



South Dakota CATTLE PREDATOR LOSS

News Release

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SIoux FALLS, May 7, 2001 – Cattle and calf losses from animal predators in South Dakota totaled 3,000 head during 2000, according to the USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This resulted in a loss to South Dakota farmers and ranchers of \$1.2 million. The previous survey from 1995 showed 2,800 head cattle and calves lost to predators that year.

Coyotes caused the majority of cattle and calf losses to predators. They accounted for 97 percent of the total head lost. Of the 3,000 head lost in 2000, 400 head, or 13 percent, were cattle over 500 pounds and 2,600 (87 percent) were calves. Nationally, 14 percent of all cattle and calves lost to predators were over 500 pounds.

Of the \$1.2 million lost due to predators, 28 percent, or \$327,000, were from cattle losses. The remaining \$842,000 were from calf losses.

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