



United States Department of Agriculture

Sheep and Lamb Losses by Cause

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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Utah farmers and ranchers lost 46,000 sheep and lambs to all causes in 2006. This was valued at \$3,946 million. **Lambs lost before docking** totaled 15,000, **lambs lost after docking** totaled 18,000 and **sheep one year old and older** lost totaled 13,000. Coyotes accounted for 43.3 percent of all lambs lost before docking, at 6,500 head. This accounted for the largest single cause of death in lambs before docking. Coyotes also accounted for the largest number of lambs lost after docking at 8,300, 46.1 percent of the after docking loss. **Sheep one year old and older** losses to coyotes, at 2,600, was the single largest cause, accounting for 20.0 percent. Total losses to coyotes equaled 17,400 head, which was 37.8 percent of all losses to sheep and lambs in the state.

Losses of Lambs Before Docking: Utah 2001-2006 ²

Cause of Loss	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Head						
Bear	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	5,200	4,700	4,200	6,100	4,300	6,500
Dog	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	600
Fox	600	600	NA	NA	500	500
Mountain Lion	700	600	500	600	600	600
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,000	1,300	1,100	2,200	1,100	800
Other/Unknown	1,900	2,000	3,000	900	900	400
Total Predators	9,400	9,200	8,800	9,800	7,400	9,400
Diseases	1,600	1,600	800	500	1,200	500
Enterotoxemia ¹			NA	NA	NA	NA
Weather conditions	2,700	3,900	3,100	3,300	3,800	2,000
Lambing Complications	2,500	1,700	2,300	1,800	3,500	2,000
Old Age		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Theft		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	3,800	2,600	2,000	4,400	2,100	1,100
Total Non-Predators	10,600	9,800	8,200	10,000	10,600	5,600
TOTAL LOSSES	20,000	19,000	17,000	19,800	18,000	15,000

¹ Enterotoxemia first published in 2003.

² NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Lambs After Docking: Utah 2001-2006 ²

Cause of Loss	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Head						
Bear	1,800	1,500	1,100	1,500	1,200	1,300
Bobcat	NA	500	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	12,300	10,300	8,900	9,500	6,700	8,300
Dog	500	600	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fox	500	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	2,400	2,800	3,500	2,600	2,000	2,200
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	1,400	800	1,800	1,200	1,200	1,100
Total Predators	18,900	16,500	15,300	14,800	11,100	12,900
Diseases	900	900	500	NA	500	700
Enterotoxemia ¹			500	NA	500	500
Weather conditions	NA	NA	NA	NA	800	700
Lambing Complications		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	700	600	NA	NA	500	500
Theft		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	2,500	3,000	2,700	3,200	1,600	2,700
Total Non-Predators	4,100	4,500	3,700	3,200	3,900	5,100
TOTAL LOSSES	23,000	21,000	19,000	18,000	15,000	18,000

¹ Enterotoxemia first published in 2003.

² NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of All Lambs by Cause: Utah, 2001-2006 ^{1 3}

Cause of Loss	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Head						
Bear	2,100	1,900	1,300	1,600	1,400	1,400
Bobcat	600	800	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	17,500	15,000	13,100	15,600	11,000	14,800
Dog	700	800	600	500	600	900
Fox	1,100	1,000	600	800	800	800
Mountain Lion	3,100	3,400	4,000	3,200	2,600	2,800
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,200	1,400	1,500	2,300	1,200	1,100
Other/Unknown	2,000	1,400	3,000	600	900	500
Total Predators	28,300	25,700	24,100	24,600	18,500	22,300
Diseases	2,500	2,500	1,300	700	1,700	1,200
Enterotoxemia ²			700	NA	800	700
Weather Conditions	3,100	4,300	3,500	3,600	4,600	2,700
Lambing Complications	2,500	1,700	2,300	1,800	3,500	2,000
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	800	700	NA	NA	600	600
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	5,800	5,100	4,100	7,100	3,300	3,500
Total Non-Predators	14,700	14,300	11,900	13,200	14,500	10,700
Total Losses	43,000	40,000	36,000	37,800	33,000	33,000

Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	4.9	4.8	3.6	4.2	4.2	4.2
Bobcat	1.4	2.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	40.7	37.5	36.4	41.3	33.3	44.8
Dog	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.8	2.7
Fox	2.6	2.5	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4
Mountain Lion	7.2	8.5	11.1	8.5	7.9	8.5
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	2.8	3.5	4.2	6.1	3.6	3.3
Other/Unknown	4.7	3.5	8.3	1.6	2.7	1.5
Total Predators	65.8	64.3	66.9	65.1	56.1	67.6
Diseases	5.8	6.3	3.6	1.9	5.2	3.6
Enterotoxemia ²			1.9	NA	2.4	2.1
Weather Conditions	7.2	10.8	9.7	9.5	13.9	8.2
Lambing Complications	5.8	4.3	6.4	4.8	10.6	6.1
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	1.9	1.8	NA	NA	1.8	1.8
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	13.5	12.8	11.4	18.8	10.0	10.6
Total Non-Predators	34.2	35.8	33.1	34.9	43.9	32.4
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	91	78	65	93	92	83
Bobcat	26	33	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	755	615	659	903	719	875
Dog	30	33	30	29	39	53
Fox	47	41	30	46	52	47
Mountain Lion	134	139	201	185	170	165
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	52	57	75	133	78	65
Other/Unknown	86	57	151	35	59	30
Total Predators	1,222	1,053	1,212	1,424	1,210	1,318
Diseases	108	102	65	41	111	71
Enterotoxemia ²			35	NA	52	41
Weather Conditions	134	176	176	208	301	160
Lambing Complications	108	70	116	104	229	118
Old Age		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	35	29	NA	NA	39	35
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	250	209	206	411	216	207
Total Non-Predators	635	586	598	764	948	632
Total Losses	1,856	1,639	1,810	2,189	2,158	1,950

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Enterotoxemia first published in 2003.

³ NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Utah, 2001-2006 ²

Cause of Loss	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Head						
Bear	800	900	600	700	600	2,400
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	5,000	4,800	2,900	3,200	2,400	2,600
Dog	NA	700	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	1,100	1,300	800	1,300	700	1,200
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	1,000	400	1,100	500	600	500
Total Predators	7,900	8,100	5,400	5,700	4,300	5,300
Diseases	1,600	900	600	500	700	700
Enterotoxemia ¹			NA	NA	NA	NA
Weather Conditions	NA	900	NA	NA	700	700
Lambing Complications	600	800	700	600	1,000	1,000
Old Age	2,300	1,900	1,200	1,200	2,000	2,200
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	1,300	600	800	500	NA	1,500
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	3,300	1,800	2,300	2,500	2,300	1,600
Total Non-Predators	9,100	6,900	5,600	5,300	6,700	7,700
Total Losses	17,000	15,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	13,000

Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	4.7	6.0	5.5	6.4	5.5	18.5
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	29.4	32.0	26.4	29.1	21.8	20.0
Dog	NA	4.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	6.5	8.7	7.3	11.8	6.4	9.2
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	5.9	2.7	10.0	4.5	5.5	3.8
Total Predators	46.5	54.0	49.1	51.8	39.1	40.8
Diseases	9.4	6.0	5.5	4.5	6.4	5.4
Enterotoxemia ¹			NA	NA	NA	NA
Weather Conditions	NA	6.0	NA	NA	6.4	5.4
Lambing Complications	3.5	5.3	6.4	5.5	9.1	7.7
Old Age	13.5	12.7	10.9	10.9	18.2	16.9
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	7.6	4.0	7.3	4.5	NA	11.5
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	19.4	12.0	20.9	22.7	20.9	12.3
Total Non-Predators	53.5	46.0	50.9	48.2	60.9	59.2
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	70	80	65	89	89	154
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	436	425	314	408	355	399
Dog	NA	62	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	96	115	87	166	104	184
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	88	36	120	64	89	76
Total Predators	689	717	585	727	636	814
Diseases	140	80	65	64	104	107
Enterotoxemia ¹			NA	NA	NA	NA
Weather Conditions	NA	80	NA	NA	104	107
Lambing Complications	52	71	76	77	148	154
Old Age	201	168	130	153	296	338
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	113	53	87	64	NA	230
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	287	160	249	320	339	246
Total Non-Predators	794	610	607	676	992	1,182
Total Losses	1,483	1,327	1,192	1,404	1,628	1,996

¹ Enterotoxemia first published in 2003.

² NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Utah, 2001-2006^{1 3}

Cause of Loss	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Head						
Bear	2,900	2,800	1,900	2,300	2,000	1,000
Bobcat	700	900	500	NA	500	NA
Coyote	22,500	19,800	16,000	18,800	13,400	17,400
Dog	1,100	1,500	900	800	900	1,200
Fox	1,200	1,000	600	800	900	800
Mountain Lion	4,200	4,700	4,800	4,500	3,300	4,000
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,200	1,400	1,500	2,300	1,200	1,100
Other/Unknown	2,400	1,700	3,300	800	600	700
Total Predators	36,200	33,800	29,500	30,300	22,800	27,600
Diseases	4,100	3,400	1,900	1,200	2,400	1,900
Enterotoxemia ²			1,100	NA	1,100	1,000
Weather Conditions	3,400	5,200	3,900	3,700	5,300	3,400
Lambing Complications	3,100	2,500	3,000	2,400	4,500	3,000
Old Age	2,300	1,900	1,200	1,200	2,000	2,200
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	2,100	1,300	1,100	800	1,000	2,100
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	8,800	6,900	5,300	9,200	4,900	4,800
Total Non-Predators	23,800	21,200	17,500	18,500	21,200	18,400
Total Losses	60,000	55,000	47,000	48,800	44,000	46,000

Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	4.8	5.1	4.0	4.7	4.5	2.2
Bobcat	1.2	1.6	1.1	NA	1.1	NA
Coyote	37.5	36.0	34.0	38.5	30.5	37.8
Dog	1.8	2.7	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.6
Fox	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.7
Mountain Lion	7.0	8.5	10.2	9.2	7.5	8.7
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	2.0	2.5	3.2	4.7	2.7	2.4
Other/Unknown	4.0	3.1	7.0	1.6	1.4	1.5
Total Predators	60.3	61.5	62.8	62.1	51.8	60.0
Diseases	6.8	6.2	4.0	2.5	5.5	4.1
Enterotoxemia ²			2.3	NA	2.5	2.2
Weather Conditions	5.7	9.5	8.3	7.6	12.0	7.4
Lambing Complications	5.2	4.5	6.4	4.9	10.2	6.5
Old Age	3.8	3.5	2.6	2.5	4.5	4.8
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	3.5	2.4	2.3	1.6	2.3	4.6
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	14.7	12.5	11.3	18.9	11.1	10.4
Total Non-Predators	39.7	38.5	37.2	37.9	48.2	40.0
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	160	157	130	182	180	236
Bobcat	35	42	31	NA	41	NA
Coyote	1,192	1,039	973	1,312	1,075	1,274
Dog	65	95	63	67	84	99
Fox	56	41	30	46	67	47
Mountain Lion	230	254	288	351	274	350
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	52	57	75	133	78	65
Other/Unknown	121	84	207	60	48	60
Total Predators	1,911	1,770	1,797	2,152	1,846	2,131
Diseases	247	182	130	104	215	178
Enterotoxemia ²			79	NA	97	87
Weather Conditions	160	256	219	221	404	267
Lambing Complications	160	140	192	181	377	272
Old Age	201	168	130	153	296	338
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	148	82	102	81	98	266
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	512	369	354	700	453	406
Total Non-Predators	1,428	1,196	1,205	1,441	1,940	1,814
Total Losses	3,339	2,966	3,002	3,592	3,786	3,946

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Enterotoxemia first published in 2003.

³ NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Cooperation: Data were collected in conjunction with the National Agricultural Statistics Service January 1 Sheep Report. Utah Department of Agriculture and Food provided funding for the "Loss by Cause" portion of the survey.