

# Article in local newspaper

## Mass culling 'no answer' to predators

Sheep farmers divided over best way to exterminate caracal and jackals killing their stock

HENRIËTTE GILDENHUYIS

SHEEP farmers in the Western Cape are in the midst of "a disaster" as a result of caracal and black-backed jackals killing their lambs at an unprecedented rate, the largest farming organisation in the province has warned.

"The situation is dire, and can be regarded as a disaster for the red meat industry in the Western Cape and the rest of the country," Porchia Adams, Agri Western Cape communications officer said.

Four hundred and eighty farmers from Elandsbaai and Hladelapha in the west, to the central and Klein Karoo, and to Heidelberg in the south and as far east as George, have been granted permits by CapeNature to hunt caracal and jackals.

Yet, the majority of sheep farmers argue that this is not enough to "control the increasing population of damage-causing animals", Adams said.

Each of the 480 farmers issued six-month permits in June 1, which allow them to kill up to 10 jackals or caracals daily.

"I have appealed to the government to exercise restraint, but has appealed to the government to exercise restraint, hunt selectively.

CapeNature's wildlife programme manager, Jaco van Deventer, warned that the rate

shot was destroying their social structure, resulting in "uncontrolled breeding".

"The problem is growing and growing... and now it's reached crisis point," he said.

Some sheep farmers and professional hunters have told Weekend Argus it has become almost impossible to farm sheep, despite the very high prices lamb is fetching.

Tewis van Oudtshoorn, who has been involved in training farmers across South Africa for 30 years, said there used to be more than 100 sheep farmers in the Ladismith district, but today there was "only a handful".

"Some farmers say they're going to shoot their farms clean. They want to use helicopters and they don't want to be regulated on their farms."

CapeNature has found itself in the middle, facing criticism from those farmers who want to annihilate the predators and those who want them protected.

The conservationists approach is to hunt predators as many as possible as quickly as possible stimulates breeding.

"What farmers see as a solution worsens the situation. There's no scientific basis for the uncontrolled killing of these animals," Van Deventer warned.



ON TARGET: Professional hunters Gary Laubscher, left, and his partner Daniel Coetzer, with red jackals they shot in Tulbagh. PICTURES: WWW.AFRICANPREDATOR.COM



PRIZE: Evert van Staden, from Feather Varmint Hunting, with a dead caracal.

crime programme manager Paul Gildenhuys explained that in areas where predators were vigorously hunted, their numbers returned to normal again within between two weeks and three months.

"That's why we are rather

the individual damage-causing animals, and not the species.

"We would also like to encourage them to manage their farms wisely, through the use of effective shepherding and of a range of holistic, effective methods now at their dis-

Heidelberg farmer Charl Rademan said he had lost 75 to 100 lambs during the past 18 months.

"We're pulling our hair out. One has to wonder whether it's worth it. I don't know what's the best way to control or

honey badgers."

Another sheep farmer, Eddie Steenkamp of Beaufort West, said he used holistic methods rather than hunting to address the problem. These included attaching bells to his lambs to deter predators.

Once the predators got used

to the bells, he tied bags of poison around the lamb's necks, so the predators died when they bit them.

Professional predator hunter of 25 years, Gary Laubscher, said he knew a farmer who lost 30 sheep to predators over a recent two-week period.

"He has to Conservation damage before mit. By that leave gone!"

"A lot of and are eg to offset the a losing bus

This article appeared this past weekend; Sept 11, 2011 however it is amazing that people who seem to want to protect the jackal will spit out such dribble in order to say whatever they think sounds good to them.

I have taken a close up of what a specific person has mentioned here, see what he says!



**Amazing do people as he honestly think the jackal will walk around with a NO 4 on its back so we can call that specific animal and kill it... all relates back to BBB**

**BULLSHIT BAFFLES BRAINS.**  
**The damage causing jackal had a blue shirt on, the innocent one had a white shirt on.....yeh yeh yeh...**