

Cattle Death Loss, 2005

By Pamela K. Kanagy

Cattle and calf losses from animal predators and non-predator causes in Pennsylvania totaled 78,000 head. This report provides breakouts of cattle and calf losses by predators and non-predator causes, as well as data on non-lethal predator control measures.

Cattle and calf losses from animal predators totaled 3,000 head. This represented 3.8 percent of the total losses from all causes and resulted in a loss of \$1.69 million to farmers and ranchers.

Cattle and calf losses from non-predator causes totaled 75,000 head or 96.2 percent of the total losses. Respiratory problems was the leading cause of non-

predator deaths accounting for 24.5 percent, followed by digestive problems at 21.1 percent.

Farmers and ranchers throughout Pennsylvania used many methods to control predators. Use of guard animal was the most common method at 46.0 percent. Exclusion fencing, frequent checking, and culling were the next most commonly used methods of preventing cattle and calf losses at 40.5 percent, 28.5 percent, and 22.4 percent respectively.

This report is released as a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services.

Pennsylvania: Losses of Cattle and Calves, By All Causes, Predators and Non-Predators, 2005

All Causes		Predators		Non-Predators	
Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
33,000	45,000	1,000	2,000	32,000	43,000

Pennsylvania: Losses of Cattle and Calves from Predators and Non-Predator Causes, Total Value per Head and Total Value, 2005

Value per Head		Total Value Predator Losses		Total Value Non-Predator Losses	
Cattle ¹	Calves ²	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
Dollars	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars
895	396	895	792	28,640	17,028

¹ Cattle value per head is based on a two-year straight average of the value of beef cows reported in the January 1 Cattle survey from 2005 and 2006.

² Calf value per head is based on the market year average calf price. An average weight of 300 pounds was used.

Pennsylvania: Losses of Cattle and Calves, Number from Specified Problems, 2005

Digestive Problems		Respiratory Problems		Metabolic Problems		Lameness/Injury	
Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
3,200	12,600	4,400	14,000	3,000	1,000	3,700	1,400
Mastitis		Weather Related		Calving Problems		Poisoning	
Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
3,800	¹	400	900	5,100	6,500	300	300

¹ Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or are less than 100 head.

Pennsylvania: Non-Lethal Methods Used to Prevent Losses of Cattle and Calves to Predators, 2005

Guard Animals	Exclusion Fencing	Herding	Night Penning	Frequent Checks	Fright Tactics	Livestock Carcass Removal	Culling
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
46.0	40.5	9.0	17.9	28.5	2.9	18.2	22.4