



COLORADO SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES -- 2005

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Released: February 17, 2006

Colorado farmers and ranchers lost 38,000 head of sheep and lambs to all causes in 2005, representing a total value of \$4.14 million, according to a survey conducted in January 2006 by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. A comparable survey for 2004 indicated that 33,000 head of all sheep and lambs, valued at \$3.23 million, were lost from all causes. The number of head lost was up 15 percent from 2004. The total inventory of all sheep and lambs at the beginning of 2005 was 365,000 head, up 1.3 percent from the total inventory of 360,000 head at the beginning of 2004. Compared with the beginning inventory for 2004, the 190,000 head of breeding sheep and lambs at the beginning of 2005 was up 11 percent from 170,000 head and the inventory of market sheep and lambs, at 200,000 head, was up 5 percent from 190,000 head. The 2005 lamb crop totaled 175,000 head, up 6 percent from the 2004 lamb crop. Total sheep and lamb death losses in 2005 accounted for 6.9 percent of the available supply of animals during the year compared with losses in 2004 representing 6.2 percent of the available supply.

Predators caused an estimated \$1.58 million in losses of sheep and lambs during 2005 compared with a value of \$1.49 million in 2004. They accounted for 14,600 head (38 percent of all losses) in 2005 compared with 15,300 head (46 percent of all losses) in 2004. Predator losses represented 2.6 percent of the available supply in 2005, down from the 2.9 percent of the sheep and lamb supply in 2004. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 12,300 head in 2005 compared to 13,100 head in the previous year. Coyotes, the most damaging predator in each year, were responsible for 63 percent (7,800 head valued at \$783,500) of the lamb losses from predators and 24.2 percent of all lamb losses. Bears and dogs were the next most damaging predators with those two animals claiming a combined total of 2,500 head of lambs and a combined loss value of \$250,600. Bears and coyotes were also the primary predators on sheep, with coyotes killing 1,300 sheep, and bears killing 700 sheep for a combined loss value of \$291,000. Foxes and mountain lions killed 1000 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$110,500 during 2005, while losses from eagles and bobcats totaled 700 head valued at \$72,400. Eighty-two percent of all predator losses occurred in the Northwest & Mountain and Southwest Districts where all of the major predators were active. Most of the state's losses from eagles and bobcats were in those two areas. Coyotes were the major predators in the Northeast District where most of the commercial feedlots are located. Dogs caused the major loss of sheep and lambs from predators in the Northwest & Mountain, San Luis Valley, and in the Southeast Districts.

The total value of sheep and lamb losses from **non-predator causes** was estimated at \$2.56 million in 2005, up 47 percent from \$1.74 million in 2004. Non-predator losses of 23,400 head in 2005 represented 62 percent of all losses, up from 17,700 head (54 percent) in 2004. Last year disease was split into four categories: Digestive, Respiratory, Metabolic, and Other Diseases. This year they were combined into Total Disease which accounted for 11,600 head or 69 percent of the total non-predator lamb losses and 31 percent of all lamb losses. Almost 74 percent of all non-predator losses occurred in the Northeast and Northwest Districts. Nearly 54 percent of the non-predator losses occurred in the Northeast District where disease and weather related problems are the major cause of loss in the state's commercial feedlots. Lambing problems accounted for \$333,000 of the total value of the non-predator losses with most of those occurring in the western portions of the state.

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SHEEP & LAMBS: Inventory, Death Losses, and Value of Losses, Colorado, 1999-2005 ¹

Year	January 1 Inventory	Lamb Crop	Death Losses					
			Sheep	All Lambs			All Sheep & Lambs	
	All Sheep & Lambs		Total Losses	Before Docking	After Docking	All Lambs	Total Loss	Percent of Supply ^{2/}
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head				Percent	
1999	440	210	8	15	40	55	63	9.5
2000	440	200	9	14	30	44	53	8.1
2002	370	200	13	16	30	46	59	10.1
2004	360	165	5	9	19	28	33	6.2
2005	365	175	6	10	22	32	38	6.9

Year	Total Sheep & Lamb Losses By Cause				Value Of Losses		
	Predator Losses		Non-Predator Losses		Predator	Non-Predator	Total
	Total Loss	Percent of Supply ^{2/}	Non-Predator	Percent of Supply ^{2/}			
	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head		1,000 Dollars		
1999	23.0	3.5	40.0	6.0	1,635.5	2,837.5	4,473.0
2000	19.5	3.0	33.5	5.1	1,492.5	2,523.0	4,015.5
2002	28.0	4.8	31.0	5.3	2,076.5	2,197.5	4,274.0
2004	15.3	2.9	17.7	3.3	1,490.0	1,735.0	3,225.0
2005	14.6	2.6	23.4	4.3	1,579.5	2,558.5	4,138.0

^{1/} No survey was conducted covering 2001 and 2003. ^{2/} Supply includes sheep and lambs on hand January 1 plus lamb crop plus lamb losses before docking.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Number of Head and Value of Loss by Cause, Colorado, 2004 and 2005 ^{1/}

Cause	Sheep				Lambs				Total Sheep & Lambs			
	No. Lost ^{2/}		Value ^{2/}		No. Lost ^{2/}		Value ^{2/}		No. Lost ^{2/}		Value ^{2/}	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		\$1,000	1,000 Head	\$1,000	1,000 Head	\$1,000	1,000 Head	\$1,000			
Predator:												
Bear	0.6	0.7	81.6	109.0	2.1	1.6	190.9	160.8	2.7	2.3	272.5	269.8
Bobcat	...	...	...	...	0.2	0.3	18.2	33.7	0.2	0.3	18.2	33.7
Coyote	1.1	1.3	149.6	181.6	8.3	7.8	754.5	783.5	9.4	9.1	904.1	965.1
Dog	0.2	0.2	27.2	32.0	0.7	0.9	63.6	89.8	0.9	1.1	90.8	121.8
Eagle	...	...	...	...	0.5	0.4	45.5	38.7	0.5	0.4	45.5	38.7
Fox	...	...	...	...	0.5	0.6	45.5	56.5	0.5	0.6	45.5	56.5
Mountain Lion	0.2	0.1	27.2	17.5	0.3	0.3	27.3	36.5	0.5	0.4	54.5	54.0
Other Predator ^{3/}	0.1	...	13.6	...	0.5	0.4	45.5	39.7	0.6	0.4	59.1	39.7
Total Predator	2.2	2.3	299.0	340.2	13.1	12.3	1,191.0	1,239.2	15.3	14.6	1,490.0	1,579.4
Non-Predator:												
Diseases	0.6	0.4	81.6	55.1	8.8	11.2	799.9	1,135.0	9.4	11.6	881.5	1,190.1
Weather related	0.1	0.1	13.6	16.3	1.5	1.7	136.4	173.9	1.6	1.8	150.0	190.2
Lambing problems	0.5	0.4	68.0	64.5	1.1	2.7	100.0	268.3	1.6	3.1	168.0	332.8
Old age	0.6	1.6	81.6	253.7	...	...	...	...	0.6	1.6	81.6	253.7
Poisoning	0.5	0.5	68.0	82.6	0.5	0.8	45.5	80.9	1.0	1.3	113.5	163.5
Theft	...	...	...	...	0.2	0.1	18.2	12.2	0.2	0.1	18.2	12.2
Other causes ^{4/}	0.5	0.7	68.0	93.6	2.8	3.2	254.5	322.4	3.3	3.9	322.2	416.0
Total Non-Predator	2.8	3.7	380.8	565.8	14.9	19.7	1,354.4	1,992.7	17.7	23.4	1,735.0	2,558.5
Total All Causes	5.0	6.0	680.0	906.0	28.0	32.0	2,545.0	3,232.0	33.0	38.0	3,225.0	4,138.0

^{1/} Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1 year old and older. Lamb value is based on the marketing year average price received for a 90 pound lamb. ^{2/}Totals may not add due to rounding. ^{3/} Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators ^{4/} Includes unknown non-predator losses.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:

Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District, by Type of Predator, Colorado, 2005 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Predator:	Percent						
Bear	60.8	8.4	...	24.8	6.0	...	100.0
Bobcat	100.0	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Coyote	72.5	9.0	1.5	9.8	7.1	0.1	100.0
Dog	44.3	13.1	0.4	17.6	23.7	0.9	100.0
Eagle	99.5	...	...	0.2	...	0.3	100.0
Fox	76.1	4.4	...	10.9	8.6	...	100.0
Mountain Lion	61.3	...	...	24.1	14.6	...	100.0
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	67.5	...	...	14.6	1.0	16.9	100.0
Total Predator	69.5	8.0	0.9	12.9	8.0	0.6	100.0

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

2/ Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:

Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District, by Non-predator Causes, Colorado, 2005 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Non-Predator:	Percent						
Total Diseases	3.4	85.1	1.5	6.9	2.4	0.7	100.0
Weather related causes	10.1	27.0	4.6	21.7	27.3	9.3	100.0
Lambing problems	29.7	20.1	9.2	21.0	15.2	4.8	100.0
Old age	55.5	8.0	4.9	14.8	14.5	2.3	100.0
Poisoning	71.8	10.7	0.5	16.5	...	0.5	100.0
Theft	...	...	...	0.7	62.3	37.0	100.0
Other non-predator <u>2/</u>	35.6	34.8	3.0	2.2	14.9	9.5	100.0
Total Non-Predator	20.2	53.5	3.0	12.3	8.3	2.6	100.0

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

2/ Includes unknown non-predator causes.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent of Head Loss by Cause and Size of Flock, Colorado, 2004-2005 ^{1/}

Cause	Stock Sheep Operations by Size of Flock						Commercial Feedlots		All Sizes	
	1 - 99		100 - 500		500 Plus		2004	2005	2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005				
Predator:	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Bear	.4	3.4	3.5	6.7	14.4	9.8	...	...	8.4	6.3
Bobcat	...	...	...	...	.8	1.7	...	...	.5	0.9
Coyote	19.5	17.4	20.2	21.8	41.7	31.8	5.2	5.1	28.5	23.4
Dog	19.4	7.3	1.7	4.4	.4	2.8	...	0.7	2.7	2.8
Eagle	.1	...	...	0.1	2.6	1.8	...	...	1.5	1.0
Fox	.5	0.8	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.7	...	...	1.4	1.2
Mountain Lion	4.0	1.3	2.8	4.4	1.3	1.3	...	...	1.5	1.3
Other Predator ^{2/}	2.0	0.7	2.5	1.0	3.3	1.7	...	...	1.9	1.1
Total Predator:	45.9	30.8	33.0	40.1	66.4	52.6	5.2	5.8	46.4	38.0
Non-Predator:										
Diseases	19.3	13.7	27.1	16.3	8.4	21.6	83.1	77.0	28.6	33.1
Weather related	5.9	8.5	6.7	9.1	4.1	5.0	4.2	2.0	4.6	5.0
Lambing problems	11.1	19.4	12.3	14.8	4.1	7.2	...	...	4.9	7.5
Old age	5.4	6.6	8.4	7.2	.8	3.4	...	...	2.0	3.4
Poisoning	1.3	1.5	2.1	0.3	4.2	3.6	.7	...	2.9	2.2
Theft	...	1.4	...	2.1	.9	...	.6	...	.6	0.4
Other non-predator ^{3/}	11.1	18.1	10.4	10.3	11.1	6.6	6.2	15.2	10.0	10.4
Total Non-Predator	54.1	69.2	67.0	59.9	33.6	47.4	94.8	94.2	53.6	62.0
Total All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Includes lambs before and after docking. ^{2/} Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators. ^{3/} Includes unknown non-predator causes.