



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## UTAH SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 2019

Utah sheep and lamb producers lost 40,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2019, representing a total value of \$6.98 million, according to a survey conducted by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Mountain Regional Field Office. This study was undertaken at the request of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food who also provided funding. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was 11,000 head less than last year and the total value of inventory lost was 21 percent less than a year ago. The January 1, 2019 inventory was 290,000 head. The lamb crop for 2019 was 230,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2019 was 17,000 head. Sheep and lamb deaths for 2019 amounted to 7.4 percent of the 2019 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking, 537,000 head).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 24,600 head, down 9,100 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 20,400 head, down 28 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 4,200 head, down 1,300 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$4.26 million in losses in 2019, down 26 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 4.6 percent of the 2019 sheep and lamb supply and 61.5 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 57.7 percent of the predator caused losses and 35.5 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$2.44 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$2.72 million in 2019, compared with \$3.06 million in 2018. Non-predatory losses accounted for 38.5 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was due to weather conditions at 4,200 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 3,800 head, down 16 percent from 2018. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 11,600 head, 1,200 head less than a year ago.

Lambs lost to all unknown causes totaled 5,400 head, compared with 4,100 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 700 sheep, up 100 from last year.

The sheep and lamb survey utilized multi-frame sampling procedures. The survey involved drawing a random sample from a list of livestock producers maintained by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Utah Field Office. In addition, sheep producers living in a selected sample of area segments were interviewed. This procedure assures complete coverage of sheep producers by accounting for ranchers/farmers who may not be on the list.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published by the USDA include sheep losses for the entire year, but include only those lamb losses that occur after docking. This special report also includes an estimate of lambs lost before docking.

## Losses of Lambs Before Docking, by Cause: Utah, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	100	100	100	200	200	800
Bobcat	200	200	300	400	500	100
Coyote	5,200	5,000	5,500	5,700	6,900	5,400
Dog	100	100	200	200	500	100
Mountain Lion	500	500	500	700	800	1,100
Foxes	400	400	500	400	500	100
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Eagles	700	700	700	500	600	400
Ravens	300	200	300	400	400	200
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	100	100	200	100	200	400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>8,600</b>
Diseases	1,100	1,100	900	(D)	(D)	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	200	200	300	100	100	100
Weather Conditions	2,700	2,500	2,600	3,000	3,800	2,800
Lambing Complications	1,900	1,800	2,400	2,200	3,000	2,200
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	100	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	100	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	2,900	3,000	2,400	2,000	2,400	3,300
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>8,400</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>

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## Losses of Lambs After Docking, by Cause: Utah, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	1,700	1,700	1,300	1,600	2,000	1,800
Bobcat	200	200	300	400	400	300
Coyote	8,500	7,800	7,000	7,700	10,100	6,700
Dog	200	200	300	200	500	300
Mountain Lion	900	800	2,400	2,800	3,500	2,000
Foxes	200	200	200	500	600	200
Wolves	(D)	(D)	100	200	200	(D)
Eagles	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	300	100	200	100	200	300
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>11,800</b>
Diseases	100	100	300	(D)	100	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	200	200	500	100	100	300
Weather Conditions	400	400	400	900	1,200	1,200
Lambing Complications	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	300	300	300	400	500	300
Theft	100	100	(D)	100	200	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	2,800	2,800	1,600	900	1,300	1,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,200</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

<sup>1</sup> Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Utah, 2014-2019 <sup>1</sup>

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,600
Bobcat	500	500	600	800	900	400
Coyote	16,500	15,200	14,900	16,300	20,300	14,200
Dog	500	500	800	600	1,500	500
Mountain Lion	2,100	2,000	4,000	4,300	5,000	4,100
Foxes	700	600	700	900	1,100	300
Wolves	(D)	(D)	100	300	200	(D)
Eagles	800	800	800	600	700	500
Ravens	300	200	300	400	400	300
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	600	400	500	400	600	700
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>27,300</b>	<b>33,700</b>	<b>24,600</b>
Diseases	1,500	1,500	1,700	100	200	300
Enterotoxaemia	500	500	1,100	200	300	500
Weather Conditions	3,300	3,100	3,400	4,400	5,600	4,200
Lambing Complications	2,800	2,600	3,300	2,900	3,800	2,900
Old Age	1,500	1,400	1,600	1,200	1,400	900
On Back	100	100	100	300	300	200
Poison	1,300	1,200	1,400	1,100	1,200	1,000
Theft	100	100	100	200	400	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	7,500	7,500	5,100	3,300	4,100	5,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>15,400</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.6	5.9	9.0
Bobcat	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.8	1.0
Coyote	37.9	37.1	34.7	39.8	39.8	35.5
Dog	1.1	1.2	1.9	1.5	2.9	1.3
Mountain Lion	4.8	4.9	9.3	10.5	9.8	10.3
Foxes	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.2	0.8
Wolves	(D)	(D)	0.2	0.7	0.4	(D)
Eagles	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3
Ravens	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.8
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>61.5</b>
Diseases	3.4	3.7	4.0	0.2	0.4	0.8
Enterotoxaemia	1.1	1.2	2.6	0.5	0.6	1.3
Weather Conditions	7.6	7.6	7.9	10.7	11.0	10.5
Lambing Complications	6.4	6.3	7.7	7.1	7.5	7.3
Old Age	3.4	3.4	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.3
On Back	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.5
Poison	3.0	2.9	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.5
Theft	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.8	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	17.2	18.3	11.9	8.0	8.0	13.5
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>38.5</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total Loss as a Percent of Supply <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause</b>	<b>1,000 dollars</b>					
Bear	538	547	461	475	532	642
Bobcat	91	94	98	126	146	66
Coyote	2,988	2,838	2,541	2,727	3,480	2,443
Dog	93	99	145	106	271	87
Mountain Lion	388	390	705	721	851	724
Foxes	126	108	114	142	179	50
Wolves	(D)	(D)	16	53	33	(D)
Eagles	142	144	130	95	114	83
Ravens	53	36	49	63	65	50
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	111	81	86	74	109	116
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>4,581</b>	<b>5,779</b>	<b>4,259</b>
Diseases	273	283	301	21	38	64
Enterotoxaemia	91	94	194	32	54	87
Weather Conditions	590	567	573	721	943	703
Lambing Complications	516	502	581	495	662	512
Old Age	298	312	340	255	305	191
On Back	20	22	21	64	65	43
Poison	250	250	278	212	234	198
Theft	18	18	21	32	71	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	1,369	1,422	884	542	688	924
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>2,722</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>7,953</b>	<b>7,805</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>8,838</b>	<b>6,980</b>

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

<sup>1</sup> Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

<sup>2</sup> Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

<sup>3</sup> Supply equals beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> inventory plus lamb crop plus before docking death loss.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Losses of Sheep, by Cause: Utah, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	1,100	1,000	1,100	900	800	1,000
Bobcat	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	2,800	2,400	2,400	2,900	3,300	2,100
Dog	200	200	300	200	500	100
Mountain Lion	700	700	1,100	800	700	1,000
Foxes	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	200	200	100	200	200	(D)
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,200</b>
Diseases	300	300	500	100	100	300
Enterotoxaemia	100	100	300	(D)	100	100
Weather Conditions	200	200	400	500	600	200
Lambing Complications	900	800	900	700	800	700
Old Age	1,500	1,400	1,600	1,200	1,400	900
On Back	100	100	100	300	300	200
Poison	900	800	1,000	700	700	700
Theft	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	100	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	1,800	1,700	1,100	400	400	700
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	12.5
Bobcat	0.9	1.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	25.5	24.0	21.8	32.2	33.0	26.3
Dog	1.8	2.0	2.7	2.2	5.0	1.3
Mountain Lion	6.4	7.0	10.0	8.9	7.0	12.5
Foxes	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.1	(D)	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	1.8	2.0	0.9	2.2	2.0	(D)
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>
Diseases	2.7	3.0	4.5	1.1	1.0	3.8
Enterotoxaemia	0.9	1.0	2.7	(D)	1.0	1.3
Weather Conditions	1.8	2.0	3.6	5.6	6.0	2.5
Lambing Complications	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.8	8.0	8.8
Old Age	13.6	14.0	14.5	13.3	14.0	11.3
On Back	0.9	1.0	0.9	3.3	3.0	2.5
Poison	8.2	8.0	9.1	7.8	7.0	8.8
Theft	(D)	(D)	0.9	(D)	1.0	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	16.4	17.0	10.0	4.4	4.0	8.8
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>47.5</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause</b>	<b>1,000 dollars</b>					
Bear	218	223	234	191	174	213
Bobcat	20	22	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	556	534	510	616	718	446
Dog	40	45	64	43	109	21
Mountain Lion	139	156	234	170	152	213
Foxes	20	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	21	(D)	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	40	45	21	43	44	(D)
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>893</b>
Diseases	60	67	106	21	22	64
Enterotoxaemia	20	22	64	(D)	22	21
Weather Conditions	40	45	85	106	131	43
Lambing Complications	179	178	191	149	174	149
Old Age	298	312	340	255	305	191
On Back	20	22	21	64	65	43
Poison	179	178	213	149	152	149
Theft	(D)	(D)	21	(D)	22	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	357	378	234	85	87	149
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>808</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>1,700</b>

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

<sup>1</sup> Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

## Losses of All Lambs, by Cause: Utah, 2014-2019 <sup>1</sup>

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	1,800	1,800	1,400	1,800	2,200	2,600
Bobcat	400	400	600	800	900	400
Coyote	13,700	12,800	12,500	13,400	17,000	12,100
Dog	300	300	500	400	1,000	400
Mountain Lion	1,400	1,300	2,900	3,500	4,300	3,100
Foxes	600	600	700	900	1,100	300
Wolves	(D)	(D)	100	200	200	(D)
Eagles	800	800	800	600	700	500
Ravens	300	200	300	400	400	300
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	400	200	400	200	400	700
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>28,200</b>	<b>20,400</b>
Diseases	1,200	1,200	1,200	(D)	100	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	400	400	800	200	200	400
Weather Conditions	3,100	2,900	3,000	3,900	5,000	4,000
Lambing Complications	1,900	1,800	2,400	2,200	3,000	2,200
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	400	400	400	400	500	300
Theft	100	100	(D)	200	300	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	5,700	5,800	4,000	2,900	3,700	4,700
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>11,600</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	5.5	5.8	4.4	5.6	5.4	8.1
Bobcat	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.5	2.2	1.3
Coyote	42.2	41.3	39.1	41.9	41.5	37.8
Dog	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.3	2.4	1.3
Mountain Lion	4.3	4.2	9.1	10.9	10.5	9.7
Foxes	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.7	0.9
Wolves	(D)	(D)	0.3	0.6	0.5	(D)
Eagles	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.6
Ravens	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.6	1.0	2.2
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>63.8</b>
Diseases	3.7	3.9	3.8	(D)	0.2	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	1.2	1.3	2.5	0.6	0.5	1.3
Weather Conditions	9.5	9.4	9.4	12.2	12.2	12.5
Lambing Complications	5.8	5.8	7.5	6.9	7.3	6.9
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.9
Theft	0.3	0.3	(D)	0.6	0.7	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	17.5	18.7	12.5	9.1	9.0	14.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>36.3</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause</b>	<b>1,000 dollars</b>					
Bear	320	324	228	284	358	429
Bobcat	71	72	98	126	146	66
Coyote	2,432	2,304	2,031	2,111	2,763	1,997
Dog	53	54	81	63	163	66
Mountain Lion	249	234	471	551	699	512
Foxes	107	108	114	142	179	50
Wolves	(D)	(D)	16	32	33	(D)
Eagles	142	144	130	95	114	83
Ravens	53	36	49	63	65	50
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	71	36	65	32	65	116
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,312</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>4,583</b>	<b>3,366</b>
Diseases	213	216	195	(D)	16	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	71	72	130	32	33	66
Weather Conditions	550	522	488	614	813	660
Lambing Complications	337	324	390	347	488	363
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	71	72	65	63	81	50
Theft	18	18	(D)	32	49	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	1,012	1,044	650	457	601	776
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>1,914</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>5,580</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>6,663</b>	<b>5,280</b>

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

<sup>1</sup> Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

<sup>2</sup> Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.