



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 15, 2019

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## UTAH SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 2018

Utah sheep and lamb producers lost 51,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2018, representing a total value of \$8.84 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 10,000 head more than last year and the total value of inventory lost was 30 percent more than a year ago. The January 1, 2018 inventory was 275,000 head. The lamb crop for 2018 was 235,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2018 was 20,000 head. Sheep and lamb deaths for 2018 amounted to 9.6 percent of the 2018 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 33,700 head, up 6,400 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 28,200 head, up 27 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 5,500 head, up 400 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$5.78 million in losses in 2018, up 29 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 6.7 percent of the 2018 sheep and lamb supply and 66.1 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 60 percent of the predator caused losses and 40 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$3.48 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$3.06 million in 2018, compared with \$2.30 million in 2017. Non-predatory losses accounted for 34 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was due to weather conditions at 5,600 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 4,500 head, up 15 percent from 2017. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 12,800 head, 3,000 head more than a year ago.

Lambs lost to all unknown causes totaled 4,100 head, compared with 3,100 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 600 sheep, unchanged 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, 2013-2018

Cause of Loss	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	200	100	100	100	200	200
Bobcat	200	200	200	300	400	500
Coyote	5,800	5,200	5,000	5,500	5,700	6,900
Dog	300	100	100	200	200	500
Mountain Lion	500	500	500	500	700	800
Foxes	200	400	400	500	400	500
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Eagles	400	700	700	700	500	600
Ravens	100	300	200	300	400	400
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	200	100	100	200	100	200
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>10,600</b>
Diseases	700	1,100	1,100	900	(D)	(D)
Enterotoxaemia	200	200	200	300	100	100
Weather Conditions	2,800	2,700	2,500	2,600	3,000	3,800
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,900	1,800	2,400	2,200	3,000
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	100	100	100	100	(D)	(D)
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	100
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	1,500	2,900	3,000	2,400	2,000	2,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

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## Losses of Lambs After Docking, by Cause: Utah, 2013-2018

Cause of Loss	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,300	1,600	2,000
Bobcat	100	200	200	300	400	400
Coyote	9,400	8,500	7,800	7,000	7,700	10,100
Dog	500	200	200	300	200	500
Mountain Lion	1,700	900	800	2,400	2,800	3,500
Foxes	(D)	200	200	200	500	600
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	200	200
Eagles	300	100	100	100	100	100
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	400	300	100	200	100	200
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>17,600</b>
Diseases	600	100	100	300	(D)	100
Enterotoxaemia	100	200	200	500	100	100
Weather Conditions	600	400	400	400	900	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	100	300	300	300	400	500
Theft	300	100	100	(D)	100	200
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	2,200	2,800	2,800	1,600	900	1,300
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>21,000</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, 2013-2018 <sup>1</sup>

Cause of Loss	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	2,700	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,700	3,000
Bobcat	300	500	500	600	800	900
Coyote	18,400	16,500	15,200	14,900	16,300	20,300
Dog	1,200	500	500	800	600	1,500
Mountain Lion	2,900	2,100	2,000	4,000	4,300	5,000
Foxes	200	700	600	700	900	1,100
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	300	200
Eagles	700	800	800	800	600	700
Ravens	100	300	200	300	400	400
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	900	600	400	500	400	600
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>27,300</b>	<b>33,700</b>
Diseases	2,100	1,500	1,500	1,700	100	200
Enterotoxaemia	500	500	500	1,100	200	300
Weather Conditions	5,100	3,300	3,100	3,400	4,400	5,600
Lambing Complications	1,900	2,800	2,600	3,300	2,900	3,800
Old Age	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,600	1,200	1,400
On Back	(D)	100	100	100	300	300
Poison	900	1,300	1,200	1,400	1,100	1,200
Theft	300	100	100	100	200	400
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	5,600	7,500	7,500	5,100	3,300	4,100
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>17,300</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	5.9	6.7	6.8	5.8	6.6	5.9
Bobcat	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.8
Coyote	40.4	37.9	37.1	34.7	39.8	39.8
Dog	2.6	1.1	1.2	1.9	1.5	2.9
Mountain Lion	6.4	4.8	4.9	9.3	10.5	9.8
Foxes	0.4	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.2
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.2	0.7	0.4
Eagles	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.4
Ravens	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.8
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	2.0	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.2
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>66.1</b>
Diseases	4.6	3.4	3.7	4.0	0.2	0.4
Enterotoxaemia	1.1	1.1	1.2	2.6	0.5	0.6
Weather Conditions	11.2	7.6	7.6	7.9	10.7	11.0
Lambing Complications	4.2	6.4	6.3	7.7	7.1	7.5
Old Age	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.7	2.9	2.8
On Back	(D)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6
Poison	2.0	3.0	2.9	3.3	2.7	2.4
Theft	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.8
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	12.3	17.2	18.3	11.9	8.0	8.0
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.9</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>8.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause</b>	<b>1,000 dollars</b>					
Bear	434	538	547	461	475	532
Bobcat	47	91	94	98	126	146
Coyote	2,925	2,988	2,838	2,541	2,727	3,480
Dog	194	93	99	145	106	271
Mountain Lion	464	388	390	705	721	851
Foxes	31	126	108	114	142	179
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	16	53	33
Eagles	109	142	144	130	95	114
Ravens	16	53	36	49	63	65
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	146	111	81	86	74	109
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>4,366</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>4,581</b>	<b>5,779</b>
Diseases	341	273	283	301	21	38
Enterotoxaemia	82	91	94	194	32	54
Weather Conditions	824	590	567	573	721	943
Lambing Complications	307	516	502	581	495	662
Old Age	294	298	312	340	255	305
On Back	(D)	20	22	21	64	65
Poison	152	250	250	278	212	234
Theft	47	18	18	21	32	71
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	906	1,369	1,422	884	542	688
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>2,953</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>3,059</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>7,319</b>	<b>7,953</b>	<b>7,805</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>8,838</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, 2013-2018

Cause of Loss	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	800	1,100	1,000	1,100	900	800
Bobcat	(D)	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	3,200	2,800	2,400	2,400	2,900	3,300
Dog	400	200	200	300	200	500
Mountain Lion	700	700	700	1,100	800	700
Foxes	(D)	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	300	200	200	100	200	200
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,500</b>
Diseases	800	300	300	500	100	100
Enterotoxaemia	200	100	100	300	(D)	100
Weather Conditions	1,700	200	200	400	500	600
Lambing Complications	600	900	800	900	700	800
Old Age	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,600	1,200	1,400
On Back	(D)	100	100	100	300	300
Poison	700	900	800	1,000	700	700
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	100
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	1,900	1,800	1,700	1,100	400	400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	6.2	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.0
Bobcat	(D)	0.9	1.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	24.6	25.5	24.0	21.8	32.2	33.0
Dog	3.1	1.8	2.0	2.7	2.2	5.0
Mountain Lion	5.4	6.4	7.0	10.0	8.9	7.0
Foxes	(D)	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.1	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	2.3	1.8	2.0	0.9	2.2	2.0
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>55.0</b>
Diseases	6.2	2.7	3.0	4.6	1.1	1.0
Enterotoxaemia	1.5	0.9	1.0	2.7	(D)	1.0
Weather Conditions	13.1	1.8	2.0	3.6	5.6	6.0
Lambing Complications	4.6	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.8	8.0
Old Age	13.1	13.6	14.0	14.6	13.3	14.0
On Back	(D)	0.9	1.0	0.9	3.3	3.0
Poison	5.4	8.2	8.0	9.1	7.8	7.0
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.9	(D)	1.0
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	14.6	16.4	17.0	10.0	4.4	4.0
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>45.0</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	138	218	223	234	191	174
Bobcat	(D)	20	22	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	554	556	534	510	616	718
Dog	69	40	45	64	43	109
Mountain Lion	121	139	156	234	170	152
Foxes	(D)	20	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	21	(D)
Eagles	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ravens	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	52	40	45	21	43	44
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,196</b>
Diseases	138	60	67	106	21	22
Enterotoxaemia	35	20	22	64	(D)	22
Weather Conditions	294	40	45	85	106	131
Lambing Complications	104	179	178	191	149	174
Old Age	294	298	312	340	255	305
On Back	(D)	20	22	21	64	65
Poison	121	179	178	213	149	152
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	21	(D)	22
Other/Unknown <sup>1</sup>	329	357	378	234	85	87
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>979</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>2,225</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>2,175</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, 2013-2018 <sup>1</sup>

Cause of Loss	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Number of Head</b>	<b>Head</b>					
Bear	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,400	1,800	2,200
Bobcat	300	400	400	600	800	900
Coyote	15,200	13,700	12,800	12,500	13,400	17,000
Dog	800	300	300	500	400	1,000
Mountain Lion	2,200	1,400	1,300	2,900	3,500	4,300
Foxes	200	600	600	700	900	1,100
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	200	200
Eagles	700	800	800	800	600	700
Ravens	100	300	200	300	400	400
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	600	400	200	400	200	400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>28,200</b>
Diseases	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	(D)	100
Enterotoxaemia	300	400	400	800	200	200
Weather Conditions	3,400	3,100	2,900	3,000	3,900	5,000
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,900	1,800	2,400	2,200	3,000
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	200	400	400	400	400	500
Theft	300	100	100	(D)	200	300
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	3,700	5,700	5,800	4,000	2,900	3,700
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>12,800</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Bear	5.8	5.5	5.8	4.4	5.6	5.4
Bobcat	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.5	2.2
Coyote	46.8	42.2	41.3	39.1	41.9	41.5
Dog	2.5	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.3	2.4
Mountain Lion	6.8	4.3	4.2	9.1	10.9	10.5
Foxes	0.6	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.7
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.3	0.6	0.5
Eagles	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.7
Ravens	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.0
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	1.8	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.6	1.0
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>68.8</b>
Diseases	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.8	(D)	0.2
Enterotoxaemia	0.9	1.2	1.3	2.5	0.6	0.5
Weather Conditions	10.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	12.2	12.2
Lambing Complications	4.0	5.8	5.8	7.5	6.9	7.3
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Theft	0.9	0.3	0.3	(D)	0.6	0.7
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	11.4	17.5	18.7	12.5	9.1	9.0
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>31.2</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	296	320	324	228	284	358
Bobcat	47	71	72	98	126	146
Coyote	2,371	2,432	2,304	2,031	2,111	2,763
Dog	125	53	54	81	63	163
Mountain Lion	343	249	234	471	551	699
Foxes	31	107	108	114	142	179
Wolves	(D)	(D)	(D)	16	32	33
Eagles	109	142	144	130	95	114
Ravens	16	53	36	49	63	65
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	94	71	36	65	32	65
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>3,432</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,312</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>4,583</b>
Diseases	203	213	216	195	(D)	16
Enterotoxaemia	47	71	72	130	32	33
Weather Conditions	530	550	522	488	614	813
Lambing Complications	203	337	324	390	347	488
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	31	71	72	65	63	81
Theft	47	18	18	(D)	32	49
Other/Unknown <sup>2</sup>	577	1,012	1,044	650	457	601
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>2,080</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>5,580</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>6,663</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.