



NASS

Colorado
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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**COLORADO
SHEEP AND LAMB
LOSSES -- 2000**

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Colorado farmers and ranchers lost 53,000 head of sheep and lambs to all causes in 2000, representing a total value of \$4.02 million, according to a survey conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Colorado Wool Growers Association. A comparable survey in 1999 indicated that 63,000 head of all sheep and lambs, valued at \$4.47 million, were lost from all causes. The number of head lost was down 16 percent from 1999. The value of those losses was down just 10 percent as the average value for both sheep and lambs averaged higher than the previous year. The total inventory of all sheep and lambs at the beginning of 2000, at 440,000 head, was unchanged from a year earlier as a 5 percent decline in the number of breeding sheep and lambs was offset by a 5 percent increase in the number of market sheep and lambs. The 2000 lamb crop totaled 200,000 head, down 10,000 from the 1999 lamb crop of 210,000 head. Total sheep and lamb death losses in 2000 accounted for 8.1 percent of the available supply of animals during the year compared with losses in 1999 representing 9.5 percent of the available supply.

Predators caused an estimated \$1.49 million in losses of sheep and lambs during 2000 compared with a value of \$1.64 million in 1999. They accounted for 19,500 head (37 percent of all losses) in 2000 compared with 23,000 head (also 37 percent of all losses) in 1999. Predator losses amounted to 3.0 percent of the available supply in 2000, down from the 3.5 percent of the sheep and lamb supply in 1999. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 15,700 head in 2000 compared to 20,000 head a year earlier. Coyotes, the most damaging predator in each year, were responsible for 54 percent (8,400 head valued at \$592,200) of the lamb losses from predators and 19 percent of all lamb losses. Bears and dogs continued to be the next most damaging predators with those two animals claiming a combined total of 3,900 head of lambs, for a combined loss value of \$274,900. Bears and coyotes were also the primary predators on sheep, each accounting for 1,400 head in 2000 for a combined loss value of \$284,200. Dogs and mountain lions killed 3,100 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$249,700 during 2000, while losses from eagles and fox totaled 1,300 head valued at \$91,600. More than two thirds of the predator losses occurred in the Northwest & Mountain and Southwest Districts where all of the major predators were active. Over 90 percent of the state's losses from eagles and about 70 percent of all losses from bobcats and mountain lions were in the Northwest and Mountain District. Coyotes, dogs and mountain lions continue to be the major predators in the Northeast District where most of the commercial feedlots are located while dogs, bobcats and fox are the major predators in other Districts.

The total value of sheep and lamb losses from **non-predator causes** was estimated at \$2.52 million in 2000, down 11 percent from \$2.84 million a year. Non-predator losses of 33,500 head in 2000 represented 63 percent of all losses, the same percentage as in 1999. Losses from disease accounted for 50 percent of the total value of non-predator losses with lambing problems representing 12 percent. Disease claimed nearly 60 percent the lambs lost from non-predator causes but less than 10 percent of the mature sheep losses. Nearly 50 percent of the non-predator losses occurred in the Northeast District where disease and weather related problems are the predominant cause of loss in the state's commercial feedlots. Lambing problems accounted for \$313,900 of the total value of the non-predator losses with most of those occurring in the western portions of the state.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Inventory, Death Losses, and Value of Losses, Colorado, 1996-2000

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 <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head				Percent	
1996	535	240	10	20	45	65	75	9.4
1997	575	225	10	20	45	65	75	9.1
1998	575	220	10	15	40	55	65	8.0
1999	440	210	8	15	40	55	63	9.5
2000	440	200	9	14	30	44	53	8.1

Year	Total Sheep & Lamb Losses By Cause				Value Of Losses		
	Predator Losses		Non-Predator Losses		Predator	Non-Predator	Total
	Total Loss	Percent of Supply <u>1/</u>	Non-Predator	Percent of Supply <u>1/</u>			
	1,000 Hd.	Percent	1,000 Head		1,000 Dollars		
1996	30.0	3.8	45.0	5.7	2,502.3	3,720.8	6,223.1
1997	34.0	4.1	41.0	5.0	2,944.0	3,511.0	6,455.0
1998	27.0	3.3	38.0	4.7	1,966.5	2,728.5	4,695.0
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

1/ 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, 1999-2000 1/

Cause	Sheep				Lambs				Total Sheep & Lambs			
	No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>		No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>		No. Lost		Value <u>2/</u>	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Predator:	1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000	
Bear	1.0	1.4	98.5	142.1	1.4	2.5	93.8	176.2	2.4	3.9	192.3	318.3
Bobcat .....	...	...	...	...	0.1	...	6.7	...	0.1	...	6.7	...
Coyote	1.0	1.4	98.5	142.1	14.2	8.4	951.4	592.2	15.2	9.8	1,049.9	734.3
Dog	0.4	0.7	39.4	71.1	1.4	1.4	93.8	98.7	1.8	2.1	133.2	169.8
Eagle .....	...	...	...	...	1.0	0.5	67.0	35.2	1.0	0.5	67.0	35.2
Fox .....	...	...	...	...	0.7	0.8	46.9	56.4	0.7	0.8	46.9	56.4
Mountain Lion	0.4	0.3	39.4	30.5	0.8	0.7	53.6	49.4	1.2	1.0	93.0	79.9
Other Predator <u>3/</u>	0.2	...	19.7	...	0.4	1.4	26.8	98.7	0.6	1.4	46.5	98.7
Total Predator	3.0	3.8	295.5	385.7	20.0	15.7	1,340.0	1,106.8	23.0	19.5	1,635.5	1,492.5
Non-Predator:												
All Diseases	0.8	0.5	78.8	50.8	23.5	17.0	1,574.5	1,198.5	24.3	17.5	1,653.3	1,249.3
Weather related	0.2	0.2	19.7	20.3	3.2	3.5	214.4	246.8	3.4	3.7	234.1	267.1
Lambing problems	0.6	0.8	59.1	81.2	2.4	3.3	160.8	232.7	3.0	4.1	219.9	313.9
Old age	2.0	1.2	197.0	121.8	...	...	...	...	2.0	1.2	197.0	121.8
Being on back	0.2	0.2	19.7	20.3	...	...	...	...	0.2	0.2	19.7	20.3
Poisoning	0.2	0.6	19.7	60.9	0.2	0.6	13.4	42.3	0.4	1.2	33.1	103.2
Theft .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes <u>4/</u>	1.0	1.7	98.5	172.6	5.7	3.9	381.9	275.0	6.7	5.6	480.4	447.6
Total Non-Predator	5.0	5.2	492.5	527.8	35.0	28.3	2,345.0	1,995.2	40.0	33.5	2,837.5	2,523.5
Total All Causes	8.0	9.0	788.0	913.5	55.0	44.0	3,685.0	3,102.0	63.0	53.0	4,473.0	4,015.5

1/ Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1 year old and older; Value of \$98.50 for 1999; \$101.50 for 2000.

Lamb value is based on the marketing year average price received for a 90 pound lamb; Value of \$67.00 for 1999; \$70.50 for 2000.

2/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 3/ Includes unknown predator losses. 4/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:
Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District,
by Type of Predator, Colorado, 2000 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Predator:	Percent						
Bear	23.8	...	...	69.8	6.4	...	100.0
Bobcat	70.5	...	...	...	29.5	...	100.0
Coyote	36.7	7.1	5.7	34.6	12.6	3.3	100.0
Dog	3.4	4.3	8.7	20.1	63.5	...	100.0
Eagle	93.4	...	...	6.0	.6	...	100.0
Fox	56.8	.3	...	1.4	38.8	2.7	100.0
Mountain Lion	69.5	4.3	...	26.2	...	...	100.0
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	96.0	.2	.6	2.2	1.0	...	100.0
Total Predator	39.4	4.2	3.8	34.6	16.3	1.7	100.0

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

2/ Includes unknown predators.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:
Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District,
by Non-predator Causes, Colorado, 2000 1/

Cause	Agricultural Statistics District						State
	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	
Non-Predator:	Percent						
All Diseases	4.9	81.4	2.5	4.7	4.9	1.6	100.0
Weather related causes .	10.9	53.6	3.7	14.8	14.5	2.5	100.0
Lambing problems	38.4	8.5	7.5	27.4	9.9	8.3	100.0
Old age	23.0	19.1	12.3	27.1	17.0	1.5	100.0
Being on their back ...	31.1	...	...	9.8	44.9	14.2	100.0
Poisoning	47.7	...	1.1	35.8	8.4	7.0	100.0
Theft	2.0	...	...	97.0	...	1.0	100.0
Other non-predator <u>2/</u> .	23.2	43.3	1.5	22.9	6.2	2.9	100.0
Total Non-Predator ...	18.1	50.4	3.1	17.4	7.8	3.2	100.0

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

2/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.



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SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent of Head Loss by Cause and Size of Flock, Colorado, 1999-2000 ^{1/}

Cause	Stock Sheep Operations by Size of Flock						Commercial Feedlots		All Sizes	
	1 - 99		100 - 999		1,000 Plus		1999	2000	1999	2000
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000				
Predator:	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Bear	1.0	3.0	3.7	6.1	14.8	16.1	...	...	3.8	7.4
Bobcat .....	...	...	.7	...	.9	.3	...	...	.2	...
Coyote	21.5	20.1	29.4	25.1	24.1	29.6	2.7	3.9	24.1	18.5
Dog	7.1	7.9	2.7	12.5	2.0	2.2	2.8	.7	2.9	4.0
Eagle .....	.2	...	.7	.6	.5	2.6	...	...	1.6	.9
Fox	6.1	4.5	.9	1.6	3.7	2.2	...	...	1.1	1.5
Mountain Lion	2.7	...	3.3	2.6	6.2	3.8	...	...	1.9	1.9
Other Predator ^{2/} .....	.2	.2	1.8	.2	3.4	7.7	...	...	1.0	2.6
Total Predator:	38.8	35.7	43.2	48.7	55.6	64.5	5.5	4.6	36.5	36.8
Non-Predator:										
All Diseases	21.2	10.1	27.1	12.9	18.0	4.0	82.5	72.7	38.6	33.0
Weather related	8.8	10.4	11.7	10.0	5.3	2.6	1.0	15.4	5.4	7.0
Lambing problems	15.4	19.3	6.8	10.1	7.6	10.3	...	...	4.8	7.7
Old age	7.9	7.1	5.1	6.1	3.4	.8	...	...	3.2	2.3
Being on back .....	.9	.9	1.4	.7	.2	.5	...	...	.3	.4
Poisoning	1.0	4.2	1.7	1.8	1.3	3.5	...	...	.6	2.3
Theft .....	...	...	.4	2.6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other non-predator ^{3/}	6.0	12.3	2.6	7.1	8.6	13.8	11.0	7.3	10.6	10.5
Total Non-Predator ...	61.2	64.3	56.8	51.3	44.4	35.5	94.5	95.4	63.5	63.2
Total All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

... = none reported or less than .05 percent of the total.

^{1/} Includes lambs before and after docking.

^{2/} Includes unknown predator losses.

^{3/} Includes unknown non-predator causes.