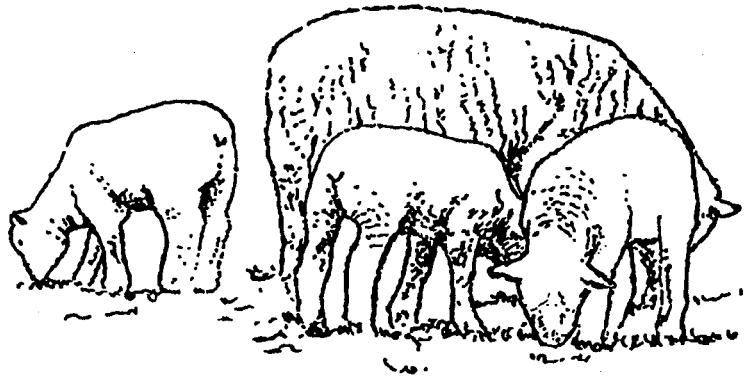
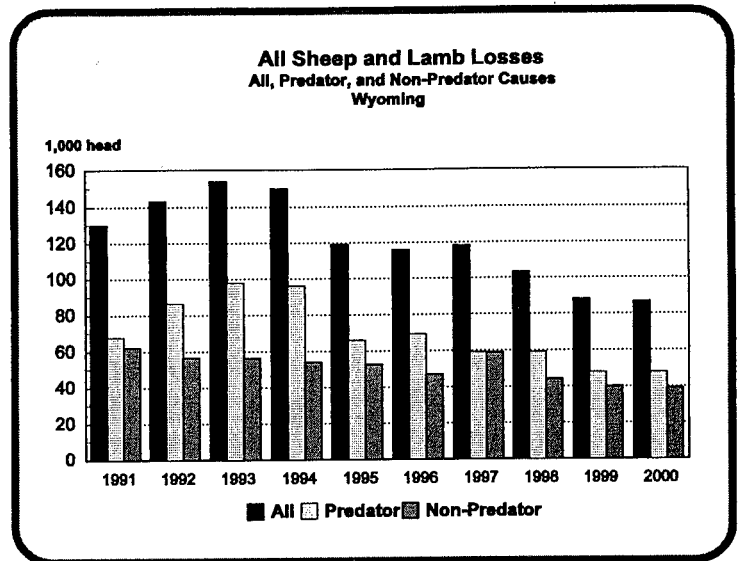


SHEEP LOSSES TO ALL CAUSES - 2000

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers face a large risk every year from predators, weather, disease, and other factors. This report, which continues a long series, documents these losses and their value for the 2000 calendar year. Sheep and lamb losses from all causes in 2000 totaled 87,000 head, down only 1,000 from 1999. The 2000 lamb crop totaled 375,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded, which was 15,000 lambs smaller than in 1999. A total of 68,000 lambs were lost before or after docking which was 17 percent of the total lambs born (including those lost before docking). Over 60 percent of these were taken by predators.

These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep 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 that would not otherwise be available.



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR LOSSES UNCHANGED: Wyoming sheep producers lost 48,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2000, unchanged from 1999 despite a smaller breeding herd and lamb crop. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 71 percent of the total predator losses and 39 percent of all losses.

ALL LAMB LOSSES DOWN 3 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost 68,000 lambs before or after docking in 2000, 3 percent less than in 1999. Losses to predators accounted for 62 percent of the total. Losses of lambs to weather related causes increased significantly from the previous year but fewer losses to diseases more than offset this.

SHEEP LOSSES UP 6 PERCENT: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2000 totaled 19,000 head, up 1,000 head from 1999. Predator losses were unchanged at 6,000 but non-predator losses increased 1,000 head to 13,000.

VALUE OF LOSSES UP 6 PERCENT: Sheep producers in Wyoming lost an estimated \$5.06 million from sheep and lamb deaths in 2000, up 6 percent from the previous year as prices were higher. Predation accounted for \$2.62 million or 52 percent of the total value.

LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1995-2000 1/

Cause of Loss	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	Number of Head					
Coyotes	48,000	49,000	41,000	39,500	31,000	34,000
Bobcats	300	400	500	600	500	500
Dogs	1,100	1,200	800	1,000	900	600
Bears	1,500	900	900	1,500	800	300
Eagles	7,800	8,500	7,000	8,400	7,400	5,900
Fox	5,600	6,800	6,300	5,400	4,700	4,700
Mountain Lions	1,100	1,800	2,100	1,900	2,000	1,600
Other Predators	600	400	400	700	700	400
Total Predators	66,000	69,000	59,000	59,000	48,000	48,000
Weather	23,700	17,100	30,000	15,400	8,600	12,600
Disease	8,200	9,000	12,300	10,300	14,000	9,600
Lambing Complications	6,900	8,500	6,200	6,700	6,100	7,200
Poison	3,500	3,100	3,300	3,500	3,900	3,700
Old Age	3,700	3,400	1,900	3,100	3,500	3,300
On Back	1,200	1,000	700	900	1,000	1,000
Theft	1,400	1,400	1,300	900	100	500
Other Known Causes	4,400	3,500	3,300	3,200	2,800	1,100
Total Non-Predators	53,000	47,000	59,000	44,000	40,000	39,000
Total Loss From All Causes	119,000	116,000	118,000	103,000	88,000	87,000
	Percent of Total by Cause					
Coyotes	40.3	42.2	34.7	38.3	35.2	39.1
Bobcats	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Dogs	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.7
Bears	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.3
Eagles	6.6	7.3	5.9	8.2	8.4	6.8
Fox	4.7	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4
Mountain Lions	0.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8
Other Predators	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.5
Total Predators	55.5	59.5	50.0	57.3	54.5	55.2
Weather	19.9	14.7	25.4	15.0	9.8	14.5
Disease	6.9	7.8	10.4	10.0	15.9	11.0
Lambing Complications	5.8	7.3	5.3	6.5	6.9	8.3
Poison	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.4	4.4	4.3
Old Age	3.1	2.9	1.6	3.0	4.0	3.8
On Back	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.1
Theft	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.6
Other Known Causes	3.7	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.2	1.3
Total Non-Predators	44.5	40.5	50.0	42.7	45.5	44.8
Total Loss From All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Dollar Value of Losses by Cause					
Coyotes	2,556,000	2,916,200	2,496,200	1,969,450	1,577,800	1,883,400
Bobcats	17,520	25,430	32,690	25,860	22,700	24,800
Dogs	68,360	83,870	49,670	59,120	57,900	33,700
Bears	90,690	60,060	59,720	96,690	49,100	18,820
Eagles	387,540	478,800	400,590	388,740	353,000	300,520
Fox	272,450	371,670	360,970	232,740	217,640	233,120
Mountain Lions	62,180	116,330	132,030	108,590	120,620	99,060
Other Predators	28,860	21,640	27,030	35,510	36,040	23,780
Total Predators	3,483,600	4,074,000	3,558,900	2,916,700	2,434,800	2,617,200
Weather	1,195,590	1,038,810	2,224,800	786,560	428,780	680,120
Disease	437,680	566,490	744,470	540,050	703,760	543,140
Lambing Complications	396,780	543,230	407,990	395,570	357,880	475,320
Poison	245,600	232,140	243,850	257,650	258,000	262,320
Old Age	292,300	312,800	190,950	299,150	308,000	293,700
On Back	91,710	88,210	61,570	81,510	88,000	89,000
Theft	98,240	106,060	95,530	60,150	8,800	36,620
Other Known Causes	254,900	223,460	204,340	223,360	173,980	66,380
Total Non-Predators	3,012,800	3,111,200	4,173,500	2,644,000	2,327,200	2,446,600
Total Loss From All Causes	6,496,400	7,185,200	7,732,400	5,560,700	4,762,000	5,063,800

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

LOSSES OF SHEEP BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1995-2000 1/

Cause of Loss	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	Number of Head					
Coyotes	8,000	7,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000
Bobcats	100	100	100	—	—	—
Dogs	500	500	100	300	400	100
Bears	600	300	200	600	300	100
Eagles	400	500	100	500	400	200
Fox	100	100	100	—	100	—
Mountain Lions	300	500	300	500	700	500
Other Predators	—	—	100	100	100	100
Total Predators	10,000	9,000	5,000	7,000	6,000	6,000
Weather	1,800	3,000	12,000	2,300	900	1,400
Disease	1,400	2,100	1,100	1,800	1,600	1,700
Lambing Complications	2,100	2,200	1,300	2,000	1,900	3,000
Poison	2,500	1,700	1,300	2,000	1,900	2,000
Old Age	3,700	3,400	1,900	3,100	3,500	3,300
On Back	1,100	900	500	800	1,000	1,000
Theft	1,000	800	500	400	100	300
Other Known Causes	1,400	900	400	1,600	1,100	300
Total Non-Predators	15,000	13,000	19,000	14,000	12,000	13,000
Total Loss From All Causes	25,000	24,000	24,000	21,000	18,000	19,000
	Percent of Total by Cause					
Coyotes	32.0	29.2	16.7	23.8	22.2	26.3
Bobcats	0.4	0.4	0.4	—	—	—
Dogs	2.0	2.1	0.4	1.4	2.2	0.5
Bears	2.4	1.3	0.8	2.9	1.7	0.5
Eagles	1.6	2.1	0.4	2.4	2.2	1.1
Fox	0.4	0.4	0.4	—	0.6	—
Mountain Lions	1.2	2.1	1.3	2.4	3.9	2.6
Other Predators	—	—	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5
Total Predators	40.0	37.5	20.8	33.3	33.3	31.6
Weather	7.2	12.5	50.0	11.0	5.0	7.4
Disease	5.6	8.8	4.6	8.6	8.9	8.9
Lambing Complications	8.4	9.2	5.4	9.5	10.6	15.8
Poison	10.0	7.1	5.4	9.5	10.6	10.5
Old Age	14.8	14.2	7.9	14.8	19.4	17.4
On Back	4.4	3.8	2.1	3.8	5.6	5.3
Theft	4.0	3.3	2.1	1.9	0.6	1.6
Other Known Causes	5.6	3.8	1.7	7.6	6.1	1.6
Total Non-Predators	60.0	62.5	79.2	66.7	66.7	68.4
Total Loss From All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 1/					
Coyotes	632,000	644,000	402,000	482,500	352,000	445,000
Bobcats	7,900	9,200	10,050	—	—	—
Dogs	39,500	46,000	10,050	28,950	35,200	8,900
Bears	47,400	27,600	20,100	57,900	26,400	8,900
Eagles	31,600	46,000	10,050	48,250	35,200	17,800
Fox	7,900	9,200	10,050	—	8,800	—
Mountain Lions	23,700	46,000	30,150	48,250	61,600	44,500
Other Predators	—	—	10,050	9,650	8,800	8,900
Total Predators	790,000	828,000	502,500	675,500	528,000	534,000
Weather	142,200	276,000	1,206,000	221,950	79,200	124,600
Disease	110,600	193,200	110,550	173,700	140,800	151,300
Lambing Complications	165,900	202,400	130,650	193,000	167,200	267,000
Poison	197,500	156,400	130,650	193,000	167,200	178,000
Old Age	292,300	312,800	190,950	299,150	308,000	293,700
On Back	86,900	82,800	50,250	77,200	88,000	89,000
Theft	79,000	73,600	50,250	38,600	8,800	26,700
Other Known Causes	110,600	82,800	40,200	154,400	96,800	26,700
Total Non-Predators	1,185,000	1,380,000	1,909,500	1,351,000	1,056,000	1,157,000
Total Loss From All Causes	1,975,000	2,208,000	2,412,000	2,026,500	1,584,000	1,691,000

1/Sheep value per head based on a two-year average value per head of ewes 1+ years.
 Sheep value: 1995-\$79.00; 1996-\$92.00; 1997-\$100.50; 1998-\$96.50; 1999-\$88.00; 2000-\$89.00.

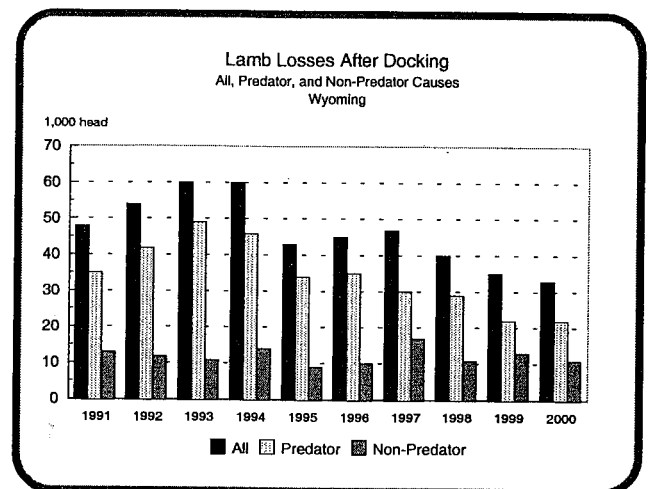
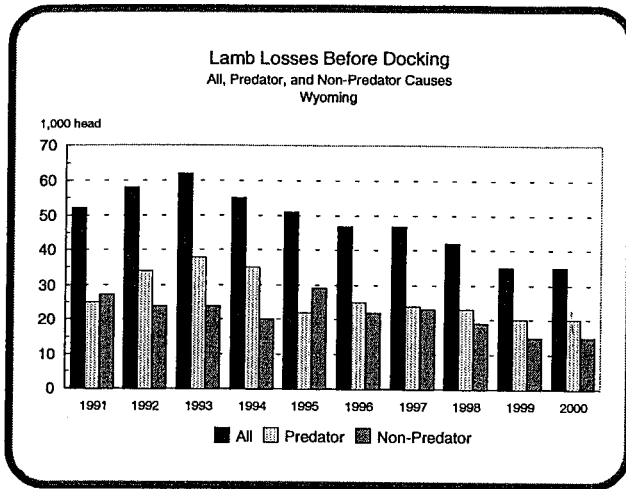
LOSSES OF LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1995-2000 1/

Cause of Loss	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	Number of Head					
Coyotes	40,000	42,000	37,000	34,500	27,000	29,000
Bobcats	200	300	400	600	500	500
Dogs	600	700	700	700	500	500
Bears	900	600	700	900	500	200
Eagles	7,400	8,000	6,900	7,900	7,000	5,700
Fox	5,500	6,700	6,200	5,400	4,600	4,700
Mountain Lions	800	1,300	1,800	1,400	1,300	1,100
Other Predators	600	400	300	600	600	300
Total Predators	56,000	60,000	54,000	52,000	42,000	42,000
Weather	21,900	14,100	18,000	13,100	7,700	11,200
Disease	6,800	6,900	11,200	8,500	12,400	7,900
Lambing Complications	4,800	6,300	4,900	4,700	4,200	4,200
Poison	1,000	1,400	2,000	1,500	2,000	1,700
On Back	100	100	200	100	—	—
Theft	400	600	800	500	—	200
Other Known Causes	3,000	2,600	2,900	1,600	1,700	800
Total Non-Predators	38,000	32,000	40,000	30,000	28,000	26,000
Total Loss From All Causes	94,000	92,000	94,000	82,000	70,000	68,000
	Percent of Total by Cause					
Coyotes	42.6	45.7	39.4	42.1	38.6	42.6
Bobcats	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7
Dogs	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7
Bears	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.3
Eagles	7.9	8.7	7.3	9.6	10.0	8.4
Fox	5.9	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.9
Mountain Lions	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.6
Other Predators	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.4
Total Predators	59.6	65.2	57.4	63.4	60.0	61.8
Weather	23.3	15.3	19.1	16.0	11.0	16.5
Disease	7.2	7.5	11.9	10.4	17.7	11.6
Lambing Complications	5.1	6.8	5.2	5.7	6.0	6.2
Poison	1.1	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.9	2.5
On Back	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	—
Theft	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.6	—	0.3
Other Known Causes	3.2	2.8	3.1	2.0	2.4	1.2
Total Non-Predators	40.4	34.8	42.6	36.6	40.0	38.2
Total Loss From All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 2/					
Coyotes	1,924,000	2,272,200	2,094,200	1,486,950	1,225,800	1,438,400
Bobcats	9,620	16,230	22,640	25,860	22,700	24,800
Dogs	28,860	37,870	39,620	30,170	22,700	24,800
Bears	43,290	32,460	39,620	38,790	22,700	9,920
Eagles	355,940	432,800	390,540	340,490	317,800	282,720
Fox	264,550	362,470	350,920	232,740	208,840	233,120
Mountain Lions	38,480	70,330	101,880	60,340	59,020	54,560
Other Predators	28,860	21,640	16,980	25,860	27,240	14,880
Total Predators	2,693,600	3,246,000	3,056,400	2,241,200	1,906,800	2,083,200
Weather	1,053,390	762,810	1,018,800	564,610	349,580	555,520
Disease	327,080	373,290	633,920	366,350	562,960	391,840
Lambing Complications	230,880	340,830	277,340	202,570	190,680	208,320
Poison	48,100	75,740	113,200	64,650	90,800	84,320
On Back	4,810	5,410	11,320	4,310	—	—
Theft	19,240	32,460	45,280	21,550	—	9,920
Other Known Causes	144,300	140,660	164,140	68,960	77,180	39,680
Total Non-Predators	1,827,800	1,731,200	2,264,000	1,293,000	1,271,200	1,289,600
Total Loss From All Causes	4,521,400	4,977,200	5,320,400	3,534,200	3,178,000	3,372,800

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: 1995-\$48.10; 1996-\$54.10; 1997-\$56.60, 1998-\$43.10; 1999-\$45.40; 2000-\$49.60.



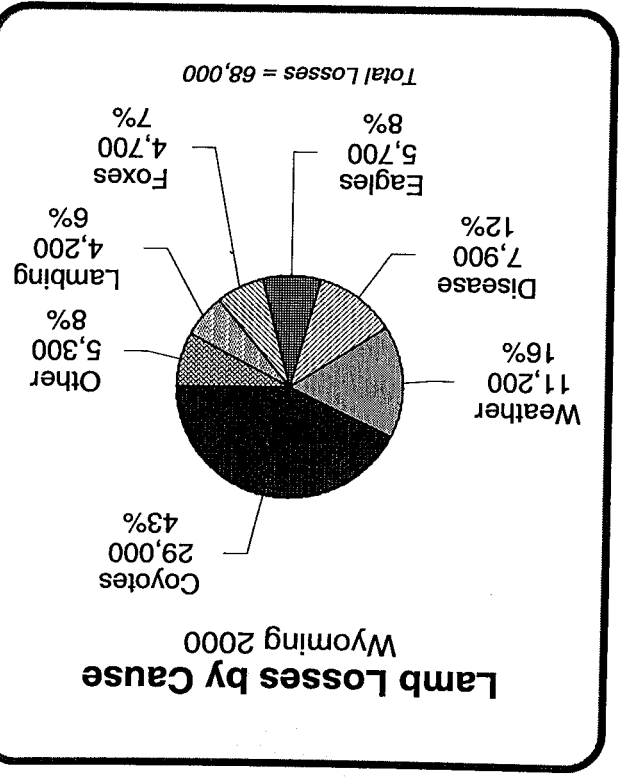
LOSSES OF LAMBS BEFORE DOCKING: WYOMING 1995-2000

Cause of Loss	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of Head						
Coyotes	13,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	10,000	11,000
Bobcats	100	100	300	400	500	500
Dogs	200	300	300	200	100	100
Bears	100	—	100	—	—	—
Eagles	4,400	5,400	4,700	5,500	4,800	4,100
Fox	3,600	4,700	5,200	4,100	3,600	3,900
Mountain Lions	100	200	200	300	400	200
Other Predators	500	300	200	500	600	200
Total Predators	22,000	25,000	24,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Weather	21,000	12,000	13,200	9,300	6,200	7,800
Disease	1,800	2,800	3,400	4,000	4,000	2,500
Lambing Complications	4,800	6,300	4,900	4,700	4,200	4,200
Poison	400	100	500	100	200	300
On Back	—	—	—	—	—	—
Theft	—	300	—	300	—	—
Other Known Causes	1,000	500	1,000	600	400	200
Total Non-Predators	29,000	22,000	23,000	19,000	15,000	15,000
Total Loss From All Causes	51,000	47,000	47,000	42,000	35,000	35,000

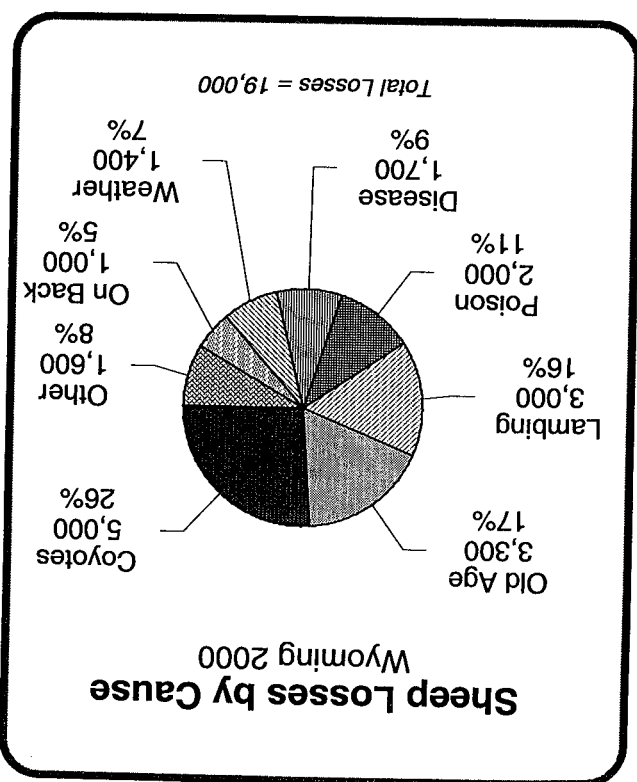
LOSSES OF LAMBS AFTER DOCKING: WYOMING 1995-2000

Cause of Loss	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of Head						
Coyotes	27,000	28,000	24,000	22,500	17,000	18,000
Bobcats	100	200	100	200	—	—
Dogs	400	400	400	500	400	400
Bears	800	600	600	900	500	200
Eagles	3,000	2,600	2,200	2,400	2,200	1,600
Fox	1,900	2,000	1,000	1,300	1,000	800
Mountain Lions	700	1,100	1,600	1,100	900	900
Other Predators	100	100	100	100	—	100
Total Predators	34,000	35,000	30,000	29,000	22,000	22,000
Weather	900	2,100	4,800	3,800	1,500	3,400
Disease	5,000	4,100	7,800	4,500	8,400	5,400
Poison	600	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,800	1,400
On Back	100	100	200	100	—	—
Theft	400	300	800	200	—	200
Other Known Causes	2,000	2,100	1,900	1,000	1,300	600
Total Non-Predators	9,000	10,000	17,000	11,000	13,000	11,000
Total Loss From All Causes	43,000	45,000	47,000	40,000	35,000	33,000

Lamb Losses by Cause
Wyoming 2000



Sheep Losses by Cause
Wyoming 2000



LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS: PERCENT BY CAUSE
WITHIN EACH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT, WYOMING 2000 1/

Cause of Loss	Northwest	Northeast	West	South Central	Southeast	State
Coyotes	39.1	36.4	46.9	40.0	36.2	39.1
Bobcats	—	—	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.6
Dogs	1.8	0.4	1.2	—	0.5	0.7
Bears	—	0.4	0.6	0.9	—	0.3
Eagles	6.4	7.5	5.0	5.5	8.1	6.8
Fox	0.9	6.4	5.0	5.5	6.7	5.4
Mountain Lions	4.6	2.5	1.2	1.8	—	1.8
Other Predators	1.8	—	1.2	—	—	0.5
Total Predators	54.5	53.6	62.5	54.5	52.4	55.2
Weather	10.0	15.4	9.4	24.5	14.3	14.5
Disease	13.6	7.9	11.2	9.1	14.8	11.0
Lambing Complications	10.9	10.0	6.2	4.5	8.1	8.3
Poison	2.7	5.4	5.6	3.6	2.9	4.3
Old Age	3.6	4.3	2.5	1.8	5.2	3.8
On Back	0.9	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.1
Theft	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.9	—	0.6
All Other Causes	2.7	1.4	0.6	—	1.4	1.3
Total Non-Predators	45.5	46.4	37.5	45.5	47.6	44.8
Total Loss All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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