



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
WYOMING FIELD OFFICE
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WYOMING SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 2019

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost 46,500 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2019, representing a total value of \$8.68 million, according to a survey conducted by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Mountain Regional Field Office. This study was undertaken at the request of the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who also provided funding. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was 8,000 head more than last year, and the total value of inventory lost was 20 percent more than a year ago. The January 1, 2019 inventory was 350,000 head. The lamb crop for 2019 was 225,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2019 was 22,500 head. Sheep and lamb deaths for 2019 amounted to 7.8 percent of the 2019 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking, 597,500 head).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 19,700 head, up 300 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 16,100 head, down 1 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,600 head, up 400 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$3.60 million in losses in 2019, up less than one-half percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 3.3 percent of the 2019 sheep and lamb supply and 42.4 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 66.5 percent of the predator caused losses and 28.2 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$2.39 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$5.09 million in 2019, compared with \$3.66 million in 2018. Non-predatory losses accounted for 57.6 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was due to weather conditions at 17,000 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 8,400 head, up 33 percent from 2018. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 18,400 head, 5,600 head more than a year ago.

Lambs lost to all unknown causes totaled 500 head, compared with 1,100 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 1,300 sheep, compared with 600 head last year.

The sheep and lamb survey utilized multi-frame sampling procedures. The survey involved drawing a random sample from a list of livestock producers maintained by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wyoming Field Office. In addition, sheep producers living in a selected sample of area segments were interviewed. This procedure assures complete coverage of sheep producers by accounting for ranchers/farmers who may not be on the list.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published by the USDA include sheep losses for the entire year, but include only those lamb losses that occur after docking. This special report also includes an estimate of lambs lost before docking.

Losses of Lambs Before Docking, by Cause: Wyoming, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	100	100	(D)	100	(D)	200
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	100	100	(D)	(D)
Coyote	2,900	3,100	3,000	4,300	4,100	5,400
Dog	100	100	100	200	100	(D)
Mountain Lion	(D)	(D)	100	100	(D)	500
Foxes	500	500	200	500	300	300
Wolves	(D)	100	100	100	100	100
Eagles	1,300	1,300	1,100	800	1,500	1,100
Ravens	200	200	600	500	200	600
Other/Unknown ¹	200	100	600	100	100	100
Total Predators	5,300	5,500	5,900	6,800	6,400	8,300
Diseases	200	200	100	200	300	200
Enterotoxaemia	200	200	100	100	200	300
Weather Conditions	5,000	5,200	6,500	4,900	6,000	11,700
Lambing Complications	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,200	2,400	1,600
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	200	200	100	400	200	100
Theft	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	100
Other/Unknown ¹	1,200	1,800	1,400	1,400	500	200
Total Non-Predators	8,700	9,500	10,100	8,200	9,600	14,200
Total Losses	14,000	15,000	16,000	15,000	16,000	22,500

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Losses of Lambs After Docking, by Cause: Wyoming, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	100	100	900	400	400	300
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	100	100	300	(D)
Coyote	4,100	4,900	4,500	5,400	6,100	5,300
Dog	200	200	300	400	300	200
Mountain Lion	200	200	300	200	1,000	1,000
Foxes	200	200	100	100	400	100
Wolves	(D)	200	200	300	200	100
Eagles	600	700	500	200	800	600
Ravens	100	200	100	100	200	100
Other/Unknown ¹	200	300	500	100	100	100
Total Predators	5,700	7,000	7,500	7,300	9,800	7,800
Diseases	200	200	400	100	100	100
Enterotoxaemia	400	500	500	500	700	400
Weather Conditions	1,200	1,400	1,400	600	1,400	2,800
Lambing Complications	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	100	100	400	200	100	300
Theft	200	300	100	300	500	500
Other/Unknown ¹	1,100	1,400	1,700	1,000	400	100
Total Non-Predators	3,300	4,000	4,500	2,700	3,200	4,200
Total Losses	9,000	11,000	12,000	10,000	13,000	12,000

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Wyoming, 2014-2019 ¹

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	300	300	1,600	1,100	600	600
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	200	200	300	(D)
Coyote	8,100	9,400	8,800	12,400	11,800	13,100
Dog	400	400	500	600	700	300
Mountain Lion	300	300	700	500	1,500	2,400
Foxes	700	700	400	600	700	400
Wolves	(D)	400	500	500	500	300
Eagles	1,900	2,100	1,700	1,000	2,500	1,700
Ravens	300	500	700	600	400	700
Other/Unknown ²	700	600	1,400	300	400	200
Total Predators	12,700	14,700	16,500	17,800	19,400	19,700
Diseases	800	900	800	700	800	500
Enterotoxaemia	700	800	700	700	900	800
Weather Conditions	6,900	7,400	9,000	6,200	8,900	17,000
Lambing Complications	3,200	3,500	3,500	1,800	3,000	2,400
Old Age	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400	2,200
On Back	200	200	100	400	200	200
Poison	600	700	1,100	1,300	1,200	900
Theft	400	600	200	400	1,400	1,200
Other/Unknown ²	3,300	4,700	4,100	3,200	1,300	1,600
Total Non-Predators	17,300	20,300	21,000	16,200	19,100	26,800
Total Losses	30,000	35,000	37,500	34,000	38,500	46,500
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bear	1.0	0.9	4.3	3.2	1.6	1.3
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	0.5	0.6	0.8	(D)
Coyote	27.0	26.9	23.5	36.5	30.6	28.2
Dog	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.8	0.6
Mountain Lion	1.0	0.9	1.9	1.5	3.9	5.2
Foxes	2.3	2.0	1.1	1.8	1.8	0.9
Wolves	(D)	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	0.6
Eagles	6.3	6.0	4.5	2.9	6.5	3.7
Ravens	1.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.0	1.5
Other/Unknown ²	2.3	1.7	3.7	0.9	1.0	0.4
Total Predators	42.3	42.0	44.0	52.4	50.4	42.4
Diseases	2.7	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.1
Enterotoxaemia	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.7
Weather Conditions	23.0	21.1	24.0	18.2	23.1	36.6
Lambing Complications	10.7	10.0	9.3	5.3	7.8	5.2
Old Age	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.4	3.6	4.7
On Back	0.7	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.5	0.4
Poison	2.0	2.0	2.9	3.8	3.1	1.9
Theft	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.2	3.6	2.6
Other/Unknown ²	11.0	13.4	10.9	9.4	3.4	3.4
Total Non-Predators	57.7	58.0	56.0	47.6	49.6	57.6
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Loss as a Percent of Supply ³	5.0	5.9	6.1	5.6	6.4	7.8
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bear	50	55	301	217	115	109
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	34	35	53	(D)
Coyote	1,316	1,671	1,559	2,278	2,163	2,392
Dog	66	72	90	105	137	57
Mountain Lion	50	55	132	96	288	464
Foxes	111	122	73	105	124	69
Wolves	(D)	72	93	92	97	57
Eagles	302	368	295	175	452	293
Ravens	47	90	120	105	71	121
Other/Unknown ²	119	110	252	57	80	35
Total Predators	2,063	2,614	2,948	3,263	3,580	3,596
Diseases	137	169	149	139	159	97
Enterotoxaemia	114	142	124	127	160	144
Weather Conditions	1,115	1,308	1,585	1,113	1,644	3,070
Lambing Complications	542	650	661	339	558	458
Old Age	221	299	314	323	308	501
On Back	34	37	21	86	44	46
Poison	103	132	212	256	251	183
Theft	69	112	38	74	287	240
Other/Unknown ²	550	856	741	592	248	348
Total Non-Predators	2,886	3,706	3,845	3,047	3,658	5,085
Total Losses	4,949	6,320	6,794	6,310	7,238	8,681

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

³ Supply equals beginning January 1st inventory plus lamb crop plus before docking death loss.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep, by Cause: Wyoming, 2014-2019

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	100	100	700	600	200	100
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	1,100	1,400	1,300	2,700	1,600	2,400
Dog	100	100	100	(D)	300	100
Mountain Lion	100	100	300	200	500	900
Foxes	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	100	200	100	200	100
Eagles	(D)	100	100	(D)	200	(D)
Ravens	(D)	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	300	200	300	100	200	(D)
Total Predators	1,700	2,200	3,100	3,700	3,200	3,600
Diseases	400	500	300	400	400	200
Enterotoxaemia	100	100	100	100	(D)	100
Weather Conditions	700	800	1,100	700	1,500	2,500
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,600	1,600	600	600	800
Old Age	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400	2,200
On Back	100	100	100	400	200	200
Poison	300	400	600	700	900	500
Theft	200	300	100	100	900	600
Other/Unknown ¹	1,000	1,500	1,000	800	400	1,300
Total Non-Predators	5,300	6,800	6,400	5,300	6,300	8,400
Total Losses	7,000	9,000	9,500	9,000	9,500	12,000
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bear	1.4	1.1	7.4	6.7	2.1	0.8
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	15.7	15.6	13.7	30.0	16.8	20.0
Dog	1.4	1.1	1.1	(D)	3.2	0.8
Mountain Lion	1.4	1.1	3.2	2.2	5.3	7.5
Foxes	(D)	(D)	1.1	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	1.1	2.1	1.1	2.1	0.8
Eagles	(D)	1.1	1.1	(D)	2.1	(D)
Ravens	(D)	1.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	4.3	2.2	3.2	1.1	2.1	(D)
Total Predators	24.3	24.4	32.6	41.1	33.7	30.0
Diseases	5.7	5.6	3.2	4.4	4.2	1.7
Enterotoxaemia	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	(D)	0.8
Weather Conditions	10.0	8.9	11.6	7.8	15.8	20.8
Lambing Complications	18.6	17.8	16.8	6.7	6.3	6.7
Old Age	17.1	16.7	15.8	16.7	14.7	18.3
On Back	1.4	1.1	1.1	4.4	2.1	1.7
Poison	4.3	4.4	6.3	7.8	9.5	4.2
Theft	2.9	3.3	1.1	1.1	9.5	5.0
Other/Unknown ¹	14.3	16.7	10.5	8.9	4.2	10.8
Total Non-Predators	75.7	75.6	67.4	58.9	66.3	70.0
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bear	19	20	147	129	44	23
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	203	279	272	581	352	546
Dog	19	20	21	(D)	66	23
Mountain Lion	19	20	63	43	110	205
Foxes	(D)	(D)	21	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wolves	(D)	20	42	22	44	23
Eagles	(D)	20	21	(D)	44	(D)
Ravens	(D)	20	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other/Unknown ¹	55	40	63	22	44	(D)
Total Predators	314	439	650	796	704	819
Diseases	74	100	63	86	88	46
Enterotoxaemia	19	20	21	22	(D)	23
Weather Conditions	129	160	231	151	330	569
Lambing Complications	240	319	335	129	132	182
Old Age	221	299	314	323	308	501
On Back	19	20	21	86	44	46
Poison	55	80	126	151	198	114
Theft	37	60	21	22	198	137
Other/Unknown ¹	185	299	210	172	88	296
Total Non-Predators	978	1,357	1,341	1,140	1,386	1,911
Total Losses	1,292	1,796	1,991	1,935	2,090	2,730

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of All Lambs, by Cause: Wyoming, 2014-2019 ¹

Cause of Loss	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	200	200	900	500	400	500
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	200	200	300	(D)
Coyote	7,000	8,000	7,500	9,700	10,200	10,700
Dog	300	300	400	600	400	200
Mountain Lion	200	200	400	300	1,000	1,500
Foxes	700	700	300	600	700	400
Wolves	(D)	300	300	400	300	200
Eagles	1,900	2,000	1,600	1,000	2,300	1,700
Ravens	300	400	700	600	400	700
Other/Unknown ²	400	400	1,100	200	200	200
Total Predators	11,000	12,500	13,400	14,100	16,200	16,100
Diseases	400	400	500	300	400	300
Enterotoxaemia	600	700	600	600	900	700
Weather Conditions	6,200	6,600	7,900	5,500	7,400	14,500
Lambing Complications	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,200	2,400	1,600
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	300	300	500	600	300	400
Theft	200	300	100	300	500	600
Other/Unknown ²	2,300	3,200	3,100	2,400	900	300
Total Non-Predators	12,000	13,500	14,600	10,900	12,800	18,400
Total Losses	23,000	26,000	28,000	25,000	29,000	34,500
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bear	0.9	0.8	3.2	2.0	1.4	1.4
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	0.7	0.8	1.0	(D)
Coyote	30.4	30.8	26.8	38.8	35.2	31.0
Dog	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.4	1.4	0.6
Mountain Lion	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.2	3.4	4.3
Foxes	3.0	2.7	1.1	2.4	2.4	1.2
Wolves	(D)	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.0	0.6
Eagles	8.3	7.7	5.7	4.0	7.9	4.9
Ravens	1.3	1.5	2.5	2.4	1.4	2.0
Other/Unknown ²	1.7	1.5	3.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
Total Predators	47.8	48.1	47.9	56.4	55.9	46.7
Diseases	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.4	0.9
Enterotoxaemia	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.4	3.1	2.0
Weather Conditions	27.0	25.4	28.2	22.0	25.5	42.0
Lambing Complications	8.3	7.3	6.8	4.8	8.3	4.6
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	0.4	0.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	1.3	1.2	1.8	2.4	1.0	1.2
Theft	0.9	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.7	1.7
Other/Unknown ²	10.0	12.3	11.1	9.6	3.1	0.9
Total Non-Predators	52.2	51.9	52.1	43.6	44.1	53.3
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause	1,000 dollars					
Bear	32	35	154	88	71	86
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	34	35	53	(D)
Coyote	1,113	1,392	1,286	1,698	1,811	1,846
Dog	48	52	69	105	71	35
Mountain Lion	32	35	69	53	178	259
Foxes	112	122	52	105	124	69
Wolves	(D)	52	52	70	53	35
Eagles	302	348	274	175	408	293
Ravens	48	70	120	105	71	121
Other/Unknown ²	64	70	189	35	36	35
Total Predators	1,749	2,175	2,298	2,468	2,876	2,777
Diseases	64	70	86	53	71	52
Enterotoxaemia	95	122	103	105	160	121
Weather Conditions	986	1,148	1,355	963	1,314	2,501
Lambing Complications	302	331	326	210	426	276
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	16	17	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Poison	48	52	86	105	53	69
Theft	32	52	17	53	89	104
Other/Unknown ²	366	557	532	420	160	52
Total Non-Predators	1,908	2,349	2,504	1,908	2,272	3,174
Total Losses	3,657	4,524	4,803	4,375	5,148	5,951

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Losses of All Sheep and Lambs, by District, by Cause: Wyoming, 2019 ¹

Cause of Loss	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	State
Number of Head	Head					
Bear	(D)	200	200	200	(D)	600
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	3,200	4,100	1,800	2,400	1,600	13,100
Dog	100	200	(D)	(D)	(D)	300
Mountain Lion	800	1,100	(D)	300	200	2,400
Foxes	200	200	(D)	(D)	(D)	400
Wolves	(D)	(D)	300	(D)	(D)	300
Eagles	100	1,200	100	100	200	1,700
Ravens	600	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	700
Other/Unknown ²	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	200
Total Predators	5,100	7,200	2,400	3,000	2,000	19,700
Diseases	300	200	(D)	(D)	(D)	500
Enterotoxaemia	100	500	(D)	100	100	800
Weather Conditions	1,400	9,500	1,100	3,700	1,300	17,000
Lambing Complications	500	1,200	300	100	300	2,400
Old Age	500	1,100	200	100	300	2,200
On Back	100	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	200
Poison	(D)	500	200	100	100	900
Theft	(D)	1,100	100	(D)	(D)	1,200
Other/Unknown ²	100	500	1,000	(D)	(D)	1,600
Total Non-Predators	3,000	14,700	2,900	4,100	2,100	26,800
Total Losses	8,100	21,900	5,300	7,100	4,100	46,500
Percent of Total by Cause	Percent					
Bear	(D)	0.9	3.8	2.8	(D)	1.3
Bobcat	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Coyote	39.5	18.7	34.0	33.8	39.0	28.2
Dog	1.2	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.6
Mountain Lion	9.9	5.0	(D)	4.2	4.9	5.2
Foxes	2.5	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.9
Wolves	(D)	(D)	5.7	(D)	(D)	0.6
Eagles	1.2	5.5	1.9	1.4	4.9	3.7
Ravens	7.4	0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.5
Other/Unknown ²	1.2	0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.4
Total Predators	63.0	32.9	45.3	42.3	48.8	42.4
Diseases	3.7	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	1.1
Enterotoxaemia	1.2	2.3	(D)	1.4	2.4	1.7
Weather Conditions	17.3	43.4	20.8	52.1	31.7	36.6
Lambing Complications	6.2	5.5	5.7	1.4	7.3	5.2
Old Age	6.2	5.0	3.8	1.4	7.3	4.7
On Back	1.2	0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.4
Poison	(D)	2.3	3.8	1.4	2.4	1.9
Theft	(D)	5.0	1.9	(D)	(D)	2.6
Other/Unknown ²	1.2	2.3	18.9	(D)	(D)	3.4
Total Non-Predators	37.0	67.1	54.7	57.7	51.2	57.6
Total Losses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(D) indicates Un-published: i.e. less than 100 head.

¹ Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.

² Other/Unknown includes Other and Unknown causes combined with Un-published causes.

Totals may not add due to rounding.