

Predator control strategy

Presented to: 8th International Pheasant Seminar

Presented by: Jeff Spooner

Date: 03/06/2012



Presentation objectives

- Introduction
- Talk about different predators
- Equipment
- Introduce trapping as a method of control

A little about me

- Born in Janesville, Wisconsin
- Grew up around Wausau, Wisconsin
- Lived in several states from Texas to South Dakota
- Back ground in Farming, Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical
- I think predators are facinating
- Started trapping as a hobby in High school

Predators of interest

- Weasel Family
 - Skunk
 - Mink
 - Weasel
- Raccoon
- Opossum
- K-9's(My favorite)
 - Red Fox & Grey Fox
 - Coyote

Trapping Preparation

- Traps
 - Degrease
 - Deodorize
 - Seal
- Scent control on the line
 - Cotton gloves (Contaminated & Clean)
 - Traps storage and transportation
 - Lures away from traps and clean gloves
 - Foreign odors

More Trapping Preparation

- Tools
 - Trowel
 - Hoe
 - Bag/Basket
 - Sifter
 - Stakes
 - Chain
 - Pan Covers/under pan poly
- All items must be clean and odor free

More Trapping Preparation

- Trap setting cloth or kneeling pad
- Personal discipline
 - No Spitting on the line
 - No kneeling by sets
 - No Tobacco
 - No urinating on the line
 - Rubber Boots/Hip boots

Raccoons



Raccoon Information

- Related to the bear family
- Females average 11 lbs Males 17-18 lbs
- Much larger males exist (45 lbs)
- Mate in winter 63 days later average of 4 young are born
- Spend much time on land but equally at home in the water
- Wide variety of food...mice, fish, crayfish, eggs, chickens, pheasant, muskrat, berries, etc...

Caught at the River Road farm 2010



More Raccoons caught spring 2011



Types of sets

- Dirt hole
- Box trap
- Custom
- Dog proof
- Bucket Set
- Trap Sizes & Types
 - 1 ½ coilspring
 - 160 conibare (Bucket sets)
 - #1078 or 1085 Boxtrap



A well blended Dirt hole set



Box Trapped Spring 2011



Opossum



More Opossum



More Opossum



Opossum

- More Scavenger then Predator
- Will kill if must and opportunity presents itself
- Not as aggressive as other predators

Mink



Mink

- Weigh 2 – 5 lbs average is 3-3.5 lbs
- Females are smaller and finer furred
- Males are 16-25 inches tails are 6-7 inches
- Brown to black in color
- Hairy prints with pads of feet bare
- Breed in late January through February
- Young are born 47 days after conception
- 4 to 10 young in a litter

Mink continued

- 100% carnivorous flesh eaters
- Diets consist of mainly fish, crayfish and frogs.
- Also mice, rats, Muskrats, squirrels, and occasional duck or fowl when available.

Mink caught 12/16/2011



Weasel



More Weasel



Skunk



Skunk Info

- They Stink!!!!
- Silent predator
- Reside in pen undetected, How?
 - Kill 1- 2 birds a day over long period
- 2011 to date I have taken 13 skunks on MacFarlane Farms
- They dig allowing access to pens by other predators
- Egg eaters

Skunk data

- Mate in February/March
- Young born in May(66 day gestation)
- 4-7 young average litter

More Skunks



Traps & Set Types

- Traps
 - 1 ½ Coil spring
 - 160 Conibare
- Sets
 - Blind set
 - Dirt Hole Set
 - Hay Set

Red Fox



Red Fox Data

- Produces individuals with abnormal colors
 - 45 subspecies
- Average litter is 4-6 kits
- Litters of 13 have occurred
- After mating in February/March 49-58 days later kits are born
- Some vixens may reach sexual maturity by 9-10 months
- In captivity they may live 14 years
- In the wild average life is 1.5 years

Catch box/Dinner box



Equipment used for trapping K-9's

- Trappers Trowel
- Sifter 1/4" mesh
- Leg hold Traps Size 1 1/2 Coil spring
- Snares
- Pan covers or poly fill for under the pan
- Setting cloth
- Trappers hoe
- Transport container(tool bag, basket or bucket)

Equipment continued

- Canvas Gloves

January 2011 Red



Hard life lessons



Coyote



Caught at home farm 11/03/2011

Coyote

- Breed in February
- Young are born in April
- Only the Alpha Male & Female mate
- In our region of the country the young may live with parents for up to 2 years
- Young are driven off in the fall as a rule to find there own territories. This causes a transition of many transient animals moving through area already occupied by a Alpha male & Female

Coyote Set At Noss Road Farm



Coyote caught at Noss Road Farm



Coyote

- Very clever
- Exceptional sense of smell
- Very good memory
- Enemies of fox will drive them out or kill them

Caught at Noss road Farm



Caught 11/03/2011 Noss

Traps & Types of Sets

- Traps
 - 1.75 Coil Spring minimum
 - Must inspect after catch for damage
 - If modified will standup catch after catch
 - MB450 & MB550
 - Cast jaws custom base plate will take the abuse of coyote
 - Crush proof dog
 - MB650
 - For winter Trapping Coyotes
 - Strong springs & large catch area

One Final Predator



Hawk kill 12/17/2011



Major Player at MacFarlane Farms



Resources

- Raccoon Trapping – S. Stanley Hawbaker
- Professional Mink Trapping -S. Stanley Hawbaker
- Autobiography of Legget's Fox Trapping Methods
- Foxes by the 1000's- Legget's (Video)
- Trapping the Eastern Brush Wolf- Russ Carman
- Winter Fox Trapping Methods in Snow- Russ Carman
- Coyote Trapping- Mark June

Publications Resources

- Trappers post

P.O. Box 763

Waterville, ME 04903

- Trappers College- Check online for information
- Be sure to know your Local, State, & Federal Laws on trapping concerning Animal Damage Control

Thank You

- My information
 - Jeffrey Spooner
 - 111501 US Hwy 14
Avalon, Wisconsin 53505
defense05@yahoo.com
 - Please contact me about predation issues