



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

PO Box 60827
Harrisburg, PA
17106

717-236-9451
717-236-9454 fax

August 26, 2008

Marian Keegan, Director of Community Conservation
Hemlock Farms Community Association
1007 Hemlock Farms
Lords Valley, PA 18428

Dear Ms. Keegan:

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) has completed the integrated waterfowl management program for Hemlock Farms Community. WS has provided on site assistance since 2005 in managing the local resident Canada goose population, reducing accumulations of goose droppings in parking lots and walkways, recreational areas, minimizing safety risks posed by aggressive geese, and reducing damage to landscaping. The following is a summary of the program throughout 2008.

WS treated 6 Canada goose nests containing 39 eggs and subsequently removed them at treatment completion. The treatment process involved locating goose nests over multiple site visits throughout the 9-week nesting season, mapping their locations with a GPS unit, and oiling the eggs with 100% food-grade corn oil. Oiling effectively stops embryo development by preventing air from passing through the shell of the egg. Additional data including number of new eggs present, number of eggs lost, and any other pertinent information was collected during each visit. At the end of the 28-day incubation period for each nest, the nest and eggs were removed and buried in an approved landfill. Nest and egg treatment is one of multiple strategies WS recommends for a successful integrated management program. Other approaches include habitat alteration, various methods of harassment, prohibition of waterfowl feeding, hunting, and other methods of population reduction. WS also removed an injured Canada goose that was located during a site visit while conducting nest and egg treatment.

The locations of the nests treated can be seen on the attached map. In addition to the nests treated, WS also located 1 nest on Rimrock Pond and 1 nest on Rockwood Pond that were predated by an unknown source. The geese at these locations did not re-nest. Also, another pair of geese on Saddle Brook Pond experienced the predation of their nest and did re-nest close to the original nest. WS located this nest and treated the 10 eggs found and is included in the total mentioned above. At the end of project completion, WS encountered 9 nests but only treated eggs in the 6 that contained eggs. All predated nests were also removed and disposed.

Lastly, WS conducted a round up on July 1, 2008 but unfortunately was unsuccessful in capturing any Canada geese.

We hope you are pleased with the progress of the integrated waterfowl management program and we look forward to working with you again in the coming season. Enclosed you will find an invoice for program costs, a map of nest locations and a fact sheet on community based Canada goose management. These services were provided as agreed upon at approximately **44%** below our initial estimated cost. The reduced cost was due to budget savings WS achieved while working similar projects aimed at reducing resident Canada goose damage in your general area. Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom S. Elliott
Staff Biologist
USDA-APHIS-WS



Safeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer