body, or legs														✓							✓				✓

Other Observations	
Event	Cause
Animal(s) killed and mauled but not eaten	Dog
Bites on legs of live birds	Rat
Dead chicks or birds stuck in tunnels	Rat
Musky smell	Skunk, weasel, mink
Feathers on ground	Fox, coyote, hawk, owl
Wounds or pulled feathers on back and tail of live bird	Carnibalization
Injuries on back, pulled feathers	Rooster mounting hen
Several dead birds piled against fence or in corners, carcasses flattened	Fright and panic due to chasing by dogs, wolves, or other larger predators
Serious damage to coop	Bear
Latches opened	Raccoon, human

Time of Day, Method of Kill

DAMAGE ID: Northern Raccoon

PREY ON

Poultry, eggs, rabbits, small lambs

TIME OF DAY

Night



METHOD OF KILL

- ▶ Several birds often killed in one night, heads bitten off and carried some distance from the bodies
- ▶ Legs, feet, even heads grabbed through fence or chicken wire and torn off
- ▶ Crop, breast, entrails chewed or eaten
- ▶ Pieces of flesh deposited near water
- ▶ Eggs eaten, with shell pieces remaining in nest. Eggs often cracked on sides; nests disturbed
- ▶ Egg sometimes moved up to 28 feet before being eaten
- ▶ Rabbits and small lambs killed by chewing on nose
- ▶ Smudge marks of body oil or fur left on rough surfaces or near dens
- ▶ Fences climbed and locks and latches opened into poultry or other enclosures
- ▶ Same feeding areas returned to night after night
- ▶ Existing human or wildlife trails used, or paths made close to buildings and fences
- ▶ Holes dug with refuse and dirt piled in one direction
- ▶ Portions of one ear of corn eaten on many plants, stalk often broken; small holes dug in melons; fresh sod rolled up in search of grubs

Tracks, Gait, Scat

TRACK

Front $1\frac{3}{4}$ – $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide; rear $2\frac{1}{8}$ – $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide. Clearly shows 5 toes but heel and nail tips may not be visible unless in soft sand, soil, or mud. Muddy, human-like prints can be seen on structures.



GAIT

Walk is unique and pace-like with same-side front and rear legs moving together; tracks appear differently with various speeds. Stride 8–19 inches. Raccoons also direct-register walk, and bound or gallop when alarmed.

SCAT

Blunt, 3–5 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. Often contain fruit seeds. Due to potentially fatal parasite contamination, **do not handle any raccoon feces** without protection.



Adopt Prevention Strategies

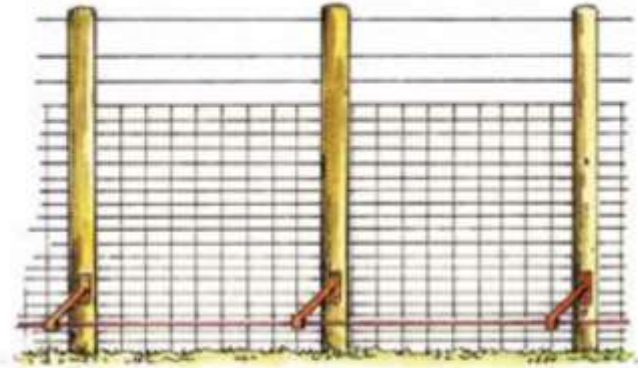


What Works



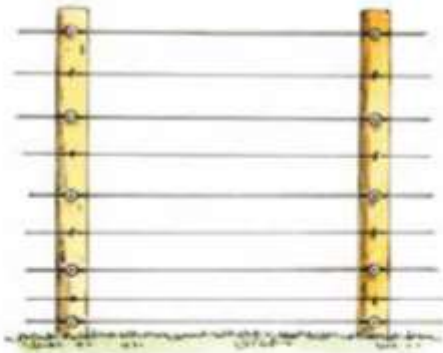
- Exclusion fencing
- Secure housing
- LGDs, llama
- Mixed grazing
- Eliminate attractants
- Reduce rodents
- Good husbandry
- Lighting and fright techniques

Exclusion Fencing



Exclusion fencing

- Tightly spaced mesh
- Electric top and scare wires
- Multi-strand electric
- Electric netting
- Hardware cloth



Drift fencing – needs improvement

- Board or rail
- Barbed wire
- Non electric wire
- Widely spaced wire



Chicken wire

Buried Apron



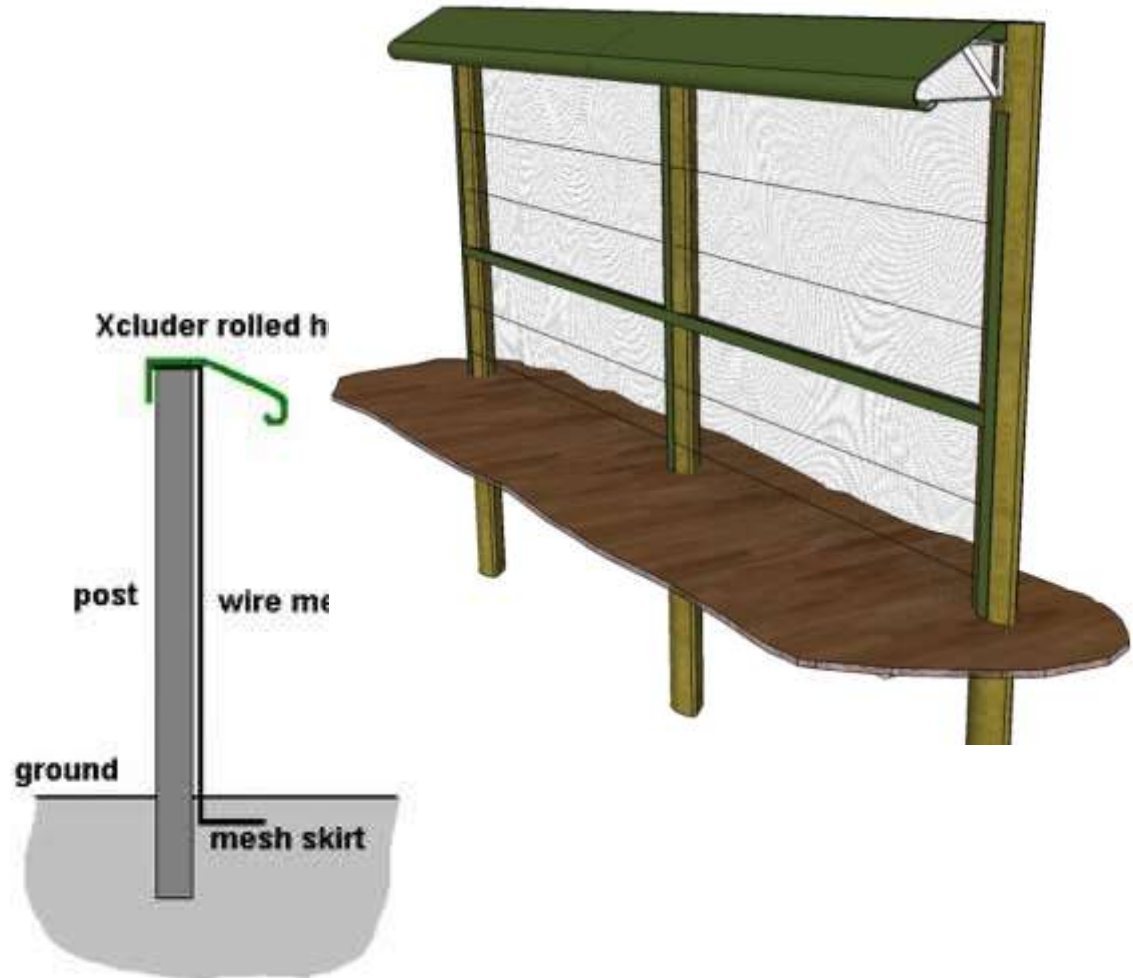
12 – 18" deep
18 - 24" outward

Specialized Fencing

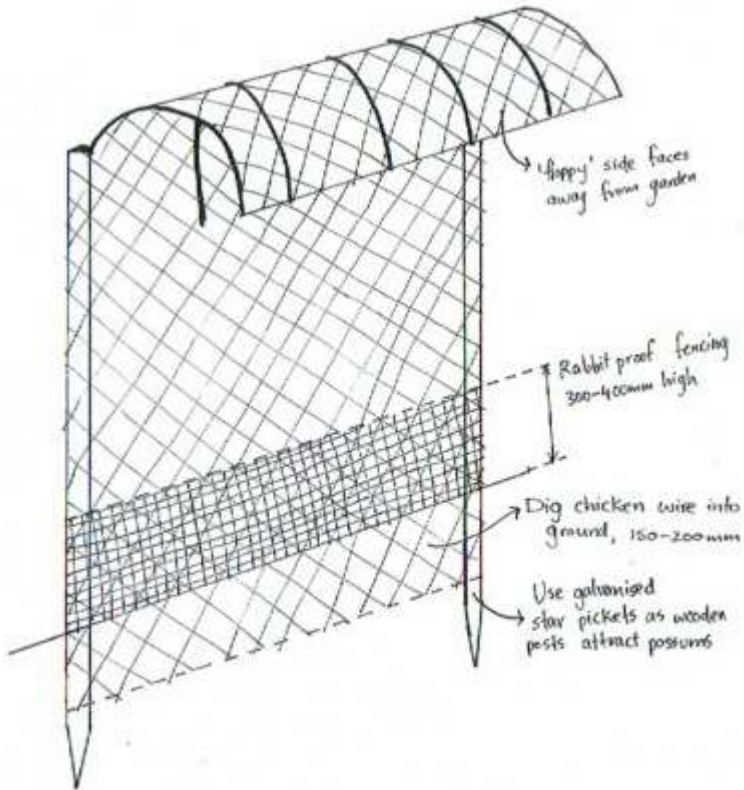


Solid barrier

Predator exclusion fence



Floppy Fence



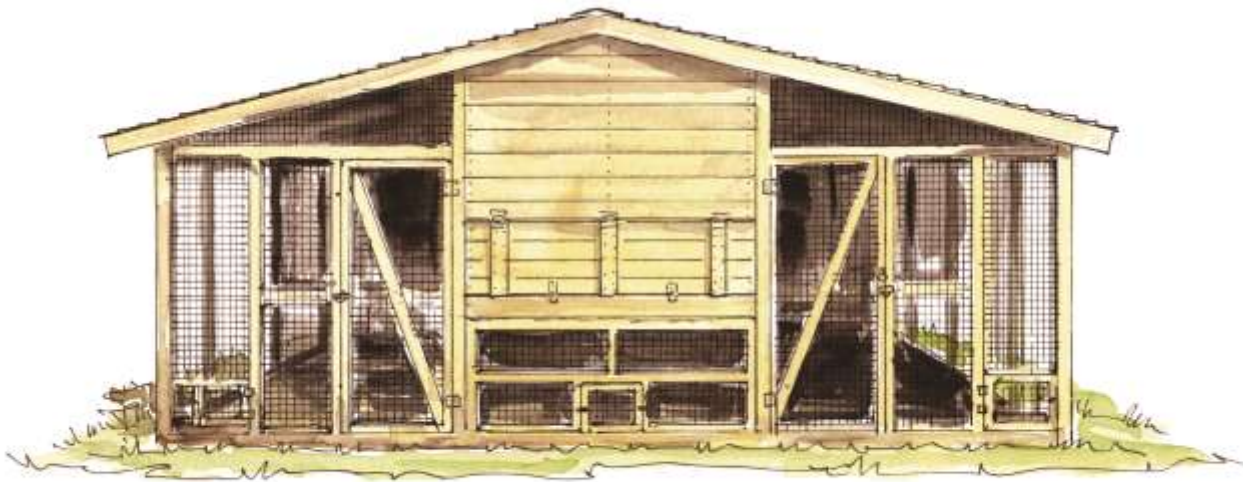
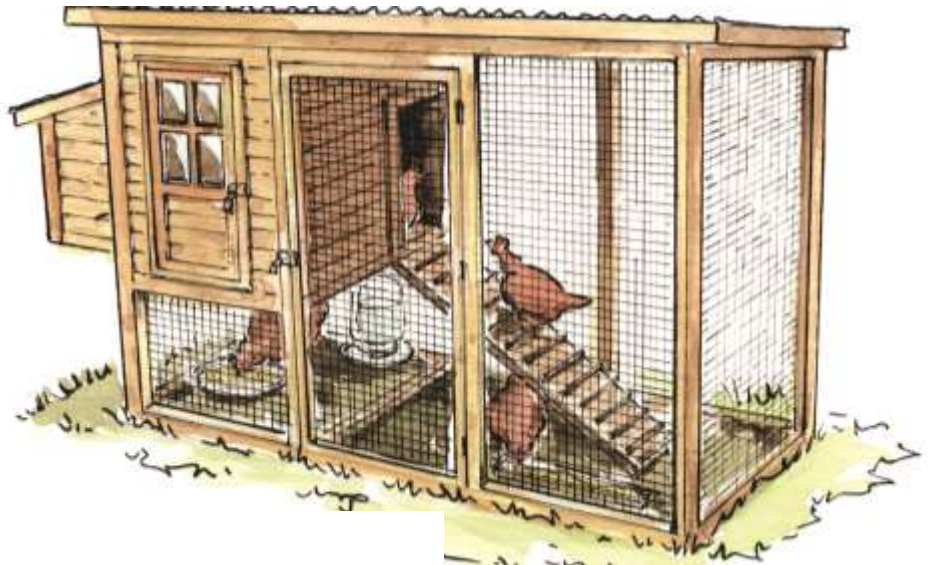
Poultry Raising



Joel Salatin

- Coops and runs
- Tractors
- Yarded
- Pastured
- Free Range

Secure Coop



Predator Proof Latches



Electric Wire



Scare or trip wire

Bear proofing



Poultry Runs and Tubes



Overhead Protection

Wire or monofilament lines



Netting



Chicken Tractors



Yarded Poultry



Free Range



Livestock Guardians



Learning About LGDs
OnSite
YouTube channel
“LGDs and Poultry”



Mixed Grazing



Watch Geese



- Single goose will bond strongly to your flock
- Flock of geese will do their own thing, but are intimidating

Roosters



Guineas



Eliminate Attractants



Landscaping
Access
Perching sites
Food waste
Animal feed



Landscaping

- Improve visibility
- Eliminate cover and limit access
- Remove overhang branches, perching sites
- Remove rubbish, firewood, rock piles near buildings or animal areas
- Eliminate open water
- Avoid plants that predators or deer feed on.

Animal Feed and Food Waste



- Bird and wild animal feeding
- Pet and other farm animals
- Garbage, compost, cooking areas
- Garden waste

Fright techniques

Visual

- Night lighting
- Mylar tape
- Reflective items
- Scarecrows and effigies

Auditory

- Music or talk radio
- Horns, sirens, bells

Variable light/sound/water

Most effective when varied
and in combination



Good Husbandry



- Monitor closely
- Observe birds
- Remove dead or ill animals
- Protect nestlings
- Haze predators

Turkeys



Turkey Raising



Young birds raised on pasture

- Delay until 10-12 weeks of age
- Fencing
- Electric netting to create smaller grazing areas
- Day shelters and night roosts
- Night housing
- LGD or llama / companion animals
- Clear fence lines
- Overhead wires
- Visual distractions/light/sound
- LGDs patrolling perimeter

Raising Ducks and Geese



- Fencing
- Pasture shelters
- Small, rotational paddocks
- Night penning

Ducks and Geese



Coexistence

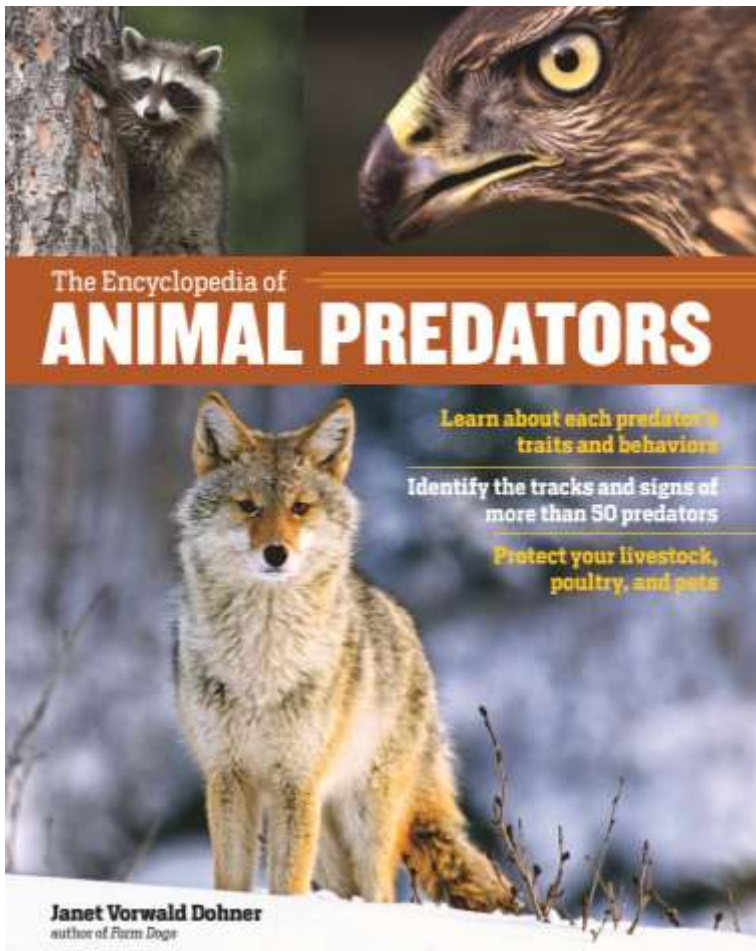
Producers who attempt to reduce the risk of conflict between livestock and wildlife



Clip Flight Feathers

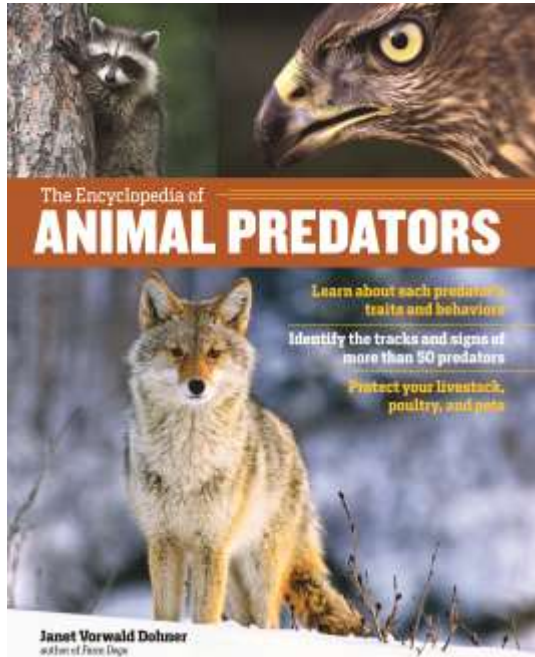


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- Livestock guardians
- Guides for home, recreation, farm, or ranch
- Organizational resources

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Questions & Answers

Please type your Q's into the chat bar



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Upcoming webinars in 2019

- **January 14:** Predator Protection for Livestock
- **January 23:** Creative Leasing for Livestock Farmers
- **January 29:** New Zealand Method of Sheep Shearing
- **February:** Three part series on parasites in sheep & goats
- **March 6:** Making a Living Doing What You Love

Grants, Scholarships, Mentorship & More!

- **Mentorship program applications** – deadline is January 31
- **Scholarships accepted on an on-going basis**

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