



# PRESS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Northwest Regional Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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### Regional Contacts

**Phone:** 1-800-435-5883

**Email:** [nassrfonwr@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfonwr@nass.usda.gov)

- Washington – Christopher Mertz, NW Regional Director
- Idaho – Randy Welk, State Statistician
- Oregon – Dave Losh, State Statistician
- Alaska – Sue Benz, State Statistician

### **Idaho Sheep and Lamb Losses Total 27,000 Head in 2018**

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 27,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes in 2018, valued at \$5.36 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 Animal Damage Control Board which also provided the funding. The January 1, 2018 inventory was 235,000 head. The lamb crop for 2018 was 160,000 head. Lambs lost before docking during 2018 were 11,000 head. Sheep and lamb deaths in 2018 amounted to 7 percent of the 2018 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 6,900 head. Lamb losses by all predators totaled 5,900 head while the number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 1,000 head. Predators caused an estimated \$1.34 million in losses in 2018. Losses due to predators accounted for 26 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes were the largest predator for both sheep and lambs in Idaho. Coyotes accounted for 74 percent of the predator-caused losses and 19 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$981,000.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$4.03 million in 2018. Non-predatory losses totaled 20,100 head, accounting for 74 percent of all losses. The largest identifiable non-predatory causes of loss were lambing complications, disease, and weather conditions accounting for 35 percent of all non-predatory losses. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 6,000 head while non-predatory lamb losses totaled 14,100 head.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published in the January 2019 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 2018

[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	5,100	18.9	981
Wolves	800	3.0	154
Dogs	200	0.7	37
Bears	100	0.4	19
Other/Unknown Predators <sup>1</sup>	700	2.6	144
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>1,335</b>
Lambing Complications	3,200	11.9	652
Disease	2,200	8.1	452
Weather Conditions	1,600	5.9	308
Old Age	1,500	5.6	348
Enterotoxaemia	1,500	5.6	285
Poison	600	2.2	121
On Back	200	0.7	42
Other Causes <sup>2</sup>	3,900	14.4	756
Unknown Causes <sup>3</sup>	5,400	20.0	1,063
<b>Total Non-Predator</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>4,027</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,362</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes bobcats, foxes, eagles, and ravens.

<sup>2</sup> Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

<sup>3</sup> Cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

## Losses of Sheep and Lambs, by Cause: Idaho 2018

[Lamb losses include both before and after docking]

Cause of Loss	Sheep			All Lambs		
	Head	Percent	Value	Head	Percent	Value
Coyotes	600	8.6	139	4,500	22.5	842
Wolves	100	1.4	23	700	3.5	131
Dogs	-	-	-	200	1.0	37
Bears	-	-	-	100	0.5	19
Other/Unknown Predators <sup>1</sup>	300	4.3	69	400	2.0	75
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>1,104</b>
Lambing Complications	1200	17.1	278	2,000	10.0	374
Disease	900	12.9	209	1,300	6.5	243
Weather Conditions	200	2.9	46	1,400	7.0	262
Old Age	1,500	21.4	348	-	-	-
Enterotoxaemia	100	1.4	23	1,400	7.0	262
Poison	200	2.9	46	400	2.0	75
On Back	100	1.4	23	100	0.5	19
Other Causes <sup>2</sup>	600	8.6	139	3,300	16.5	617
Unknown Causes <sup>3</sup>	1,200	17.1	278	4,200	21.0	785
<b>Total Non-Predator</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>2,637</b>
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,741</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes bobcats, foxes, eagles, and ravens.

<sup>2</sup> Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

<sup>3</sup> Cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

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