

SHEEP LOSSES TO ALL CAUSES 2004

February 18, 2005

Dear Data Users,

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 55,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2004 according to our annual survey. Total losses were unchanged from the previous year. Predators accounted for 55 percent of the losses. The 2004 lamb crop totaled 300,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was 10,000 fewer than in 2003. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 326,000 head. Of these, 13 percent were lost to various causes, up slightly from 2003.

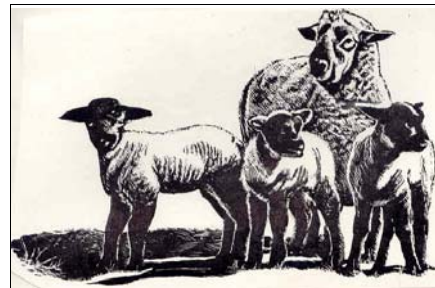
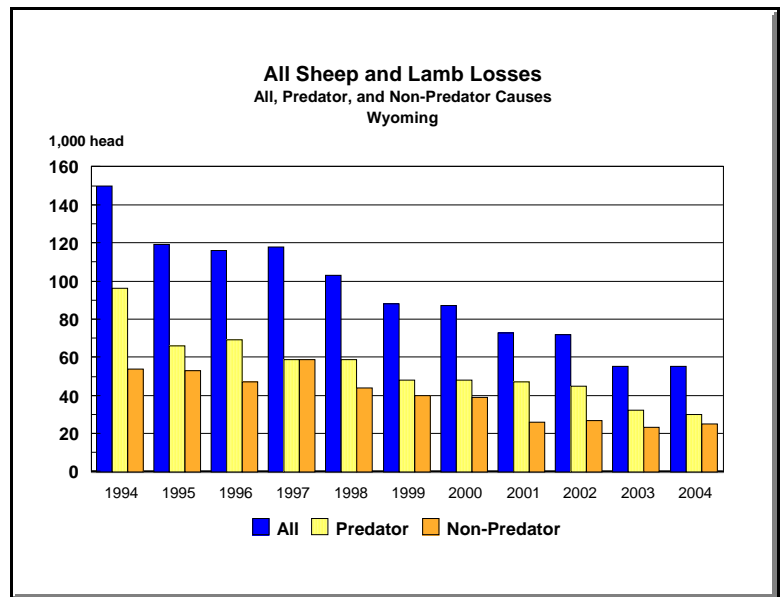
These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep and Goat Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency 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 LOSSES SLIGHTLY LOWER: Wyoming sheep producers lost 30,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2004, down 2,000 head from 2003. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 66 percent of the total predator losses and 36 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes increased by 2,000 head to 25,000.

ALL LAMB LOSSES UP 2 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost 44,000 lambs before or after docking in 2004, 2 percent more than in 2003. Losses to predators accounted for 61 percent of the total or 27,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2003. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were up 2,000 head to 17,000.

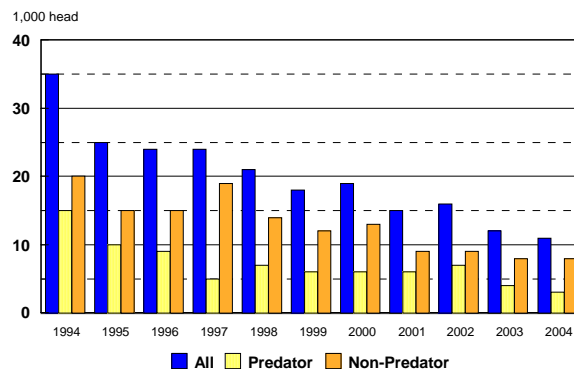
SHEEP LOSSES SLIP LOWER: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2004 totaled 11,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2003. Predator losses were down 1,000 head to 3,000 and non-predator losses were unchanged at 8,000.

VALUE OF LOSSES UP 12 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost an estimated \$4.33 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2004, up 12 percent from the previous year as prices were much higher. Predation accounted for \$2.21 million or 51 percent of the total.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2003 and 2004

Cause of Loss	2003		2004	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	2,400	20.0	2,100	19.1
Bobcats	100	.8	—	—
Dogs	100	.8	100	.9
Bears	500	4.2	200	1.8
Eagles	300	2.5	100	.9
Fox	100	.8	—	—
Mountain Lions	200	1.7	400	3.6
Wolves	200	1.7	100	.9
Other Predators	100	.8	—	—
Total Predators	4,000	33.3	3,000	27.3
Weather	800	6.7	400	3.6
Disease	1,000	8.3	1,500	13.6
Lambing Complications	1,600	13.3	1,800	16.4
Poison	1,100	9.2	1,200	10.9
Old Age	2,100	17.5	1,900	17.3
On Back	600	5.0	600	5.5
Theft	300	2.5	300	2.7
Other Causes	500	4.2	300	2.7
Total Non-Predators	8,000	66.7	8,000	72.7
Total Loss All Causes	12,000	100.0	11,000	100.0

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



Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2003 and 2004

Cause of Loss	2003				2004			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	7,500	11,000	18,500	43.0	7,100	10,500	17,600	40.0
Bobcats	300	300	600	1.4	200	100	300	.7
Dogs	100	200	300	.7	100	300	400	.9
Bears	100	1,300	1,400	3.3	100	700	800	1.8
Eagles	2,500	1,000	3,500	8.1	2,600	800	3,400	7.7
Fox	1,700	400	2,100	4.9	1,900	800	2,700	6.1
Mountain Lions	100	600	700	1.6	400	600	1,000	2.3
Wolves	100	100	200	.5	—	100	100	.2
Ravens 3/	—	—	—	—	400	—	400	.9
Other Predators	600	100	700	1.6	200	100	300	.7
Total Predators	13,000	15,000	28,000	65.1	13,000	14,000	27,000	61.4
Weather	4,200	600	4,800	11.2	5,400	800	6,200	14.1
Disease	1,000	1,300	2,300	5.3	1,900	2,300	4,200	9.5
Lambing	3,900	—	3,900	9.1	4,900	—	4,900	11.1
Poison	200	1,000	1,200	2.8	200	600	800	1.8
On Back	—	100	100	.2	—	100	100	.2
Theft	—	200	200	.5	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	700	1,800	2,500	5.8	600	200	800	1.8
Total Non-	10,000	5,000	15,000	34.9	13,000	4,000	17,000	38.6
Total Loss All	23,000	20,000	43,000	100.0	26,000	18,000	44,000	100.0

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2000-2004 1/

Cause of Loss	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	34,000	39.1	32,300	44.2	29,900	41.5	20,900	38.0	19,700	35.8
Bobcats	500	.6	700	1.0	600	.8	700	1.3	300	.5
Dogs	600	.7	500	.7	600	.8	400	.7	500	.9
Bears	300	.3	1,200	1.6	600	.8	1,900	3.5	1,000	1.8
Eagles	5,900	6.8	6,000	8.2	6,400	8.9	3,800	6.9	3,500	6.4
Fox	4,700	5.4	4,600	6.3	3,200	4.4	2,200	4.0	2,700	4.9
Mountain Lions	1,600	1.8	1,200	1.6	3,100	4.3	900	1.6	1,400	2.5
Wolves 2/	—	—	—	—	—	—	400	.7	200	.4
Ravens 3/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	400	.7
Other Predators	400	.5	500	.7	600	.8	800	1.5	300	.5
Total Predators	48,000	55.2	47,000	64.4	45,000	62.5	32,000	58.2	30,000	54.5
Weather	12,600	14.5	7,500	10.3	7,000	9.7	5,600	10.2	6,600	12.0
Disease	9,600	11.0	4,400	6.0	4,900	6.8	3,300	6.0	5,700	10.4
Lambing Complications	7,200	8.3	6,000	8.2	6,100	8.5	5,500	10.0	6,700	12.2
Poison	3,700	4.3	2,600	3.6	3,000	4.2	2,300	4.2	2,000	3.6
Old Age	3,300	3.8	2,300	3.2	2,400	3.3	2,100	3.8	1,900	3.5
On Back	1,000	1.1	800	1.1	1,100	1.5	700	1.3	700	1.3
Theft	500	.6	1,000	1.4	400	.6	500	.9	300	.5
Other Causes	1,100	1.3	1,400	1.9	2,100	2.9	3,000	5.5	1,100	2.0
Total Non-Predators	39,000	44.8	26,000	35.6	27,000	37.5	23,000	41.8	25,000	45.5
Total Loss All Causes	87,000	100.0	73,000	100.0	72,000	100.0	55,000	100.0	55,000	100.0

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

2/ Included in "Other Predators" for 2000-2002.

3/ Included in "Other Predators" for 2000-2003.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2003 and 2004 1/ 2/

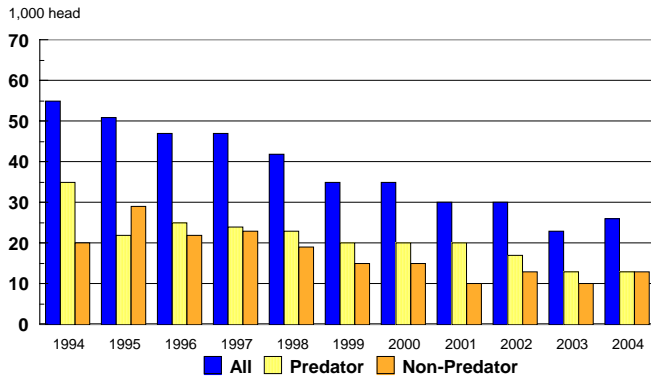
Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Coyotes	235,200	252,000	1,154,400	1,203,800	1,389,600	1,455,800
Bobcats	9,800	—	37,400	20,500	47,200	20,500
Dogs	9,800	12,000	18,700	27,400	28,500	39,400
Bears	49,000	24,000	87,400	54,700	136,400	78,700
Eagles	29,400	12,000	218,400	232,600	247,800	244,600
Fox	9,800	—	131,000	184,700	140,800	184,700
Mountain Lions	19,600	48,000	43,700	68,400	63,300	116,400
Wolves	19,600	12,000	12,500	6,800	32,100	18,800
Ravens 3/	—	—	3/	27,400	—	27,400
Other Predators	9,800	—	43,700	20,500	53,500	20,500
Total Predators	392,000	360,000	1,747,200	1,846,800	2,139,200	2,206,800
Weather	78,400	48,000	299,500	424,100	377,900	472,100
Disease	98,000	180,000	143,500	287,300	241,500	467,300
Lambing Complications	156,800	216,000	243,400	335,200	400,200	551,200
Poison	107,800	144,000	74,900	54,700	182,700	198,700
Old Age	205,800	228,000	—	—	205,800	228,000
On Back	58,800	72,000	6,200	6,800	65,000	78,800
Theft	29,400	36,000	12,500	—	41,900	36,000
Other Causes	49,000	36,000	156,000	54,700	205,000	90,700
Total Non-Predators	784,000	960,000	936,000	1,162,800	1,720,000	2,122,800
Total Loss All Causes	1,176,000	1,320,000	2,683,200	3,009,600	3,859,200	4,329,600

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

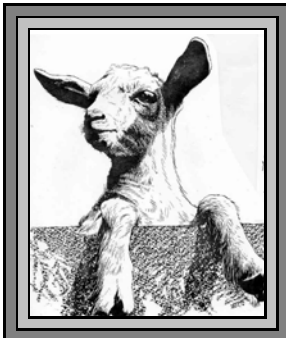
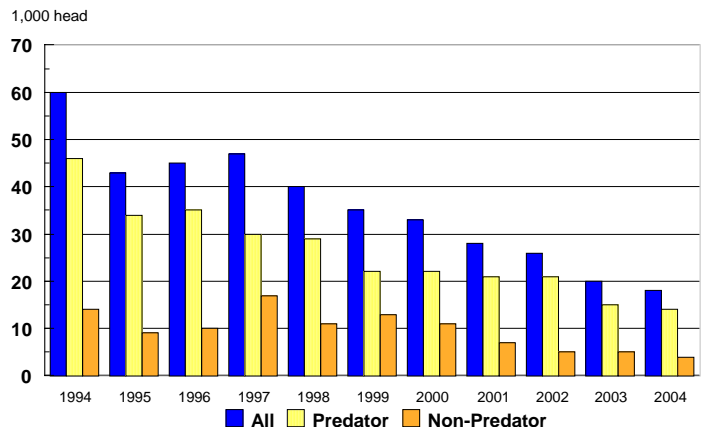
2/Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Two year average sheep value 2003 revised-\$98.00, 2004-\$120.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2003-\$62.40, preliminary 2004-\$68.40.

3/ Included in "Other Predators" in 2003.

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 2004 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Coyotes	3,200	5,800	5,400	3,000	2,300	19,700
Bobcats	—	100	100	—	100	300
Dogs	200	100	100	—	100	500
Bears	100	300	300	300	—	1,000
Eagles	200	1,000	200	1,100	1,000	3,500
Fox	100	1,000	500	600	500	2,700
Mountain Lions	400	700	100	100	100	1,400
Wolves	—	100	—	100	—	200
Ravens	—	—	100	100	200	400
Other Predators	—	300	—	—	—	300
Total Predators	4,200	9,400	6,800	5,300	4,300	30,000
Weather	700	2,400	600	400	2,500	6,600
Disease	2,200	900	500	1,100	1,000	5,700
Lambing Complications	1,000	2,200	900	700	1,900	6,700
Poison	100	600	500	600	200	2,000
Old Age	400	700	400	200	200	1,900
On Back	100	200	200	100	100	700
Theft	—	200	100	—	—	300
All Other Causes	200	400	300	100	100	1,100
Total Non-Predators	4,700	7,600	3,500	3,200	6,000	25,000
Total Loss All Causes	8,900	17,000	10,300	8,500	10,300	55,000

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

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2004 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent					
Coyotes	36.0	34.1	52.4	35.3	22.3	35.8
Bobcats	—	.6	1.0	—	1.0	.5
Dogs	2.2	.6	1.0	—	1.0	.9
Bears	1.1	1.8	2.9	3.5	—	1.8
Eagles	2.2	5.9	1.9	12.9	9.7	6.4
Fox	1.1	5.9	4.9	7.1	4.9	4.9
Mountain Lions	4.5	4.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	2.5
Wolves	—	.6	—	1.2	—	.4
Ravens	—	—	1.0	1.2	1.9	.7
Other Predators	—	1.8	—	—	—	.5
Total Predators	47.2	55.3	66.0	62.4	41.7	54.5
Weather	7.9	14.1	5.8	4.7	24.3	12.0
Disease	24.7	5.3	4.9	12.9	9.7	10.4
Lambing Complications	11.2	12.9	8.7	8.2	18.4	12.2
Poison	1.1	3.5	4.9	7.1	1.9	3.6
Old Age	4.5	4.1	3.9	2.4	1.9	3.5
On Back	1.1	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.3
Theft	—	1.2	1.0	—	—	.5
All Other Causes	2.2	2.4	2.9	1.2	1.0	2.0
Total Non-Predators	52.8	44.7	34.0	37.6	58.3	45.5
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.