

# RANCHING & FARMING IN BEAR COUNTRY



Ranching and farming in bear country puts you at risk of attracting a bear or cougar to you, your animals, and your crops

## Safety Tips from the Be Bear Aware Campaign

- If a bear or other wild animal repeatedly enters your ranch or farmyard, determine what attractants are drawing it there and remove or mitigate them.
- Watch for bear signs such as tracks, scat, claw marks on trees, rocks/logs rolled over, hair rubs on trees and fences, stripped bark, and day beds. Circling birds can indicate a fresh animal kill.
- Use livestock guardian animals – dogs, donkeys, llamas – they will alert you to predator danger and help protect your sheep, goat, and cattle herds.
- Secure small or vulnerable livestock, and calving and lambing pens away from riparian areas and heavy shrub/tree cover. Use electric fencing for added protection.
- Salt and mineral licks are an attractant to many animals, including deer and bears. Place in open areas so livestock can easily view it.
- Do not leave out pet food and livestock feed and supplements. Store in a hard-sided building with a locking door.
- Remove attractants such as grain spills and food waste promptly. Place a tarp under loaders when transferring grain to catch spills.
- Erect electric fencing around grain bins and feed storage sheds or small barns to secure attractants.
- Be aware that crops such as alfalfa, oats, peas and hay/barley, will attract bears and should not be planted near homesites.
- Immediately report any livestock death that may be the result of a bear, cougar, or wolf to your: USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES State Office.



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How to Avoid Encounters

Proper Food Storage

Bear Identification

What to do in an Encounter

How to Deploy Bear Spray

# BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN

**Electric Fences** are an effective tool to keep bears and other wildlife out of:

Orchards  
Gardens  
Small Crop Fields (corn/grains)  
Compost Piles  
Beehives  
Chicken Coops  
Small Animal Enclosures  
Calving & Lambing Areas  
Grain Bins and Feeders  
Feedlots and Boneyards



## Bear Spray

The Be Bear Aware Campaign promotes the carrying and proper use of a quality bear spray when living, ranching, and farming in bear country. We recommend you purchase bear spray that has a spray duration of at least 7+ seconds and has a spray distance of at least 30+ feet. Meeting or exceeding this standard gives you extra protection for more than one charge, multiple bears, wind, rain, cold, or accidentally spraying over top of the bear.



Ranch and Farmhands Should Carry Bear Spray when working in the fields or tending herds in the backcountry.

Keep in Mind that Bear Spray will Affect all Animals, Including You.

Know How to Properly Use Bear Spray. Practice unholstering it and removing the safety clip until it becomes spontaneous.

Take the Safety Clip Off by placing your thumb in front of the curled lip and pull back to reveal trigger.

Hold the Can Firmly to ensure it does not tilt up and spray over top of the bear.

If You are Being Charged by a Bear, spray slightly downward toward the front of the bear and continue spraying until the bear diverts its charge.