

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.55 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 35,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.55 million, in 2004.

This compares with losses totaling 38,000 head with a value of \$4.24 million in 2003.

Predator losses at 36.0 percent, accounted for 12,600 losses worth a value of \$1.64 million. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 8,400 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$1.09 million. Dogs claimed 1,600 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$208,000; bears caused 1,000 deaths valued at \$130,000; cougars killed 400 head and fox killed 100 head,

valued at \$52,000 and \$13,000 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 22,400 head worth a value of \$2.91 million. Disease claimed 8,400 sheep and lambs in 2004 valued at \$1.09 million. Lambing complications claimed 4,000; weather killed 2,800 head: old age killed 1,100 and poison killed 900 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 1,100 sheep and lamb deaths during 2004.

Sheep and Lamb Losses: by Cause, Idaho, 2002-04 ^{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/}			2002	2003	2004
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004			
<i>1,000 Dollars</i>															
Coyote	900	2,300	2,600	9.0	23.0	26.0	6,200	8,200	5,800	22.1	29.3	23.2	664	1,171	1,092
Dog	100	700	400	1.0	7.0	4.0	200	400	1,200	0.7	1.4	4.8	28	123	208
Bear	300	300	500	3.0	3.0	5.0	400	400	500	1.4	1.4	2.0	65	78	130
Cougar	100	200	200	1.0	2.0	2.0	200	400	200	0.7	1.4	0.8	28	67	52
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	100	100	0.4	0.4	0.4	9	11	13
Other ^{6/}	0	100	300	0.0	1.0	3.0	400	900	500	1.4	3.2	2.0	37	112	104
Unknown Predator	100	0	100	1.0	0.0	1.0	200	100	200	0.7	0.4	0.8	28	11	39
TOTAL PREDATORS	1,500	3,600	4,100	15.0	36.0	41.0	7,700	10,500	8,500	27.5	37.5	34.0	859	1,573	1,638
Weather	100	100	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	4,500	2,200	2,700	16.1	7.9	10.8	430	256	364
Disease	3,400	1,400	2,100	34.0	14.0	21.0	6,400	3,100	6,300	22.9	11.1	25.2	916	502	1,092
Poison	700	500	200	7.0	5.0	2.0	700	400	700	2.5	1.4	2.8	131	100	117
Lambing Complications	1,500	1,400	1,100	15.0	14.0	11.0	4,400	6,200	2,900	15.7	22.1	11.6	552	847	520
Old Age	1,500	1,800	1,100	15.0	18.0	11.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	140	201	143
Theft	100	0	0	1.0	0.0	0.0	200	400	400	0.7	1.4	1.6	28	45	52
On Back	300	200	200	3.0	2.0	2.0	0	0	100	0.0	0.0	0.4	28	22	39
Other ^{7/}	400	500	400	4.0	5.0	4.0	1,800	2,600	700	6.4	9.3	2.8	206	346	143
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	500	500	700	5.0	5.0	7.0	2,300	2,600	2,700	8.2	9.3	10.8	262	346	442
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	28,000	28,000	25,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	3,552	4,238	4,550

^{1/} Includes lamb deaths before docking of 15,000 in 2002, 16,000 in 2003 and 13,000 in 2004. ^{2/} Percentages may not add due to rounding. ^{3/} Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2002-\$93.50, 2003-\$111.50, 2004-\$130.00. ^{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.