

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.24 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 38,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.24 million, in 2003.

This compares with losses totaling 38,000 head with a value of \$3.55 million in 2002.

Predator losses at 37.1 percent, accounted for 14,100 losses worth a value of \$1.57 million. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 10,500 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$1.17 million. Dogs claimed 1,100 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$123,000; bears caused 700 deaths valued at \$78,000; cougars killed 600 head and fox killed 100 head,

valued at \$67,000 and \$11,000 respectively. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 1,100 head of sheep and lambs.

Non predator losses accounted for 23,900 head worth a value of \$2.67 million. Lambing complications claimed 7,600 sheep and lambs in 2003 valued at \$847,000. Disease claimed 4,500; weather killed 2,300 head: old age killed 1,800 and poison killed 900 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 3,100 sheep and lamb deaths during 2003.

Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 2001-03 ^{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/}			2001	2002	2003
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003			
<i>1,000 Dollars</i>															
Coyote	1,500	900	2,300	15.0	9.0	23.0	7,300	6,200	8,200	22.8	22.1	29.3	858	664	1,171
Dog	200	100	700	2.0	1.0	7.0	500	200	400	1.6	0.7	1.4	68	28	123
Bear	300	300	300	3.0	3.0	3.0	400	400	400	1.3	1.4	1.4	68	65	78
Cougar	100	100	200	1.0	1.0	2.0	200	200	400	0.6	0.7	1.4	29	28	67
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200	100	100	0.6	0.4	0.4	20	9	11
Other ^{6/}	100	0	100	1.0	0.0	1.0	700	400	900	2.2	1.4	3.2	78	37	112
Unknown Predator	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	400	200	100	1.3	0.7	0.4	49	28	11
TOTAL PREDATORS	2,300	1,500	3,600	23.0	15.0	36.0	9,700	7,700	10,500	30.4	27.5	37.5	1,170	859	1,573
Weather	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	3,500	4,500	2,200	10.9	16.1	7.9	361	430	256
Disease	1,700	3,400	1,400	17.0	34.0	14.0	4,900	6,400	3,100	15.3	22.9	11.1	644	916	502
Poison	500	700	500	5.0	7.0	5.0	900	700	400	2.8	2.5	1.4	137	131	100
Lambing Complications	1,800	1,500	1,400	18.0	15.0	14.0	6,500	4,400	6,200	20.3	15.7	22.1	809	552	847
Old Age	1,800	1,500	1,800	18.0	15.0	18.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	176	140	201
Theft	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	100	200	400	0.3	0.7	1.4	20	28	45
On Back	200	300	200	2.0	3.0	2.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20	28	22
Other ^{7/}	300	400	500	3.0	4.0	5.0	2,200	1,800	2,600	6.9	6.4	9.3	244	206	346
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	1,100	500	500	11.0	5.0	5.0	4,200	2,300	2,600	13.1	8.2	9.3	517	262	346
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	32,000	28,000	28,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,098	3,552	4,238

^{1/} Includes lamb deaths before docking of 20,000 in 2001, 15,000 in 2002, and 16,000 in 2003. ^{2/} Percentages may not add due to rounding. ^{3/} Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2001-\$97.50, 2002-\$93.50, 2003-\$111.50. ^{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.