



# CATTLE DEATH LOSS

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## Cattle and Calf Death Losses

This report is released every five years as a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services. The information presented in this report is based on producer reports from the January 2011 Cattle survey and includes detailed percentage breakouts of cattle and calf losses by predators and non-predator causes as well as non-lethal control measures.

**Florida:** Florida ranchers had death losses of 23,000 head of cattle weighing over 500 pounds and 31,000 calves during 2010. The value of these cattle and calves losses was \$27.9 million. The values of the losses by cause were \$25.5 million from non-predators and \$2.5 million from predators. Producers reported non-predator death losses of 22,100 cattle valued at \$16.9 million, and predator death losses of 900 cattle valued at \$689 thousand. Calf losses due to non-predator caused totaled 25,600 calves valued at \$8.5 million and predator death losses of 5,400 calves valued at \$1.8 million. A leading cause of deaths of calves was calving problems which caused 29.2 percent of the losses of calves and 17.6 percent of cattle. Other major causes of losses of calves were respiratory problems (14.1%), digestive problems (12.4%), weather related losses (11.0%), and other diseases (16.8%). Predators caused losses of 6,300 head of the 54,000 head of total cattle and calves deaths. Coyotes caused the most deaths: 77.4 percent of calf deaths and 35.1 percent of cattle deaths. Preventive practices used by producers to reduce predator losses included frequent checks on the livestock (80.6%), removal of livestock carcasses (74.2%), culling animals (68.5%), using guard animals (37.4%), and exclusion fencing (14.1%).

**United States:** Cattle and calf losses during 2010 from predators and non-predator causes in the United States (excluding Alaska) totaled 3.99 million head. This represents 4.3 percent of the 93.9 million cattle and calves in the United States at the beginning of 2010. Calves lost to all causes totaled 2.26 million head or 56.6 percent of total losses. Cattle deaths totaled 1.73 million head or 43.4 percent of total losses. Non-predator losses totaled 3.77 million head or 94.5 percent of the total losses. Respiratory problems represented the leading cause of non-predator deaths, accounting for 27.5 percent, followed by calving problems at 13.3 percent. Predator losses totaled nearly 220 thousand head. This represented 5.5 percent of the total deaths from all causes and a loss of \$98.5 million. Coyotes and dogs caused the majority of cattle and calf predator losses accounting for 52.9 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively. Non-lethal predator control measures cost producers \$188.5 million. Use of guard animals was the most common method at 36.9 percent. Exclusion fencing, frequent checking, and culling were the next most commonly used methods of preventing cattle and calf losses at 32.8 percent, 32.1 percent, and 28.9 percent, respectively.

## Number of Head and Total Value of Cattle and Calves Lost by Cause

| State                            | Total Losses | Non-Predator Losses | Losses Due to Predators | Value of Losses | Value Non-Predator Losses | Value Predator Losses | Value Cattle Losses | Value Calf Losses |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head)        | (1,000 head)            | (1,000 head)    | (1,000 dollars)           | (1,000 dollars)       | (1,000 dollars)     | (1,000 dollars)   |
| Florida.....                     | 54.0         | 47.7                | 6.3                     | 27,941          | 25,454                    | 2,487                 | 17,618              | 10,323            |
| United States <sup>1</sup> ..... | 3,992.9      | 3,773.0             | 219.9                   | 2,451,374       | 2,352,899                 | 98,475                | 1,650,822           | 800,552           |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska

## Number of Cattle and Calves Lost by Cause, Value of Losses

| State                            | All Causes             |                        | Non-Predators          |                        | Predators              |                        | Value Non-Predator Losses |                           | Value Predator Losses     |                           |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                  | Cattle<br>(1,000 head) | Calves<br>(1,000 head) | Cattle<br>(1,000 head) | Calves<br>(1,000 head) | Cattle<br>(1,000 head) | Calves<br>(1,000 head) | Cattle<br>(1,000 dollars) | Calves<br>(1,000 dollars) | Cattle<br>(1,000 dollars) | Calves<br>(1,000 dollars) |
| Florida.....                     | 23.0                   | 31.0                   | 22.1                   | 25.6                   | 0.9                    | 5.4                    | 16,929                    | 8,525                     | 689                       | 1,798                     |
| United States <sup>1</sup> ..... | 1,733.8                | 2,259.1                | 1,694.0                | 2,079.0                | 39.8                   | 180.1                  | 1,615,102                 | 737,797                   | 35,720                    | 62,755                    |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska

## Percent of Total Cattle and Calves Losses by Non-Predator Cause

| State         | Respiratory Problems | Digestive Problems | Calving Problems | Weather Related | Lameness or injury | Other Diseases <sup>1</sup> | Other Reasons | Unknown   |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|
|               | (percent)            | (percent)          | (percent)        | (percent)       | (percent)          | (percent)                   | (percent)     | (percent) |
| Florida       |                      |                    |                  |                 |                    |                             |               |           |
| Cattle.....   | 10.8                 | 5.9                | 17.6             | 18.6            | 6.8                | 13.0                        | 20.7          | 6.7       |
| Calves.....   | 14.1                 | 12.4               | 29.2             | 11.0            | 2.8                | 16.8                        | 0.3           | 13.4      |
| United States |                      |                    |                  |                 |                    |                             |               |           |
| Cattle.....   | 25.9                 | 8.7                | 9.9              | 9.4             | 6.7                | 14.0                        | 13.7          | 11.6      |
| Calves.....   | 28.7                 | 16.9               | 16.0             | 15.8            | 1.8                | 6.2                         | 3.2           | 11.3      |

<sup>1</sup> Other Diseases include all animal health and disease problems, but excluding respiratory problems.

## Percent of Total Cattle and Calves Losses by Predators

| State         | Coyotes   | Mountain Lions <sup>1</sup> | Dogs      | Vultures  | Wolves    | Bears     | Other Predators | Unknown Predators |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
|               | (percent) | (percent)                   | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent)       | (percent)         |
| Florida       |           |                             |           |           |           |           |                 |                   |
| Cattle.....   | 35.1      | 1.7                         | 7.8       | 16.5      | -         | -         | 22.1            | 16.8              |
| Calves.....   | 77.4      | -                           | 0.5       | 8.7       | -         | -         | 6.2             | 7.2               |
| United States |           |                             |           |           |           |           |                 |                   |
| Cattle.....   | 33.7      | 12.1                        | 11.1      | 2.8       | 3.8       | 2.0       | 9.3             | 25.4              |
| Calves.....   | 57.2      | 7.9                         | 9.4       | 6.2       | 3.8       | 1.1       | 4.7             | 9.6               |

- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup> Includes bobcats, cougars, pumas, and lynx.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes AK.

## Percent of Operations Using Non-Lethal Methods to Prevent Losses of Cattle and Calves to Predators

| State                          | Guard Animals | Exclusion Fencing | Frequent Checks | Culling   | Livestock Carcass Removal | Night Penning | Herding   | Fright Tactics | Other Non-Lethal |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
|                                | (percent)     | (percent)         | (percent)       | (percent) | (percent)                 | (percent)     | (percent) | (percent)      | (percent)        |
| Florida.....                   | 37.4          | 14.1              | 80.6            | 68.5      | 74.2                      | 2.3           | 2.8       | 0.5            | 0.4              |
| United States <sup>1</sup> ... | 36.9          | 32.8              | 32.1            | 28.9      | 23.9                      | 6.6           | 5.3       | 2.5            | 7.0              |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska.