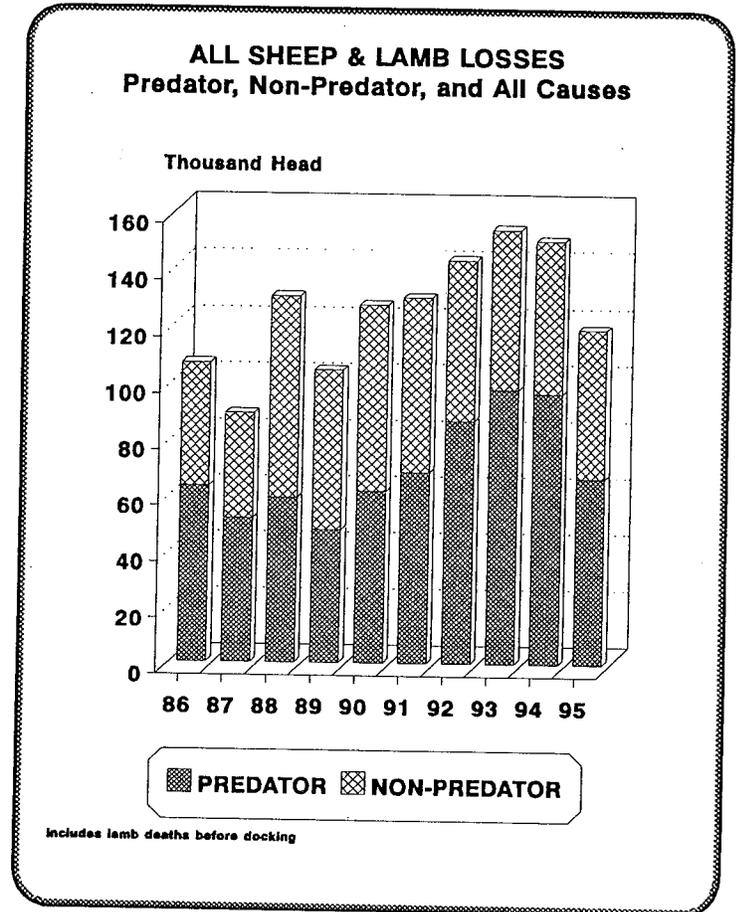


## SHEEP LOSSES TO ALL CAUSES - 1995

*This annual report is funded by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. A survey of producers is conducted in early January and is used to estimate total sheep and lamb inventory on hand January 1 and to estimate sheep and lamb losses to all causes during the previous year.*

*Our thanks go to all the Wyoming ranchers and farmers whose voluntary cooperation made this report possible.*

*This year's report indicates fewer sheep and lambs lost to predators due in part to a smaller January 1 inventory and small lamb crop. However, when measured as a percentage of supply, predator losses also declined.*



### HIGHLIGHTS

**PREDATOR LOSSES LOWER:** Wyoming sheep producers lost 66,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 1995, down 31 percent from 1994 to the lowest level since 1989. Coyotes were the main predator taking 73 percent of the total predator losses and 40 percent of all losses. Predator losses as a percent of supply (January 1 inventory plus lamb crop) were 5.2 percent, down from 7.3 percent a year earlier.

**ALL LAMB LOSSES DOWN 18 PERCENT:** Sheep producers lost 94,000 lambs before or after docking in 1995, 18 percent less than in 1994. Losses to predators accounted for 60 percent of the total. Predator losses were down 31 percent from last year but still were 11 percent of all lambs born. More weather related problems were reported due to the wet, cool spring during lambing season, while deaths from lambing complications and disease were lower.

**FEWER SHEEP LOSSES:** Sheep losses in Wyoming during 1995 totaled 25,000 head, down 29 percent from 1994. Predator losses decreased 5,000 head to 10,000 head and were 40 percent of the total. Non-predator losses decreased 25 percent. Coyotes killed 8,000 adult sheep which is down from 11,500 in 1994. Old age was the leading non-predator cause of death followed by poisoning and lambing complications.

**VALUE OF LOSSES DOWN 7 PERCENT:** Sheep producers in Wyoming lost \$6.52 million from sheep and lamb deaths in 1995. Predation accounted for \$3.50 million which was down from \$4.27 million in 1994. Total dollar value for all losses in 1995 was down 7 percent from the previous year. This decrease was due to fewer head of sheep and lambs lost to predators and other causes which offset higher prices.

**LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING, 1990-95 1/**

Cause of Loss	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<b>Number of Head</b>						
Coyotes	43,900	51,300	67,300	72,000	69,000	48,000
Bobcats	100	200	300	700	600	300
Dogs	1,800	1,600	1,000	900	800	1,100
Bears	500	1,100	800	1,100	2,600	1,500
Eagles	6,100	4,300	5,400	9,500	11,100	7,800
Fox	7,200	7,000	9,200	11,400	9,000	5,600
Mountain Lions	1,100	2,200	2,000	1,800	2,000	1,100
Other Predators	200	200	300	100	900	600
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>60,900</b>	<b>67,900</b>	<b>86,300</b>	<b>97,500</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>
Weather	15,200	17,200	11,600	17,800	11,900	23,700
Disease	12,200	10,600	12,600	9,800	16,100	8,200
Lambing	14,000	12,300	13,200	9,800	9,400	6,900
Poison	7,700	6,500	6,400	7,500	5,200	3,500
Old Age	5,700	5,600	4,400	3,800	4,200	3,700
On Back	1,800	2,000	1,800	1,900	1,200	1,200
Theft	3,700	4,700	2,600	2,700	3,000	1,400
Other Known Causes	6,100	3,200	4,100	3,200	3,000	4,400
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>127,300</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>119,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>						
Coyotes	34.5	39.5	47.1	46.7	46.0	40.3
Bobcats	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3
Dogs	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9
Bears	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.7	1.3
Eagles	4.8	3.3	3.8	6.2	7.4	6.6
Fox	5.7	5.4	6.4	7.4	6.0	4.7
Mountain Lions	0.9	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.3	0.9
Other Predators	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.5
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>55.5</b>
Weather	11.9	13.2	8.1	11.5	7.9	19.9
Disease	9.6	8.2	8.8	6.4	10.7	6.9
Lambing	11.0	9.5	9.2	6.4	6.3	5.8
Poison	6.0	5.0	4.5	4.9	3.5	2.9
Old Age	4.5	4.3	3.1	2.5	2.8	3.1
On Back	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.0
Theft	2.9	3.6	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.2
Other Known Causes	4.8	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.0	3.7
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause</b>						
Coyotes	1,533,000	1,720,700	2,597,500	3,128,500	3,087,800	2,568,000
Bobcats	3,000	5,900	13,300	28,200	29,700	17,600
Dogs	90,000	57,200	40,500	44,300	43,400	68,500
Bears	24,000	52,100	36,200	60,300	132,500	91,000
Eagles	192,000	130,900	194,500	388,200	472,500	389,800
Fox	220,500	211,100	324,800	464,800	362,800	274,100
Mountain Lions	42,000	88,000	83,700	91,200	94,200	62,400
Other Predators	6,000	5,900	13,300	4,000	44,600	29,000
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>2,110,500</b>	<b>2,271,800</b>	<b>3,303,800</b>	<b>4,209,500</b>	<b>4,267,500</b>	<b>3,500,400</b>
Weather	555,000	575,400	444,500	808,100	570,100	1,202,200
Disease	523,500	431,100	542,700	461,700	732,400	439,700
Lambing	586,500	455,800	552,700	475,000	438,700	398,200
Poison	375,000	328,700	309,300	414,400	276,400	245,900
Old Age	427,500	347,200	275,000	254,600	287,700	292,300
On Back	135,000	117,500	107,000	119,300	76,500	91,700
Theft	187,500	194,500	135,000	164,900	191,300	98,400
Other Known Causes	223,500	108,000	187,500	153,000	157,100	255,800
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>5,124,000</b>	<b>4,830,000</b>	<b>5,857,500</b>	<b>7,060,600</b>	<b>6,997,500</b>	<b>6,524,600</b>

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

## LOSSES OF SHEEP BY CAUSE: WYOMING, 1990-95 1/

Cause of Loss	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<b>Number of Head</b>						
Coyotes	4,800	6,100	8,800	8,500	11,500	8,000
Bobcats	—	100	—	—	200	100
Dogs	800	300	200	300	400	500
Bears	200	600	300	600	1,000	600
Eagles	200	100	200	200	1,000	400
Fox	100	100	100	200	100	100
Mountain Lions	200	700	500	700	500	300
Other Predators	—	—	100	—	300	—
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Weather	2,200	2,000	1,400	3,400	3,300	1,800
Disease	3,500	3,600	3,700	2,500	3,100	1,400
Lambing	3,700	2,800	3,300	3,000	2,200	2,100
Poison	3,200	4,200	3,100	4,200	2,400	2,500
Old Age	5,700	5,600	4,400	3,800	4,200	3,700
On Back	1,800	1,800	1,600	1,600	1,000	1,100
Theft	1,700	1,700	1,600	2,100	2,500	1,000
Other Known Causes	900	400	1,600	900	1,300	1,400
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>						
Coyotes	16.5	20.3	28.4	26.6	32.9	32.0
Bobcats	—	—	0.3	—	0.6	0.4
Dogs	2.8	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.1	2.0
Bears	0.7	2.0	1.0	1.9	2.9	2.4
Eagles	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.6	2.9	1.6
Fox	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4
Mountain Lions	0.7	2.3	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.2
Other Predators	—	—	0.3	—	0.9	—
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Weather	7.6	6.7	4.5	10.6	9.4	7.2
Disease	12.1	12.0	11.9	7.8	8.9	5.6
Lambing	12.8	9.3	10.6	9.4	6.3	8.4
Poison	11.0	14.0	10.0	13.1	6.9	10.0
Old Age	19.7	18.7	14.2	11.9	12.0	14.8
On Back	6.2	6.0	5.2	5.0	2.9	4.4
Theft	5.9	5.7	5.2	6.6	7.1	4.0
Other Known Causes	3.1	1.3	5.2	2.8	3.7	5.6
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 1/</b>						
Coyotes	360,000	378,200	550,000	569,500	787,800	632,000
Bobcats	—	—	6,300	—	13,700	7,900
Dogs	60,000	18,600	12,500	20,100	27,400	39,500
Bears	15,000	37,200	18,700	40,200	68,500	47,400
Eagles	15,000	6,200	12,500	13,400	68,500	31,600
Fox	7,500	6,200	6,300	13,400	6,800	7,900
Mountain Lions	15,000	43,400	31,200	46,900	34,200	23,700
Other Predators	—	—	6,300	—	20,600	—
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>472,500</b>	<b>489,800</b>	<b>643,800</b>	<b>703,500</b>	<b>1,027,500</b>	<b>790,000</b>
Weather	165,000	124,000	87,500	227,800	226,100	142,200
Disease	262,500	223,200	231,200	167,500	212,400	110,600
Lambing	277,500	173,600	206,200	201,000	150,700	165,900
Poison	240,000	260,400	193,800	281,400	164,400	197,500
Old Age	427,500	347,200	275,000	254,600	287,700	292,300
On Back	135,000	111,600	100,000	107,200	68,500	86,900
Theft	127,500	105,400	100,000	140,700	171,300	79,000
Other Known Causes	67,500	24,800	100,000	60,300	89,100	110,600
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>2,175,000</b>	<b>1,860,000</b>	<b>1,937,500</b>	<b>2,144,000</b>	<b>2,397,500</b>	<b>1,975,000</b>

1/Sheep value per head based on a two-year average value per head of ewes 1+ years.  
 Sheep value: 1990-\$75.00; 1991-\$62.00; 1992-\$62.50; 1993-\$67.00; 1994-\$68.50; 1995-\$79.00.

## LOSSES OF LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING, 1990-95 1/

Cause of Loss	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<b>Number of Head</b>						
Coyotes	39,100	45,200	58,500	63,500	57,500	40,000
Bobcats	100	200	200	700	400	200
Dogs	1,000	1,300	800	600	400	600
Bears	300	500	500	500	1,600	900
Eagles	5,900	4,200	5,200	9,300	10,100	7,400
Fox	7,100	6,900	9,100	11,200	8,900	5,500
Mountain Lions	900	1,500	1,500	1,100	1,500	800
Other Predators	200	200	200	100	600	600
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>54,600</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>
Weather	13,000	15,200	10,200	14,400	8,600	21,900
Disease	8,700	7,000	8,900	7,300	13,000	6,800
Lambing	10,300	9,500	9,900	6,800	7,200	4,800
Poison	4,500	2,300	3,300	3,300	2,800	1,000
On Back		200	200	300	200	100
Theft	2,000	3,000	1,000	600	500	400
Other Known Causes	5,200	2,800	2,500	2,300	1,700	3,000
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>98,300</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>
<b>Percent of Total by Cause</b>						
Coyotes	39.8	45.2	52.2	52.0	50.0	42.6
Bobcats	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2
Dogs	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6
Bears	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.4	1.0
Eagles	6.0	4.2	4.6	7.6	8.8	7.9
Fox	7.2	6.9	8.1	9.2	7.7	5.9
Mountain Lions	0.9	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.3	0.9
Other Predators	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.6
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>59.6</b>
Weather	13.2	15.2	9.1	11.8	7.5	23.3
Disease	8.9	7.0	7.9	6.0	11.3	7.2
Lambing	10.5	9.5	8.8	5.6	6.3	5.1
Poison	4.6	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.4	1.1
On Back	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Theft	2.0	3.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4
Other Known Causes	5.3	2.8	2.2	1.9	1.5	3.2
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 2/</b>						
Coyotes	1,173,000	1,342,500	2,047,500	2,559,000	2,300,000	1,936,000
Bobcats	3,000	5,900	7,000	28,200	16,000	9,700
Dogs	30,000	38,600	28,000	24,200	16,000	29,000
Bears	9,000	14,900	17,500	20,100	64,000	43,600
Eagles	177,000	124,700	182,000	374,800	404,000	358,200
Fox	213,000	204,900	318,500	451,400	356,000	266,200
Mountain Lions	27,000	44,600	52,500	44,300	60,000	38,700
Other Predators	6,000	5,900	7,000	4,000	24,000	29,000
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>1,638,000</b>	<b>1,782,000</b>	<b>2,660,000</b>	<b>3,506,000</b>	<b>3,240,000</b>	<b>2,710,400</b>
Weather	390,000	451,400	357,000	580,300	344,000	1,060,000
Disease	261,000	207,900	311,500	294,200	520,000	329,100
Lambing	309,000	282,200	346,500	274,000	288,000	232,300
Poison	135,000	68,300	115,500	133,000	112,000	48,400
On Back	—	5,900	7,000	12,100	8,000	4,800
Theft	60,000	89,100	35,000	24,200	20,000	19,400
Other Known Causes	156,000	83,200	87,500	92,700	68,000	145,200
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>2,949,000</b>	<b>2,970,000</b>	<b>3,920,000</b>	<b>4,916,600</b>	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>4,549,600</b>

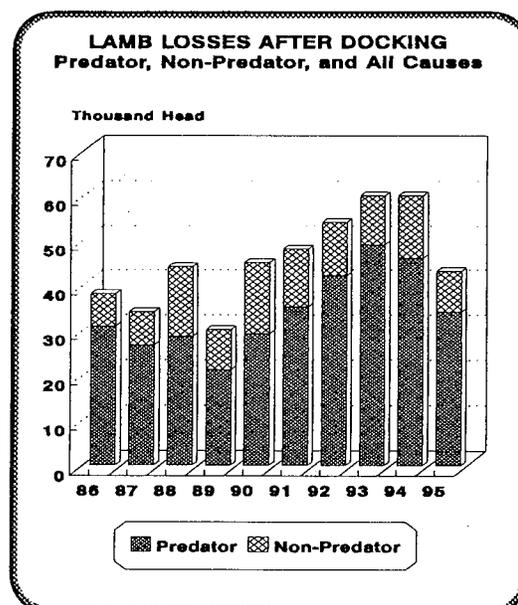
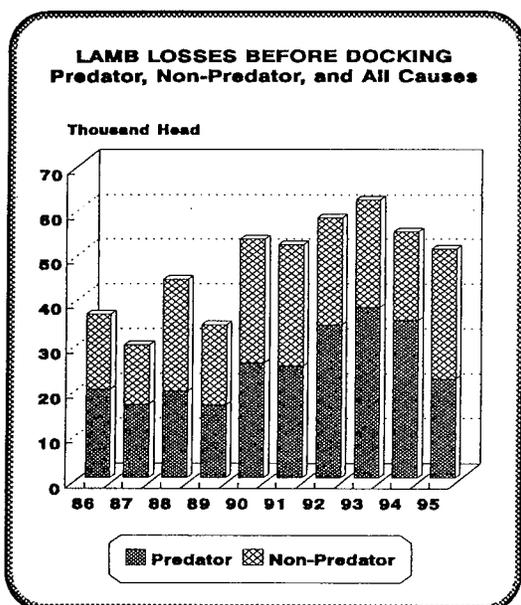
1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/Lamb value per head based on the annual hundredweight prices received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 pound lamb.

Lamb value: 1990-\$30.00; 1991-\$29.70; 1992-\$35.00; 1993-\$40.30; 1994-\$40.00; 1995-\$48.40.

## LOSSES OF LAMBS BEFORE DOCKING: WYOMING, 1990-95

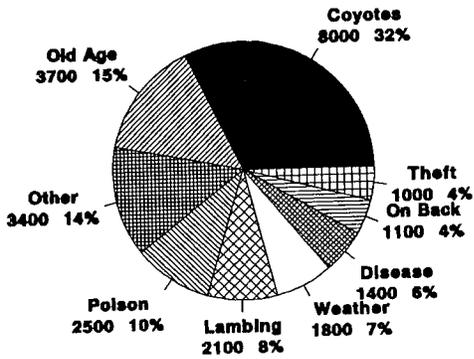
Cause of Loss	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Coyotes	15,100	16,400	23,500	22,500	20,000	13,000
Bobcats	100	100	100	300	200	100
Dogs	200	200	300	200	200	200
Bears	100	200	100	—	200	100
Eagles	4,300	2,500	3,300	6,200	7,200	4,400
Fox	5,500	4,600	5,900	8,600	6,500	3,600
Mountain Lions	800	700	—	200	400	100
Other Predators	100	100	100	—	300	500
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>
Weather	10,300	12,700	8,900	13,000	7,100	21,000
Disease	3,700	2,900	3,600	3,000	5,000	1,800
Lambing	10,300	9,500	9,900	6,800	7,200	4,800
Poison	1,100	300	700	400	200	400
On Back	—	100	100	200	—	—
Theft	200	300	200	100	—	—
Other Known Causes	2,200	1,300	600	500	500	1,000
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>



## LOSSES OF LAMBS AFTER DOCKING: WYOMING, 1990-95

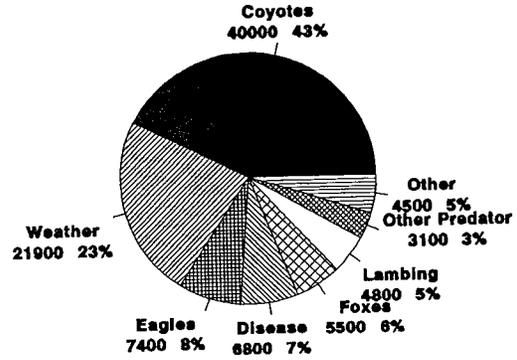
Cause of Loss	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Coyotes	24,000	28,800	35,000	41,000	37,500	27,000
Bobcats	—	100	100	400	200	100
Dogs	800	1,100	500	400	200	400
Bears	200	300	400	500	1,400	800
Eagles	1,600	1,700	1,900	3,100	2,900	3,000
Fox	1,600	2,300	3,200	2,600	2,400	1,900
Mountain Lions	800	700	800	900	1,100	700
Other Predators	100	100	100	100	300	100
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>35,100</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>34,000</b>
Weather	2,700	2,500	1,300	1,400	1,500	900
Disease	5,000	4,100	5,300	4,300	8,000	5,000
Poison	3,400	2,000	2,600	2,900	2,600	600
On Back	—	100	100	100	200	100
Theft	1,800	2,700	800	500	500	400
Other Known Causes	3,000	1,500	1,900	1,800	1,200	3,000
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>

### Sheep Losses by Cause Wyoming 1995



Total Losses = 25,000

### All Lamb Losses by Cause Wyoming 1995



Total Losses = 94,000

### LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS: PERCENT BY CAUSE WITHIN EACH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT, WYOMING, 1995 1/

Cause of Loss	District 1 Northwest	District 2 Northeast	District 3 West	District 4 South Central	District 5 Southeast	State
	Percent					
Coyotes	36.0	36.4	52.1	47.2	33.6	40.3
Bobcats	—	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.3
Dogs	1.7	0.8	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.9
Bears	0.3	0.5	4.3	2.2	—	1.3
Eagles	4.3	9.4	2.1	4.3	8.9	6.6
Fox	3.3	5.5	6.8	2.8	5.5	4.7
Mountain Lions	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.4	0.2	0.9
Other Predators	—	—	3.6	—	0.5	0.5
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>55.5</b>
Weather	12.3	21.7	10.0	27.6	18.2	19.9
Disease	17.7	4.5	1.8	2.8	12.5	6.9
Lambing	8.3	6.8	3.6	3.8	6.4	5.8
Poison	2.3	3.8	3.2	2.6	2.0	2.9
Old Age	4.3	3.2	4.3	1.2	3.9	3.1
On Back	1.3	1.2	0.7	1.2	0.5	1.0
Theft	2.7	0.9	2.1	1.2	—	1.2
All Other Causes	4.3	4.1	2.9	1.0	6.6	3.7
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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