



COLORADO CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES -- 1995

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COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 105,000 head of cattle and calves valued at \$47.9 million were lost from all causes during 1995 in Colorado, according to a recent survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was conducted in January 1996 in a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and APHIS - Animal Damage Control and APHIS - National Animal Health Monitoring System. A similar survey for 1991 indicated that Colorado losses in 1991 totaled 115,000 head valued at \$60.4 million.

Predators were responsible for the loss of 3,900 head of cattle and calves in Colorado (3.7 percent of the total losses) in 1995 compared with 3,100 head (2.7 percent of the total) in 1991. There were 400 head of cattle lost to predators during 1995 compared with only 200 in 1991. Predators also claimed 3,500 head of calves in 1995 compared with 2,900 in 1991. The value of the cattle losses by predators was \$242 thousand in 1995 compared with \$140 thousand in 1991 and calf losses were valued at \$ 1.21 million and \$1.05 million in 1995 and 1991, respectively. The combined value of cattle and calf losses, at \$1.45 million in 1995, was up from \$1.19 million in 1991. Coyotes were the major cause of cattle and calf losses to predators, accounting for 25 percent of the cattle losses and nearly 86 percent of the calf losses. Mountain lions and bobcats claimed 5.7 percent of the calf losses by predators, with the remaining losses occurring from dogs and other predators.

Colorado losses from all causes other than predators totaled 101,100 head in 1995 compared with 111,900 in 1991. The 1995 losses were valued at \$46.5 million, down from \$59.2 million in 1991. There were 44,600 head of cattle valued at \$26.98 million and 56,500 head of calves valued at \$19.49 million lost from all causes other than predators in 1995. Each of these was lower than the value losses in 1991. Even though they were well below the 1991 survey, respiratory problems were the leading cause of all losses, claiming 28.4 percent of the cattle deaths and 24.8 percent of the calf losses. The total respiratory losses of 27,700 head represented 26.4 percent of the total, compared with 41.3 percent in 1991. Digestive problems were the second leading cause of cattle and calf losses, accounting for 16,700 head or 15.9 percent of the total. Calving problems resulted in 10,500 deaths (10.0 percent of the total), weather was responsible for 9,800 deaths (9.3 percent), and 1,600 head (1.5 percent) were lost from poison. With predator losses accounting for 3.7 percent of the total, the remaining 33.1 percent was lost from all other and unknown causes.

UNITES STATES HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 4.38 million head of cattle and calves were lost from all causes during 1995 in the United States. This estimate excludes Alaska. Predators accounted for 117,400 head or 2.7 percent, while other causes made up the remainder. These total losses cost ranchers and farmers a total of \$1.80 billion with predator losses at \$39.6 million (2.2 percent of the total) and other losses at \$1.76 billion (97.8 percent). A similar survey for 1991 indicated that 4.37 million head of cattle and calves were lost in that year and the total value of the losses was \$2.11 billion.

Coyotes were the largest cause of cattle and calf predator losses at 69,350 head or 59 percent of the total loss to predators. The value of coyote losses was \$21.8 million. Dogs were the second leading cause of predator losses, accounting for 19 percent of predator losses. The western and mountain region accounted for 67 percent of all predator losses. Respiratory problems lead the non-predator death causes, accounting for 28 percent of the total non-predator deaths. The value of these losses was \$478 million. The second leading non-predator cause of deaths in cattle and calves was digestive problems with 20 percent of the total non-predator deaths. The value of these losses was \$316 million.

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**Losses of Cattle and Calves from All Causes, Percent of Total Deaths, and Value of Losses,
Colorado and United States, 1995 1/**

Cause	Colorado			United States		
	Number of head	% of total deaths	Total value	Number of head	% of total deaths	Total value
	Head	Percent	\$ 1,000	Head	Percent	\$ 1,000
Coyotes	3,100	2.9	1,096	69,350	1.6	21,798
Dogs	2/	2/	2/	21,800	.5	6,952
Mountain Lions & Bobcats	2/	2/	2/	8,050	.2	2,780
Bears	2/	2/	2/	1,800	*	813
Wolves .....	...	...	...	2,500	.1	891
Other Predators	800	.8	354	13,900	.3	6,328
Total Predators	3,900	3.7	1,450	117,400	2.7	39,562
Respiratory Problems	27,700	26.4	12,885	1,203,350	27.5	478,158
Digestive Problems	16,700	15.9	7,296	863,200	19.7	316,457
Calving Problems	10,500	10.0	4,429	646,925	14.8	270,148
Weather	9,800	9.3	4,083	417,000	9.5	169,073
Poison	1,600	1.5	786	49,300	1.1	24,566
Theft	500	.5	225	19,700	.4	8,285
Other Causes	7,400	7.0	3,827	399,150	9.1	204,055
Unknown Causes	26,900	25.6	12,947	664,375	15.2	291,097
Total Non-Predator Causes	101,100	96.3	46,475	4,263,000	97.3	1,761,839
TOTAL LOSSES	105,000	100.0	47,925	4,380,400	100.0	1,801,402

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in Other Predators. * Less than 0.05 percent.

**Losses of Cattle and Calves from All Causes, Percent of Total Deaths, and Value of Losses,
Colorado and United States, 1991 1/**

Cause	Colorado			United States		
	Number of head	% of total deaths	Total value	Number of head	% of total deaths	Total value
	Head	Percent	\$ 1,000	Head	Percent	\$ 1,000
Coyotes	2,600	2.3	971	65,900	1.5	24,320
Dogs	200	.2	72	19,600	.4	7,560
Mountain Lions & Bobcats	2/	2/	2/	6,300	.1	2,720
Bears	2/	2/	2/	1,900	.1	1,020
Wolves .....	...	...	...	1,800	.1	640
Other Predators	300	.3	143	10,900	.2	5,280
Total Predators	3,100	2.7	1,185	106,400	2.4	41,540
Respiratory Problems	47,500	41.3	26,450	1,358,200	31.1	624,085
Digestive Problems	17,800	15.5	8,685	901,600	20.6	394,530
Calving Problems	11,300	9.8	5,138	610,100	14.0	304,535
Weather	6,100	5.3	3,059	283,900	6.5	138,405
Poison	6,000	5.2	3,920	69,600	1.6	41,310
Theft	800	.7	426	32,600	.7	16,570
Other Causes	3/	3/	3/	321,500	7.4	196,215
Unknown Causes	22,400	19.5	11,514	686,500	15.7	349,825
Total Non-Predator Causes	111,900	97.3	59,190	4,264,000	97.6	2,065,475
TOTAL LOSSES	115,000	100.0	60,375	4,370,400	100.0	2,107,015

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in Other Predators. 3/ Included in Unknown Causes.

Cattle and Calf Losses from All Causes and Percent of Total Losses, Colorado and United States, 1995 1/

Cause	Colorado				United States			
	Cattle		Calves		Cattle		Calves	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	100	.2	3,000	5.0	7,650	.5	61,700	2.2
Dogs	2/	2/	100	.2	3,450	.2	18,350	.7
Mountain Lions & Bobcats	2/	2/	200	.3	1,750	.1	6,300	.2
Bears	2/	2/	2/	2/	600	*	1,200	*
Wolves .....	...	...	...	...	600	*	1,900	.1
Other Predators	300	.7	200	.3	7,150	.4	6,750	.2
Total Predators	400	.9	3,500	5.8	21,200	1.3	96,200	3.5
Respiratory Problems	12,800	28.4	14,900	24.8	418,950	25.6	784,400	28.6
Digestive Problems	5,900	13.1	10,800	18.0	197,000	12.0	666,200	24.3
Calving Problems	3,100	6.9	7,400	12.3	246,625	15.1	400,300	14.6
Weather	2,700	6.0	7,100	11.8	134,000	8.2	283,000	10.3
Poison	900	2.0	700	1.2	32,500	2.0	16,800	.6
Theft	200	.4	300	.5	8,000	.5	11,700	.4
Other Causes	4,900	10.9	2,500	4.2	263,350	16.1	135,800	4.9
Unknown Causes	14,100	31.3	12,800	21.3	313,475	19.2	350,900	12.8
Total Non-Predator Causes	44,600	99.1	56,500	94.2	1,613,900	98.7	2,649,100	96.5
TOTAL LOSSES	45,000	100.0	60,000	100.0	1,635,100	100.0	2,745,300	100.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in Other Predators. * Less than 0.05 percent.

Cattle and Calf Losses from All Causes and Percent of Total Losses, Colorado and United States, 1991 1/

Cause	Colorado				United States			
	Cattle		Calves		Cattle		Calves	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	100	.2	2,500	4.2	5,900	.4	60,000	2.2
Dogs .....	...	...	200	.3	2,800	.2	16,800	.6
Mountain Lions & Bobcats	2/	2/	100	.2	1,600	.1	4,700	.2
Bears	2/	2/	2/	2/	900	.1	1,000	*
Wolves .....	...	...	...	...	100	*	1,700	.1
Other Predators	100	.2	100	.2	4,600	.3	6,300	.2
Total Predators	200	.4	2,900	4.8	15,900	1.0	90,500	3.2
Respiratory Problems	27,100	49.3	20,400	34.0	409,800	25.9	948,400	34.0
Digestive Problems	6,600	12.0	11,200	18.7	200,400	12.6	701,200	25.2
Calving Problems	3,100	5.6	8,200	13.7	253,300	16.0	356,800	12.8
Weather	2,500	4.5	3,600	6.0	116,300	7.3	167,600	6.0
Poison	5,100	9.3	900	1.5	49,500	3.1	20,100	.7
Theft	400	.7	400	.7	16,200	1.0	16,400	.6
Other Causes	3/	3/	3/	3/	216,100	13.6	105,400	3.8
Unknown Causes	10,000	18.2	12,400	20.7	306,600	19.4	379,900	13.6
Total Non-Predator Causes	54,800	99.6	57,100	95.2	1,568,200	99.0	2,695,800	96.8
TOTAL LOSSES	55,000	100.0	60,000	100.0	1,584,100	100.0	2,786,300	100.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in Other Predators. 3/ Included in Unknown Causes. * Less than 0.05 percent.

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**Predator Losses of Cattle and Calves and Percent of Total Predator Losses,
 Colorado and United States, 1991 and 1995 ^{1/}**

Predator	Colorado				United States			
	Cattle		Calves		Cattle		Calves	
	1991	1995	1991	1995	1991	1995	1991	1995
	% of Total		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	
Coyotes	50.0	25.0	86.2	85.7	37.1	36.1	66.3	64.1
Dogs .....	...	^{2/}	6.9	2.9	17.6	16.3	18.6	19.1
Mountain Lions & Bobcats ..	^{2/}	^{2/}	3.4	5.7	10.1	8.3	5.2	6.5
Bears	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	5.7	2.8	1.1	1.2
Wolves .....	...	...	...	...	.6	2.8	1.9	2.0
Other Predators	50.0	75.0	3.4	5.7	28.9	33.7	7.0	7.0
TOTAL PREDATORS	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding. ^{2/} Included in Other Predators.

**Non-Predator Losses of Cattle and Calves and Percent of Total Non-Predator Losses,
 Colorado and United States, 1991 and 1995 ^{1/}**

Non-Predator Causes	Colorado				United States			
	Cattle		Calves		Cattle		Calves	
	1991	1995	1991	1995	1991	1995	1991	1995
	% of Total		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	
Respiratory Problems	49.5	28.7	35.7	26.4	26.1	26.0	35.2	29.6
Digestive Problems	12.0	13.2	19.6	19.1	12.8	12.2	26.0	25.1
Calving Problems	5.7	7.0	14.4	13.1	16.2	15.3	13.2	15.1
Weather	4.6	6.1	6.3	12.6	7.4	8.3	6.2	10.7
Poison	9.3	2.0	1.6	1.2	3.2	2.0	.7	.6
Theft .....	.7	.4	.7	.5	1.0	.5	.6	.4
Other Causes	^{2/}	11.0	^{2/}	4.4	13.8	16.3	3.9	5.1
Unknown Causes	18.2	31.6	21.7	22.7	19.6	19.4	14.1	13.2
Total Non-Predators	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding. ^{2/} Included in Unknown Causes.