



# SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES 2006

February 16, 2007

Dear Data Users,

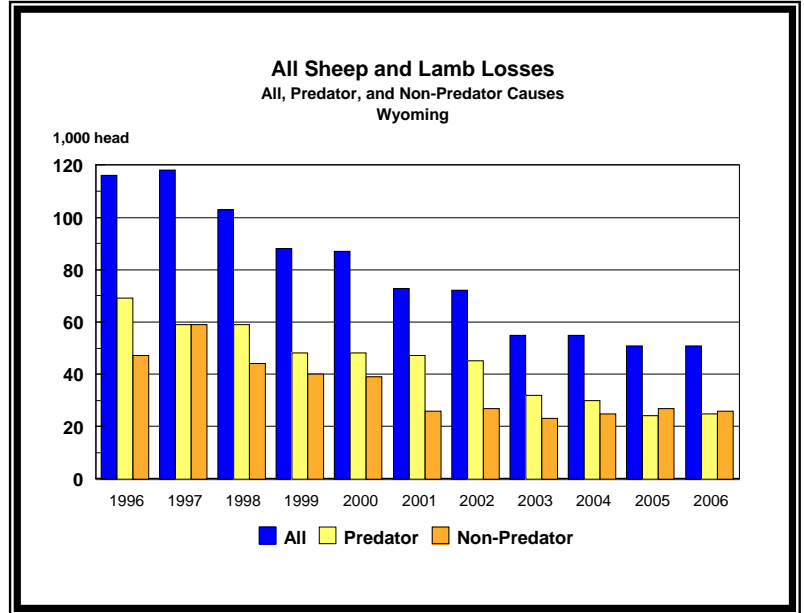
Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 51,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2006 according to our annual survey. Total losses were unchanged from the previous year. Predators accounted for 48 percent of the losses. The 2005 lamb crop totaled 310,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was up 10,000 from 2005. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 333,000 head. Of these, 40,000 or 12 percent were lost to various causes, down slightly from 2005.

These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep and Goat Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency to provide statistics for Wyoming agriculture.

If you have any question about this report please call us toll-free at 1-800-892-1660.

Sincerely,

Jerry Thorson  
Deputy Director



## HIGHLIGHTS

**PREDATOR LOSSES HIGHER:** Wyoming sheep producers lost 24,600 sheep and lambs to predators in 2006, up 2 percent from 2005. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 70 percent of the total predator losses and 34 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes decreased by 600 head to 26,400.

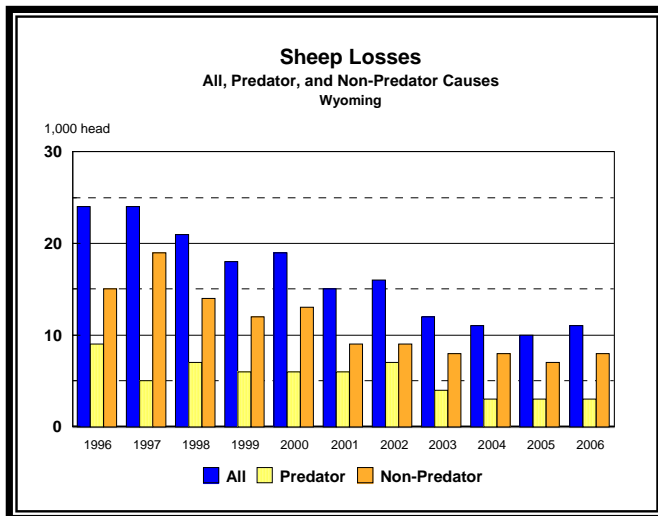
**NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES LOWER:** Sheep producers lost 40,000 lambs before or after docking in 2006, down 1,000 head (2 percent) from 2005. Losses to predators accounted for 54 percent of the total or 21,600 head, up 600 from 2005. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were down 1,600 head to 18,400.

**SHEEP LOSSES EDGE HIGHER:** Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2006 totaled 11,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2005. Predator losses were unchanged at 3,000 while non-predator losses were up 1,000 head to 8,000.

**VALUE OF LOSSES UP 2 PERCENT:** Sheep producers lost an estimated \$4.20 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2006, down 5 percent from the previous year as prices were lower. Predation accounted for \$1.83 million or 44 percent of the total

**Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2005 and 2006**

Cause of Loss	2005		2006	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	1,800	18.0	2,100	19.1
Bobcats	0	—	100	0.9
Dogs	100	1.0	100	0.9
Bears	500	5.0	400	3.6
Eagles	0	—	0	—
Fox	0	—	0	—
Mountain Lions	300	3.0	200	1.8
Wolves	200	2.0	100	0.9
Other Predators	100	1.0	0	—
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>27.2</b>
Weather	600	6.0	800	7.3
Disease 1/	1,000	10.0	700	6.4
Lambing Complications	1,900	19.0	1,700	15.5
Poison	1,100	11.0	1,300	11.8
Old Age	1,500	15.0	2,200	20.0
On Back	400	4.0	800	7.3
Theft	100	1.0	200	1.8
Other Causes	400	4.0	300	2.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>72.8</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2005 and 2006**

Cause of Loss	2005				2006			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	5,800	8,000	13,800	33.7	7,000	8,100	15,100	37.8
Bobcats	400	200	600	1.5	400	100	500	1.3
Dogs	100	100	200	.5	100	300	400	1.0
Bears	100	700	800	2.0	200	700	900	2.2
Eagles	1,200	500	1,700	4.1	1,400	400	1,800	4.5
Fox	1,300	500	1,800	4.4	1,000	400	1,400	3.5
Mountain Lions	200	700	900	2.2	400	500	900	2.2
Wolves	500	300	800	2.0	100	100	200	0.5
Other Predators	400	0	400	1.0	400	0	400	1.0
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>54.0</b>
Weather	7,600	900	8,500	20.7	4,800	1,600	6,400	16.0
Disease 1/	1,100	2,100	3,200	7.8	1,100	2,400	3,500	8.7
Lambing	5,200	0	5,200	12.7	5,200	0	5,200	13.0
Poison	400	1,300	1,700	4.1	200	800	1,000	2.5
On Back	100	0	100	.2	100	0	100	0.3
Theft	0	100	100	.2	0	100	100	0.3
Other Causes	600	600	1,200	2.9	600	1,500	2,100	5.2
<b>Total Non Predators</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2002-2006 3/**

Cause of Loss	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	29,900	41.5	20,900	38.0	19,700	35.8	15,600	30.6	17,200	33.7
Bobcats	600	.8	700	1.3	300	.5	600	1.2	600	1.2
Dogs	600	.8	400	.7	500	.9	300	.6	500	1.0
Bears	600	.8	1,900	3.5	1,000	1.8	1,300	2.5	1,300	2.5
Eagles	6,400	8.9	3,800	6.9	3,500	6.4	1,700	3.3	1,800	3.5
Fox	3,200	4.4	2,200	4.0	2,700	4.9	1,800	3.5	1,400	2.7
Mountain Lions	3,100	4.3	900	1.6	1,400	2.5	1,200	2.4	1,100	2.2
Wolves 4/	—	—	400	.7	200	.4	1,000	2.0	300	0.6
Ravens 2/	—	—	—	—	400	.7	—	—	—	—
Other Predators	600	.8	800	1.5	300	.5	500	1.0	400	0.8
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>48.2</b>
Weather	7,000	9.7	5,600	10.2	6,600	12.0	9,100	17.8	7,200	14.1
Disease 1/	4,900	6.8	3,300	6.0	5,700	10.4	4,200	8.2	4,200	8.2
Lambing Complications	6,100	8.5	5,500	10.0	6,700	12.2	7,100	13.9	6,900	13.5
Poison	3,000	4.2	2,300	4.2	2,000	3.6	2,800	5.5	2,300	4.5
Old Age	2,400	3.3	2,100	3.8	1,900	3.5	1,500	2.9	2,200	4.3
On Back	1,100	1.5	700	1.3	700	1.3	500	1.0	900	1.8
Theft	400	.6	500	.9	300	.5	200	.4	300	0.6
Other Causes	2,100	2.9	3,000	5.5	1,100	2.0	1,600	3.1	2,400	4.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>26,400</b>	<b>51.8</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating) which in 2005 accounted for deaths of 400 lambs before docking, 800 after docking, and 100 sheep.

2/ Included in "Other Predators" except in 2004.

3/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

4/ Included in "Other Predators" for 2001-2002.

**Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2005 and 2006 1/ 2/**

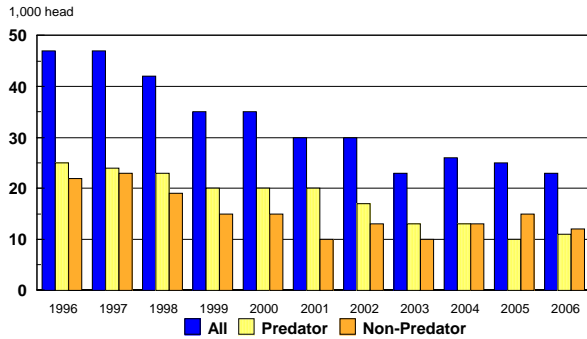
Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Coyotes	257,400	311,900	1,001,900	969,400	1,259,300	1,281,300
Bobcats	0	14,900	43,600	32,100	43,600	47,000
Dogs	14,300	14,900	14,500	25,700	28,800	40,600
Bears	71,500	59,400	58,100	57,800	129,600	117,200
Eagles	0	0	123,400	115,600	123,400	115,600
Fox	0	0	130,700	89,900	130,700	89,900
Mountain Lions	42,900	29,700	65,300	57,800	108,200	87,500
Wolves	28,600	14,900	58,100	12,800	86,700	27,700
Other Predators	14,300	0	29,000	25,700	43,300	25,700
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>429,000</b>	<b>445,700</b>	<b>1,524,600</b>	<b>1,386,800</b>	<b>1,953,600</b>	<b>1,832,500</b>
Weather	85,800	118,800	617,100	410,900	702,900	529,700
Disease 3/	143,000	104,000	232,300	224,700	375,300	328,700
Lambing Complications	271,700	252,500	377,500	333,800	649,200	586,300
Poison	157,300	193,100	123,400	64,200	280,700	257,300
Old Age	214,500	326,700	0	0	214,500	326,700
On Back	57,200	118,800	7,300	6,400	64,500	125,200
Theft	14,300	29,700	7,300	6,400	21,600	36,100
Other Causes	57,200	44,600	87,100	134,800	144,300	179,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,001,000</b>	<b>1,188,200</b>	<b>1,452,000</b>	<b>1,181,200</b>	<b>2,453,000</b>	<b>2,369,400</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>1,430,000</b>	<b>1,633,900</b>	<b>2,976,600</b>	<b>2,568,000</b>	<b>4,406,600</b>	<b>4,201,900</b>

1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

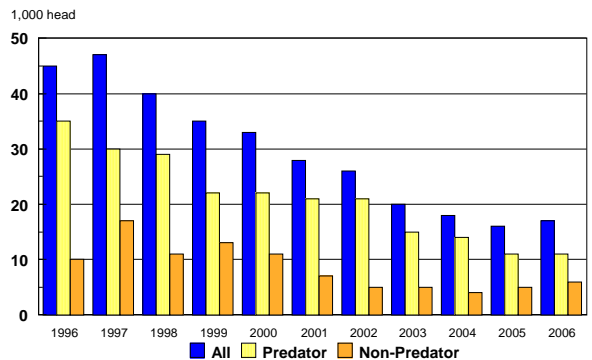
2/Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Two year average sheep value 2004-\$120.00, 2005-\$143.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2004-\$68.40, preliminary 2005-\$72.60.

3/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating) which in 2005 had sheep losses valued at \$14,300 and lamb losses valued at \$87,100

**Lamb Losses Before Docking**  
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes  
Wyoming



**Lamb Losses After Docking**  
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes  
Wyoming



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**Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2006 1/**

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Coyotes	2,100	4,200	3,600	3,200	4,100	17,200
Bobcats	100	200	100	—	200	600
Dogs	—	200	200	100	—	500
Bears	100	300	600	300	—	1,300
Eagles	200	600	200	400	400	1,800
Fox	100	500	500	100	200	1,400
Mountain Lions	200	500	—	200	200	1,100
Wolves	100	—	100	100	—	300
Other Predators	—	—	200	200	—	400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>24,600</b>
Weather	1,300	2,200	1,200	700	1,800	7,200
Disease	1,100	900	1,100	500	600	4,200
Lambing Complications	1,700	2,100	800	900	1,400	6,900
Poison	100	700	800	400	300	2,300
Old Age	500	500	400	200	600	2,200
On Back	100	300	200	100	200	900
Theft	—	100	200	—	—	300
All Other Causes	500	900	600	100	300	2,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>26,400</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>51,000</b>

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating)

**Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2006 1/**

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent					
Coyotes	25.6	29.6	33.3	42.7	39.8	33.7
Bobcats	1.2	1.4	0.9	—	1.9	1.2
Dogs	—	1.4	1.9	1.3	—	1.0
Bears	1.2	2.1	5.5	4.0	—	2.6
Eagles	4.8	3.7	1.2	4.3	2.7	3.3
Fox	1.2	3.5	4.6	1.3	1.9	2.7
Mountain Lions	2.5	3.5	—	2.7	1.9	2.2
Wolves	1.2	—	0.9	1.3	—	0.6
Other Predators	—	—	1.9	2.7	—	0.8
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>48.3</b>
Weather	15.9	15.5	11.1	9.4	17.5	14.1
Disease	13.4	6.3	10.2	6.6	5.9	8.2
Lambing Complications	20.7	14.8	7.4	12.1	13.6	13.5
Poison	1.2	4.9	7.4	5.3	2.9	4.5
Old Age	6.1	3.5	3.7	2.7	5.9	4.3
On Back	1.2	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.9	1.8
Theft	—	0.7	1.9	—	—	0.6
All Other Causes	6.1	6.4	5.5	1.3	2.9	4.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</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>

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating)