

Dear Data Users,

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 72,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2002 according to our annual survey. Total losses were nearly unchanged from the previous year. Predators accounted for 63 percent of the losses. The 2002 lamb crop totaled 340,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was 5,000 fewer than in 2001. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 370,000 head. Of these, 15 percent were lost to various causes.

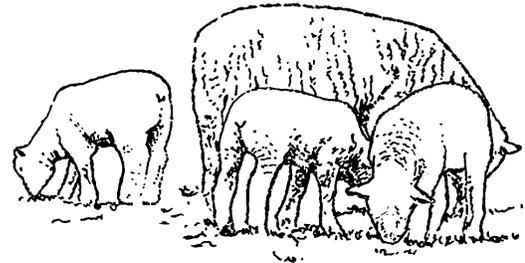
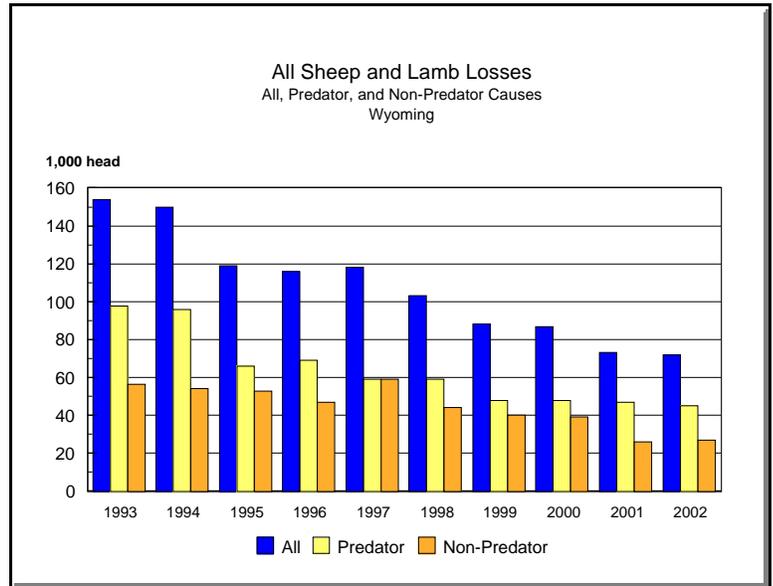
These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency to provide statistics for Wyoming agriculture.

If you have any question about this report please call us toll-free at 1-800-892-1660.

Sincerely,

Dick Coulter

Richard W. Coulter
State Statistician



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR AND OTHER LOSSES STEADY: Wyoming sheep producers lost 45,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2002, down only 2,000 head from 2001 despite a smaller breeding herd and lamb crop. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 66 percent of the total predator losses and 42 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator increased by 1,000 head.

ALL LAMB LOSSES DOWN 3 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost 56,000 lambs before or after docking in 2002, 3 percent less than in 2001. Losses to predators accounted for 68 percent of the total or 30,00 head, which was down 3,000 head from 2001. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were up 1,000 head.

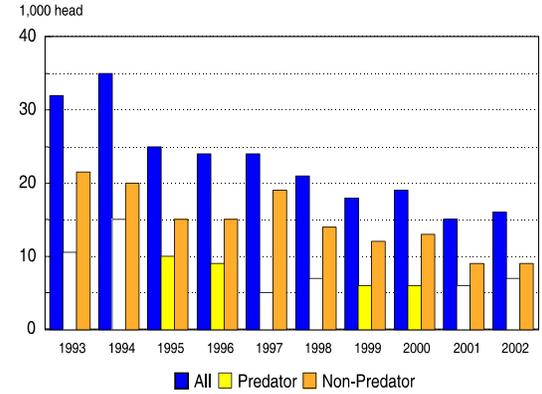
SHEEP LOSSES UP 7 PERCENT: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2002 totaled 16,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2001. Predator losses were up 1,000 head to 7,000 while non-predator losses were unchanged at 9,000.

VALUE OF LOSSES UP 8 PERCENT: Sheep producers in Wyoming lost an estimated \$3.96 million from sheep and lamb deaths in 2002, up 6 percent from the previous year as lamb prices were higher. Predation accounted for \$2.37 million or 60 percent of the total value.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2001 and 2002

Cause of Loss	2001		2002	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	4,300	28.7	4,300	26.9
Bobcats	100	.7	100	.6
Dogs	200	1.3	100	.6
Bears	500	3.3	300	1.9
Eagles	300	2.0	300	1.9
Fox	200	1.3	100	.6
Mountain Lions	300	2.0	1,400	8.8
Other Predators	100	.7	400	2.5
Total Predators	6,000	40.0	7,000	43.8
Weather	800	5.3	900	5.6
Disease	900	6.0	1,100	6.9
Lambing Complications	2,000	13.3	1,500	9.4
Poison	1,300	8.7	1,600	10.0
Old Age	2,300	15.3	2,400	15.0
On Back	700	4.7	800	5.0
Theft	600	4.0	200	1.3
Other Causes	400	2.7	500	3.1
Total Non-Predators	9,000	60.0	9,000	56.3
Total Loss All Causes	15,000	100.0	16,000	100.0

Sheep Losses
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2001 and 2002

Cause of Loss	2001				2002			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	11,50	16,50	28,00	48.3	9,500	16,10	25,60	45.7
Bobcats	400	200	600	1.0	300	200	500	.9
Dogs	100	200	300	.5	100	400	500	.9
Bears	—	700	700	1.2	—	300	300	.5
Eagles	4,100	1,600	5,700	9.8	4,300	1,800	6,100	10.9
Fox	3,600	800	4,400	7.6	2,300	800	3,100	5.5
Mountain	—	900	900	1.6	300	1,400	1,700	3.0
Other	300	100	400	.7	200	—	200	.4
Total	20,00	21,00	41,00	70.7	17,00	21,00	38,00	67.9
Weather	4,000	2,700	6,700	11.6	5,000	1,100	6,100	10.9
Disease	1,400	2,100	3,500	6.0	1,700	2,100	3,800	6.8
Lambing	4,000	—	4,000	6.9	4,600	—	4,600	8.2
Poison	100	1,200	1,300	2.2	700	700	1,400	2.5
On Back	—	100	100	.2	100	200	300	.5
Theft	—	400	400	.7	—	200	200	.4
Other	500	500	1,000	1.7	900	700	1,600	2.9
Total Non-	10,00	7,000	17,00	29.3	13,00	5,000	18,00	32.1
Total Loss All	30,00	28,00	58,00	100.0	30,00	26,00	56,00	100.0

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 1998-2002 1/

Cause of Loss	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	39,500	38.3	31,000	35.2	34,000	39.1	32,300	44.2	29,900	41.5
Bobcats	600	.6	500	.6	500	.6	700	1.0	600	.8
Dogs	1,000	1.0	900	1.0	600	.7	500	.7	600	.8
Bears	1,500	1.5	800	.9	300	.3	1,200	1.6	600	.8
Eagles	8,400	8.2	7,400	8.4	5,900	6.8	6,000	8.2	6,400	8.9
Fox	5,400	5.2	4,700	5.3	4,700	5.4	4,600	6.3	3,200	4.4
Mountain Lions	1,900	1.8	2,000	2.3	1,600	1.8	1,200	1.6	3,100	4.3
Other Predators	700	.7	700	.8	400	.5	500	.7	600	.8
Total Predators	59,000	57.3	48,000	54.5	48,000	55.2	47,000	64.4	45,000	62.5
Weather	15,400	15.0	8,600	9.8	12,600	14.5	7,500	10.3	7,000	9.7
Disease	10,300	10.0	14,000	15.9	9,600	11.0	4,400	6.0	4,900	6.8
Lambing Complications	6,700	6.5	6,100	6.9	7,200	8.3	6,000	8.2	6,100	8.5
Poison	3,500	3.4	3,900	4.4	3,700	4.3	2,600	3.6	3,000	4.2
Old Age	3,100	3.0	3,500	4.0	3,300	3.8	2,300	3.2	2,400	3.3
On Back	900	.9	1,000	1.1	1,000	1.1	800	1.1	1,100	1.5
Theft	900	.9	100	.1	500	.6	1,000	1.4	400	.6
Other Causes	3,200	3.1	2,800	3.2	1,100	1.3	1,400	1.9	2,100	2.9
Total Non-Predators	44,000	42.7	40,000	45.5	39,000	44.8	26,000	35.6	27,000	37.5
Total Loss All Causes	103,000	100.0	88,000	100.0	87,000	100.0	73,000	100.0	72,000	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

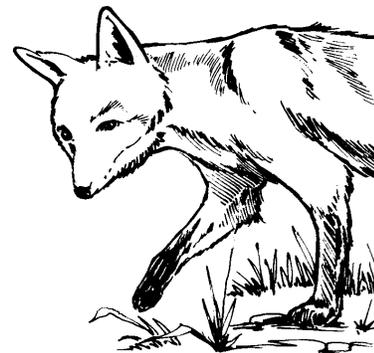
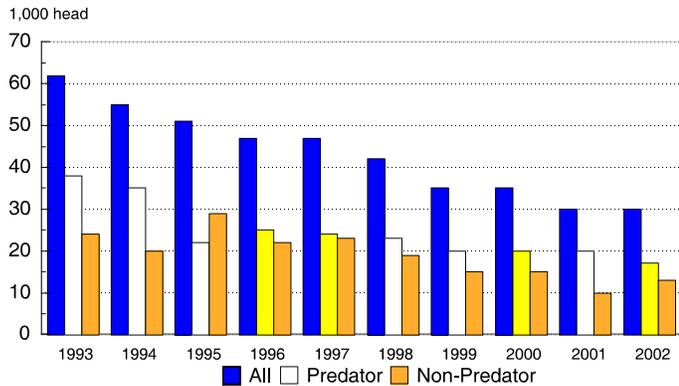
Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2001 and 2002 1/ 2/

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Coyotes	361,200	352,600	1,190,000	1,208,300	1,551,200	1,560,900
Bobcats	8,400	8,200	25,500	23,600	33,900	31,800
Dogs	16,800	8,200	12,750	23,600	29,550	31,800
Bears	42,000	24,600	29,750	14,200	71,750	38,800
Eagles	25,200	24,600	242,250	287,900	267,450	312,500
Fox	16,800	8,200	187,000	146,300	203,800	154,500
Mountain Lions	25,200	114,800	38,250	80,200	63,450	195,000
Other Predators	8,400	32,800	17,000	9,400	25,400	42,200
Total Predators	504,000	574,000	1,742,500	1,793,600	2,246,500	2,367,600
Weather	67,200	73,800	284,750	287,900	351,950	361,700
Disease	75,600	90,200	148,750	179,400	224,350	269,600
Lambing Complications	168,000	123,000	170,000	217,100	338,000	340,100
Poison	109,200	131,200	55,250	66,100	164,450	197,300
Old Age	193,200	196,800	—	—	193,200	196,800
On Back	58,800	65,600	4,250	14,200	63,050	79,800
Theft	50,400	16,400	17,000	9,400	67,400	25,800
Other Causes	33,600	41,000	42,500	75,500	76,100	116,500
Total Non-Predators	756,000	738,000	722,500	849,600	1,478,500	1,587,600
Total Loss All Causes	1,260,000	1,312,000	2,465,000	2,643,200	3,725,000	3,955,200

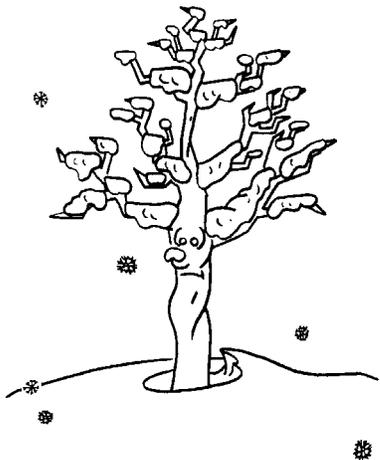
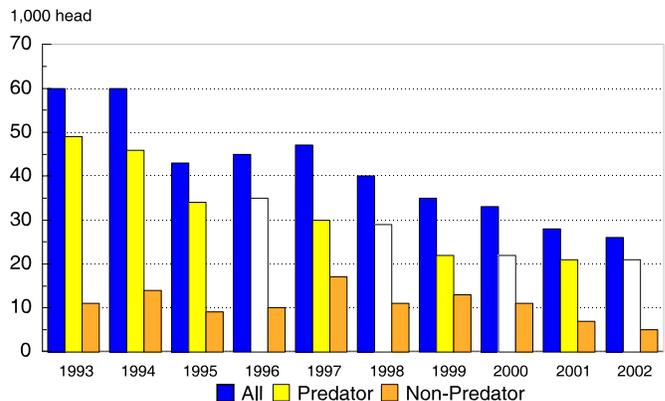
1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Average sheep value 2001-\$84.00, 2002-\$82.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2001-\$42.50, preliminary 2002-\$47.20.

Lamb Losses Before Docking
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Lamb Losses After Docking
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2002 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	<i>Head</i>					
Coyotes	3,000	8,500	8,300	5,700	4,400	29,900
Bobcats	100	100	100	—	300	600
Dogs	100	200	—	100	200	600
Bears	100	300	200	—	—	600
Eagles	400	2,000	200	1,600	2,200	6,400
Fox	200	1,000	600	400	1,000	3,200
Mountain Lions	200	2,100	100	300	400	3,100
Other Predators	100	200	100	100	100	600
Total Predators	4,200	14,400	9,600	8,200	8,600	45,000
Weather	1,400	3,000	400	700	1,500	7,000
Disease	1,200	900	900	800	1,100	4,900
Lambing Complications	1,300	2,200	500	700	1,400	6,100
Poison	900	700	500	400	500	3,000
Old Age	400	600	500	300	600	2,400
On Back	200	100	200	200	400	1,100
Theft	—	100	—	200	100	400
All Other Causes	200	700	400	100	700	2,100
Total Non-Predators	5,600	8,300	3,400	3,400	6,300	27,000
Total Loss All Causes	9,800	22,700	13,000	11,600	14,900	72,000

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2002 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	<i>Percent</i>					
Coyotes	30.6	37.4	63.8	49.1	29.5	41.5
Bobcats	1.0	.4	.8	—	2.0	.8
Dogs	1.0	.9	—	.9	1.3	.8
Bears	1.0	1.3	1.5	—	—	.8
Eagles	4.1	8.8	1.5	13.8	14.8	8.9
Fox	2.0	4.4	4.6	3.4	6.7	4.4
Mountain Lions	2.0	9.3	.8	2.6	2.7	4.3
Other Predators	1.0	.9	.8	.9	.7	.8
Total Predators	42.9	63.4	73.8	70.7	57.7	62.5
Weather	14.3	13.2	3.1	6.0	10.1	9.7
Disease	12.2	4.0	6.9	6.9	7.4	6.8
Lambing Complications	13.3	9.7	3.8	6.0	9.4	8.5
Poison	9.2	3.1	3.8	3.4	3.4	4.2
Old Age	4.1	2.6	3.8	2.6	4.0	3.3
On Back	2.0	.4	1.5	1.7	2.7	1.5
Theft	—	.4	—	1.7	.7	.6
All Other Causes	2.0	3.1	3.1	.9	4.7	2.9
Total Non-Predators	57.1	36.6	26.2	29.3	42.3	37.5
Total Loss All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.