



SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES 2005

February 17, 2006

Dear Data Users,

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 51,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2005 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 7 percent from the previous year. Predators accounted for 47 percent of the losses. The 2005 lamb crop totaled 300,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was unchanged from 2004. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 325,000 head. Of these, 41,000 or 13 percent were lost to various causes, down slightly from 2004.

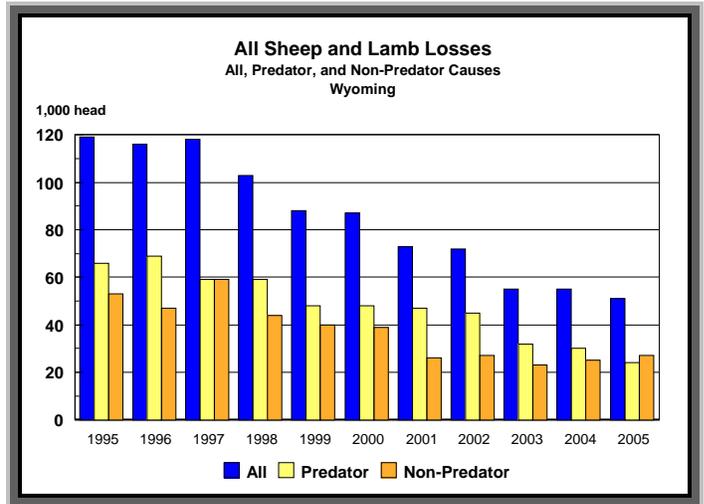
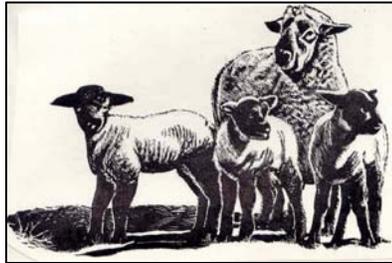
These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep and Goat Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency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

Dick Coulter
Director



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR LOSSES LOWER: Wyoming sheep producers lost 24,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2005, down 20 percent from 2004. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 65 percent of the total predator losses and 31 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes increased by 2,000 head to 27,000.

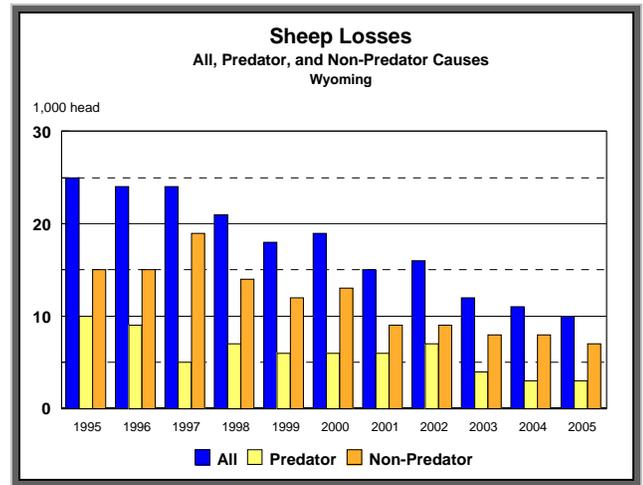
NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES HIGHER: Sheep producers lost 41,000 lambs before or after docking in 2005, 7 percent fewer than in 2004. Losses to predators accounted for 51 percent of the total or 21,000 head, down 6,000 head from 2004. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were up 3,000 head to 20,000.

SHEEP LOSSES SLIP LOWER: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2005 totaled 10,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2004. Predator losses were unchanged at 3,000 while non-predator losses were down 1,000 head to 7,000.

VALUE OF LOSSES UP 2 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost an estimated \$4.41 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2005, up 2 percent from the previous year as prices were higher. Predation accounted for \$1.95 million or 44 percent of the total

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2004 and 2005

Cause of Loss	2004		2005	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	2,100	19.1	1,800	18.0
Bobcats	0	—	0	—
Dogs	100	.9	100	1.0
Bears	200	1.8	500	5.0
Eagles	100	.9	0	—
Fox	0	—	0	—
Mountain Lions	400	3.6	300	3.0
Wolves	100	.9	200	2.0
Other Predators	0	—	100	1.0
Total Predators	3,000	27.3	3,000	30.0
Weather	400	3.6	600	6.0
Disease 1/	1,500	13.6	1,000	10.0
Lambing Complications	1,800	16.4	1,900	19.0
Poison	1,200	10.9	1,100	11.0
Old Age	1,900	17.3	1,500	15.0
On Back	600	5.5	400	4.0
Theft	300	2.7	100	1.0
Other Causes	300	2.7	400	4.0
Total Non-Predators	8,000	72.7	7,000	70.0
Total Loss All Causes	11,000	100.0	10,000	100.0



Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2004 and 2005

Cause of Loss	2004				2005			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	7,100	10,500	17,600	40.0	5,800	8,000	13,800	33.7
Bobcats	200	100	300	.7	400	200	600	1.5
Dogs	100	300	400	.9	100	100	200	.5
Bears	100	700	800	1.8	100	700	800	2.0
Eagles	2,600	800	3,400	7.7	1,200	500	1,700	4.1
Fox	1,900	800	2,700	6.1	1,300	500	1,800	4.4
Mountain Lions	400	600	1,000	2.3	200	700	900	2.2
Wolves	0	100	100	.2	500	300	800	2.0
Ravens 2/	400	0	400	.9	—	—	—	—
Other Predators	200	100	300	.7	400	0	400	1.0
Total Predators	13,000	14,000	27,000	61.4	10,000	11,000	21,000	51.2
Weather	5,400	800	6,200	14.1	7,600	900	8,500	20.7
Disease 1/	1,900	2,300	4,200	9.5	1,100	2,100	3,200	7.8
Lambing	4,900	0	4,900	11.1	5,200	0	5,200	12.7
Poison	200	600	800	1.8	400	1,300	1,700	4.1
On Back	0	100	100	.2	100	0	100	.2
Theft	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	.2
Other Causes	600	200	800	1.8	600	600	1,200	2.9
Total Non Predators	13,000	4,000	17,000	38.6	15,000	5,000	20,000	48.8
Total Loss All Causes	26,000	18,000	44,000	100.0	25,000	16,000	41,000	100.0

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2001-2005 3/

Cause of Loss	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Total Head	% of Total								
Coyotes	32,300	44.2	29,900	41.5	20,900	38.0	19,700	35.8	15,600	30.6
Bobcats	700	1.0	600	.8	700	1.3	300	.5	600	1.2
Dogs	500	.7	600	.8	400	.7	500	.9	300	.6
Bears	1,200	1.6	600	.8	1,900	3.5	1,000	1.8	1,300	2.5
Eagles	6,000	8.2	6,400	8.9	3,800	6.9	3,500	6.4	1,700	3.3
Fox	4,600	6.3	3,200	4.4	2,200	4.0	2,700	4.9	1,800	3.5
Mountain Lions	1,200	1.6	3,100	4.3	900	1.6	1,400	2.5	1,200	2.4
Wolves 4/	—	—	—	—	400	.7	200	.4	1,000	2.0
Ravens 2/	—	—	—	—	—	—	400	.7	—	—
Other Predators	500	.7	600	.8	800	1.5	300	.5	500	1.0
Total Predators	47,000	64.4	45,000	62.5	32,000	58.2	30,000	54.5	24,000	47.1
Weather	7,500	10.3	7,000	9.7	5,600	10.2	6,600	12.0	9,100	17.8
Disease 1/	4,400	6.0	4,900	6.8	3,300	6.0	5,700	10.4	4,200	8.2
Lambing Complications	6,000	8.2	6,100	8.5	5,500	10.0	6,700	12.2	7,100	13.9
Poison	2,600	3.6	3,000	4.2	2,300	4.2	2,000	3.6	2,800	5.5
Old Age	2,300	3.2	2,400	3.3	2,100	3.8	1,900	3.5	1,500	2.9
On Back	800	1.1	1,100	1.5	700	1.3	700	1.3	500	1.0
Theft	1,000	1.4	400	.6	500	.9	300	.5	200	.4
Other Causes	1,400	1.9	2,100	2.9	3,000	5.5	1,100	2.0	1,600	3.1
Total Non-Predators	26,000	35.6	27,000	37.5	23,000	41.8	25,000	45.5	27,000	52.9
Total Loss All Causes	73,000	100.0	72,000	100.0	55,000	100.0	55,000	100.0	51,000	100.0

1/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating) which in 2005 accounted for deaths of 400 lambs before docking, 800 after docking, and 100 sheep.

2/ Included in "Other Predators" except in 2004.

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

4/ Included in "Other Predators" for 2001-2002.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2004 and 2005 1/ 2/

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Coyotes	252,000	257,400	1,203,800	1,001,900	1,455,800	1,259,300
Bobcats	0	0	20,500	43,600	20,500	43,600
Dogs	12,000	14,300	27,400	14,500	39,400	28,800
Bears	24,000	71,500	54,700	58,100	78,700	129,600
Eagles	12,000	0	232,600	123,400	244,600	123,400
Fox	0	0	184,700	130,700	184,700	130,700
Mountain Lions	48,000	42,900	68,400	65,300	116,400	108,200
Wolves	12,000	28,600	6,800	58,100	18,800	86,700
Ravens 3/	0	—	27,400	—	27,400	—
Other Predators	0	14,300	20,500	29,000	20,500	43,300
Total Predators	360,000	429,000	1,846,800	1,524,600	2,206,800	1,953,600
Weather	48,000	85,800	424,100	617,100	472,100	702,900
Disease 4/	180,000	143,000	287,300	232,300	467,300	375,300
Lambing Complications	216,000	271,700	335,200	377,500	551,200	649,200
Poison	144,000	157,300	54,700	123,400	198,700	280,700
Old Age	228,000	214,500	0	0	228,000	214,500
On Back	72,000	57,200	6,800	7,300	78,800	64,500
Theft	36,000	14,300	0	7,300	36,000	21,600
Other Causes	36,000	57,200	54,700	87,100	90,700	144,300
Total Non-Predators	960,000	1,001,000	1,162,800	1,452,000	2,122,800	2,453,000
Total Loss All Causes	1,320,000	1,430,000	3,009,600	2,976,600	4,329,600	4,406,600

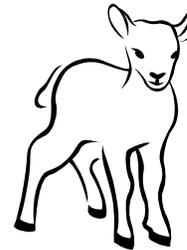
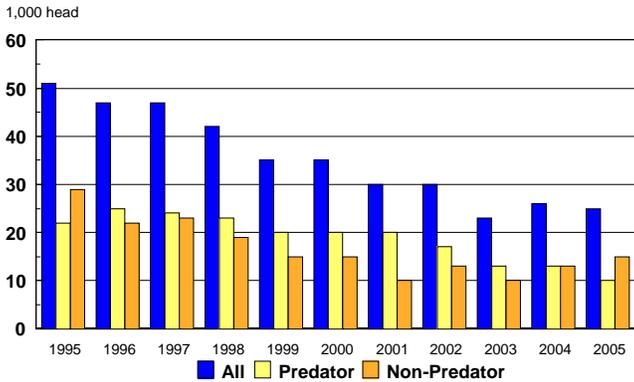
1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Two year average sheep value 2004-\$120.00, 2005-\$143.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2004-\$68.40, preliminary 2005-\$72.60.

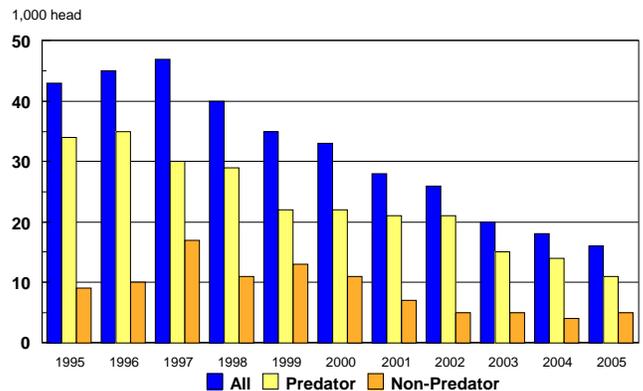
3/ Included in "Other Predators" in 2005.

4/ Includes enterotoxemia (over-eating) which in 2005 had sheep losses valued at \$14,300 and lamb losses valued at \$87,100

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



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



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Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2005 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Coyotes	1,400	4,500	3,700	2,700	3,300	15,600
Bobcats	—	200	100	100	200	600
Dogs	100	—	—	100	100	300
Bears	100	500	200	500	—	1,300
Eagles	300	600	100	400	300	1,700
Fox	100	800	300	—	600	1,800
Mountain Lions	400	300	—	500	—	1,200
Wolves	—	100	200	600	100	1,000
Other Predators	—	—	300	200	—	500
Total Predators	2,400	7,000	4,900	5,100	4,600	24,000
Weather	700	3,000	1,100	1,600	2,700	9,100
Disease	1,100	1,200	700	500	700	4,200
Lambing Complications	900	2,500	400	1,300	2,000	7,100
Poison	400	900	800	400	300	2,800
Old Age	400	600	100	100	300	1,500
On Back	100	100	100	100	100	500
Theft	—	—	—	—	200	200
All Other Causes	200	800	200	100	300	1,600
Total Non-Predators	3,800	9,100	3,400	4,100	6,600	27,000
Total Loss All Causes	6,200	16,100	8,300	9,200	11,200	51,000

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

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2005 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent					
Coyotes	22.6	28.0	44.6	29.3	29.5	30.6
Bobcats	—	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.2
Dogs	1.6	—	—	1.1	.9	.6
Bears	1.6	3.1	2.4	5.4	—	2.5
Eagles	4.8	3.7	1.2	4.3	2.7	3.3
Fox	1.6	5.0	3.6	—	5.4	3.5
Mountain Lions	6.5	1.9	—	5.4	—	2.4
Wolves	—	.6	2.4	6.5	.9	2.0
Other Predators	—	—	3.6	2.2	—	1.0
Total Predators	38.7	43.5	59.0	55.4	41.1	47.1
Weather	11.3	18.6	13.3	17.4	24.1	17.8
Disease	17.7	7.5	8.4	5.4	6.3	8.2
Lambing Complications	14.5	15.5	4.8	14.1	17.9	13.9
Poison	6.5	5.6	9.6	4.3	2.7	5.5
Old Age	6.5	3.7	1.2	1.1	2.7	2.9
On Back	1.6	.6	1.2	1.1	.9	1.0
Theft	—	—	—	—	1.8	.4
All Other Causes	3.2	5.0	2.4	1.1	2.7	3.1
Total Non-Predators	61.3	56.5	41.0	44.6	58.9	52.9
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.