

Dear Applicant:

Please read this letter thoroughly as it contains important information about the DNR Nest Destruction Program.

Enclosed is your permit for the 2023 Nest Destruction Program.

Permit Information:

- Geese and their eggs are protected by Federal and State Laws. You must have a valid permit from the DNR in order to handle goose eggs and/or destroy nests. It is illegal to possess the eggs, and all eggs must be destroyed as outlined in the permit.
- Prior to receiving this permit, you must submit the application along with **EITHER** a petition signed by 70% of the lakefront property owners, **OR** a township resolution requesting the permit for your lake/site. If you are a sole property owner, such as a business, office building, apartment complex, golf course, etc, then you only need to submit the application, since you are the sole owner of the permitted property. You still must obtain permission of any property owners prior to destroying any nest, even if your permit was obtained for the entire lake. **This permit does not give the authority to trespass.**
- It is **YOUR** responsibility to verify that you have met these requirements above and have copies of the petition or resolution on hand, along with submitting a copy to the DNR. It is also YOUR responsibility to keep track of when these signatures/resolutions are due to expire and to get new authorization when needed. Do **NOT** contact the DNR office, asking for copies of Township Government resolutions, contact your township clerk's office, and submit them with your application. You must also notify neighbors, lakefront owners, etc. that you will be conducting egg and nest destruction.
- At least one person on site is required to attend/view a mandatory training session, prior to receiving authorization for this program, even if you are hiring a contractor to do the work. If you have not attended training, you must be immediately supervised by someone who has attended training. The current training is a video found online.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijUyj8bOIBk&feature=youtu.be>
- A list of licensed contractors is also available on the DNR website.
- All sites **eligible for nest destruction** must participate in this program prior to be allowed to receive a permit for **goose roundup**, no exceptions.
- Nobody under 18 years of age is allowed to handle eggs or destroy nests.
- You are not allowed to remove pipped (hatching) eggs and you do not need to report these on your data sheet.

Timing for removing Eggs:

We recommend that you will need to remove eggs and destroy the nests on two different occasions, (two weeks apart) in order to have the highest success. It is imperative that you do not remove the eggs too early in incubation or the goose will simply re-nest. By using the following protocol you should have a high success rate. After the nest is destroyed, you should harass the birds daily, until they leave your site completely. When done properly egg/nest destruction has the potential to greatly reduce numbers of geese, therefore negating the need and cost of participating in the round-up program.

FIRST Nest Check:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommends that you check the nests the weekend of **April 15th 2023**. Feel the eggs to be sure they are warm and if so, then remove the entire nest of eggs. If the eggs are not warm, wait and come back for the second nest check. **Do NOT remove cold eggs**, simply leave them until you come back in 2 weeks. Once the nest has been destroyed you **MUST harass the birds to encourage molt migration**. There are a lot of great harassment devices available. You are not permitted to touch or cause harm to the bird. If you have nests that are being incubated earlier than this time frame, you may have to pull eggs a week earlier and bump up your second nest check a week as well.

SECOND Nest Check:

You should do a second nest check two weeks later on the weekend of **April 29th, 2023**. At this point you can remove any new nests you find and also destroy any nests that you checked two weeks ago and were still cold. If you have noticed geese that were not completed with their nests during this second nest check, you are authorized to destroy nests as needed up to May 11, 2023. Again, remember to harass the birds after destroying the nest.

Data Collection:

- You must fill out the enclosed data sheet on every nest you destroy. Be sure that your **name, site name** (as listed on your permit), **date** you destroyed the nest, and the **number of eggs destroyed, are correct on the sheet**. You do not need to list any nests that you did not destroy (for example a hatched nest). You do not need to turn in the data sheet until you are completely done collecting eggs.
- You cannot collect any eggs after May 11, 2023 and **your data sheet must be turned in promptly as soon as you are finished collecting eggs**.
- **Nest destruction reports are due May 12, 2023. You will not be eligible to participate in goose round up if your nest report is not submitted by May 12, 2023.**
- **Failure to submit a data sheet will result in denial of permits the following year.**
- Submit the data sheet via email or mail to the address on the form. You can wait and submit your data AFTER you have completed your second check, and are done with the program.
- Keep a copy of the data sheet for your records.
- You must send in a data sheet regardless of if you removed any eggs. If you did not find any eggs, then write the “**dates**” you went out looking and “**no eggs found**” on your data sheet and turn it in. If you did not TRY to find eggs write “**did not participate in the program**” and mail in the data sheet. If you did not participate you will not be eligible for round-up.

If you have questions, please contact Amberly Hauger (517) 318-3471 or email MI.goose.permits@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Amberly Hauger and Jon Amidon
USDA – Wildlife Services
MI.Goose.Permits@aphis.usda.gov