



Sheep & Lamb Losses

Wyoming Field Office
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February 17, 2012

Dear Data Users,

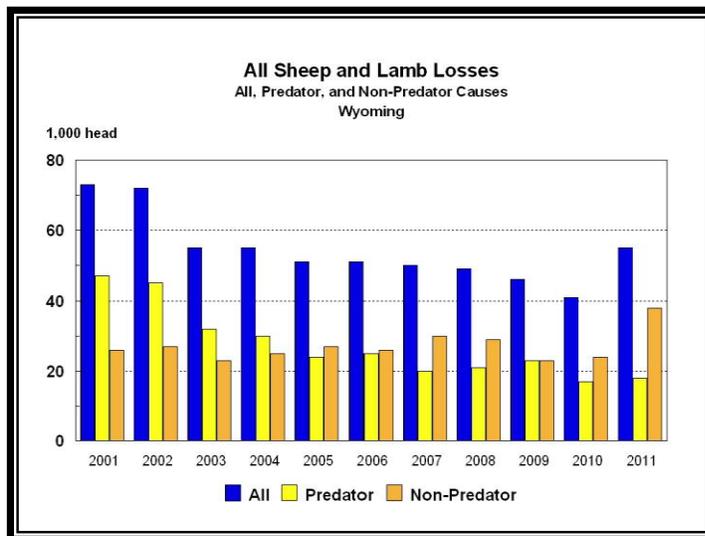
Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 55,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease, and other causes in 2011 according to our annual survey. Total losses were up 14,000 head from the previous year. Predators accounted for 32 percent of the losses. The 2011 lamb crop totaled 220,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was down 4 percent from 2010. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 251,000 head. Of these, 23,800, or 77 percent, were lost to various non-predator causes, compared to 65 percent in 2010.

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 UP: Wyoming sheep producers lost 17,500 sheep and lambs to predators in 2011, up 4 percent from 2010. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 62 percent of the total predator losses and 20 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes increased by 13,300 head to 37,500.

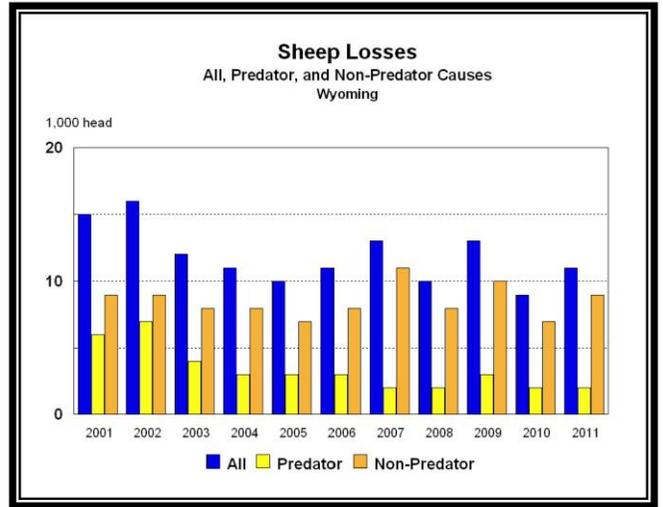
NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES UP: Sheep producers lost 44,000 lambs before or after docking in 2011, up 12,000 head from 2010. Losses to predators accounted for 35 percent of the total, up 900 from 2010. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were up 11,100 head to 28,600.

SHEEP LOSSES UP: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2011 totaled 11,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2010. Predator losses were down 200 head at 2,100 and non-predator losses were up 2,200 head to 8,900.

VALUE OF LOSSES HIGHER: Sheep producers lost an estimated \$6.7 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2011, up from \$3.5 million the previous year. Predation accounted for \$2.1 million or 31 percent of the total.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2010 and 2011

Cause of Loss	2010		2011	
	Head	% of Total 1/	Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	100	1.1	600	5.5
Bobcats	—	—	—	—
Coyotes	1,400	15.6	1,000	9.1
Dogs	100	1.1	200	1.8
Ravens	—	—	—	—
Eagles	300	3.3	100	0.9
Wolves	200	2.2	—	—
Foxes	—	—	—	—
Mountain Lions	200	2.2	200	1.8
Other Predators	2/	2/	2/	2/
Total Predators	2,300	25.6	2,100	19.1
Disease	500	5.6	700	6.4
Overeating	2/	2/	100	0.9
Weather	1,500	16.7	4,800	43.6
Lambing Complications	1,300	14.4	900	8.2
Old Age	2,100	23.3	1,500	13.6
On Back	500	5.6	200	1.8
Poisoning	700	7.8	400	3.6
Theft	2/	2/	100	0.9
Other Non-Predators	100	1.1	200	1.8
Total Non-Predators	6,700	74.4	8,900	80.9
Total Loss All Causes	9,000	100.0	11,000	100.0



1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2010 and 2011

Cause of Loss	2010				2011			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	2/	200	200	0.6	100	900	1,000	2.3
Bobcats	100	2/	100	0.3	—	2/	2/	2/
Coyotes	3,900	5,900	9,800	30.6	4,400	5,500	9,900	22.5
Dogs	2/	200	200	0.6	100	300	400	0.9
Ravens	700	100	800	2.5	500	2/	500	1.1
Eagles	1,200	600	1,800	5.6	1,900	900	2,800	6.4
Wolves	2/	100	100	0.3	2/	2/	2/	2/
Foxes	700	100	800	2.5	100	200	300	0.7
Mountain Lions	100	600	700	2.2	100	400	500	1.1
Other Predators	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Total Predators	6,700	7,800	14,500	45.3	7,200	8,200	15,400	35.0
Disease	500	700	1,200	3.8	600	1,300	1,900	4.3
Overeating	100	800	900	2.8	100	600	700	1.6
Weather	9,700	1,400	11,100	34.7	19,700	2,300	22,000	50.0
Lambing	1,800	—	1,800	5.6	3,300	—	3,300	7.5
On Back	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Poisoning	100	1,300	1,400	4.4	2/	300	300	0.7
Theft	—	200	200	0.6	—	2/	2/	2/
Other Non-Predators	100	800	900	2.8	100	300	400	0.9
Total Non-Predators	12,300	5,200	17,500	54.7	23,800	4,800	28,600	65.0
Total Loss All Causes	19,000	13,000	32,000	100.0	31,000	13,000	44,000	100.0

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2007-2011 1/

Cause of Loss	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Total Head	% of Total 2/								
Bears	900	1.8	1,000	2.0	1,600	3.5	300	0.7	1,600	2.9
Bobcats	600	1.2	300	0.6	200	0.4	100	0.2	4/	4/
Coyotes	12,900	25.8	14,400	29.4	15,300	33.4	11,200	27.3	10,900	19.8
Dogs	900	1.8	400	0.8	600	1.3	300	0.7	600	1.1
Ravens	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	800	2.0	500	0.9
Eagles	1,400	2.8	1,600	3.3	1,900	4.2	2,100	5.1	2,900	5.3
Wolves	500	1.0	100	0.2	600	1.3	300	0.7	4/	4/
Fox	1,200	2.4	1,700	3.5	1,000	2.2	800	2.0	300	0.6
Mountain Lions	800	1.6	800	1.6	1,200	2.6	900	2.2	700	1.3
Other Predators	400	0.8	200	0.4	200	0.4	4/	4/	4/	4/
Total Predators	19,600	39.2	20,500	41.8	22,600	49.3	16,800	41.0	17,500	31.8
Disease	3,700	7.4	3,700	7.6	2,600	5.7	1,700	4.2	2,600	4.7
Overeating	700	1.4	1,100	2.2	300	0.7	900	2.2	800	1.5
Weather	15,000	30.0	14,200	29.0	12,200	26.6	12,600	30.7	26,800	48.7
Lambing Complications	4,400	8.8	3,600	7.4	3,800	8.3	3,100	7.6	4,200	7.6
Old Age	1,500	3.0	2,700	5.5	1,600	3.5	2,100	5.1	1,500	2.7
On Back	700	1.4	500	1.0	400	0.9	500	1.2	200	0.4
Poison	1,700	3.4	1,500	3.1	1,300	2.8	2,100	5.1	700	1.3
Theft	600	1.2	400	0.8	4/	4/	200	0.5	100	0.2
Other Causes	2,100	4.2	800	1.6	1,000	2.2	1,000	2.4	600	1.1
Total Non-Predators	30,400	60.8	28,500	58.2	23,200	50.7	24,200	59.0	37,500	68.2
Total Loss All Causes	50,000	100.0	49,000	100.0	45,800	100.0	41,000	100.0	55,000	100.0

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

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2010 and 2011 1/ 2/

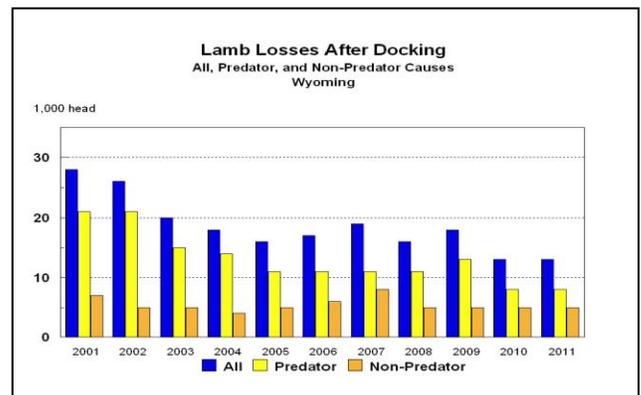
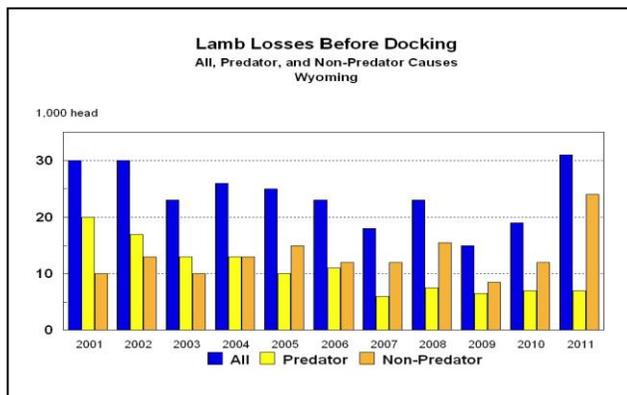
Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Bears	12,900	93,000	14,600	114,000	27,500	207,000
Bobcats	—	—	7,300	4/	7,300	4/
Coyotes	180,600	155,000	717,400	1,128,600	898,000	1,283,600
Dogs	12,900	31,000	14,600	45,600	27,500	76,600
Ravens	4/	4/	58,600	57,000	58,600	57,000
Eagles	38,700	15,500	131,800	319,200	170,500	334,700
Wolves	25,800	4/	7,300	4/	33,100	4/
Foxes	—	—	58,600	34,200	58,600	34,200
Mountain Lions	25,800	31,000	51,200	57,000	77,000	88,000
Other Predators	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Total Predators	296,700	325,500	1,061,400	1,755,600	1,358,100	2,081,100
Disease	64,500	108,500	87,800	216,600	152,300	325,100
Overeating	4/	15,500	65,900	79,800	65,900	95,300
Weather	193,500	744,000	812,500	2,508,000	1,006,000	3,252,000
Lambing Complications	167,700	139,500	131,800	376,200	299,500	515,700
Old Age	270,900	232,500	—	—	270,900	232,500
On Back	64,500	31,000	4/	4/	64,500	31,000
Poison	90,300	62,000	102,500	34,200	192,800	96,200
Theft	4/	15,500	14,600	4/	14,600	15,500
Other Causes	12,900	31,000	65,900	45,600	78,800	76,600
Total Non-Predators	864,300	1,379,500	1,281,000	3,260,400	2,145,300	4,639,900
Total Loss All Causes	1,161,000	1,705,000	2,342,400	5,016,000	3,503,400	6,721,000

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 2010-\$130.00, 2011-\$180.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2010-\$73.20, preliminary 2011-\$114.00.

3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.



Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2011 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Bears	—	200	1,200	200	—	1,600
Bobcats	—	2/	—	—	—	2/
Coyotes	1,300	2,200	3,100	1,600	2,700	10,900
Dogs	300	2/	200	—	100	600
Ravens	2/	—	400	100	2/	500
Eagles	100	1,400	200	200	1,000	2,900
Wolves	2/	2/	—	—	2/	2/
Foxes	200	2/	100	2/	2/	300
Mountain Lions	200	400	2/	—	100	700
Other Predators	—	2/	—	2/	2/	2/
Total Predators	2,100	4,200	5,200	2,100	3,900	17,500
Disease	1,300	500	200	200	400	2,600
Overeating	400	100	2/	100	200	800
Weather	2,100	7,200	13,400	2,700	1,400	26,800
Lambing Complications	800	600	2,400	200	200	4,200
Old Age	300	300	500	100	300	1,500
On Back	100	100	2/	2/	2/	200
Poison	2/	100	300	200	100	700
Theft	—	—	—	100	—	100
Other Non-Predators	200	200	2/	100	100	600
Total Non-Predators	5,200	9,100	16,800	3,700	2,700	37,500
Total Loss All Causes	7,300	13,300	22,000	5,800	6,600	55,000

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

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2011 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent 2/					
Bears	—	1.5	5.5	3.5	—	2.9
Bobcats	—	3/	—	—	—	3/
Coyotes	17.8	16.5	14.1	27.6	40.9	19.8
Dogs	4.1	3/	0.9	—	1.5	1.1
Ravens	3/	—	1.8	1.7	3/	0.9
Eagles	1.4	10.5	0.9	3.5	15.2	5.3
Wolves	3/	3/	—	—	3/	3/
Fox	2.7	3/	0.5	3/	3/	0.6
Mountain Lions	2.7	3.0	3/	—	1.5	1.3
Other Predators	—	3/	—	3/	3/	3/
Total Predators	28.8	31.6	23.6	36.2	59.1	31.8
Disease	17.8	3.8	0.9	3.4	6.1	4.7
Overeating	5.5	0.8	3/	1.7	3.0	1.5
Weather	28.8	54.1	60.9	46.6	21.2	48.7
Lambing Complications	11.0	4.5	10.9	3.5	3.0	7.6
Old Age	4.1	2.3	2.3	1.7	4.6	2.7
On Back	1.4	0.8	3/	3/	3/	0.4
Poison	3/	0.8	1.4	3.5	1.5	1.3
Theft	—	—	—	1.7	—	0.2
All Other Causes	2.7	1.5	3/	1.7	1.5	1.1
Total Non-Predators	71.2	68.4	76.4	63.8	40.9	68.2
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/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.