



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
WYOMING FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1148 · Cheyenne, WY 82003



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Rhonda Brandt
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WYOMING SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 2014

Dear Data Users,

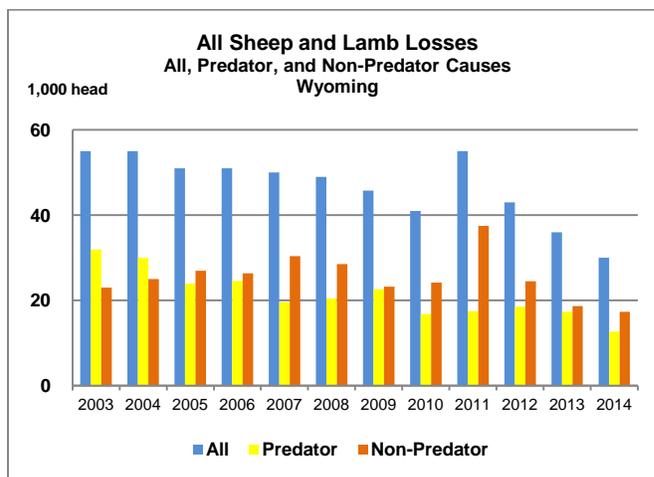
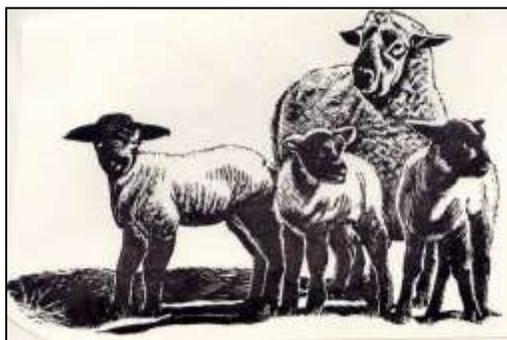
Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 30,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease, and other causes in 2014 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 6,000 head from the previous year. Predators accounted for 42 percent of the losses. The 2014 lamb crop totaled 240,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was up 7 percent from 2013. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 254,000 head. Of these, 8,700, or 62 percent, were lost to various non-predator causes, compared to 57 percent in 2013.

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,

Rhonda Brandt
State Statistician



HIGHLIGHTS

Wyoming sheep producers lost 12,700 sheep and lambs to predators in 2014, down 27 percent from 2013. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 64 percent of the total predator losses and 27 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes decreased by 1,400 head to 17,300.

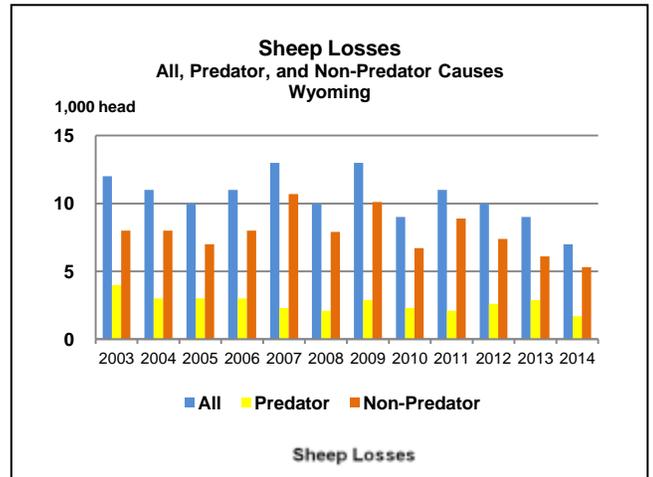
Sheep producers lost 23,000 lambs before or after docking in 2014, down 4,000 head from 2013. Losses to predators accounted for 48 percent of the total, down 3,400 head from 2013. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were down 600 head to 12,000.

Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2014 totaled 7,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2013. Predator losses were down 1,200 head at 1,700 and non-predator losses were down 800 head to 5,300.

Sheep producers lost an estimated \$4.9 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2014, down from \$5.7 million the previous year. Predation accounted for \$2.1 million or 42 percent of the total.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2013 and 2014 1/

Cause of Loss	2013		2014	
	Head	% of Total 1/	Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	500	5.6	100	1.4
Bobcats	-	-	2/	2/
Coyotes	1,800	20.0	1,100	15.7
Dogs	100	1.1	100	1.4
Mountain Lions	200	2.2	100	1.4
Foxes	-	-	2/	2/
Wolves	200	2.2	2/	2/
Eagles	2/	2/	2/	2/
Ravens	2/	2/	2/	2/
Other/Unknown	100	1.1	300	4.3
Total Predators	2,900	32.2	1,700	24.3
Disease	400	4.4	400	5.7
Overeating	200	2.2	100	1.4
Weather	900	10.0	700	10.0
Lambing Complications	1,000	11.1	1,300	18.6
Old Age	900	10.0	1,200	17.1
On Back	100	1.1	100	1.4
Poisoning	500	5.6	300	4.3
Theft	300	3.3	200	2.9
Other/Unknown	1,800	20.0	1,000	14.3
Total Non-Predators	6,100	67.8	5,300	75.7
Total Loss All Causes	9,000	100.0	7,000	100.0



1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding

Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2013 and 2014 1/

Cause of Loss	2013				2014			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	100	900	1,000	3.7	100	100	200	0.9
Bobcats	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Coyotes	4,100	4,700	8,800	32.6	2,900	4,100	7,000	30.4
Dogs	2/	100	100	0.4	100	200	300	1.3
Mountain Lions	2/	300	300	1.1	2/	200	200	0.9
Foxes	200	2/	200	0.7	500	200	700	3.0
Wolves	-	300	300	1.1	2/	2/	2/	2/
Eagles	1,800	500	2,300	8.5	1,300	600	1,900	8.3
Ravens	400	2/	400	1.5	200	100	300	1.3
Other/Unknown	700	300	1,000	3.7	200	200	400	1.7
Total Predators	7,300	7,100	14,400	53.3	5,300	5,700	11,000	47.8
Disease	300	400	700	2.6	200	200	400	1.7
Overeating	100	100	200	0.7	200	400	600	2.6
Weather	4,700	900	5,600	20.7	5,000	1,200	6,200	27.0
Lambing	2,000	-	2,000	7.4	1,900	-	1,900	8.3
On Back	2/	-	2/	2/	-	100	100	0.4
Poisoning	2/	300	300	1.1	200	100	300	1.3
Theft	100	-	100	0.4	-	200	200	0.9
Other/Unknown	2,500	1,200	3,700	13.7	1,200	1,100	2,300	10.0
Total Non-Predators	9,700	2,900	12,600	46.7	8,700	3,300	12,000	52.2
Total Loss All Causes	17,000	10,000	27,000	100.0	14,000	9,000	23,000	100.0

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2010-2014 1/, 2/

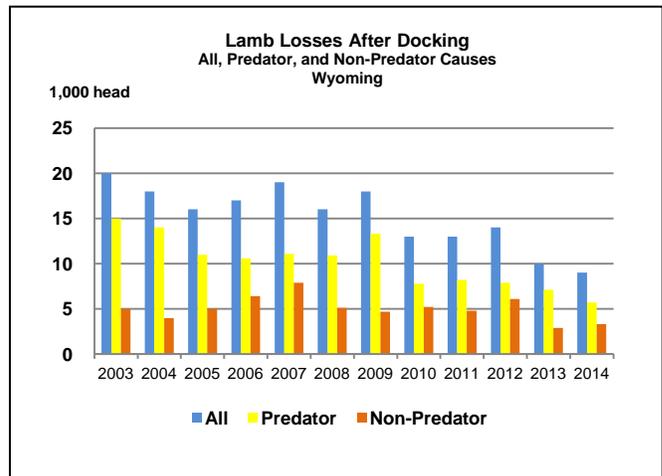
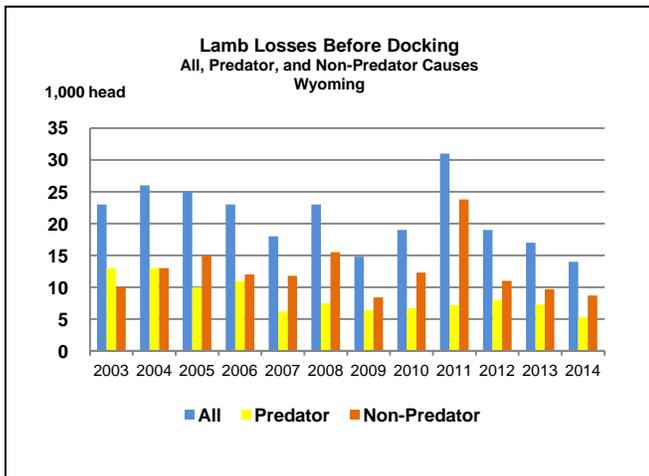
Cause of Loss	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Total Head	% of Total 2/								
Bears	300	0.7	1,600	2.9	1,000	2.3	1,500	4.2	300	1.0
Bobcats	100	0.2	3/	3/	200	0.5	3/	3/	3/	3/
Coyotes	11,200	27.3	10,900	19.8	11,800	27.4	10,600	29.4	8,100	27.0
Dogs	300	0.7	600	1.1	600	1.4	200	0.6	400	1.3
Mountain Lions	900	2.2	700	1.3	700	1.6	500	1.4	300	1.0
Foxes	800	2.0	300	0.5	800	1.9	200	0.6	700	2.3
Wolves	300	0.7	3/	3/	500	1.2	500	1.4	3/	3/
Eagles	2,100	5.1	2,900	5.3	2,000	4.7	2,300	6.4	1,900	6.3
Ravens	800	2.0	500	0.9	900	2.1	400	1.1	300	1.0
Other Predators/Unknown	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	1,100	3.1	700	2.3
Total Predators	16,800	41.0	17,500	31.8	18,500	43.0	17,300	48.1	12,700	42.3
Disease	1,700	4.1	2,600	4.7	3,000	7.0	1,100	3.1	800	2.7
Overeating	900	2.2	800	1.5	1,400	3.3	400	1.1	700	2.3
Weather	12,600	30.7	26,800	48.7	12,200	28.4	6,500	18.1	6,900	23.0
Lambing Complications	3,100	7.6	4,200	7.6	3,200	7.4	3,000	8.3	3,200	10.7
Old Age	2,100	5.1	1,500	2.7	1,900	4.4	900	2.5	1,200	4.0
On Back	500	1.2	200	0.4	300	0.7	100	0.3	200	0.7
Poison	2,100	5.1	700	1.3	1,400	3.3	800	2.2	600	2.0
Theft	200	0.5	100	0.2	400	0.9	400	1.1	400	1.3
Other Causes	1,000	2.4	600	1.1	700	1.6	5,500	15.3	3,300	11.0
Total Non-Predators	24,200	59.0	37,500	68.2	24,500	57.0	18,700	51.9	17,300	57.7
Total Loss All Causes	41,000	100.0	55,000	100.0	43,000	100.0	36,000	100.0	30,000	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking. 2/ May not add due to rounding. 3/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2013 and 2014 1/, 2/

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Bears	92,000	18,500	148,000	31,800	240,000	50,300
Bobcats	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Coyotes	331,200	203,000	1,302,400	1,113,000	1,633,600	1,316,000
Dogs	18,400	18,500	14,800	47,700	33,200	66,200
Mountain Lions	36,800	18,500	44,400	31,800	81,200	50,300
Foxes	-	3/	29,600	111,300	29,600	111,300
Wolves	36,800	3/	44,400	3/	81,200	3/
Eagles	-	3/	340,400	302,100	340,400	302,100
Ravens	-	3/	59,200	47,700	59,200	47,700
Other Predators/Unknown	18,400	55,400	148,000	63,600	166,400	119,000
Total Predators	533,600	313,900	2,131,200	1,749,000	2,664,800	2,062,900
Disease	73,600	73,800	103,600	63,600	177,200	137,400
Overeating	36,800	18,500	29,600	95,400	66,400	113,900
Weather	165,600	129,200	828,800	985,800	994,400	1,115,000
Lambing Complications	184,000	239,900	296,000	302,100	480,000	542,000
Old Age	165,600	221,400	-	-	165,600	221,400
On Back	18,400	18,500	-	15,900	18,400	34,400
Poison	92,000	55,400	44,400	47,700	136,400	103,100
Theft	55,200	36,900	14,800	31,800	70,000	68,700
Other Causes/Unknown	331,200	184,500	547,600	365,700	878,800	550,200
Total Non-Predators	1,122,400	978,100	1,864,800	1,908,000	2,987,200	2,886,100
Total Loss All Causes	1,656,000	1,292,000	3,996,000	3,657,000	5,652,000	4,949,000

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking. 2/ Sheep value is based on a two-year average market value. Two-year average market sheep value 2013-\$184, 2014-\$185. Lamb value per head is based on a two-year average market value. Two-year average market lamb value 2013-\$148, 2014-\$170. 3/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding.



Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2014 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Bears	100	2/	100	100	2/	300
Bobcats	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Coyotes	1,000	2,300	2,200	1,100	1,500	8,100
Dogs	200	100	100	2/	2/	400
Mountain Lions	200	100	2/	2/	2/	300
Foxes	2/	300	300	2/	100	700
Wolves	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Eagles	100	1000	100	300	400	1,900
Ravens	200	2/	100	2/	2/	300
Other Predators/Unknown	100	500	2/	2/	100	700
Total Predators	1,900	4,300	2,900	1,500	2,100	12,700
Disease	300	200	200	2/	100	800
Overeating	200	200	100	100	100	700
Weather	1,300	2,900	1,100	600	1,000	6,900
Lambing Complications	700	1,500	500	200	300	3,200
Old Age	400	300	100	100	300	1,200
On Back	100	100	2/	2/	2/	200
Poison	100	200	2/	300	2/	600
Theft	2/	200	100	100	2/	400
Other Non-Predators/Unknown	200	200	2,000	900	2/	3,300
Total Non-Predators	3,300	5,800	4,100	2,300	1,800	17,300
Total Loss All Causes	5,200	10,100	7,000	3,800	3,900	30,000

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2014 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent					
Bears	1.9	2/	1.4	2.6	2/	1.0
Bobcats	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Coyotes	19.2	22.8	31.4	29.0	38.5	27.0
Dogs	3.9	1.0	1.4	2/	2/	1.3
Mountain Lions	3.9	1.0	2/	2/	2/	1.0
Foxes	2/	3.0	4.3	2/	2.6	2.3
Wolves	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Eagles	1.9	9.9	1.4	7.9	10.3	6.3
Ravens	3.9	2/	1.4	2/	2/	1.0
Other Predators/Unknown	1.9	5.0	2/	2/	2.6	2.3
Total Predators	36.5	42.6	41.4	39.5	53.9	42.3
Disease	5.8	2.0	2.9	2/	2.6	2.7
Overeating	3.9	2.0	1.4	2.6	2.6	2.3
Weather	25.0	28.7	15.7	15.8	25.6	23.0
Lambing Complications	13.5	14.9	7.1	5.3	7.7	10.7
Old Age	7.7	3.0	1.4	2.6	7.7	4.0
On Back	1.9	1.0	2/	2/	2/	0.7
Poison	1.9	2.0	2/	7.9	2/	2.0
Theft	2/	2.0	1.4	2.6	2/	1.3
All Other Causes/Unknown	3.9	2.0	28.6	23.7	2/	11.0
Total Non-Predators	63.5	57.4	58.6	60.5	46.2	57.7
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. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 50 head; not published due to rounding.