



Sheep & Lamb Losses

Wyoming Field Office
PO Box 1148 · Cheyenne, WY 82003
307-432-5600 • FAX 307-432-5598 • www.nass.usda.gov/wy

February 22, 2010

Dear Data Users,

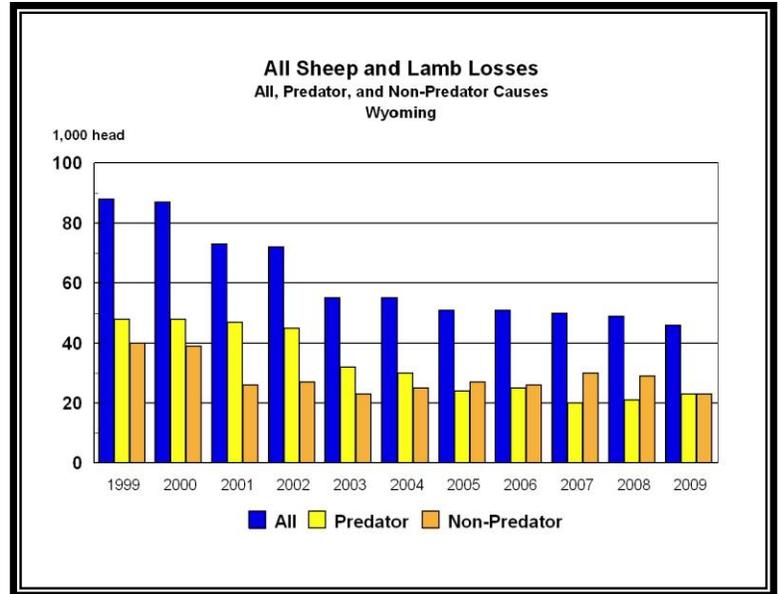
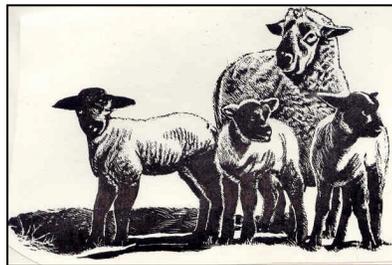
Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 45,800 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2009 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 3,200 head from the previous year. Predators accounted for 49 percent of the losses. The 2009 lamb crop totaled 255,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was down 2 percent from 2008. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 269,800 head. Of these, 8,400 or 57 percent were lost to various non-predator causes, down 46 percent from 2008.

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,

Todd Ballard
Director



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR LOSSES HIGHER: Wyoming sheep producers lost 22,600 sheep and lambs to predators in 2009, up 10 percent from 2008. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 68 percent of the total predator losses and 33 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes decreased by 5,300 head to 23,200.

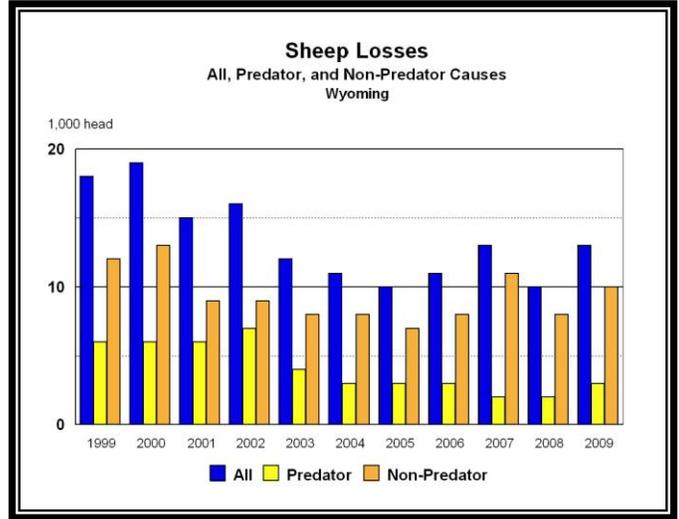
NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES DOWN: Sheep producers lost 32,800 lambs before or after docking in 2009, down 16 percent from 2008. Losses to predators accounted for 60 percent of the total, up 7 percent from 2008. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were down 36 percent to 13,100.

SHEEP LOSSES HIGHER: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2009 totaled 13,000 head, up 3,000 head from 2008. Predator losses were up 800 head at 2,900 and non-predator losses were up 2,200 head to 10,100.

VALUE OF LOSSES DOWN: Sheep producers lost an estimated \$3.7 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2009, down from \$3.8 million previous year. Predation accounted for \$1.6 million or 42 percent of the total.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2008 and 2009

Cause of Loss	2008		2009	
	Head	% of Total 1/	Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	300	3.0	700	5.4
Bobcats	—	—	—	—
Coyotes	1,200	12.0	1,600	12.3
Dogs	100	1.0	200	1.5
Eagles	100	1.0	—	—
Wolves	—	—	100	0.8
Foxes	200	2.0	100	0.8
Mountain Lion	200	2.0	200	1.5
Other Predators	—	—	—	—
Total Predators	2,100	21.0	2,900	22.3
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive (bloat/scours/acidosis)	—	—	400	3.1
Respiratory Problems	—	—	200	1.5
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	—
Other Disease Problems 2/	700	7.0	300	2.3
Over-eating	100	1.0	—	—
Weather	1,800	18.0	4,700	36.2
Lambing Complications	1,100	11.0	1,600	12.3
Old Age	2,700	27.0	1,600	12.3
On Back	500	5.0	400	3.1
Poisoning	700	7.0	700	5.4
Theft	100	1.0	—	—
Other Non-Predators	200	2.0	200	1.5
Total Non-Predators	7,900	79.0	10,100	77.7
Total Loss All Causes	10,000	100.0	13,000	100.0



1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.

Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2008 and 2009

Cause of Loss	2008				2009			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	100	600	700	1.8	—	900	900	2.7
Bobcats	100	200	300	0.8	100	100	200	0.6
Coyotes	4,600	8,600	13,200	33.9	4,100	9,600	13,700	41.8
Dogs	100	200	300	0.8	100	300	400	1.2
Eagles	1,200	300	1,500	3.9	1,100	800	1,900	5.8
Wolves	—	100	100	0.3	—	500	500	1.5
Foxes	1,100	400	1,500	3.9	700	200	900	2.7
Mountain Lions	100	500	600	1.5	100	900	1,000	3.1
Other Predator	200	—	200	0.5	200	—	200	0.6
Total Predators	7,500	10,900	18,400	47.2	6,400	13,300	19,700	60.1
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	—	—	100	100	0.3
Other Digestive Problems (bloat/scours/acidosis)	—	—	—	—	100	600	700	2.1
Respiratory Problems	—	—	—	—	200	200	400	1.2
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	—	—	100	100	0.3
Other Disease Problems 2/	1,000	1,900	2,900	7.4	200	200	400	1.2
Over-eating	200	900	1,100	2.8	100	200	300	0.9
Weather	11,100	1,300	12,400	31.8	5,500	2,000	7,500	22.9
Lambing	2,500	—	2,500	6.4	2,200	—	2,200	6.7
On Back	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poisoning	300	500	800	2.0	—	600	600	1.8
Theft	100	200	300	0.8	—	—	—	—
Other Non-Predators	300	300	600	1.5	100	700	800	2.4
Total Non-Predators	15,500	5,100	20,600	52.8	8,400	4,700	13,100	39.8
Total Loss All Causes	23,000	16,000	39,000	100.0	14,800	18,000	32,800	100.0

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2005-2009 1/

Cause of Loss	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Total Head	% of Total 2/								
Bears	1,300	2.5	1,300	2.5	900	1.8	1,000	2.0	1,600	3.5
Bobcats	600	1.2	600	1.2	600	1.2	300	0.6	200	0.4
Coyotes	15,600	30.6	17,200	33.7	12,900	25.8	14,400	29.4	15,300	33.4
Dogs	300	0.6	500	1.0	900	1.8	400	0.8	600	1.3
Eagles	1,700	3.3	1,800	3.5	1,400	2.8	1,600	3.3	1,900	4.1
Wolves	1,000	2.0	300	0.6	500	1.0	100	.2	600	1.3
Fox	1,800	3.5	1,400	2.7	1,200	2.4	1,700	3.5	1,000	2.2
Mountain Lions	1,200	2.4	1,100	2.2	800	1.6	800	1.6	1,200	2.6
Other Predators	500	1.0	400	0.8	400	0.8	200	0.4	200	0.4
Total Predators	24,000	47.1	24,600	48.2	19,600	39.2	20,500	41.9	22,600	49.3
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	0.2
Other Digestive Problems (bloat/scours/acidosis)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,100	2.4
Respiratory Problems	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	600	1.3
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	0.2
Other Disease Problems 3/	3,000	5.9	2,900	5.7	3,700	7.4	3,700	7.6	700	1.5
Over-eating	1,200	2.4	1,300	2.5	700	1.4	1,100	2.2	300	0.7
Weather	9,100	17.8	7,200	14.1	15,000	30.0	14,200	29.0	12,200	26.6
Lambing Complications	7,100	13.9	6,900	13.5	4,400	8.8	3,600	7.4	3,800	8.3
Old Age	1,500	2.9	2,200	4.3	1,500	3.0	2,700	5.5	1,600	3.5
On Back	500	1.0	900	1.8	700	1.4	500	1.0	400	0.9
Poison	2,800	5.5	2,300	4.5	1,700	3.4	1,500	3.1	1,300	2.8
Theft	200	0.4	300	0.6	600	1.2	400	0.8	—	—
Other Causes	1,600	3.1	2,400	4.7	2,100	4.2	800	1.6	1,000	2.2
Total Non-Predators	27,000	52.9	26,400	51.8	30,400	60.8	28,500	58.2	23,200	50.7
Total Loss All Causes	51,000	100.0	51,000	100.0	50,000	100.0	49,000	100.0	45,800	100.0

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

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2008 and 2009 1/ 2/

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Bears	41,550	93,100	43,680	54,000	85,230	147,100
Bobcats	—	—	18,720	12,000	18,720	12,000
Coyotes	166,200	212,800	823,680	822,000	989,880	1,034,800
Dogs	13,850	26,600	18,720	24,000	32,570	50,600
Eagles	13,850	—	93,600	114,000	107,450	114,000
Wolves	—	13,300	6,240	30,000	6,240	43,300
Foxes	27,700	13,300	93,600	54,000	121,300	67,300
Mountain Lions	27,700	26,600	37,440	60,000	65,140	86,600
Other Predators	—	—	12,480	12,000	12,480	12,000
Total Predators	290,850	385,700	1,148,160	1,182,000	1,439,010	1,567,700
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	6,000	—	6,000
Other Digestive Problems (bloat/scours/acidosis)	—	53,200	—	42,000	—	95,200
Respiratory Problems	—	26,600	—	24,000	—	50,600
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	6,000	—	6,000
Other Disease Problems 3/	96,950	39,900	180,960	24,000	277,910	63,900
Over-eating	13,850	—	68,640	18,000	82,490	18,000
Weather	249,300	625,100	773,760	450,000	1,023,060	1,075,100
Lambing Complications	152,350	212,800	156,000	132,000	308,350	344,800
Old Age	373,950	212,800	—	—	373,950	212,800
On Back	69,250	53,200	—	—	69,250	53,200
Poison	96,950	93,100	49,920	36,000	146,870	129,100
Theft	13,850	—	18,720	—	32,570	—
Other Causes	27,700	26,600	37,440	48,000	65,140	74,600
Total Non-Predators	1,094,150	1,343,300	1,285,440	786,000	2,379,590	2,129,300
Total Loss All Causes	1,385,000	1,729,000	2,433,600	1,968,000	3,818,600	3,697,000

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 ewe value 2008-\$137.00, 2009-\$128.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2008-\$62.40, preliminary 2009-\$60.00.

3/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2009 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Bears	—	100	200	1,300	—	1,600
Bobcats	—	200	—	—	—	200
Coyotes	1,700	3,600	4,400	1,600	4,000	15,300
Dogs	100	100	—	200	200	600
Eagles	100	700	100	200	800	1,900
Wolves	300	—	100	200	—	600
Foxes	200	200	300	100	200	1,000
Mountain Lions	200	800	—	200	—	1,200
Other Predators	—	—	200	—	—	200
Total Predators	2,600	5,700	5,300	3,800	5,200	22,600
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	—	100	100
Other Digestive Problems 2/ (bloat/scours/acidosis)	100	500	200	—	300	1,100
Respiratory Problems	300	100	100	—	100	600
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	—	100	100
Other Disease Problems	400	100	100	—	100	700
Over-eating	100	100	—	—	100	300
Weather	900	3,600	1,500	1,000	5,200	12,200
Lambing Complications	700	1,700	300	300	800	3,800
Old Age	300	400	300	200	400	1,600
On Back	—	100	—	100	200	400
Poison	100	400	400	300	100	1,300
Theft	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Non-Predators	100	300	—	100	500	1,000
Total Non-Predators	3,000	7,300	2,900	2,000	8,000	23,200
Total Loss All Causes	5,600	13,000	8,200	5,800	13,200	45,800

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

2/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2009 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent 2/					
Bears	—	0.8	2.4	22.4	—	3.5
Bobcats	—	1.5	—	—	—	0.4
Coyotes	30.4	27.7	53.7	27.6	30.3	33.4
Dogs	1.8	0.8	—	3.4	1.5	1.3
Eagles	1.8	5.4	1.2	3.4	6.1	4.1
Wolves	5.4	—	1.2	3.4	—	1.3
Fox	3.6	1.5	3.7	1.7	1.5	2.2
Mountain Lions	3.6	6.2	—	3.4	—	2.6
Other Predators	—	—	2.4	—	—	0.4
Total Predators	46.4	43.8	64.6	65.5	39.4	49.3
Internal Parasites	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.2
Other Digestive Problems 3/ (bloat/scours/acidosis)	1.8	3.8	2.4	—	2.3	2.4
Respiratory Problems	5.4	0.8	1.2	—	0.8	1.3
Metabolic Problems	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.2
Other Disease Problems	7.1	0.8	1.2	—	0.8	1.5
Over-eating	1.8	0.8	—	—	0.8	0.7
Weather	16.1	27.7	18.3	17.2	39.4	26.6
Lambing Complications	12.5	13.1	3.7	5.2	6.1	8.3
Old Age	5.4	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.5
On Back	—	0.8	—	1.7	1.5	0.9
Poison	1.8	3.1	4.9	5.2	0.8	2.8
Theft	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes	1.8	2.3	—	1.7	3.8	2.2
Total Non-Predators	53.6	56.2	35.4	34.5	60.6	50.7
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.

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Included internal parasites, other digestive problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic problems until 2009.