

COLORADO CATTLE AND CALF DEATH LOSS SURVEY - 1991



COLORADO
Agricultural
Statistics Service

P. O. Box 150969
Lakewood, Colorado 80215
Phone (303) 236-2300

SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

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A total of 115,000 head of cattle and calves valued at \$60.4 million were lost during 1991 in Colorado, according to a recent survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was conducted in January 1992 in a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and APHIS - Animal Damage Control and APHIS - National Animal Health Monitoring System.

Of the 115,000 head of cattle and calves lost during calendar year 1991, there were 3,100 head or nearly 3 percent of the deaths reported as caused by predators. Those predator losses cost Colorado ranchers and farmers an estimated \$1.2 million last year. Coyotes were the largest cause of cattle and calf predator losses, claiming 2,600 head or 83.9 percent of the total loss to predators. The value of the coyote losses was placed at nearly one million dollars. Dogs were the second leading cause of predator losses, followed closely by mountain lions and bobcats.

Losses from all causes other than predators totaled 111,900 head which were valued at \$59.2 million during calendar year 1991. Respiratory problems were the leading cause of animal deaths accounting for 41.3 percent of total deaths. The second leading cause of death was attributed to digestive problems with 15.5 percent of the total. Calving problems were responsible for 9.8 percent of the total deaths, 5.3 percent of the total losses were attributed to weather, and 5.2 percent of the losses were caused by poisoning. Winter storms and lightning caused most of the weather losses while toxic plants and weeds were largely responsible for the poisoning deaths.

The results of this survey are based on responses from a random sample of Colorado ranchers, farmers, and feedlot operators who were asked to report death losses of cattle and calves on their operation for the 1991 calendar year.

Table 1: Losses and value of losses, cattle and calves, Colorado, 1991

Class	Total			Predators		Other Causes	
	All Losses	Value Per Hd.	Total Value	Losses	Total Value	Losses	Total Value
	Head	Dollars	1,000 Dol	Head	1,000 Dol	Head	1,000 Dol
Cattle	55,000	705	38,775	200	140	54,800	38,635
Calves	60,000	360	21,600	2,900	1,045	57,100	20,555
Total	115,000	525	60,375	3,100	1,185	111,900	59,190

(Additional tables on reverse side)

ISSUED COOPERATIVELY BY:
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
and
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS

Table 2: Losses of cattle and calves by cause, Colorado, 1991

Cause	Cattle Losses		Calf Losses		Total Losses	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent
Respiratory Problems	27,100	49.3	20,400	34.0	47,500	41.3
Digestive Problems	6,600	12.0	11,200	18.7	17,800	15.5
Calving Problems	3,100	5.6	8,200	13.7	11,300	9.8
Weather	2,500	4.5	3,600	6.0	6,100	5.3
Poison	5,100	9.3	900	1.5	6,000	5.2
Predators	200	.4	2,900	4.8	3,100	2.7
Theft	400	.7	400	.7	800	.7
All Other & Unknown	10,000	18.2	12,400	20.6	22,400	19.5
All Losses	55,000	100.0	60,000	100.0	115,000	100.0

Table 3: Predator losses of cattle and calves, Colorado and United States, 1991

Area	All Predators			Coyotes				
	Cattle	Calves	Total Value	Cattle	% of Total	Calves	% of Total	
	Head	Head	Dollars	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	
Colorado	200	2,900	1,185,000	100	50.0	2,500	86.2	
United States	15,900	90,500	41,540,000	5,900	37.1	60,000	66.3	
Area	Dogs				Mountain Lions And Bobcats			
	Cattle	% of Total	Calves	% of Total	Cattle	% of Total	Calves	% of Total
	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent
Colorado	---	---	200	6.9	1/	---	100	3.4
United States	2,800	17.6	16,800	18.6	1,600	10.1	4,700	5.2
Area	All Other Predators							
	Cattle	% of Total	Calves	% of Total				
	Head	Percent	Head	Percent				
Colorado	1/	---	1/	---				
United States	4,600	28.9	6,300	7.0				

1/ Less than 100 head for the state but number is included in the U.S. total.