



## Wolves

Miller Land and Livestock, Sept. 14, 2006

Wolves hit us again last night, less than a quarter of a mile from the ranch. This is the leg of a poor heifer that tried to outrun them; the rest of the herd was stampeded through a barbed-wire fence. The hair on the bottom of the legs was the only flesh left on the carcass. The rest of the 775 lb. animal's bones were scraped clean just like they were stripped by piranhas. Even the skull and teeth were picked of all flesh – all the same night of the kill. By the next morning the animal was scattered all over, dismembered and glistening bones, the sinister and eerie sight - the wolves' burial ground.



We were attacked by wolves 3 weeks ago in a near-by pasture, they stampeded the heifers through a barbed-wire fence, killing and devouring one and badly maiming three: tearing the lips off one; tearing the side of the face off another including its lips, part of its nose and dangling its eye from the socket; then hamburgering the hock to where it could bear no weight on the third. All of this happened less than three miles as the crow flies from the town of Big Piney.

These injured animals became badly infected, antibiotics were not helping, I guess wolves have bacteria on their teeth designed to debilitate animals so the wolves can return for them. We shipped the failing wounded and received a tenth of the worth they had a week before.



This is a group of the heifers from the recent attack, still wary after they were rounded up from the chase. The herd was stampeded in two directions, taking down two large sections of fence and was very skittish to round up. A kill from the second group has not been found yet but would be hard to see in the tall grass they were ran into. The first kill, a few weeks ago, was not found until a couple ravens led us to it, a thin scattering of bare bones.

We know the wolves will attack again. It will be worse when winter comes. Our Great-Grandparents fought hard to rid ranch country of wolves. Mike's Grandmother Mildred told me about when she was a small girl and her father took her out one morning to see the baby colts he had weaned the day before and in the corral there were 4 dead and devoured and 9 hamstrung foals that had to be put down.

I do not hate wolves by any means, they are an awesome animal but I hate them in ranch country and so close to homes. To think what they will do further on to the cattle, horses and pets is frightening, to think of what they are doing to our cattle summering up high in the big-country that we do not see very often is disheartening.

A jogger was killed by wolves in Saskatchewan last year and another man was attacked by a pack while waiting at a bus stop, only narrowly escaping when the bus drove up and the men jumped out to save him. Before I knew of these incidents, I thought there was no documented case of wolves killing a human, but now there definitely is. I have asked my sons to take their guns when they go fishing near the ranch. I am usually horseback but I ordered some pepper spray for when I venture out a-foot.

We have notified the authorities about the wolves. So far we have been through a bit of paper work but have received no help on doing anything about the wolves or their return. It is very wrong for the government to allow special interest groups to poison the harmless ravens and even fund this cruel annihilation with the County funds and then to be so short sighted as to reintroduce wolves into man's habitation yet render them helpless to defend their animals. We should be allowed to protect our animals, hire wolf hunters and drive the wolves into the wilderness as our Great Grandparents did.