



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
WYOMING FIELD OFFICE
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WYOMING SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 2022

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost 42,000 animals to weather, predators, disease, and other causes during 2022, representing a total value of \$8.62 million, according to a survey conducted by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Mountain Regional Field Office. This study was undertaken at the request of the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who also provided funding. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was 2,500 head more than last year and the total value of inventory lost was 15.9 percent more than a year ago. The January 1, 2022, inventory totaled 330,000 head. The lamb crop for 2022 was estimated at 230,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2022 equaled 20,000 head. Sheep and lamb deaths for 2022 amounted to 7.2 percent of the 2022 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking; 580,000 head).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 21,800 head, down 500 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 18,600 head, up 1.6 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,200 head, down 800 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$4.39 million in losses in 2022, up 7.2 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 3.8 percent of the 2022 sheep and lamb supply and 51.9 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs, accounting for 62.4 percent of the predator caused losses and 32.4 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$2.73 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$4.23 million in 2022, compared with \$3.34 million in 2021. Non-predatory losses accounted for 48.1 percent of all losses. The largest known non-predatory cause of losses was due to weather conditions, at 8,300 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 6,800 head, down 2.9 percent from 2021. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 13,400 head, 3,200 head more than a year ago.

Lambs lost to all unknown causes totaled 1,700 head, compared with 2,900 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 1,100 sheep, compared with 1,700 head last year.

The sheep and lamb survey utilized multi-frame sampling procedures. The survey involved drawing a random sample from a list of livestock producers maintained by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wyoming Field Office. In addition, sheep producers living in a selected sample of area segments were interviewed. This procedure assures complete coverage of sheep producers by accounting for ranchers/farmers who may not be on the list.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published by the USDA include sheep losses for the entire year but include only those lamb losses that occur after docking. This special report also includes an estimate of lambs lost before docking.

Losses of Lambs Before Docking, by Cause: Wyoming, 2017-2022

Cause of Loss	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Number of Head					
Bears	100	(D)	200	500	200	200
Bobcats/Lynx	100	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	4,300	4,100	5,400	7,500	4,700	5,300
Dogs	200	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mountain Lions.....	100	(D)	500	400	100	400
Foxes	500	300	300	800	200	200
Wolves	100	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)
Eagles.....	800	1,500	1,100	2,200	2,700	1,800
Ravens.....	500	200	600	500	200	400
Other/Unknown ¹	100	100	100	100	(D)	500
Total Predators.....	6,800	6,400	8,300	12,100	8,100	8,800
Diseases	200	300	200	100	100	100
Enterotoxaemia.....	100	200	300	200	200	500
Weather Conditions	4,900	6,000	11,700	1,400	3,300	6,500
Lambing Complications.....	1,200	2,400	1,600	1,300	1,500	3,000
Old Age.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison.....	400	200	100	200	100	300
Theft.....	(D)	(D)	100	300	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	1,400	500	200	900	1,200	800
Total Non-Predators.....	8,200	9,600	14,200	4,400	6,400	11,200
Total Losses.....	15,000	16,000	22,500	16,500	14,500	20,000

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Losses of Lambs After Docking, by Cause: Wyoming, 2017-2022

Cause of Loss	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Head					
Bears	400	400	300	800	(D)	300
Bobcats/Lynx	100	300	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	5,400	6,100	5,300	5,000	7,900	6,500
Dogs	400	300	200	100	100	(D)
Mountain Lions.....	200	1,000	1,000	1,000	400	900
Foxes	100	400	100	400	100	300
Wolves	300	200	100	100	200	100
Eagles.....	200	800	600	800	1,100	1,300
Ravens.....	100	200	100	100	100	200
Other/Unknown ¹	100	100	100	500	300	200
Total Predators.....	7,300	9,800	7,800	8,800	10,200	9,800
Diseases	100	100	100	100	100	200
Enterotoxaemia.....	500	700	400	200	300	300
Weather Conditions	600	1,400	2,800	500	1,100	1,100
Lambing Complications.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Old Age.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison.....	200	100	300	200	300	400
Theft.....	300	500	500	200	600	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	1,000	400	100	500	1,400	200
Total Non-Predators.....	2,700	3,200	4,200	1,700	3,800	2,200
Total Losses.....	10,000	13,000	12,000	10,500	14,000	12,000

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Wyoming, 2017-2022 ¹

Cause of Loss	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Number of Head					
Bears	1,100	600	600	2,000	400	700
Bobcats/Lynx	200	300	(D)	100	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	12,400	11,800	13,100	14,300	15,400	13,600
Dogs	600	700	300	300	200	100
Mountain Lions	500	1,500	2,400	2,100	800	1,700
Foxes	600	700	400	1,200	300	500
Wolves	500	500	300	300	300	200
Eagles.....	1,000	2,500	1,700	3,100	4,000	3,600
Ravens.....	600	400	700	600	400	600
Other/Unknown ²	300	400	200	1,000	500	800
Total Predators.....	17,800	19,400	19,700	25,000	22,300	21,800
Diseases.....	700	800	500	1,200	700	1,000
Enterotoxaemia	700	900	800	400	600	800
Weather Conditions.....	6,200	8,900	17,000	2,300	5,200	8,300
Lambing Complications	1,800	3,000	2,400	2,000	2,400	3,900
Old Age.....	1,500	1,400	2,200	1,800	1,800	2,400
On Back.....	400	200	200	400	500	300
Poison.....	1,300	1,200	900	1,100	1,200	1,400
Theft.....	400	1,400	1,200	700	700	100
Other/Unknown ²	3,200	1,300	1,600	3,100	4,100	2,000
Total Non-Predators	16,200	19,100	26,800	13,000	17,200	20,200
Total Losses.....	34,000	38,500	46,500	38,000	39,500	42,000
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bears	3.2	1.6	1.3	5.3	1.0	1.7
Bobcats/Lynx	0.6	0.8	(D)	0.3	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	36.5	30.6	28.2	37.6	39.0	32.4
Dogs	1.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.2
Mountain Lions	1.5	3.9	5.2	5.5	2.0	4.0
Foxes	1.8	1.8	0.9	3.2	0.8	1.2
Wolves	1.5	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5
Eagles.....	2.9	6.5	3.7	8.2	10.1	8.6
Ravens.....	1.8	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.4
Other/Unknown ²	0.9	1.0	0.4	2.6	1.3	1.9
Total Predators.....	52.4	50.4	42.4	65.8	56.5	51.9
Diseases.....	2.1	2.1	1.1	3.2	1.8	2.4
Enterotoxaemia	2.1	2.3	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.9
Weather Conditions.....	18.2	23.1	36.6	6.1	13.2	19.8
Lambing Complications	5.3	7.8	5.2	5.3	6.1	9.3
Old Age.....	4.4	3.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	5.7
On Back.....	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.3	0.7
Poison.....	3.8	3.1	1.9	2.9	3.0	3.3
Theft.....	1.2	3.6	2.6	1.8	1.8	0.2
Other/Unknown ²	9.4	3.4	3.4	8.2	10.4	4.8
Total Non-Predators	47.6	49.6	57.6	34.2	43.5	48.1
Total Losses.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Loss as a Percent of Supply ³	5.6	6.4	7.8	6.5	6.6	7.2
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bears	217	115	109	380	80	145
Bobcats/Lynx	35	53	(D)	17	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	2,278	2,163	2,392	2,557	2,828	2,729
Dogs	105	137	57	62	40	24
Mountain Lions	96	288	464	397	154	349
Foxes	105	124	69	207	53	98
Wolves	92	97	57	62	57	43
Eagles.....	175	452	293	540	710	723
Ravens.....	105	71	121	104	75	117
Other/Unknown ²	57	80	35	193	97	160
Total Predators.....	3,263	3,580	3,596	4,518	4,093	4,387
Diseases.....	139	159	97	257	146	225
Enterotoxaemia	127	160	144	69	110	156
Weather Conditions.....	1,113	1,644	3,070	417	948	1,648
Lambing Complications	339	558	458	380	463	799
Old Age.....	323	308	501	401	401	570
On Back.....	86	44	46	89	111	71
Poison.....	256	251	183	225	248	303
Theft.....	74	287	240	131	127	24
Other/Unknown ²	592	248	348	620	789	433
Total Non-Predators	3,047	3,658	5,085	2,588	3,343	4,228
Total Losses.....	6,310	7,238	8,681	7,106	7,436	8,616

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.
¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.
² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.
³ Supply equals beginning January 1st inventory plus lamb crop plus before docking death loss.
 Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep, by Cause: Wyoming, 2017-2022

Cause of Loss	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Number of Head					
Bears	600	200	100	700	200	200
Bobcats/Lynx	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes	2,700	1,600	2,400	1,800	2,800	1,800
Dogs	(D)	300	100	200	100	100
Mountain Lions.....	200	500	900	700	300	400
Foxes	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	100	200	100	200	100	100
Eagles	(D)	200	(D)	100	200	500
Ravens.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	100	200	(D)	400	200	100
Total Predators	3,700	3,200	3,600	4,100	4,000	3,200
Diseases	400	400	200	1,000	500	700
Enterotoxaemia.....	100	(D)	100	(D)	100	(D)
Weather Conditions	700	1,500	2,500	400	800	700
Lambing Complications	600	600	800	700	900	900
Old Age	1,500	1,400	2,200	1,800	1,800	2,400
On Back	400	200	200	400	500	300
Poison	700	900	500	700	800	700
Theft.....	100	900	600	200	100	100
Other/Unknown ¹	800	400	1,300	1,700	1,500	1,000
Total Non-Predators.....	5,300	6,300	8,400	6,900	7,000	6,800
Total Losses	9,000	9,500	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,000
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bears	6.7	2.1	0.8	6.4	1.8	2.0
Bobcats/Lynx	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes	30.0	16.8	20.0	16.4	25.5	18.0
Dogs	(D)	3.2	0.8	1.8	0.9	1.0
Mountain Lions.....	2.2	5.3	7.5	6.4	2.7	4.0
Foxes	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	1.1	2.1	0.8	1.8	0.9	1.0
Eagles	(D)	2.1	(D)	0.9	1.8	5.0
Ravens.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.9	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	1.1	2.1	(D)	3.6	1.8	1.0
Total Predators	41.1	33.7	30.0	37.3	36.4	32.0
Diseases	4.4	4.2	1.7	9.1	4.5	7.0
Enterotoxaemia.....	1.1	(D)	0.8	(D)	0.9	(D)
Weather Conditions	7.8	15.8	20.8	3.6	7.3	7.0
Lambing Complications	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.4	8.2	9.0
Old Age	16.7	14.7	18.3	16.4	16.4	24.0
On Back	4.4	2.1	1.7	3.6	4.5	3.0
Poison	7.8	9.5	4.2	6.4	7.3	7.0
Theft.....	1.1	9.5	5.0	1.8	0.9	1.0
Other/Unknown ¹	8.9	4.2	10.8	15.5	13.6	10.0
Total Non-Predators.....	58.9	66.3	70.0	62.7	63.6	68.0
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bears	129	44	23	156	45	48
Bobcats/Lynx	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes	581	352	546	401	623	428
Dogs	(D)	66	23	45	22	24
Mountain Lions.....	43	110	205	156	67	95
Foxes	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	22	44	23	45	22	24
Eagles	(D)	44	(D)	22	45	119
Ravens.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	22	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	22	44	(D)	89	45	24
Total Predators	796	704	819	912	890	760
Diseases	86	88	46	223	111	166
Enterotoxaemia.....	22	(D)	23	(D)	22	(D)
Weather Conditions	151	330	569	89	178	166
Lambing Complications	129	132	182	156	200	214
Old Age	323	308	501	401	401	570
On Back	86	44	46	89	111	71
Poison	151	198	114	156	178	166
Theft.....	22	198	137	45	22	24
Other/Unknown ¹	172	88	296	378	334	238
Total Non-Predators.....	1,140	1,386	1,911	1,535	1,558	1,615
Total Losses	1,935	2,090	2,730	2,448	2,448	2,376

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of All Lambs, by Cause: Wyoming, 2017-2022 ¹

Cause of Loss	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Number of Head					
Bears	500	400	500	1,300	200	500
Bobcats/Lynx	200	300	(D)	100	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	9,700	10,200	10,700	12,500	12,600	11,800
Dogs	600	400	200	100	100	(D)
Mountain Lions	300	1,000	1,500	1,400	500	1,300
Foxes	600	700	400	1,200	300	500
Wolves	400	300	200	100	200	100
Eagles.....	1,000	2,300	1,700	3,000	3,800	3,100
Ravens.....	600	400	700	600	300	600
Other/Unknown ²	200	200	200	600	300	700
Total Predators.....	14,100	16,200	16,100	20,900	18,300	18,600
Diseases.....	300	400	300	200	200	300
Enterotoxaemia	600	900	700	400	500	800
Weather Conditions.....	5,500	7,400	14,500	1,900	4,400	7,600
Lambing Complications	1,200	2,400	1,600	1,300	1,500	3,000
Old Age.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison.....	600	300	400	400	400	700
Theft.....	300	500	600	500	600	(D)
Other/Unknown ²	2,400	900	300	1,400	2,600	1,000
Total Non-Predators	10,900	12,800	18,400	6,100	10,200	13,400
Total Losses.....	25,000	29,000	34,500	27,000	28,500	32,000
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bears	2.0	1.4	1.4	4.8	0.7	1.6
Bobcats/Lynx	0.8	1.0	(D)	0.4	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	38.8	35.2	31.0	46.3	44.2	36.9
Dogs	2.4	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	(D)
Mountain Lions	1.2	3.4	4.3	5.2	1.8	4.1
Foxes	2.4	2.4	1.2	4.4	1.1	1.6
Wolves	1.6	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.3
Eagles.....	4.0	7.9	4.9	11.1	13.3	9.7
Ravens.....	2.4	1.4	2.0	2.2	1.1	1.9
Other/Unknown ²	0.8	0.7	0.6	2.2	1.1	2.2
Total Predators.....	56.4	55.9	46.7	77.4	64.2	58.1
Diseases.....	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9
Enterotoxaemia	2.4	3.1	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.5
Weather Conditions.....	22.0	25.5	42.0	7.0	15.4	23.8
Lambing Complications	4.8	8.3	4.6	4.8	5.3	9.4
Old Age.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison.....	2.4	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.4	2.2
Theft.....	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.1	(D)
Other/Unknown ²	9.6	3.1	0.9	5.2	9.1	3.1
Total Non-Predators	43.6	44.1	53.3	22.6	35.8	41.9
Total Losses.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bears	88	71	86	224	35	98
Bobcats/Lynx	35	53	(D)	17	(D)	(D)
Coyotes.....	1,698	1,811	1,846	2,156	2,205	2,301
Dogs	105	71	35	17	18	(D)
Mountain Lions	53	178	259	242	88	254
Foxes	105	124	69	207	53	98
Wolves	70	53	35	17	35	20
Eagles.....	175	408	293	518	665	605
Ravens.....	105	71	121	104	53	117
Other/Unknown ²	35	36	35	104	53	137
Total Predators.....	2,468	2,876	2,777	3,606	3,203	3,627
Diseases.....	53	71	52	35	35	59
Enterotoxaemia	105	160	121	69	88	156
Weather Conditions.....	963	1,314	2,501	328	770	1,482
Lambing Complications	210	426	276	224	263	585
Old Age.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back.....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison.....	105	53	69	69	70	137
Theft.....	53	89	104	86	105	(D)
Other/Unknown ²	420	160	52	242	455	195
Total Non-Predators	1,908	2,272	3,174	1,052	1,785	2,613
Total Losses.....	4,375	5,148	5,951	4,658	4,988	6,240

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of All Sheep and Lambs, by District, by Cause: Wyoming, 2022 ¹

Cause of Loss	Northwest	Northeast	West	South Central	Southeast	State
	Number of Head					
Bears	(D)	200	(D)	500	(D)	700
Bobcats/Lynx	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes	1,500	7,100	1,400	1,500	2,100	13,600
Dogs	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100
Mountain Lions	800	600	(D)	300	(D)	1,700
Foxes.....	100	300	100	(D)	(D)	500
Wolves.....	(D)	(D)	200	(D)	(D)	200
Eagles.....	400	2,200	200	400	400	3,600
Ravens	200	100	200	100	(D)	600
Other/Unknown ²	(D)	400	(D)	300	100	800
Total Predators.....	3,100	10,900	2,100	3,100	2,600	21,800
Diseases.....	100	500	100	100	200	1,000
Enterotoxaemia.....	200	200	(D)	300	100	800
Weather Conditions	400	5,600	100	1,500	700	8,300
Lambing Complications.....	700	1,700	400	700	400	3,900
Old Age.....	500	800	500	400	200	2,400
On Back.....	100	100	(D)	100	(D)	300
Poison.....	400	400	100	500	(D)	1,400
Theft	(D)	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	100
Other/Unknown ²	600	600	200	300	300	2,000
Total Non-Predators.....	3,000	10,000	1,400	3,900	1,900	20,200
Total Losses	6,100	20,900	3,500	7,000	4,500	42,000
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bears	(D)	1.0	(D)	7.1	(D)	1.7
Bobcats/Lynx	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyotes	24.6	34.0	40.0	21.4	46.7	32.4
Dogs	1.6	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.2
Mountain Lions	13.1	2.9	(D)	4.3	(D)	4.0
Foxes.....	1.6	1.4	2.9	(D)	(D)	1.2
Wolves.....	(D)	(D)	5.7	(D)	(D)	0.5
Eagles.....	6.6	10.5	5.7	5.7	8.9	8.6
Ravens	3.3	0.5	5.7	1.4	(D)	1.4
Other/Unknown ²	(D)	1.9	(D)	4.3	2.2	1.9
Total Predators.....	50.8	52.2	60.0	44.3	57.8	51.9
Diseases.....	1.6	2.4	2.9	1.4	4.4	2.4
Enterotoxaemia.....	3.3	1.0	(D)	4.3	2.2	1.9
Weather Conditions	6.6	26.8	2.9	21.4	15.6	19.8
Lambing Complications.....	11.5	8.1	11.4	10.0	8.9	9.3
Old Age.....	8.2	3.8	14.3	5.7	4.4	5.7
On Back.....	1.6	0.5	(D)	1.4	(D)	0.7
Poison.....	6.6	1.9	2.9	7.1	(D)	3.3
Theft	(D)	0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.2
Other/Unknown ²	9.8	2.9	5.7	4.3	6.7	4.8
Total Non-Predators.....	49.2	47.8	40.0	55.7	42.2	48.1
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head. (D)

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.