



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 82
[2005 Assembly Bill 166]

**Wildlife Damage Claims and
Abatement**

Current law allows a person who owns, leases, or controls land where wildlife damage occurs (i.e., damage to standing crops) to apply to the county for a wildlife damage claim payment and for wildlife damage abatement assistance. The former provides cash payments for damage incurred and the latter provides assistance with reducing or preventing damage. Under the statute prior to Act 82, a person who received either the damage payments or abatement assistance was required to permit hunting on the property where the wildlife damage occurred.

Act 82 modifies the program for the removal of wildlife causing damage. The Act retains the requirement to open the land for hunting if the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) removes or authorizes the removal of a wild animal that is causing damage. The Act provides an exception to the requirement for open land to hunting if the person who owns, leases, or occupies the land obtains from DNR a shooting permit for deer causing damage, the DNR recommends a shooting permit as an abatement measure, the shooting permit is the only abatement measure the person receives (i.e., the person does not also receive a wildlife damage claim payment) and the person waives eligibility to receive a wildlife damage claim payment for damage caused by deer.

Effective Date: The Act first applies on January 1, 2007, and the Act applies not only to new shooting permits, but also to shooting permits that are already in effect on that date.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.