

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.10 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 42,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.10 million, in 2001. This compares with losses totaling 42,000 head with a value of \$4.35 million in 2000.

Predator losses at 28.6 percent, accounted for the largest share of losses. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 8,800 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$858,000. Dogs and bears each claimed 700 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$68,000 respectively; cougars caused 300 deaths, valued at \$29,000; and fox killed 200 head, valued at

\$20,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 1,300 head of sheep and lambs.

Lambing complications claimed 8,300 sheep and lambs in 2001. Disease claimed 6,600; weather killed 3,700 head; 1,800 were lost to old age; 1,400 died of poisoning; and 200 were lost to theft. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 2,500 sheep and lamb deaths during 2001.

Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 1999-01 ^{1/}

Cause of Death	Sheep						Lambs						Value of All Sheep and Lambs 3/4/5/		
	Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/			Head			Percent of Total Loss 2/			1999	2000	2001
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001			
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>														
Coyote	1,700	2,000	1,500	17.0	20.0	15.0	7,700	7,900	7,300	23.3	24.7	22.8	930	1,025	858
Dog	500	300	200	5.0	3.0	2.0	600	1,000	500	1.8	3.1	1.6	109	135	68
Bear	400	300	300	4.0	3.0	3.0	500	600	400	1.5	1.9	1.3	89	93	68
Cougar	200	200	100	2.0	2.0	1.0	400	400	200	1.2	1.3	0.6	59	62	29
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	300	300	200	0.9	0.9	0.6	30	31	20
Other 6/	0	100	100	0.0	1.0	1.0	300	800	700	0.9	2.5	2.2	30	93	78
Unknown Predator	0	100	100	0.0	1.0	1.0	200	300	400	0.6	0.9	1.3	20	41	49
TOTAL PREDATORS	2,800	3,000	2,300	28.0	30.0	23.0	10,000	11,300	9,700	30.3	35.3	30.4	1,267	1,480	1,170
Weather	600	100	200	6.0	1.0	2.0	4,200	3,500	3,500	12.7	10.9	10.9	475	373	361
Disease	1,800	1,200	1,700	18.0	12.0	17.0	7,600	4,600	4,900	23.0	14.4	15.3	930	600	644
Poison	600	700	500	6.0	7.0	5.0	500	600	900	1.5	1.9	2.8	109	135	137
Lambing Complications	600	1,200	1,800	6.0	12.0	18.0	3,700	4,000	6,500	11.2	12.5	20.3	426	538	809
Old Age	1,500	1,400	1,800	15.0	14.0	18.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	149	145	176
Theft	100	200	100	1.0	2.0	1.0	200	300	100	0.6	0.9	0.3	30	52	20
On Back	100	200	200	1.0	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10	21	20
Other 7/	700	600	300	7.0	6.0	3.0	3,200	3,400	2,200	9.7	10.6	6.9	386	414	244
Unknown Causes 8/	1,200	1,400	1,100	12.0	14.0	11.0	3,600	4,300	4,200	10.9	13.4	13.1	475	590	517
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	33,000	32,000	32,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,257	4,348	4,098

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 17,000 in 1999 and 2000 and 20,000 in 2001. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 1999-\$99.00, 2000-\$103.50, 2001-\$97.50. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ Includes bobcats, eagles, and wolves. 7/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 8/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.