



United States Department of Agriculture

Sheep and Lamb Losses by Cause

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Utah Field Office · PO Box 25007 · Salt Lake City, UT 84125 · (800) 747-8522 · www.nass.usda.gov

Utah farmers and ranchers lost 46,300 **sheep and lambs to all causes** in 2010, valued at \$4.6 million. **Lambs lost before docking** totaled 19,300, lambs **lost after docking** totaled 15,000 and **sheep one year old and older** lost totaled 12,000 head. Weather conditions accounted for 26 percent of all lambs lost before docking. This accounted for the largest single cause of death in lambs before docking. Coyotes were a close second at 22 percent of losses before docking. Coyotes accounted for the largest number of lambs lost after docking at 45 percent. **Sheep one year old and older** losses to coyotes, at 1,900, was the single largest cause of death, accounting for 16 percent. Total losses to coyotes equaled 12,800 head, which was 28 percent of all losses to sheep and lambs in the state. Losses to coyotes was the largest single cause of death to total sheep & lambs in Utah.

Losses of Lambs Before Docking: Utah 2005-2010 ¹

Cause of Loss	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Head						
Bear	-	-	600	-	500	-
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	4,300	6,500	5,800	6,300	5,300	4,200
Dog	-	600	-	500	-	-
Fox	500	500	-	-	-	-
Mountain Lion	600	600	500	500	700	-
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	1,100	800	900	800	800	800
Other/Unknown	900	400	2,900	1,200	1,100	3,200
Total Predators	7,400	9,400	10,700	9,300	8,400	8,200
Diseases	1,200	500	600	-	1,500	500
Enterotoxemia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weather conditions	3,800	2,000	1,900	4,100	3,000	5,000
Lambing Complications	3,500	2,000	1,000	500	1,900	2,200
Old Age	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	2,100	1,100	1,300	1,100	2,900	3,400
Total Non-Predators	10,600	5,600	4,800	5,700	9,300	11,100
TOTAL LOSSES	18,000	15,000	15,500	15,000	17,700	19,300

¹ - indicates less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Lambs After Docking: Utah 2005-2010 ¹

Cause of Loss	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Head						
Bear	1,200	1,300	2,100	1,400	2,500	1,300
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	6,700	8,300	8,600	8,300	7,700	6,700
Dog	-	-	600	500	600	-
Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Lion	2,000	2,200	2,000	2,100	1,100	500
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	700
Other/Unknown	1,200	1,100	600	400	1,000	1,900
Total Predators	11,100	12,900	13,900	12,700	12,900	11,100
Diseases	500	700	600	-	500	-
Enterotoxemia	500	500	500	600	-	500
Weather conditions	800	700	900	900	-	600
Lambing Complications	-	-	-	-	-	-
Old Age	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	500	500	500	-	-	-
Theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	1,600	2,700	1,600	1,800	2,600	2,800
Total Non-Predators	3,900	5,100	4,100	3,300	3,100	3,900
TOTAL LOSSES	15,000	18,000	18,000	16,000	16,000	15,000

¹ - indicates less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Utah, 2005-2010 ^{1 2}

Cause of Loss	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Head						
Bear	2,000	1,000	3,900	2,700	4,000	1,900
Bobcat	500	-	600	-	-	-
Coyote	13,400	17,400	16,400	18,600	16,700	12,800
Dog	900	1,200	1,300	1,600	1,000	800
Fox	900	800	600	500	500	500
Mountain Lion	3,300	4,000	3,300	3,600	2,500	900
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	1,200	1,100	1,000	900	1,200	1,500
Other/Unknown	600	700	2,200	900	1,500	4,900
Total Predators	22,800	27,600	29,300	28,800	27,400	23,300
Diseases	2,400	1,900	2,100	1,500	3,500	1,200
Enterotoxaemia	1,100	1,000	700	1,400	-	900
Weather Conditions	5,300	3,400	3,300	5,700	3,600	6,300
Lambing Complications	4,500	3,000	1,800	1,100	2,900	3,800
Old Age	2,000	2,200	2,400	1,300	1,800	1,500
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	1,000	2,100	1,100	600	1,500	1,200
Theft	-	-	900	-	500	-
Other/Unknown	4,900	4,800	2,900	2,600	6,000	8,100
Total Non-Predators	21,200	18,400	15,200	14,200	19,800	23,000
Total Losses	44,000	46,000	44,500	43,000	47,200	46,300

Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	4.5	2.2	8.8	6.3	8.5	4.1
Bobcat	1.1	-	1.3	-	-	-
Coyote	30.5	37.8	36.9	43.3	35.4	27.6
Dog	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.7	2.1	1.7
Fox	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
Mountain Lion	7.5	8.7	7.4	8.4	5.3	1.9
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.5	3.2
Other/Unknown	1.4	1.5	4.9	2.1	3.2	10.6
Total Predators	51.8	60.0	65.8	67.0	58.1	50.3
Diseases	5.5	4.1	4.7	3.5	7.4	2.6
Enterotoxaemia	2.5	2.2	1.6	3.3	-	1.9
Weather Conditions	12.0	7.4	7.4	13.3	7.6	13.6
Lambing Complications	10.2	6.5	4.0	2.6	6.1	8.2
Old Age	4.5	4.8	5.4	3.0	3.8	3.2
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	2.3	4.6	2.5	1.4	3.2	2.6
Theft	-	-	2.0	-	1.1	-
Other/Unknown	11.1	10.4	6.5	6.0	12.7	17.5
Total Non-Predators	48.2	40.0	34.2	33.0	41.9	49.7
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	180	236	335	246	326	199
Bobcat	41	-	44	-	-	-
Coyote	1,075	1,274	1,144	1,462	1,317	1,144
Dog	84	99	121	146	86	89
Fox	67	47	35	31	30	38
Mountain Lion	274	350	265	301	210	96
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	78	65	59	55	72	113
Other/Unknown	48	60	139	71	125	455
Total Predators	1,846	2,131	2,142	2,312	2,166	2,134
Diseases	215	178	203	148	338	127
Enterotoxaemia	97	87	50	150	-	87
Weather Conditions	404	267	239	405	233	541
Lambing Complications	377	272	176	116	260	436
Old Age	296	338	352	185	262	253
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	98	266	109	61	176	156
Theft	-	-	106	-	56	-
Other/Unknown	453	406	215	224	497	883
Total Non-Predators	1,940	1,814	1,449	1,289	1,822	2,483
Total Losses	3,786	3,946	3,591	3,601	3,988	4,617

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

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

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Utah, 2005-2010 ¹

Cause of Loss	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Head						
Bear	600	2,400	1,200	1,000	1,000	600
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	2,400	2,600	2,000	4,000	3,700	1,900
Dog	-	-	500	600	-	-
Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Lion	700	1,200	800	1,000	700	-
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	600	500	200	200	700	1,500
Total Predators	4,300	5,300	4,700	6,800	6,100	4,000
Diseases	700	700	900	700	1,500	-
Enterotoxaemia	-	-	-	800	-	-
Weather Conditions	700	700	500	700	-	700
Lambing Complications	1,000	1,000	800	600	1,000	1,600
Old Age	2,000	2,200	2,400	1,300	1,800	1,500
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	-	1,500	500	-	1,000	700
Theft	-	-	600	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	2,300	1,600	600	1,100	2,100	3,500
Total Non-Predators	6,700	7,700	6,300	5,200	7,400	8,000
Total Losses	11,000	13,000	11,000	12,000	13,500	12,000
Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	5.5	18.5	10.9	8.3	7.4	5.0
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	21.8	20.0	18.2	33.3	27.4	15.8
Dog	-	-	4.5	5.0	-	-
Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Lion	6.4	9.2	7.3	8.3	5.2	-
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	5.5	3.8	1.8	1.7	5.2	12.5
Total Predators	39.1	40.8	42.7	56.7	45.2	33.3
Diseases	6.4	5.4	8.2	5.8	11.1	-
Enterotoxaemia	-	-	-	6.7	-	-
Weather Conditions	6.4	5.4	4.5	5.8	-	5.8
Lambing Complications	9.1	7.7	7.3	5.0	7.4	13.3
Old Age	18.2	16.9	21.8	10.8	13.3	12.5
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	-	11.5	4.5	-	7.4	5.8
Theft	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	20.9	12.3	5.5	9.2	15.6	29.2
Total Non-Predators	60.9	59.2	57.3	43.3	54.8	66.7
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	89	154	176	142	146	101
Bobcat	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	355	399	293	568	538	320
Dog	-	-	73	85	-	-
Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mountain Lion	104	184	117	142	102	-
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	89	76	30	28	103	254
Total Predators	636	814	689	966	889	675
Diseases	104	107	132	99	218	-
Enterotoxaemia	-	-	-	114	-	-
Weather Conditions	104	107	73	99	-	118
Lambing Complications	148	154	117	85	146	270
Old Age	296	338	352	185	262	253
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	-	230	73	-	146	118
Theft	-	-	88	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	339	246	88	156	306	590
Total Non-Predators	992	1,182	923	738	1,078	1,349
Total Losses	1,628	1,996	1,612	1,704	1,967	2,024

¹ - indicates less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of All Lambs by Cause: Utah, 2005-2010^{1 2}

Cause of Loss	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Head						
Bear	1,400	1,400	2,700	1,700	3,000	1,300
Bobcat	-	-	500	-	-	-
Coyote	11,000	14,800	14,400	14,600	13,000	10,900
Dog	600	900	800	1,000	700	500
Fox	800	800	600	500	500	500
Mountain Lion	2,600	2,800	2,500	2,600	1,800	600
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	1,200	1,100	1,000	900	1,200	1,500
Other/Unknown	900	500	2,100	700	1,100	4,000
Total Predators	18,500	22,300	24,600	22,000	21,300	19,300
Diseases	1,700	1,200	1,200	800	2,000	800
Enterotoxaemia	800	700	600	600	-	700
Weather Conditions	4,600	2,700	2,800	5,000	3,400	5,600
Lambing Complications	3,500	2,000	1,000	500	1,900	2,200
Old Age	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	600	600	600	-	500	500
Theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	3,300	3,500	2,700	2,100	4,600	5,200
Total Non-Predators	14,500	10,700	8,900	9,000	12,400	15,000
Total Losses	33,000	33,000	33,500	31,000	33,700	34,300

Percent of Total by Cause						
Bear	4.2	4.2	8.1	5.5	8.9	3.8
Bobcat	-	-	1.5	-	-	-
Coyote	33.3	44.8	43.0	47.1	38.6	31.8
Dog	1.8	2.7	2.4	3.2	2.1	1.5
Fox	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5
Mountain Lion	7.9	8.5	7.5	8.4	5.3	1.7
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.6	4.4
Other/Unknown	2.7	1.5	6.3	2.3	3.3	11.7
Total Predators	56.1	67.6	73.4	71.0	63.2	56.3
Diseases	5.2	3.6	3.6	2.6	5.9	2.3
Enterotoxaemia	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.9	-	2.0
Weather Conditions	13.9	8.2	8.4	16.1	10.1	16.3
Lambing Complications	10.6	6.1	3.0	1.6	5.6	6.4
Old Age	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	1.8	1.8	1.8	-	1.5	1.5
Theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	10.0	10.6	8.1	6.8	13.6	15.2
Total Non-Predators	43.9	32.4	26.6	29.0	36.8	43.7
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)						
Bear	92	83	160	104	180	98
Bobcat	-	-	30	-	-	-
Coyote	719	875	851	893	779	824
Dog	39	53	47	61	42	38
Fox	52	47	35	31	30	38
Mountain Lion	170	165	148	159	108	45
Wolves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eagle	78	65	59	55	72	113
Other/Unknown	59	30	124	43	66	303
Total Predators	1,210	1,318	1,454	1,346	1,277	1,459
Diseases	111	71	71	49	120	60
Enterotoxaemia	52	41	35	37	-	53
Weather Conditions	301	160	165	306	204	423
Lambing Complications	229	118	59	31	114	166
Old Age	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Back	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poison	39	35	35	-	30	38
Theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other/Unknown	216	207	160	128	276	394
Total Non-Predators	948	632	526	551	744	1,134
Total Losses	2,158	1,950	1,980	1,897	2,021	2,593

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

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