

Black vulture relief act bills introduced in Congress

U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), along with Sens. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) and Eric Schmitt (R-MO), introduced the Black Vulture Relief Act of 2025, which would allow farmers and ranchers the ability to protect their livestock when threatened by predatory animals without big government interference.

The proposed legislation removes the requirement for a depredation permit, allowing farmers and ranchers to take black vultures any time the birds threaten their livestock.

This bill also preserves the requirement for annual take reporting to the Fish and Wildlife Service, allowing FWS to contin-

ue monitoring black vulture population numbers, in addition to prohibiting the use of poison as a method of take.

Sens. Cotton (R-AR), Wicker (R-MS), Britt (R-AL), Scott (R-FL), Lummis (R-WY), Hagerty (R-TN), Budd (R-NC), Barrasso (R-WY), Ricketts (R-NE), Cruz (R-TX), Lankford (R-OK), Hyde-Smith (MS), and Graham (SC) joined Mullin, Tuberville, and Schmitt in cosponsoring this legislation.

The bill follows a similar proposal that was proposed in the House on March 27. That bill was primarily sponsored by U.S. Rep. John W. Rose (R-TN) with a long list of co-sponsors, including Ken-

tucky's Andy Barr and Thomas Massey.

Black vultures are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and killing them without a permit is illegal. Kentucky Farm Bureau has established a process to help farmers get permitted when their livestock becomes vulnerable to the vultures, which can become very aggressive. Black vultures are not the same as the turkey vulture, which has a bright red head whereas the black vulture has a gray-black head.

Mullin said ranchers in Oklahoma deserve the right to protect their livestock from threatening



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Supply included: 13% Feeder Cattle (24% Steers, 33% Dairy Steers, 7% Heifers, 13% Bulls, 22% Dairy Heifers); 50% Slaughter Cattle (0% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 1% Heifers, 84% Cows, 12% Bulls, 3% Dairy Heifers); 37% Replacement Dairy Cattle (3% Fresh/Milking Cows, 9% Bred Cows, 6% Bred Heifers, 7% Open Heifers, 1% Bulls, 45% Baby Bull Calves, 28% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 42%.

FEEDER CATTLE: Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head 240# 370.00; 1 Head 210# 427.50; 2 Head 513# 339.00; 4 Head 613# 302.00; 1 Head 835# 223.00. Medium and Large 2-3: 1 Head 355# 275.00. Large 1-2: 1 Head 280# 250.00. Dairy Steers: Large 3: 2 Head 210# 257.50; 2 Head 240# 400.00; 1 Head 265# 277.50; 3 Head 353# 337.00; 1 Head 510# 227.50; 2 Head 575# 230.11; 1 Head 640# 230.00. Small and Medium 3: 1 Head 345# 212.50; 1 Head 420# 197.50; 1 Head 960# 151.00. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head 235# 415.00; 1 Head 330# 267.50. Large 1-2: 1 Head 335# 337.50. Dairy Heifers: Large 3: 1 Head 665# 150.00; 2 Head 790# 158.08; 5 Head 934# 189.22; 1 Head 1055# 206.00. Small and Medium 3: 1 Head 445# 135.00. Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head 255# 325.00; 2 Head 645# 222.50. Medium 1-2: 1 Head 305# 250.00; 1 Head 495# 235.00; 1 Head 765# 202.50.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE: Steers: Select 1-2: 1 Head 970# 156.00. Dairy Steers: Select and Choice 1-2: 1 Head 1500# 174.00. Heifers: Select and Choice 1-2: 1 Head 965# 181.00; 1 Head 1225# 203.00. Dairy Heifers: Select and Choice 1-2: 5 Head 1187# 177.48; 1 Head 1115# 202.00; 1 Head 1240# 155.00.

See more at Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News • www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn

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