

Urban Chickens and Bees

A Guide to Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict



The raising of chickens and keeping of bees can be a part of a local food strategy. However, they are also powerful attractants that can bring bears and other predators into densely populated areas. Bears that forage for food in communities may become more assertive and this can lead to damaged property, bears entering enclosed spaces, and safety concerns for the community. Hundreds of bears are destroyed every year by the Conservation Officer Service as a result.

Sustainable food production should also be environmentally responsible. Wildlife conflict reduction measures should be included in your food production plan at the onset. By doing so, you can avoid costly mistakes and help keep wildlife wild and your community safe.



Chickens have many predators including bears, wolves, weasels, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, birds of prey, raccoons, skunks, rodents and even snakes. Feral cats and free-ranging dogs can also prey on them. Ensure sightlines around the coop are clear of vegetation.

Protecting chickens involves a combination of physical and electric fencing. The physical fencing helps protect them from smaller predators while the electric fencing is essential to keep out bears. Small rodents can enter through holes the size of a nickel. The subfloor should have heavy-gauge 1/2" square wire mesh to prevent digging from underneath.

Chicken feed should be stored securely in a rodent-proof and bear-resistant container - preferably inside an electric fence.

Inside a beehive is a complete meal for bears. Bee larvae is a highly attractive protein source along with the carbohydrate-rich honey. Bears can cause extensive and expensive damage to an apiary and investing in electric fencing is the best solution. Beehives are also highly attractive to skunks and raccoons. Adding small mesh can help exclude smaller predators.



Photos of fences courtesy of Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions



WildSafeBC Guide:
Urban chickens, bees
and electric fencing.
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**Learn more about
BC wildlife and safety at
wildsafebc.com**

**Report all conflicts with wildlife to the
BC Conservation Officer Service:**



1.877.952.7277

Electric Fencing

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Electric fencing is a very safe and effective way to prevent bears from accessing livestock, apiaries, fruit trees and other attractants. The money spent on an electric fence will not only protect your investment, it will also give you peace of mind. In addition, you will help prevent the needless destruction of wildlife such as bears.



Electric Fence Examples

- A** Permanent 5-wire all hot fence on a chicken coop.
- B** Permanent 5-wire all hot fence on a garden fence with a gate.
- C** Permanent 5-wire all hot fence on a food cache structure.
- D** Temporary mesh fence protecting a fruit tree.



There are many types of electric fences that can be constructed including temporary, semi-permanent or permanent designs. They can be powered by household current or a solar/battery combination. Electric fences are easily mounted to existing fences. In some communities, cost-share options are available. More detailed resources, specifications and guides are available at www.wildsafebc.com

Photos A and B courtesy of Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions



Learn more about
BC wildlife and safety at
wildsafebc.com



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