



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Idaho Sheep and Lamb Losses Total 24,500 Head in 2023

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 24,500 head of sheep and lambs from all causes in 2023, valued at \$5.28 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. On January 1, 2024 inventory totaled 235,000 head. The lamb crop for 2023 was 138,000 head. The total loss of all lambs was 16,500 head in 2023, of which, 7,500 were lost before docking. Sheep and lamb deaths in 2023 amounted to 6.5 percent of the 2023 sheep and lamb supply (inventory plus lamb crop plus lambs lost before docking).

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 7,600 head. Lamb losses by all predators totaled 6,000 head while the number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 1,600 head. Predators caused an estimated \$1.64 million in losses in 2023. Losses due to predators accounted for 31 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes were the largest predator for both sheep and lambs in Idaho. Coyotes accounted for 72 percent of the predator-caused losses and 22 percent of all death losses in the State. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$1.18 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$3.65 million in 2023. Non-predatory losses totaled 16,900 head, accounting for 69 percent of all losses. The largest identifiable non-predatory causes of loss were weather conditions, lambing complications and enterotoxaemia, accounting for 25 percent of all non-predatory losses. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 6,400 head while non-predatory lamb losses totaled 10,500 head.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published in the January 2024 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 2023

[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	5,500	22.4	1,183
Wolves	300	1.2	65
Mountain Lions	300	1.2	65
Dogs	200	0.8	43
Bears	200	0.8	43
Foxes	100	0.4	22
Ravens	100	0.4	22
Other/Unknown Predators ¹	900	3.7	194
Total Predators	7,600	31.0	1,636
Weather Conditions	2,900	11.8	627
Lambing Complications	2,200	9.0	474
Enterotoxaemia	800	4.1	215
Disease	800	3.3	173
Old Age	800	3.3	174
Poison	600	2.4	129
On Back	200	0.8	43
Other Causes ²	300	1.2	65
Unknown Causes ³	8,100	33.1	1,745
Total Non-Predator	16,900	69.0	3,645
Total Losses	24,500	100	5,280

¹ Includes bobcats and eagles.

² Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

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

Losses of Sheep and Lambs, by Cause: Idaho 2023

[Lamb losses include both before and after docking]

Cause of Loss	Sheep			All Lambs		
	Head	Percent	Value	Head	Percent	Value
	Number		1,000 dollars	Number		1,000 dollars
Coyotes	1,000	12.5	218	4,500	27.3	965
Wolves	100	1.3	22	200	1.2	43
Mountain Lions	100	1.3	22	200	1.2	43
Dogs	100	1.3	22	100	0.6	22
Bears	100	1.3	22	100	0.6	22
Foxes	-	-	-	100	0.6	22
Ravens	-	-	-	100	0.6	22
Other/Unknown Predators ¹	200	2.5	44	700	4.2	150
Total Predators	1,600	20.0	348	6,000	36.4	1,287
Weather Conditions	1,600	20.0	348	1,300	7.9	279
Lambing Complications	700	8.8	152	1,500	9.1	322
Enterotoxaemia	100	1.3	22	900	5.5	193
Disease	400	5.0	87	400	2.4	86
Old Age	800	10.0	174	-	-	-
Poison	200	2.5	44	400	2.4	86
On Back	100	1.3	22	100	0.6	22
Other Causes ²	100	1.3	22	200	1.2	43
Unknown Causes ³	2,400	30.0	522	5,700	21.0	1,223
Total Non-Predator	6,400	80.0	1,392	10,500	63.6	2,253
Total Losses	8,000	100	1,740	16,500	100	3,540

¹ Includes bobcats and eagles.

² Includes digestive, metabolic, parasite, respiratory.

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

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