

Bait & Baiting at Draw Sites



Baiting



- Wolves & Coyotes make their living from their nose.
- Natural to cache excess food.
- Avoid loud baits
- Absolutely no garbage
- Exposed baits = problems

Best Practices



- Biggest problem is having enough bait
- Second biggest problem is maintaining enough bait
- Best way to manage bait station

Location, location



Starting a Bait Site

- Location, location, location
- What to look for: crossroads either an intersection or 3 roads meeting.
- Boundary line of packs
- Choose carefully by looking for good canopy cover with easy access.
- Lets the animals tell you where to locate bait.
- Avoid locations that people frequent.

Baiting Tips

- Dig a hole about the size of a regular plastic pail.
- Fill hole on each visit
- Cover bait hole with either dirt or snow depending on the time of year.
- Throw a few pieces around site to keep the birds squawking but you do not want an excessive amount of birds at your site.

Plastic Pails



Plastic pails

- Once a bait site is established I maintain the site by dumping a full pail per visit.
- By burying your bait you will avoid attracting unwanted attention from birds & people.
- I process all my beaver saving the meat for marten/fisher bait
- The head and all the insides go into pails
- Stored in closed shed, used as needed.

Bait Sites

- Tricks
- Moose or Deer hides
- Cut into manageable pieces, moose into 4 deer in 2.
- Better after freeze-up
- Used as a cover instead of dirt or snow
- Better to wire into place
- Wolves cannot pass up a hide.

Baiting



Sources of Bait

- Your harvest - moose and/or deer and other trapped carcasses
- Butchers who cut wild game
- Pitfalls - feast or famine, either we have too much or not enough.
- Bait management is a concern, you need a plan.
- Closed storage shed and/or freezers.
- Freezer for your meat bait and shed for your bait dumps.

Butchers

- Set up a schedule before they start cutting and always make sure you show up.
- Best to share with a couple of other trappers/hunters
- Be honest, don't leave the butcher hanging
- Have a plan on how you will store and use.
- Feast and Famine.

Freezers

- Using a freezer for bait
- Separate your bait into manageable size pieces.
- Freeze each beaver in a plastic bag.
- Don't just throw into freezer in one big mess.
- Been there done that

Shed



- Make sure shed can be closed and the smell will not cause problems
- Fill pails only $\frac{3}{4}$ full
- Have a plan to thaw pails later in season
- Hotels/motels are good sources for empty soap pails. Look for metal handles.

Cheap Freezers



- Kijiji
- Normally less than \$50
- Most people just want them removed.
- Lots of small sizes but every so often you will hit the jackpot.

Draw Baits

- If you establish your bait sites as draw baits you can keep active year after year.
- If you snare on top of your bait stations you can burn the site for the following year or 2.
- Better to set up ambush site on their way into your baits
- You can move ambush sites yearly but still work off your draw baits.
- Biggest mistake trappers make is not enough snares at ambush site.
- 25 to 50 per site - you are targeting the whole pack.

Exposed Bait

- Exposed bait will draw unwanted attention
- Ravens will strip the bait as fast as you can haul it in.
- The public will key in on your bait sites.
- Possible damaged catches - ravens and birds of prey.
- Increases the chances of non-target catches a 100%

Baiting Pitfalls



- Eagles
- Always land on the road and hop into bait site
- Never ever set on main trail into bait station
- Always be aware of non-targets
- An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.