225 N Beaumont Suite 230
Prairie du Chien WI 58321
608 326 0272 FAX 608 326 0226
rhagen@crawfordcountywi.org

Crawford County Land Conservation

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Straying Animals

(taken from Chapter 14, County Acres A guide to Buying and Managing Rural Property, Klessig & Kroenke)

"The Wisconsin Statutes contain three chapters (172-174) http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html on owners' responsibility for their animals and the rights of neighbors to protect their property from unrestrained animals. While problems with rams and bulls have diminished, dogs continue to cause damage.

The owner of a dog is liable for the dog's actions. If the owner is given notice that the dog is "wounding worrying or killing" livestock and fails to confine the dog, the owner may be liable for double or triple damages. Persons who suffer losses to domestic animals from dogs may file a claim on the county dog license fine – into which all dog owners pay an annual license fee. The law also specifies the conditions under which the dog may be legally destroyed."

In addition Wisconsin has a fence law explained in state statute 90. A good fence doesn't relieve an animal owner from liability though… as explained in chap 172.01

"The construction of any fence enumerated in s. 90.02 does not relieve an owner or keeper from liability for any damage committed by an animal described in this section upon the enclosed premises of an adjoining owner."