



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Posted online March 3, 2017

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Idaho Sheep and Lamb Losses Total 28,500 Head in 2016

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 28,500 head of sheep and lambs from all causes in 2016, valued at \$6.05 million, according to a survey conducted by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northwest Regional Field Office. This study was undertaken at the request of the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board which also provided the funding. The January 1, 2016 inventory was 255,000 head. The lamb crop for 2016 was 160,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2016 were 10,500 head. Sheep and lamb deaths in 2016 amounted to 7 percent of the 2016 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 6,700 head. Lamb losses by all predators totaled 5,300 head while the number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 1,400 head. Predators caused an estimated \$1.36 million in losses in 2016. Losses due to predators accounted for 24 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes were the largest predator for both sheep and lambs in Idaho. Coyotes accounted for 63 percent of the predator-caused losses and 15 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$839,000.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$4.69 million in 2016. Non-predatory losses totaled 21,800 head, accounting for 76 percent of all losses. The largest identifiable non-predatory causes of loss were disease, weather conditions, and lambing complications accounting for 45 percent of all non-predatory losses. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 7,600 head while non-predatory lamb losses totaled 14,200 head.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published in the January 2017 *Sheep and Goats* release included sheep losses for the entire year, but included only those lamb losses that occur after docking. The lamb losses in this report also include an estimate of lambs lost before docking.

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

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Idaho 2016

[Lamb losses include both before and after docking]

Cause of Loss	Head	Percent of Total cause	Value of Loss
	Number	Percent	1,000 Dollars
Coyotes	4,200	14.7	839
Wolves	800	2.8	174
Dogs	600	2.1	120
Bears	200	0.7	46
Mountain Lions	200	0.7	46
Other Predators ¹	200	0.7	37
Unknown Predators	500	1.8	101
Total Predators	6,700	23.5	1,363
Disease	3,500	12.3	751
Weather Conditions	3,300	11.6	671
Lambing Complications	3,000	10.5	666
Old Age	2,100	7.4	565
Enterotoxaemia	700	2.5	139
Poison	500	1.8	110
On Back	200	0.7	46
Other Causes ²	4,100	14.4	820
Unknown Causes ³	4,400	15.4	918
Total Non-Predator	21,800	76.5	4,686
Total Losses	28,500	100	6,049

¹ Includes bobcats, foxes, eagles, and ravens.

² Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

³ Cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs, by Cause: Idaho 2016

[Lamb losses include both before and after docking]

Cause of Loss	Sheep			All Lambs		
	Head	Percent	Value	Head	Percent	Value
Coyotes	700	7.8	188	3500	17.9	651
Wolves	300	3.3	81	500	2.6	93
Dogs	100	1.1	27	500	2.6	93
Bears	100	1.1	27	100	0.5	19
Mountain Lions	100	1.1	27	100	0.5	19
Other Predators ¹	-	-	-	200	1.0	37
Unknown Predators	100	1.1	27	400	2.1	74
Total Predators	1,400	15.6	377	5,300	27.2	986
Disease	1,200	13.3	323	2,300	11.8	428
Weather Conditions	700	7.8	188	2,600	13.3	483
Lambing Complications	1,300	14.4	350	1,700	8.7	316
Old Age	2,100	23.3	565	-	-	-
Enterotoxaemia	100	1.1	27	600	3.1	112
Poison	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
On Back	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other Causes ²	700	7.8	188	3,400	17.4	632
Unknown Causes ³	1,200	13.3	323	3,200	16.4	595
Total Non-Predator	7,600	84.4	2,045	14,200	72.8	2,641
Total Losses	9,000	100	2,422	19,500	100	3,627

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Includes bobcats, foxes, eagles, and ravens.

² Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

³ Cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

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