

Sheep & Goat Death Loss, 2009

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Sheep and lamb losses from animal predators and non-predator causes in Pennsylvania totaled 11,000. Losses of sheep totaled 4,000 head or 36.4% of total losses. Lamb losses were 7,000 head or 63.6% of the total. Animal predator losses in Pennsylvania totaled 1,700 head. This represents 15.5% of the total losses from all causes and resulted in a loss of \$313,000 to farmers and ranchers. Non-predator losses of sheep and lamb totaled 9,300 or 84.5 percent of the total losses and resulted in a loss of \$976,000 to farmers and ranchers. Old age was the leading cause of non-predator deaths among sheep, while lambing problems, such as dystocia, were reported to be the leading cause of deaths among lambs.

Sheep and lamb losses from animal predators and non-predator causes in the United States totaled 634,500. Losses of sheep totaled 234,500 head or 37.0 percent of total losses. Lamb losses were 400,000 head or 63.0 percent of the total.

Animal predator losses totaled 247,200 head. This represents 39.0 percent of the total losses from all causes and resulted in a loss of \$20.5 million to farmer and ranchers. Non-predator losses of sheep & lamb totaled 387,300 or 61.0 percent of the total losses and resulted in a loss of \$36.3 million to farmers and ranchers. Harsh conditions during the 2009 winter resulted in weather related problems being the leading cause of non-predator deaths accounting for 21.5%. Digestive problems (such as enterotoxemia, internal parasites) followed for a combined 17.3 percent of non-predator deaths.

Goat and kid losses from all causes totaled 554,000 head in 2009. Diseases and other known causes accounted for 255,000 deaths or 46.0 percent of the total deaths. Predators accounted for 180,000 deaths or 32.5 percent of the total while the remainder of goat and kid losses at 119,000 21.5 percent resulted from unknown causes.

Losses of Sheep & Lambs from Predators: Number of Head, Pennsylvania and United States, 2009

| Predator | Pennsylvania | | United States | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Sheep (number) | Lamb (number) | Sheep (number) | Lamb (number) |
| Known Predators | 600 | 400 | 67,400 | 157,900 |
| Unknown Predators | 300 | 400 | 8,300 | 13,600 |
| Total | 900 | 800 | 75,700 | 171,500 |

Losses of Sheep & Lambs from Non-Predators: Number of Head, Pennsylvania and United States, 2009

| Non-Predator | Pennsylvania | | United States | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Sheep (number) | Lamb (number) | Sheep (number) | Lamb (number) |
| Enterotoxemia | 100 | 100 | 2,900 | 14,500 |
| Parasites | 500 | 400 | 12,300 | 18,100 |
| Other Digestive Problems ¹ | 100 | 200 | 5,800 | 13,500 |
| Respiratory Problems ² | 100 | 400 | 7,600 | 28,900 |
| Metabolic Problems ³ | 100 | 100 | 900 | 1,900 |
| Other Diseases ⁴ | 100 | - | 7,700 | 6,100 |
| Weather Related ⁵ | 200 | 1,600 | 24,900 | 58,400 |
| Lambing Problems ⁶ | 400 | 2,000 | 19,800 | 33,100 |
| Old Age | 800 | N/A | 39,300 | N/A |
| On Their Back | 100 | - | 2,900 | 400 |
| Poisoning ⁷ | 100 | 200 | 5,000 | 5,100 |
| Theft | - | - | 800 | 1,100 |
| Other Non-Predator ⁸ | 100 | 200 | 6,900 | 15,300 |
| Unknown Non-Predator | 400 | 1,000 | 22,000 | 32,100 |
| Total | 3,100 | 6,200 | 158,800 | 228,500 |

¹Other digestive problems include bloat, scours, acidosis, etc. ²Respiratory problems include pneumonia, shipping fever, etc. ³Metabolic problems include milk fever, twin lamb disease, pregnancy toxemia, etc. ⁴Unpublished data for PA for lambs only. Other diseases include mastitis, foot rot, boils, etc. ⁵Weather related deaths include chilling, drowning, lightning, etc. ⁶Estimates shown here are after docking losses only. ⁷Poisoning includes nitrate poisoning, noxious feeds, noxious weeds, etc. ⁸Other non-predator deaths include accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc.

Losses of All Goats: Number by Predators, Diseases or Other Known Causes, Unknown Causes, and Total Value, Pennsylvania, 2009

| Item | Losses | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Goats (head) | Kids (head) |
| Predator | 60,000 | 120,000 |
| Diseases and Other Known Causes | 80,000 | 175,000 |
| Unknown Causes | 41,000 | 78,000 |
| Total | 181,000 | 373,000 |