

'It's a plague': Croatian farmers incensed by wolf attacks

June 24 2021, by Lajla Veselica



A Croatian wolf culling quota was established in 2005, but ministers then reintroduced a complete ban in 2013 to protect dwindling numbers.

The wolf corpse hanging from a road sign outside a small Croatian town

warned that farmers had been pushed too far—attacks on their livestock were driving them to desperation.

Nobody knows who strung up the wolf, but the incident in April came just days after a local [farmer](#) saw roughly 90 of his sheep slaughtered by [wolves](#).

Images of bloodied sheep carcasses were splashed across the newspapers and [social media](#), shocking many and prompting increasingly strident calls from farmers for a cull on the predators.

"It's simply a plague," says Ivan Tesija, a cattleman.

"Wolves are everywhere, they are fearless, and people don't know how to defend themselves."

The [animals](#) have been protected by law since 1995 when they were on the verge of disappearing.

Although a culling quota was allowed from 2005, ministers reintroduced the complete ban in 2013 to protect dwindling numbers.

The prohibition is strongly backed by animal protection groups.

"We are the ones who created this mess, so we should be the ones to solve it and not make wolves pay for our mistakes," says Luka Oman, head of the Animal Friends NGO.

- Wolf-dog threat—Almost 3,000 domestic and farm animals—primarily sheep—were killed or injured by wolves last year, slightly above average, according to official figures.

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