



# Sheep & Lamb Losses

Wyoming Field Office  
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February 21, 2013

Dear Data Users,

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 43,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease, and other causes in 2012 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 12,000 head from the previous year. Predators accounted for 43 percent of the losses. The 2012 lamb crop totaled 240,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was up 9 percent from 2011. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 259,000 head. Of these, 11,000, or 58 percent, were lost to various non-predator causes, compared to 77 percent in 2011.

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,

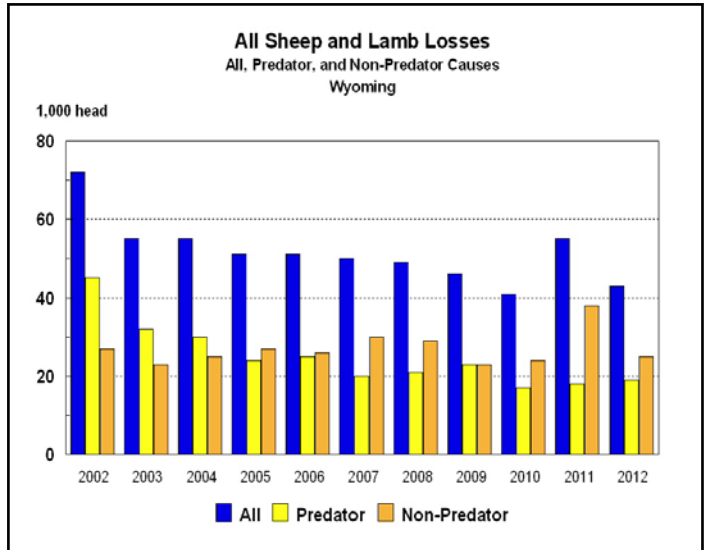
Todd Ballard  
Director



## HIGHLIGHTS

**PREDATOR LOSSES UP:** Wyoming sheep producers lost 18,500 sheep and lambs to predators in 2012, up 6 percent from 2011. 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 13,000 head to 24,500.

**NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES DOWN:** Sheep producers lost 33,000 lambs before or after docking in 2012, down 11,000 head from 2011. Losses to predators accounted for 48 percent of the total, up 500 head from 2011. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were down 11,500 head to 17,100.

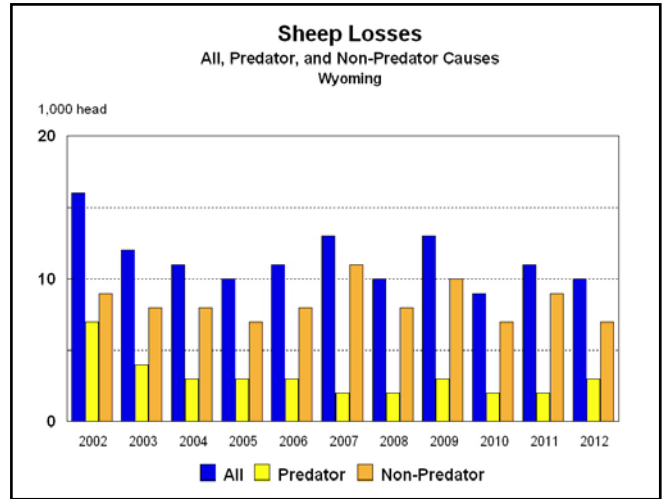


**SHEEP LOSSES DOWN:** Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2012 totaled 10,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2011. Predator losses were up 500 head at 2,600 and non-predator losses were down 1,500 head to 7,400.

**VALUE OF LOSSES LOWER:** Sheep producers lost an estimated \$7.9 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2012, down from \$10.2 million the previous year. Predation accounted for \$3.3 million or 42 percent of the total.

**Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2011 and 2012**

Cause of Loss	2011		2012	
	Head	% of Total 1/	Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	600	5.5	200	2.0
Bobcats	—	—	2/	2/
Coyotes	1,000	9.1	1,700	17.0
Dogs	200	1.8	300	3.0
Ravens	—	—	100	1.0
Eagles	100	0.9	100	1.0
Wolves	—	—	100	1.0
Foxes	—	—	2/	2/
Mountain Lions	200	1.8	100	1.0
Other Predators	2/	2/	2/	2/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>26.0</b>
Disease	700	6.4	1,000	10.0
Overeating	100	0.9	200	2.0
Weather	4,800	43.6	1,400	14.0
Lambing Complications	900	8.2	1,400	14.0
Old Age	1,500	13.6	1,900	19.0
On Back	200	1.8	300	3.0
Poisoning	400	3.6	800	8.0
Theft	100	0.9	200	2.0
Other Non-Predators	200	1.8	200	2.0
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>74.0</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

**Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2011 and 2012**

Cause of Loss	2011				2012			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	100	900	1,000	2.3	300	500	800	2.4
Bobcats	—	2/	2/	2/	100	100	200	0.6
Coyotes	4,400	5,500	9,900	22.5	4,800	5,300	10,100	30.6
Dogs	100	300	400	0.9	100	200	300	0.9
Ravens	500	2/	500	1.1	500	300	800	2.4
Eagles	1,900	900	2,800	6.4	1,300	600	1,900	5.8
Wolves	2/	2/	2/	2/	100	300	400	1.2
Foxes	100	200	300	0.7	700	100	800	2.4
Mountain Lions	100	400	500	1.1	100	500	600	1.8
Other Predators	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>48.2</b>
Disease	600	1,300	1,900	4.3	900	1,100	2,000	6.1
Overeating	100	600	700	1.6	500	700	1,200	3.6
Weather	19,700	2,300	22,000	50.0	7,500	3,300	10,800	32.7
Lambing	3,300	—	3,300	7.5	1,800	—	1,800	5.5
On Back	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Poisoning	2/	300	300	0.7	100	500	600	1.8
Theft	—	2/	2/	2/	—	200	200	0.6
Other Non-Predators	100	300	400	0.9	200	300	500	1.5
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>51.8</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

**Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2008-2012 1/**

Cause of Loss	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/
Bears	1,000	2.0	1,600	3.5	300	0.7	1,600	2.9	1,000	2.3
Bobcats	300	0.6	200	0.4	100	0.2	4/	4/	200	0.5
Coyotes	14,400	29.4	15,300	33.4	11,200	27.3	10,900	19.8	11,800	27.4
Dogs	400	0.8	600	1.3	300	0.7	600	1.1	600	1.4
Ravens	3/	3/	3/	3/	800	2.0	500	0.9	900	2.1
Eagles	1,600	3.3	1,900	4.2	2,100	5.1	2,900	5.3	2,000	4.7
Wolves	100	0.2	600	1.3	300	0.7	4/	4/	500	1.2
Fox	1,700	3.5	1,000	2.2	800	2.0	300	0.6	800	1.9
Mountain Lions	800	1.6	1,200	2.6	900	2.2	700	1.3	700	1.6
Other Predators	200	0.4	200	0.4	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>43.0</b>
Disease	3,700	7.6	2,600	5.7	1,700	4.2	2,600	4.7	3,000	7.0
Overeating	1,100	2.2	300	0.7	900	2.2	800	1.5	1,400	3.3
Weather	14,200	29.0	12,200	26.6	12,600	30.7	26,800	48.7	12,200	28.4
Lambing Complications	3,600	7.4	3,800	8.3	3,100	7.6	4,200	7.6	3,200	7.4
Old Age	2,700	5.5	1,600	3.5	2,100	5.1	1,500	2.7	1,900	4.4
On Back	500	1.0	400	0.9	500	1.2	200	0.4	300	0.7
Poison	1,500	3.1	1,300	2.8	2,100	5.1	700	1.3	1,400	3.3
Theft	400	0.8	4/	4/	200	0.5	100	0.2	400	0.9
Other Causes	800	1.6	1,000	2.2	1,000	2.4	600	1.1	700	1.6
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>24,200</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>57.0</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

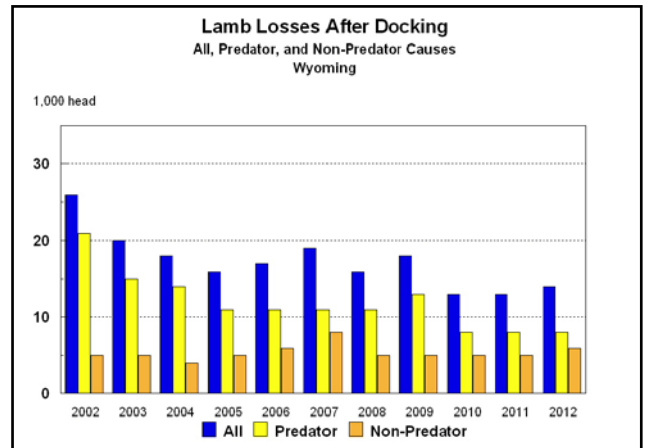
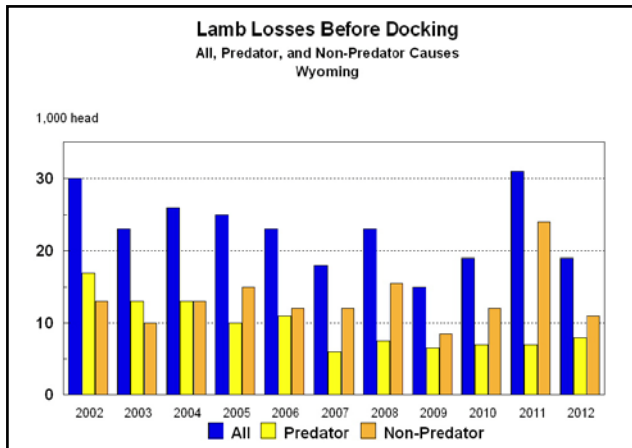
1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking. 2/ May not add due to rounding. 3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

**Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2011 and 2012 1/ 2/**

Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2011 3/	2012	2011 3/	2012	2011 3/	2012
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Bears	133,200	42,500	176,300	139,600	309,500	182,100
Bobcats	—	—	4/	34,900	4/	34,900
Coyotes	222,000	361,300	1,745,000	1,762,500	1,967,000	2,123,800
Dogs	44,400	63,800	70,500	52,400	114,900	116,200
Ravens	4/	21,300	88,100	139,600	88,100	160,900
Eagles	22,200	21,300	493,500	331,600	515,700	352,900
Wolves	4/	21,300	4/	69,800	4/	91,100
Foxes	—	—	52,900	139,600	52,900	139,600
Mountain Lions	44,400	21,300	88,100	104,700	132,500	126,000
Other Predators	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>466,200</b>	<b>552,800</b>	<b>2,714,400</b>	<b>2,774,700</b>	<b>3,180,600</b>	<b>3,327,500</b>
Disease	155,400	212,500	334,900	349,000	490,300	561,500
Overeating	22,200	42,500	123,400	209,400	145,600	251,900
Weather	1,065,600	297,500	3,877,900	1,884,600	4,943,500	2,182,100
Lambing Complications	199,800	297,500	581,700	314,100	781,500	611,600
Old Age	333,000	403,800	—	—	333,000	403,800
On Back	44,400	63,800	4/	4/	44,400	63,800
Poison	88,800	170,000	52,900	104,700	141,700	274,700
Theft	22,200	42,500	4/	34,900	22,200	77,400
Other Causes	44,400	42,500	70,500	87,300	114,900	129,800
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,975,800</b>	<b>1,572,600</b>	<b>5,041,300</b>	<b>2,984,000</b>	<b>7,017,100</b>	<b>4,556,600</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>2,442,000</b>	<b>2,125,400</b>	<b>7,755,700</b>	<b>5,758,700</b>	<b>10,197,700</b>	<b>7,884,100</b>

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 2010- \$205, 2011-\$239, 2012-\$186. Lamb value per head is based on a two-year average market value. Two-year average market lamb value 2010-\$135, 2011-\$218, 2012-\$131. 3/ Price revised for 2011. 4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.



**Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2012 1/**

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Head					
Bears	100	200	700	—	—	1,000
Bobcats	2/	100	100	—	2/	200
Coyotes	1,700	3,700	3,100	600	2,700	11,800
Dogs	100	2/	400	2/	100	600
Ravens	200	100	500	100	2/	900
Eagles	100	800	200	200	700	2,000
Wolves	2/	2/	500	2/	—	500
Foxes	2/	100	200	100	400	800
Mountain Lions	200	500	2/	—	—	700
Other Predators	2/	—	2/	—	2/	2/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>18,500</b>
Disease	500	600	1,300	100	500	3,000
Overeating	200	500	400	100	200	1,400
Weather	800	2,900	7,300	300	900	12,200
Lambing Complications	500	1,100	600	300	700	3,200
Old Age	600	500	500	100	200	1,900
On Back	100	200	2/	—	2/	300
Poison	100	500	500	100	200	1,400
Theft	2/	300	—	100	2/	400
Other Non-Predators	100	400	100	2/	100	700
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>24,500</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>43,000</b>

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

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

**Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2012 1/**

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
	Percent 2/					
Bears	1.9	1.6	4.3	—	—	2.3
Bobcats	3/	0.8	0.6	—	3/	0.5
Coyotes	32.1	29.6	18.9	28.6	40.3	27.4
Dogs	1.9	3/	2.4	3/	1.5	1.4
Ravens	3.8	0.8	3.0	4.8	3/	2.1
Eagles	1.9	6.4	1.2	9.5	10.4	4.7
Wolves	3/	3/	3.0	3/	—	1.2
Fox	3/	0.8	1.2	4.8	6.0	1.9
Mountain Lions	3.8	4.0	3/	—	—	1.6
Other Predators	3/	—	3/	—	3/	3/
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>43.0</b>
Disease	9.4	4.8	7.9	4.8	7.5	7.0
Overeating	3.8	4.0	2.4	4.8	3.0	3.3
Weather	15.1	23.2	44.5	14.3	13.4	28.4
Lambing Complications	9.4	8.8	3.7	14.3	10.4	7.4
Old Age	11.3	4.0	3.0	4.8	3.0	4.4
On Back	1.9	1.6	3/	—	3/	0.7
Poison	1.9	4.0	3.0	4.8	3.0	3.3
Theft	3/	2.4	—	4.8	3/	0.9
All Other Causes	1.9	3.2	0.6	3/	1.5	1.6
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>57.0</b>
<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 lambs losses both before and after docking.

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.