Supplementary material S1: Online questionnaire

In the following the structure of the questionnaire, without the cover letter and translated from the original German into English.

1. Sociodemographic Data

1.1. Please indicate your gender.
o Male
o Female
o Diverse
o Prefer not to say

1.2. Please indicate your age (in years).
Dropdown menu with 18–100

1.3. For how many years have you been working as a shepherd?
o Less than one year
o Approximately 1 year
o Approximately 2 years
o Approximately 3 years
o Approximately 4 years
o Approximately 5 years
o More than 5 years

1.4. How many animals do you herd?
Open response

1.5. Which animals do you herd?
Open response

1.6. In which region do you herd animals?
Open response

1.7. Do you work seasonally or year-round?
Open response

2. Attitudes and Experiences

2.1 How do you assess the return of the wolf to our regions from your perspective as a shepherd? Please explain your assessment in detail and in complete sentences.
Open response

2.2 Please indicate your attitude toward the return of the wolf to our regions from your perspective as a shepherd using the following scale: from 1 (very negative) to 10 (very positive).

very negative									very positive
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

2.3 “The wolf has an impact on my work as a shepherd.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

2.4 “There are feasible livestock protection measures that enable coexistence between wolves and grazing animals.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

2.5 Has a wolf already killed one or more animals from your he

Yes	No

2.6 Have you ever seen a wolf in the wild in your region with your own eyes?

Yes	No

3. Moral Aspects

3.1 Please comment on the following statement: “As a native species, the wolf has the right to live here.” To what extent do you agree or disagree with this argument? Please respond in detail and in complete sentences.
Open response

3.2 Please comment on the following statement: “More animals die in the alpine pastures from disease, lightning strikes, and falls than from wolves. Agriculture should address these problems instead of criticizing the return of the wolf.” To what extent do you agree or disagree with this argument? Please respond in detail and in complete sentences.
Open response

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

3.3 “Currently, the wolf is overprotected in our regions.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

3.4 “With regard to the welfare of my animals, the wolf is the biggest problem in my work.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

3.5 “The threat from predators is simply part of life for a grazing animal.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4. The Societal Debate Around the Wolf

4.1 How do you perceive the socio-political debate around the wolf: Which actors shape the debate? To what extent are the discussions emotional, factual, or practice-oriented? Why do the debates unfold the way they do? Please answer in complete sentences.
Open response

4.2 What role do you play, or could you play, as a shepherd in the socio-political debates about the wolf?
Open response

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

4.3 “People in cities have no understanding of the wolf issue.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4.4 “The socio-political discussions about the wolf lack practical relevance.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4.5 “Animal protection NGOs provide factually accurate information about the wolf.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4.6 “Agricultural associations provide factually accurate information about the wolf.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4.7 “Universities provide factually accurate information about the wolf.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

4.8 “The return of the wolf causes problems because the herding of alpine animals and the maintenance of the shepherd profession have been neglected too much in recent decades.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

5. Future

5.1 In your opinion, how does the return of the wolf affect the profession of shepherd?
Open response

5.2 What would you, as a shepherd, wish for from politics, society, and agriculture?
Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:
Open response

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

5.3 “I am convinced that our regions will be free of wolves again in thirty years.”

I completely disagree	I disagree	I somewhat disagree	I somewhat agree	I agree	I completely agree	no answer

6. Thank you very much for your participation. Do you want to share anything else with us? Here you have the opportunity to leave a final comment.