

Options for Homeowners and Land Managers in Managing Resident Canada Geese Damage

USDA APHIS

Wildlife Services



Carl P. Cranker III
Wildlife Biologist

1. Wildlife Services:

Our Mission: To provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts and create a balance that allows people and wildlife to coexist peacefully.

We are:

1. Non-regulatory (we don't enforce laws, just warn you about them)
2. Federal
3. A Cooperative, User Fee Agency
4. Develop Wildlife Management Programs



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Research Based Management Decisions

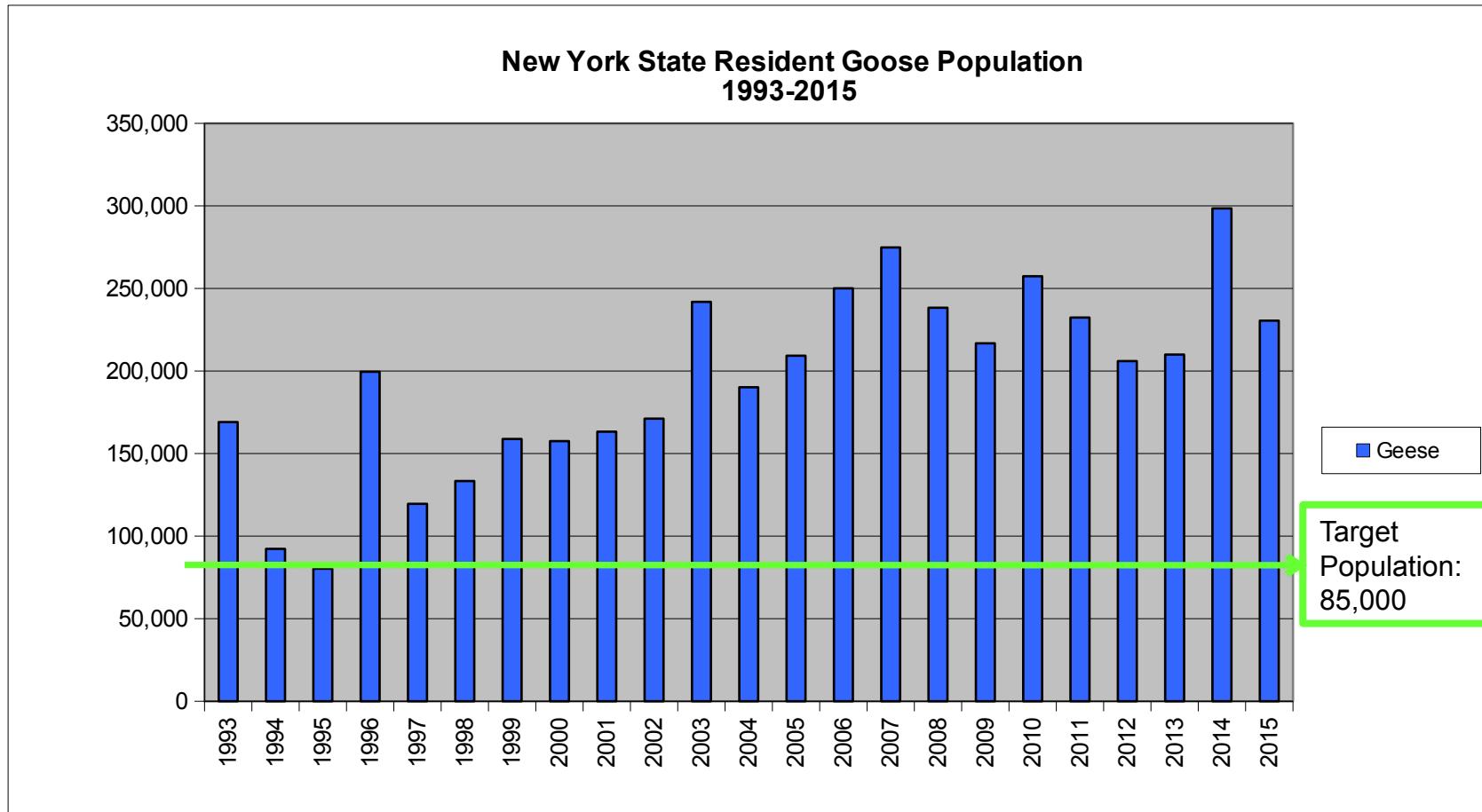
The National Wildlife Research Center is the research arm of USDA Wildlife Services and is the leader in non-lethal wildlife damage solutions

- Approx. 75% of funding spent on non-lethal management tools and methods
- Only facility like it worldwide
- Socially acceptable WDM methods
- Headquarters: Fort Collins, CO
- 8 Field Stations
- Product Registration Unit
- *The reason we know that egg oiling is 95-100% effective if done properly.*



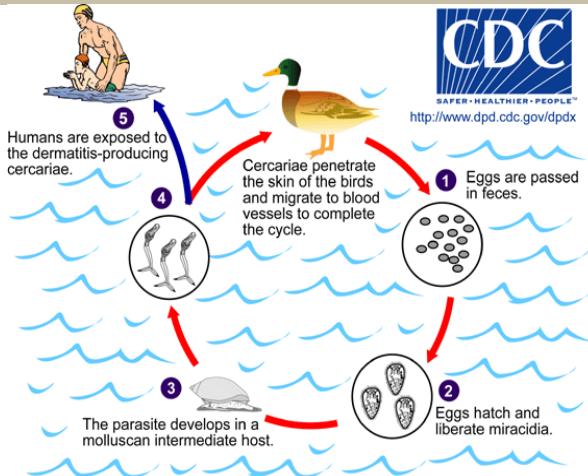
Why are we all here today?

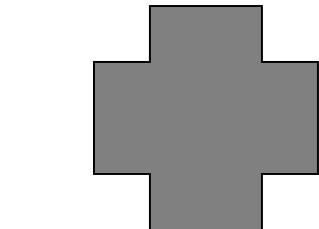
RESIDENT (NON-MIGRATORY) CANADA GOOSE POPULATION IN NEW YORK 1993-2015



The Damage caused by Geese:

- Droppings
- Soil Erosion
- Noise
- Aggressive Geese
- Bird Strikes
- Crop Damage
- Water Quality





Photos: Visual Media Services, Fermilab

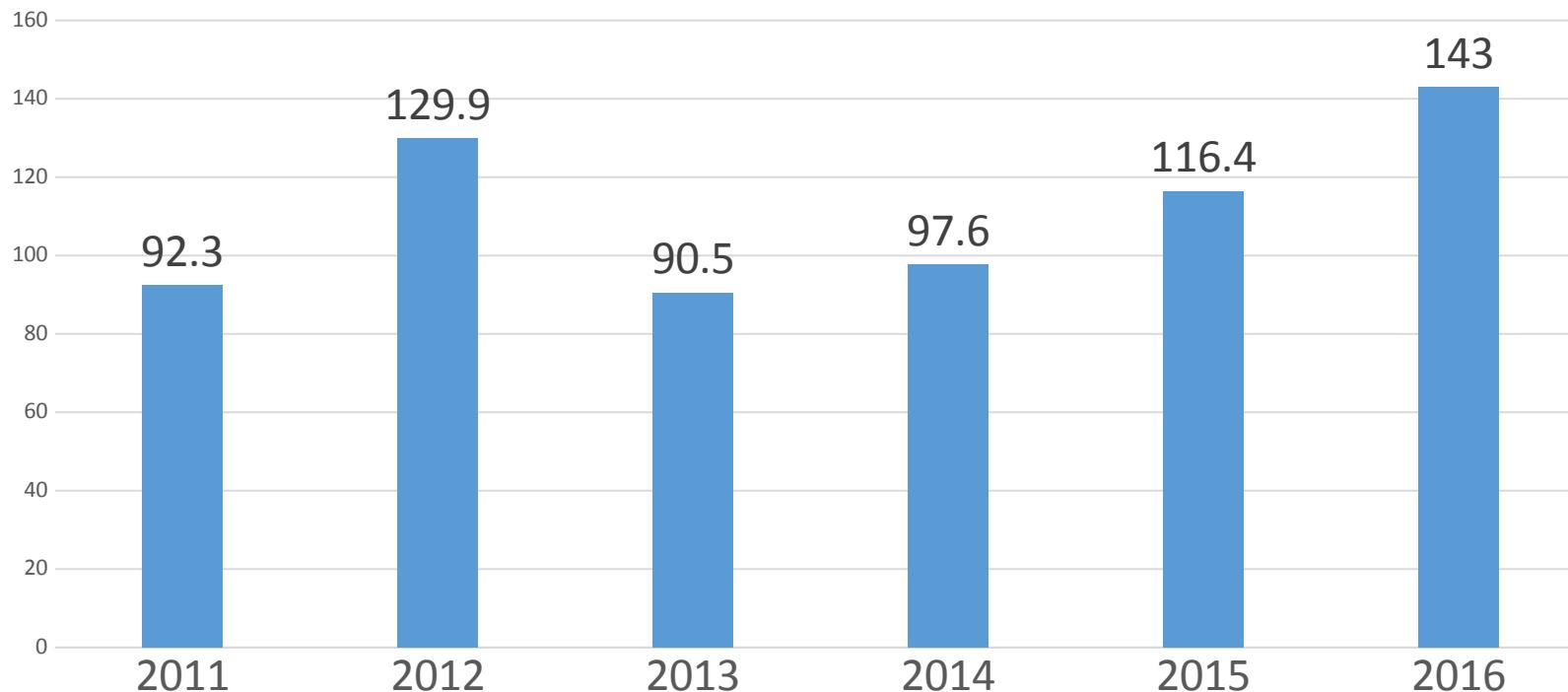


A goose puts out at least 1.5 to almost 2 pounds of manure a day.

(Kear, Janet. 1963. The agricultural importance of wild goose droppings. Wildlife Trust Annual Report 14:72 – 77)

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Improving Water Quality within the Watersheds

Reduction of Goose Fecal Material in NY Great Lakes
Watersheds (Tons per year)



Goose Fecal Contamination of Water Supply and Swimming Beaches

Goose feces can contain:

- Salmonella
- E. Coli
- Camplyobacter
- Cryptosporidium



What doesn't work:





Remove Domestic Waterfowl

Do Not Release Mute Swans



Management Options: Needs to be “community based” AND accepted by all involved.

1: Educate and involve community

2: No action

3: Nest Treatment (Population Stabilization)

4: Nest Treatment & Pop. Reduction

5: Nest Treatment, Pop. Reduction, & Harassment



Public Education:

- Educate about proper goose nutrition (no bread or popcorn)
- Encourage wildlife to remain wild
- Feeding creates dependence on human handouts
- Feeding increases local populations

Eliminate Supplemental Feeding:

- Creates wrong types of fat
- Increases local populations



What Works?



Eliminate supplemental feeding.



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Hazing Techniques

- Pyrotechnics
- Dog Chase
- R/C Boat Chase
- Boat Chase
- Laser (night)



Pyrotechnics:

Advantages:

- Loud – startles birds
- Affordable
- Easy to use



Disadvantages:

- Scares people too!
- Can be dangerous if improperly used
- Potential fire hazard



Pyrotechnics:

Advantages:

- Loud – startles birds
- Affordable
- Easy to use



Disadvantages:

- Scares people too!
- Can be dangerous if improperly used
- Potential fire hazard



Nest Treatment Options

- DIY: Do It Yourself
- Apply for a free online permit that allows you to oil/puncture/shake eggs on privately owned property.
- <https://www.epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/>

OR

- Hire an outside agency or company to do the work.



Canada Goose Nest Management

Where do geese nest??

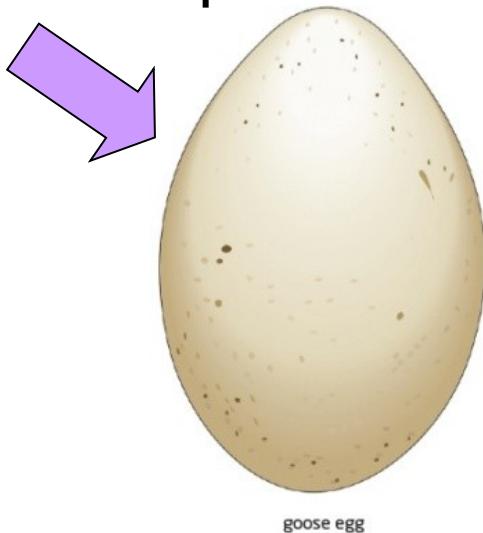
- On the Ground
- Islands
- Peninsulas
- Shoreline
- Rooftops
- Up to 2 miles from water.



Population Stabilization – Nest Treatment

Egg oiling

- The oil seals microscopic pores in the eggshell, preventing gas exchange, and further development.



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



Goose remains on nest

Fewer nest predators

Has to be repeated

* Method also endorsed
by the HSUS and PETA



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Population Stabilization

Puncturing Eggs



- “Scrambles” embryo
- One time application (if timed right)
- May entice nest predators
- More difficult to do correctly



Safely Interacting with Geese



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Chemical Deterrents: **REJEX-IT Migrate**

- General use pesticide: Private property owners and businesses do not need to be certified pesticide applicators.
- Methyl Anthranilate (Taste Aversion)
- Cost per acre (1 treatment) = \$130 (2.5 gallons)
- Application may last 2-3 weeks



SEPRO Flight Control Plus (Geese)

- Restricted use pesticide
- 3A (Turf) or 3B certification
- Anti-feeding (digestive irritation) & visual warning
- Cost per acre = Appx. \$200 (1 gallon)
- Application may last a few weeks



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Legal Harvest

- Liberal hunting seasons have been in place since 1990 for resident Canada geese in NY.
- 8/15 goose per day limit in September

Licenses needed:

- Small game
- Waterfowl Stamp
- HIP number



Using the Depredation Permit to Reinforce Non-lethal techniques

- Migratory Bird Depredation Permit
- \$50 and up to 2-3 month process
- Safety First!
- Must be 500 ft away from houses and clear beyond target.



Habitat Management:

- Tall Grass Management
- Fencing around pond
- Grid wires
- Planting trees



Disadvantages:

- Incompatible land use
- Geese may make paths
- Fencing unattractive
- Grid wires need adjusting



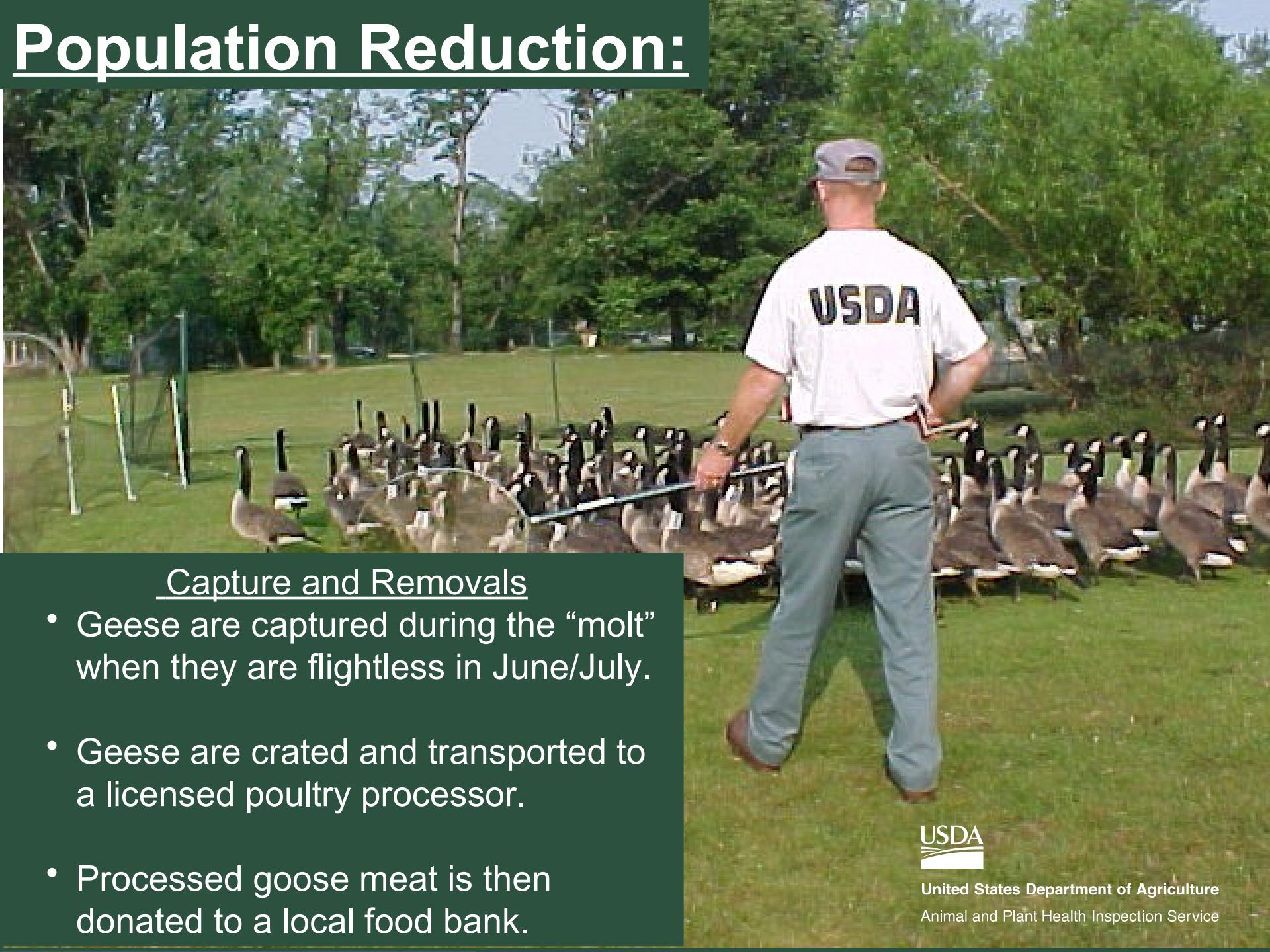
Exclusion

Placement of a barrier between Canada geese and the resource needing protection.

Temporary or permanent
Works during molt.



Population Reduction:



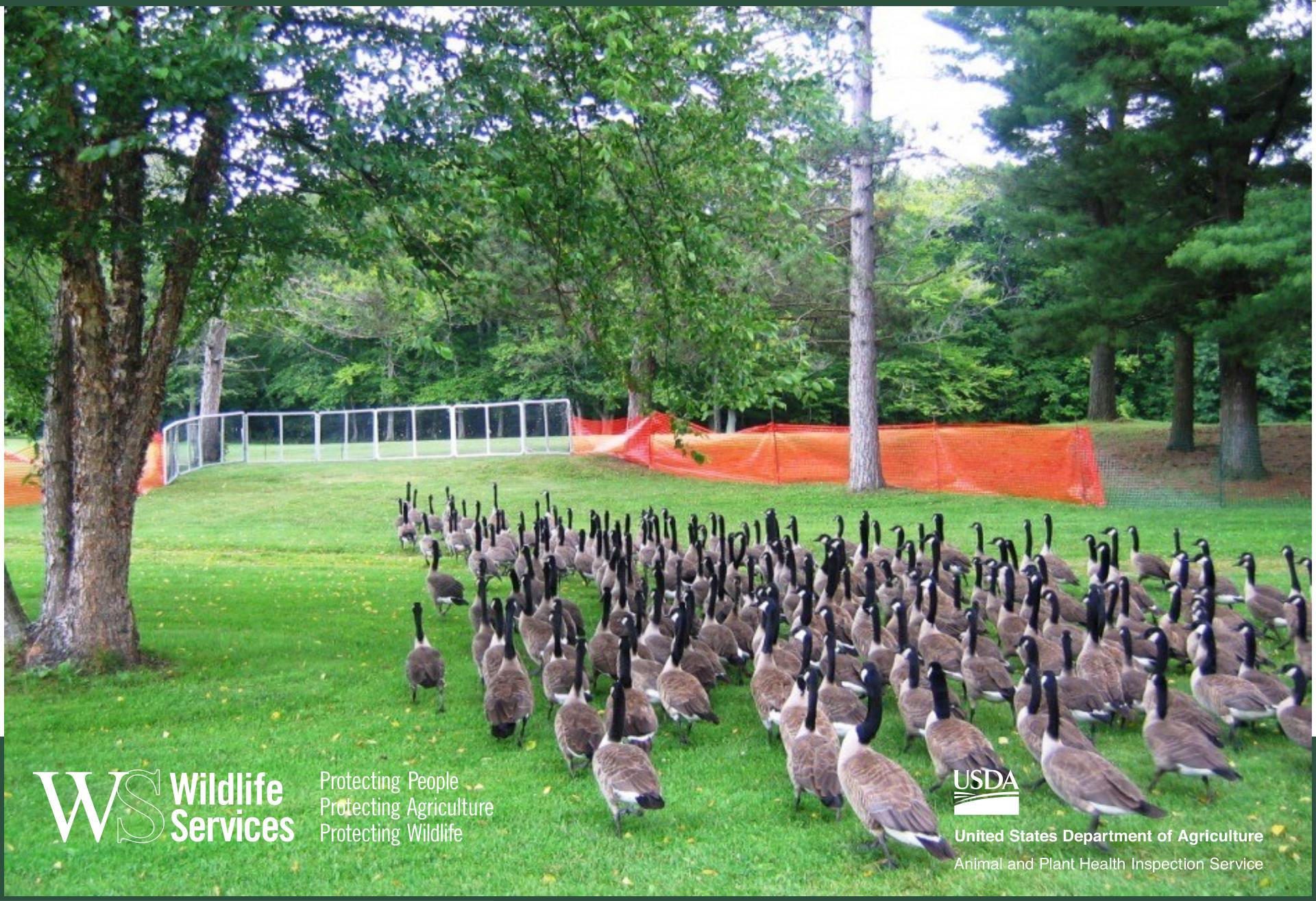
Capture and Removals

- Geese are captured during the “molt” when they are flightless in June/July.
- Geese are crated and transported to a licensed poultry processor.
- Processed goose meat is then donated to a local food bank.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Population Reduction:

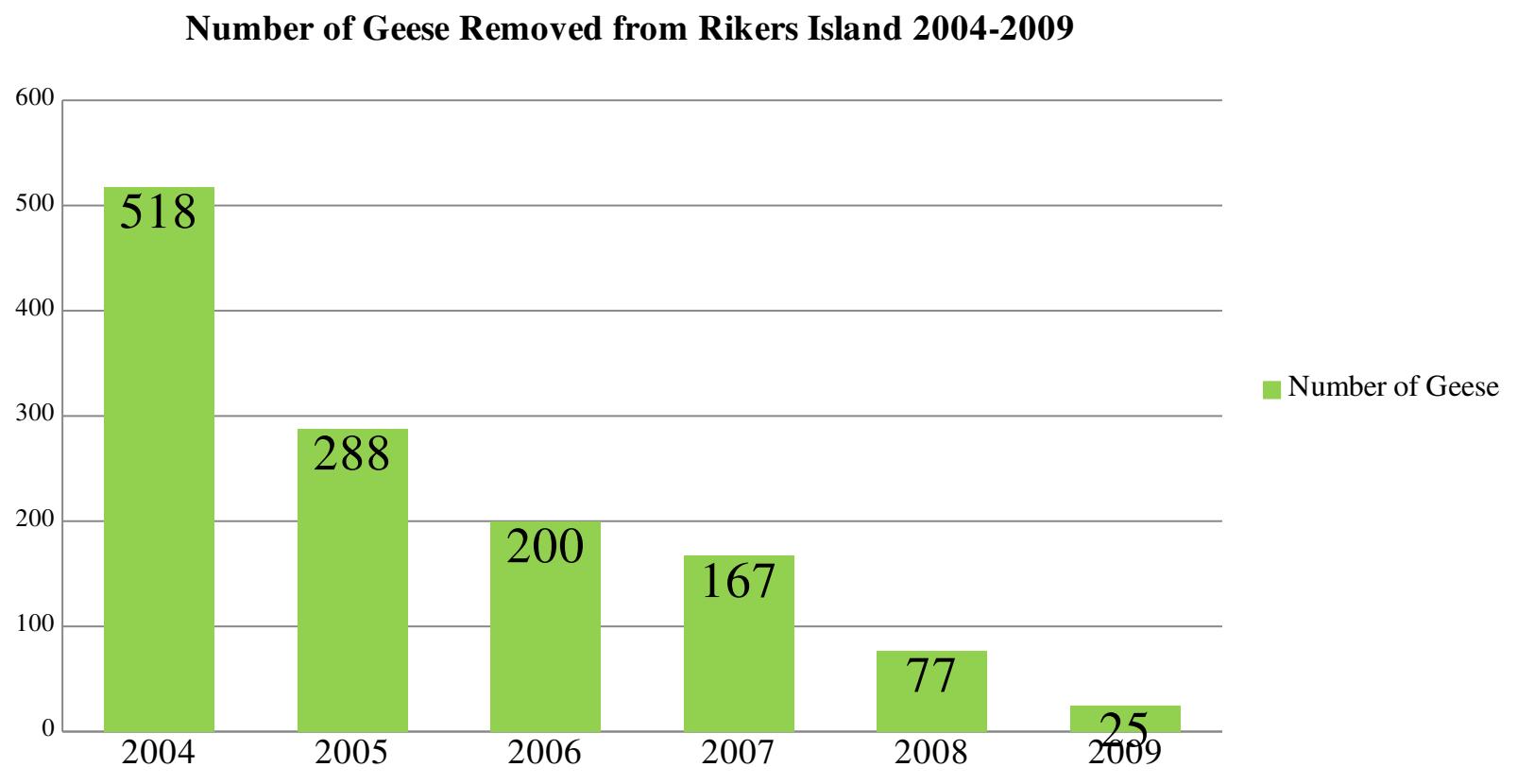


Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



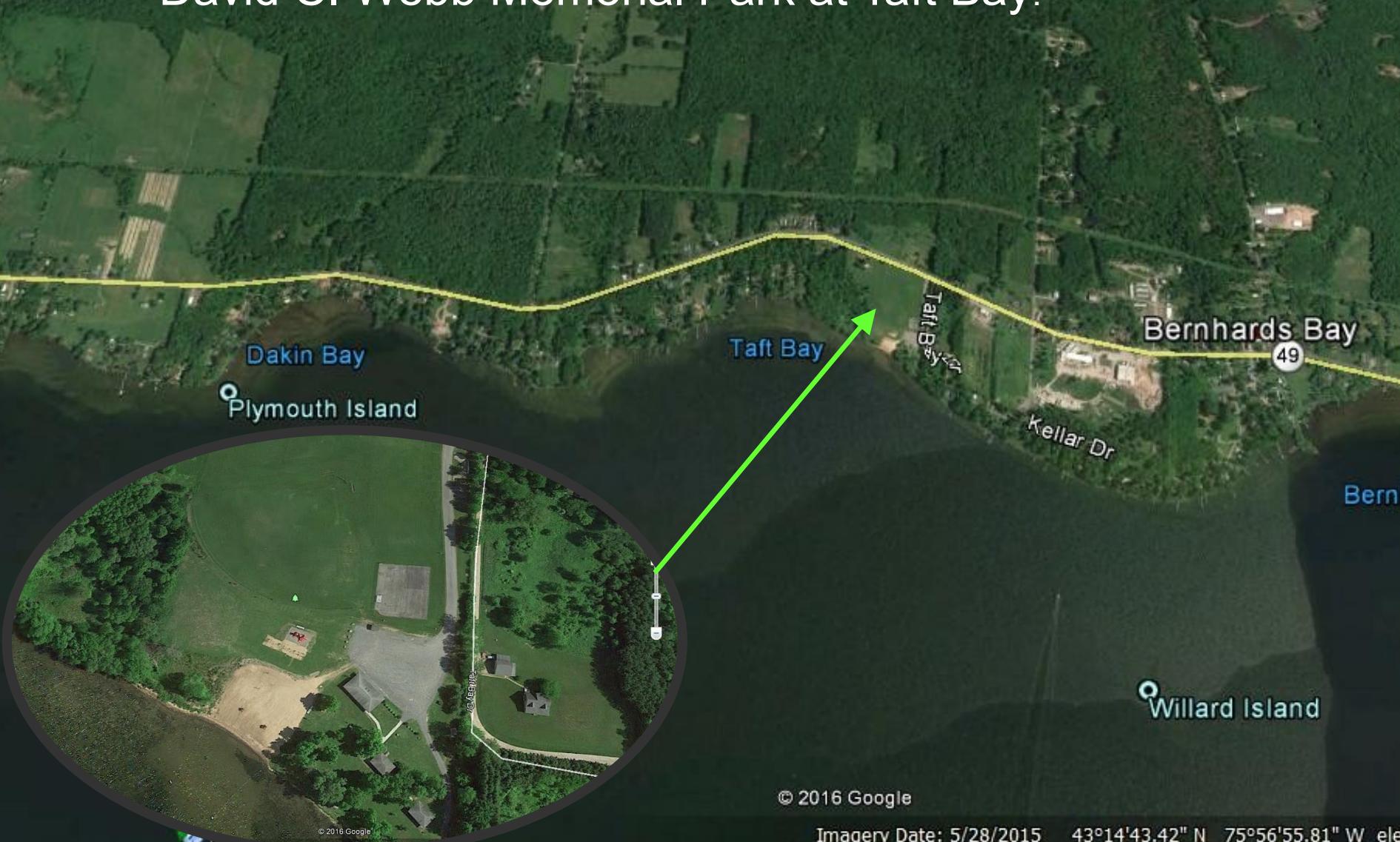
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Removals over time reduce numbers significantly



The Need for Community Involvement

David C. Webb Memorial Park at Taft Bay.



The Big Picture:

- There is an estimated 78,872 breeding pairs of Canada geese in New York alone. Which could equate to roughly 60,000 nests this spring.
- In New York, if there was a 5 egg/nest average, just to stabilize the population, combined we would have to oil 300,000 eggs this spring.
- Capture and removal of geese is estimated to cost 67% less than egg removal or destruction (Cooper and Keefe 1997).
- Egg oiling works in localized areas over time, but has very little effect on the overall population of geese, while removing breeding age adults can lower populations dramatically.

What The USDA can do for you:

- Provide “Technical Assistance”: Either over the phone or as a site visit to advise how to manage your situation.
- Provide direct management where we would form an agreement and conduct:
 - Nest Management Program
 - Hazing Program
 - Population Reduction (Capture and Removal)

Contact Information:

Carl P. Cranker III
Wildlife Biologist
USDA Wildlife Services
5757 Sneller Rd
Brewerton, NY 13029
315-698-0940



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife

Questions??



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service