

February 20, 2004

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 2003 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 24 percent from the previous year, due in part to a smaller herd size. Predators accounted for 58 percent of the losses. The 2003 lamb crop totaled 310,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was 30,000 fewer than in 2002. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 333,000 head. Of these, 13 percent were lost to various causes.

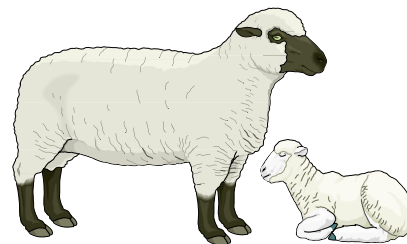
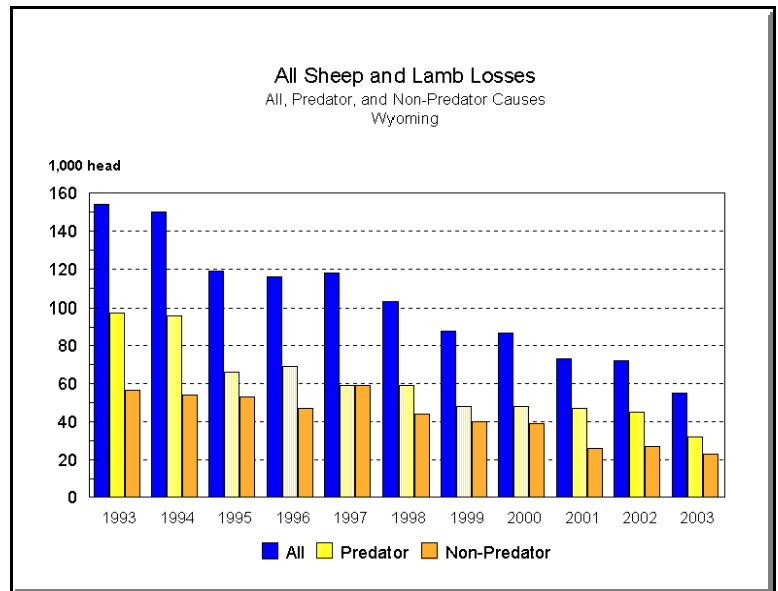
These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency to provide statistics for Wyoming agriculture.

If you have any question about this report please call us toll-free at 1-800-892-1660.

Sincerely,

Dick Coulter

Richard W. Coulter
State Statistician



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR LOSSES LOWER: Wyoming sheep producers lost 32,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2003, down 13,000 head from 2002. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 65 percent of the total predator losses and 38 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes decreased by 4,000 head.

ALL LAMB LOSSES DOWN 23 PERCENT: Sheep producers lost 43,000 lambs before or after docking in 2003, 23 percent fewer than in 2002. Losses to predators accounted for 65 percent of the total or 28,000 head, down 10,000 head from 2002. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were down 3,000 head.

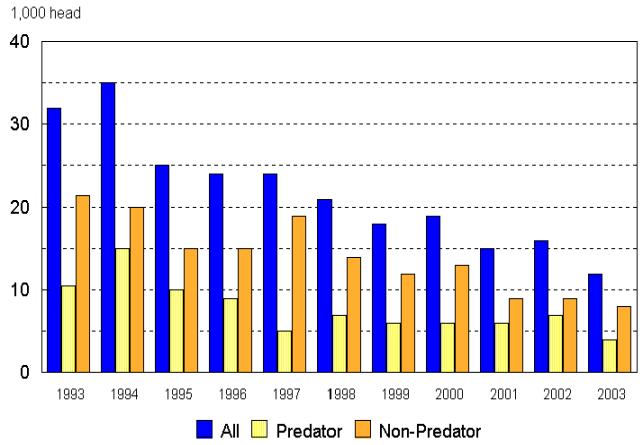
SHEEP LOSSES DOWN 25 PERCENT: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2003 totaled 12,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2002. Predator losses were down 3,000 head to 4,000 and non-predator losses were down 1,000 head to 8,000.

VALUE OF LOSSES DOWN 7 PERCENT: Sheep producers in Wyoming lost an estimated \$3.70 million from sheep and lamb deaths in 2003, down 7 percent from the previous year despite higher average prices. Predation accounted for \$2.09 million or 56 percent of the total value.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2002 and 2003

Cause of Loss	2002		2003	
	Head	% of Total	Head	% of Total
Coyotes	4,300	26.9	2,400	20.0
Bobcats	100	.6	100	.8
Dogs	100	.6	100	.8
Bears	300	1.9	500	4.2
Eagles	300	1.9	300	2.5
Fox	100	.6	100	.8
Mountain Lions	1,400	8.8	200	1.7
Wolves 2/			200	1.7
Other Predators	400	2.5	100	.8
Total Predators	7,000	43.8	4,000	33.3
Weather	900	5.6	800	6.7
Disease	1,100	6.9	1,000	8.3
Lambing Complications	1,500	9.4	1,600	13.3
Poison	1,600	10.0	1,100	9.2
Old Age	2,400	15.0	2,100	17.5
On Back	800	5.0	600	5.0
Theft	200	1.3	300	2.5
OverEating 3/			100	.8
Other Causes	500	3.1	400	3.3
Total Non-Predators	9,000	56.3	8,000	66.7
Total Loss All Causes	16,000	100.0	12,000	100.0

Sheep Losses
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2002 and 2003

Cause of Loss	2002				2003			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	9,500	16,100	25,600	45.7	7,500	11,000	18,500	43.0
Bobcats	300	200	500	.9	300	300	600	1.4
Dogs	100	400	500	.9	100	200	300	.7
Bears	—	300	300	.5	100	1,300	1,400	3.3
Eagles	4,300	1,800	6,100	10.9	2,500	1,000	3,500	8.1
Fox	2,300	800	3,100	5.5	1,700	400	2,100	4.9
Mountain Lions	300	1,400	1,700	3.0	100	600	700	1.6
Wolves 2/					100	100	200	.5
Other Predators	200	—	200	.4	600	100	700	1.6
Total Predators	17,000	21,000	38,000	67.9	13,000	15,000	28,000	65.1
Weather	5,000	1,100	6,100	10.9	4,200	600	4,800	11.2
Disease	1,700	2,100	3,800	6.8	1,000	1,300	2,300	5.3
Lambing	4,600	—	4,600	8.2	3,900	—	3,900	9.1
Poison	700	700	1,400	2.5	200	1,000	1,200	2.8
On Back	100	200	300	.5	—	100	100	.2
Theft	—	200	200	.4	—	200	200	.5
OverEating 3/					200	800	1,000	2.3
Other Causes	900	700	1,600	2.9	500	1,000	1,500	3.5
Total Non-	13,000	5,000	18,000	32.1	10,000	5,000	15,000	34.9
Total Loss All	30,000	26,000	56,000	100.0	23,000	20,000	43,000	100.0

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 1999-2003 1/

Cause of Loss	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total	Total Head	% of Total
Coyotes	31,000	35.2	34,000	39.1	32,300	44.2	29,900	41.5	20,900	38.0
Bobcats	500	.6	500	.6	700	1.0	600	.8	700	1.3
Dogs	900	1.0	600	.7	500	.7	600	.8	400	.7
Bears	800	.9	300	.3	1,200	1.6	600	.8	1,900	3.5
Eagles	7,400	8.4	5,900	6.8	6,000	8.2	6,400	8.9	3,800	6.9
Fox	4,700	5.3	4,700	5.4	4,600	6.3	3,200	4.4	2,200	4.0
Mountain Lions	2,000	2.3	1,600	1.8	1,200	1.6	3,100	4.3	900	1.6
Wolves 2/									400	.7
Other Predators	700	.8	400	.5	500	.7	600	.8	800	1.5
Total Predators	48,000	54.5	48,000	55.2	47,000	64.4	45,000	62.5	32,000	58.2
Weather	8,600	9.8	12,600	14.5	7,500	10.3	7,000	9.7	5,600	10.2
Disease	14,000	15.9	9,600	11.0	4,400	6.0	4,900	6.8	3,300	6.0
Lambing Complications	6,100	6.9	7,200	8.3	6,000	8.2	6,100	8.5	5,500	10.0
Poison	3,900	4.4	3,700	4.3	2,600	3.6	3,000	4.2	2,300	4.2
Old Age	3,500	4.0	3,300	3.8	2,300	3.2	2,400	3.3	2,100	3.8
On Back	1,000	1.1	1,000	1.1	800	1.1	1,100	1.5	700	1.3
Theft	100	.1	500	.6	1,000	1.4	400	.6	500	.9
OverEating 3/									1,100	2.0
Other Causes	2,800	3.2	1,100	1.3	1,400	1.9	2,100	2.9	1,900	3.5
Total Non-Predators	40,000	45.5	39,000	44.8	26,000	35.6	27,000	37.5	23,000	41.8
Total Loss All Causes	88,000	100.0	87,000	100.0	73,000	100.0	72,000	100.0	55,000	100.0

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

2/ Included in "Other Predators" for 1999-2002

3/ Included in "Other Causes" for 1999-2002

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2002 and 2003 1/ 2/

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Coyotes	352,600	204,000	1,210,900	1,154,400	1,563,500	1,358,400
Bobcats	8,200	8,500	23,700	37,400	31,900	45,900
Dogs	8,200	8,500	23,700	18,700	31,900	27,200
Bears	24,600	42,500	14,200	87,400	38,800	129,900
Eagles	24,600	25,500	288,500	218,400	313,100	243,900
Fox	8,200	8,500	146,600	131,000	154,800	139,500
Mountain Lions	114,800	17,000	80,400	43,700	195,200	60,700
Wolves 3/	—	17,000	—	12,500	—	29,500
Other Predators	32,800	8,500	9,400	43,700	42,200	52,200
Total Predators	574,000	340,000	1,797,400	1,747,200	2,371,400	2,087,200
Weather	73,800	68,000	288,500	299,500	362,300	367,500
Disease	90,200	85,000	179,700	143,500	269,900	228,500
Lambing Complications	123,000	136,000	217,600	243,400	340,600	379,400
Poison	131,200	93,500	66,200	74,900	197,400	168,400
Old Age	196,800	178,500	—	—	196,800	178,500
On Back	65,600	51,000	14,200	6,200	79,800	57,200
Theft	16,400	25,500	9,500	12,500	25,900	38,000
OverEating 4/	—	8,500	—	62,400	—	70,900
Other Causes	41,000	34,000	75,700	93,600	116,700	127,600
Total Non-Predators	738,000	680,000	851,400	936,000	1,589,400	1,616,000
Total Loss All Causes	1,312,000	1,020,000	2,648,800	2,683,200	3,960,800	3,703,200

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

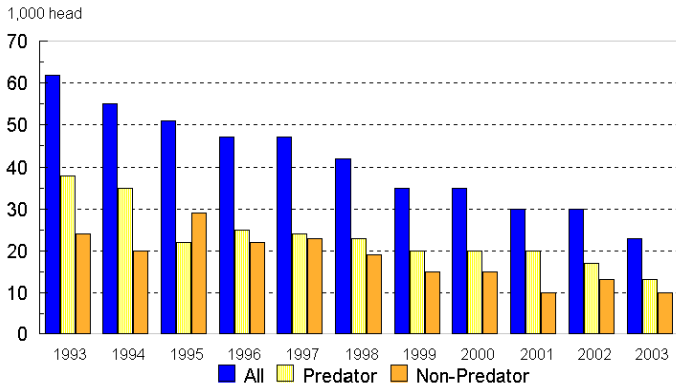
2/Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Average sheep value 2002-\$82.00, 2003-\$85.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2002-\$47.30, preliminary 2003-\$62.40.

3/ Included in "Other Predators" for 1999-2002

4/ Included in "Other Causes" for 1999-2002

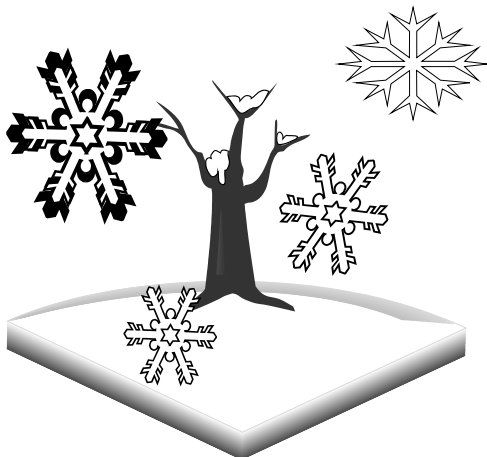
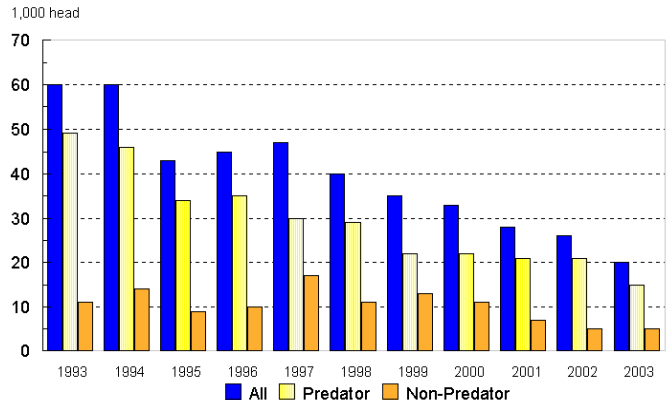
Lamb Losses Before Docking

All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Lamb Losses After Docking

All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes
Wyoming



Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2003 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Coyotes	1,900	6,500	5,900	2,800	3,800	20,900
Bobcats	100	300	200	—	100	700
Dogs	200	100	100	—	—	400
Bears	200	1,100	200	400	—	1,900
Eagles	200	1,300	200	900	1,200	3,800
Fox	100	700	600	300	500	2,200
Mountain Lions	100	400	100	200	100	900
Wolves	—	—	—	400	—	400
Other Predators	100	—	300	300	100	800
Total Predators	2,900	10,400	7,600	5,300	5,800	32,000
Weather	1,000	1,800	700	700	1,400	5,600
Disease	1,400	500	600	100	700	3,300
Lambing Complications	1,400	2,000	400	400	1,300	5,500
Poison	200	700	600	400	400	2,300
Old Age	400	600	400	200	500	2,100
On Back	100	200	100	100	200	700
Theft	100	300	100	—	—	500
OverEating	500	200	200	100	100	1,100
All Other Causes	600	700	200	100	300	1,900
Total Non-Predators	5,700	7,000	3,300	2,100	4,900	23,000
Total Loss All Causes	8,600	17,400	10,900	7,400	10,700	55,000

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

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2003 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent					
Coyotes	22.1	37.4	54.1	37.8	35.5	38.0
Bobcats	1.2	1.7	1.8	—	.9	1.3
Dogs	2.3	.6	.9	—	—	.7
Bears	2.3	6.3	1.8	5.4	—	3.5
Eagles	2.3	7.5	1.8	12.2	11.2	6.9
Fox	1.2	4.0	5.5	4.1	4.7	4.0
Mountain Lions	1.2	2.3	.9	2.7	.9	1.6
Wolves	—	—	—	5.4	—	.7
Other Predators	1.2	—	2.8	4.1	.9	1.5
Total Predators	33.7	59.8	69.7	71.6	54.2	58.2
Weather	11.6	10.3	6.4	9.5	13.1	10.2
Disease	16.3	2.9	5.5	1.4	6.5	6.0
Lambing Complications	16.3	11.5	3.7	5.4	12.1	10.0
Poison	2.3	4.0	5.5	5.4	3.7	4.2
Old Age	4.7	3.4	3.7	2.7	4.7	3.8
On Back	1.2	1.1	.9	1.4	1.9	1.3
Theft	1.2	1.7	.9	—	—	.9
OverEating	5.8	1.1	1.8	1.4	.9	2.0
All Other Causes	7.0	4.0	1.8	1.4	2.8	3.5
Total Non-Predators	66.3	40.2	30.3	28.4	45.8	41.8
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.