



**Black Vulture Depredation Permits Now
Available for Impacted Livestock Farmers**

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) recently secured statewide black vulture depredation permits through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through Dec. 31, 2026. Black vultures are known to prey on young livestock and birthing mothers, causing significant injuries and even death.

IFB continues to work with U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to issue federal sub-permits to livestock farmers who are experiencing issues with black vultures on their land. IFB will also continue to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to secure the necessary state permits for farmers seeking approval.

“Illinois’ black vulture population, which preys on young livestock and can cause significant financial loss for farmers, has increased significantly in recent years,” said IFB President Philip Nelson. “These federal depredation permits provide another tool for farmers to protect their livestock by streamlining the application process and reducing cost to the producer.”

Black vultures, which have a dark gray head and are aggressive, should not be confused with their larger, less aggressive and red-headed relative, the turkey vulture. Turkey vultures may be

found throughout Illinois. Black vultures live in southern regions but are expanding their range further north, creating depredation problems for farmers.

As migratory birds, black vultures are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, state laws and regulations, therefore, they can't be killed or destroyed without a migratory bird depredation permit from USFWS and a Class B nuisance wildlife control permit from IDNR.

IFB will issue sub-permits as a benefit to livestock farmers who are experiencing problems with black vultures and assist in securing IDNR's required permit. The sub-permit is available to livestock farmers facing depredation of commercial livestock, which includes cattle, horses, sheep, goats and swine.

Approved applicants will be allowed a maximum of three birds, determined after consultation with USDA Wildlife Services. Following the consultation and approval, a state permit will also be provided by IDNR. Applicants must agree to follow all rules and regulations required by USFWS in the IFB statewide permit and the requirements of the IDNR permit. Illinois Farm Bureau, IDNR, USFWS and USDA Wildlife Services developed this permit process in 2021 to assist Illinois livestock producers.

Interested livestock producers may request a sub-permit application by Tasha Bunting, IFB director of commodity programs and food systems, at tbunting@ifb.org.

About Illinois Farm Bureau

Founded in 1916, Illinois Farm Bureau – originally known as the Illinois Agricultural Association – is a nonprofit, grassroots membership organization. Illinois Farm Bureau and a statewide network of county Farm Bureaus give members an advantage through impactful advocacy, trusted information, and meaningful development to support their careers and Illinois farm families.

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