United States Department of Agriculture

Sheep and Lamb Losses by Cause

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Utah Field Office · PO Box 25007 · Salt Lake City, UT 84125 · (800) 747-8522 · www.nass.usda.gov

Utah farmers and ranchers lost 43,000 **sheep and lambs to all causes** in 2008. This was valued at $3.601 million**. Lambs lost before docking** totaled 15,000. **lambs lost after docking** totaled 16,000 and **sheep one year old and older** lost totaled 12,000. Coyotes accounted for 42 percent of all lambs lost before docking, at 6,300 head. This accounted for the largest single cause of death in lambs before docking. Coyotes also accounted for the largest number of lambs lost after docking at 51.9 percent of the after docking loss. **Sheep one year old and older** losses to coyotes, at 4.000, was the single largest cause, accounting for 33.3 percent. Total losses to coyotes equaled 18,600 head, which was 43.3 percent of all losses to sheep and lambs in the state.

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Losses of Lambs Before Docking: Utah 2003-2008 [2]

Cause of Loss	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number of Head					
Bear	NA	NA	NA	NA	600	NA
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	4,200	6,100	4,300	6,500	5,800	6,300
Dog	NA	NA	NA	600	NA	500
Fox	NA	NA	500	500	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	500	600	600	600	500	500
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,100	2,200	1,100	800	900	800
Other/Unknown	3,000	900	900	400	2,900	1,200
Total Predators	8,800	9,800	7,400	9,400	10,700	9,300
Diseases	800	500	1,200	500	600	NA
Enterotoxaemia [1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Weather conditions	3,100	3,300	3,800	2,000	1,900	4,100
Lambing Complications	2,300	1,800	3,500	2,000	1,000	500
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	2,000	4,400	2,100	1,100	1,300	1,100
Total Non-Predators	8,200	10,000	10,600	5,600	4,800	5,700
TOTAL LOSSES	17,000	19,800	18,000	15,000	15,500	15,000

[1] Enterotoxaemia first published in 2003.
[2] NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Lambs After Docking: Utah 2003-2008 [2]

Cause of Loss	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Number of Head					
Bear	1,100	1,500	1,200	1,300	2,100	1,400
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	8,900	9,500	6,700	8,300	8,600	8,300
Dog	NA	NA	NA	NA	600	500
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	3,500	2,600	2,000	2,200	2,000	2,100
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	1,800	1,200	1,200	1,100	600	400
Total Predators	15,300	14,800	11,100	12,900	13,900	12,700
Diseases	500	NA	500	700	600	NA
Enterotoxaemia [1]	500	NA	500	500	500	600
Weather conditions	NA	NA	800	700	900	900
Lambing Complications	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	500	500	500	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	2,700	3,200	1,600	2,700	1,600	1,800
Total Non-Predators	3,700	3,200	3,900	5,100	4,100	3,300
TOTAL LOSSES	19,000	18,000	15,000	18,000	18,000	16,000

[1] Enterotoxaemia first published in 2003.
[2] NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of All Lambs by Cause: Utah, 2003-2008 [1] [3]

Cause of Loss	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
			Number of Head			
Bear	1,300	1,600	1,400	1,400	2,700	1,700
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	500	NA
Coyote	13,100	15,600	11,000	14,800	14,400	14,600
Dog	600	500	600	900	800	1,000
Fox	600	800	800	800	600	500
Mountain Lion	4,000	3,200	2,600	2,800	2,500	2,600
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,500	2,300	1,200	1,100	1,000	900
Other/Unknown	3,000	600	900	500	2,100	700
Total Predators	24,100	24,600	18,500	22,300	24,600	22,000
Diseases	1,300	700	1,700	1,200	1,200	800
Enterotoxaemia [2]	700	NA	800	700	600	600
Weather Conditions	3,500	3,600	4,600	2,700	2,800	5,000
Lambing Complications	2,300	1,800	3,500	2,000	1,000	500
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	600	600	600	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	4,100	7,100	3,300	3,500	2,700	2,100
Total Non-Predators	11,900	13,200	14,500	10,700	8,900	9,000
Total Losses	**36,000**	**37,800**	**33,000**	**33,000**	**33,500**	**31,000**
			Percent of Total by Cause			
Bear	3.6	4.2	4.2	4.2	8.1	5.5
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.5	NA
Coyote	36.4	41.3	33.3	44.8	43.0	47.1
Dog	1.7	1.3	1.8	2.7	2.4	3.2
Fox	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.6
Mountain Lion	11.1	8.5	7.9	8.5	7.5	8.4
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	4.2	6.1	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9
Other/Unknown	8.3	1.6	2.7	1.5	6.3	2.3
Total Predators	66.9	65.1	56.1	67.6	73.4	71.0
Diseases	3.6	1.9	5.2	3.6	3.6	2.6
Enterotoxaemia [2]	1.9	NA	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.9
Weather Conditions	9.7	9.5	13.9	8.2	8.4	16.1
Lambing Complications	6.4	4.8	10.6	6.1	3.0	1.6
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	1.8	1.8	1.8	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	11.4	18.8	10.0	10.6	8.1	6.8
Total Non-Predators	33.1	34.9	43.9	32.4	26.6	29.0
Total Losses	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)			
Bear	65	93	92	83	160	104
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	NA
Coyote	659	903	719	875	851	893
Dog	30	29	39	53	47	61
Fox	30	46	52	47	35	31
Mountain Lion	201	185	170	165	148	159
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	75	133	78	65	59	55
Other/Unknown	151	35	59	30	124	43
Total Predators	1,212	1,424	1,210	1,318	1,454	1,346
Diseases	65	41	111	71	71	49
Enterotoxaemia [2]	35	NA	52	41	35	37
Weather Conditions	176	208	301	160	165	306
Lambing Complications	116	104	229	118	59	31
Old Age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	NA	NA	39	35	35	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	206	411	216	207	160	128
Total Non-Predators	598	764	948	632	526	551
Total Losses	**1,810**	**2,189**	**2,158**	**1,950**	**1,980**	**1,897**

[1] Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.
[2] Enterotoxaemia first published in 2003.
[3] NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Utah, 2003-2008 [2]

Cause of Loss	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
			Number of Head			
Bear	600	700	600	2,400	1,200	1,000
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	2,900	3,200	2,400	2,600	2,000	4,000
Dog	NA	NA	NA	NA	500	600
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	800	1,300	700	1,200	800	1,000
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	1,100	500	600	500	200	200
Total Predators	5,400	5,700	4,300	5,300	4,700	6,800
Diseases	600	500	700	700	900	700
Enterotoxaemia [1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	800
Weather Conditions	NA	NA	700	700	500	700
Lambing Complications	700	600	1,000	1,000	800	600
Old Age	1,200	1,200	2,000	2,200	2,400	1,300
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	800	500	NA	1,500	500	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	600	NA
Other/Unknown	2,300	2,500	2,300	1,600	600	1,100
Total Non-Predators	5,600	5,300	6,700	7,700	6,300	5,200
Total Losses	**11,000**	**11,000**	**11,000**	**13,000**	**11,000**	**12,000**
			Percent of Total by Cause			
Bear	5.5	6.4	5.5	18.5	10.9	8.3
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	26.4	29.1	21.8	20.0	18.2	33.3
Dog	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.5	5.0
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	7.3	11.8	6.4	9.2	7.3	8.3
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	10.0	4.5	5.5	3.8	1.8	1.7
Total Predators	49.1	51.8	39.1	40.8	42.7	56.7
Diseases	5.5	4.5	6.4	5.4	8.2	5.8
Enterotoxaemia [1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.7
Weather Conditions	NA	NA	6.4	5.4	4.5	5.8
Lambing Complications	6.4	5.5	9.1	7.7	7.3	5.0
Old Age	10.9	10.9	18.2	16.9	21.8	10.8
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	7.3	4.5	NA	11.5	4.5	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.5	NA
Other/Unknown	20.9	22.7	20.9	12.3	5.5	9.2
Total Non-Predators	50.9	48.2	60.9	59.2	57.3	43.3
Total Losses	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)			
Bear	65	89	89	154	176	142
Bobcat	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coyote	314	408	355	399	293	568
Dog	NA	NA	NA	NA	73	85
Fox	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Lion	87	166	104	184	117	142
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other/Unknown	120	64	89	76	30	28
Total Predators	585	727	636	814	689	966
Diseases	65	64	104	107	132	99
Enterotoxaemia [1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	114
Weather Conditions	NA	NA	104	107	73	99
Lambing Complications	76	77	148	154	117	85
Old Age	130	153	296	338	352	185
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	87	64	NA	230	73	NA
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	88	NA
Other/Unknown	249	320	339	246	88	156
Total Non-Predators	607	676	992	1,182	923	738
Total Losses	**1,192**	**1,404**	**1,628**	**1,996**	**1,612**	**1,704**

[1] Enterotoxaemia first published in 2003.
[2] NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs Combined, by Cause: Utah, 2003-2008 [1] [3]

Cause of Loss	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
			Number of Head			
Bear	1,900	2,300	2,000	1,000	3,900	2,700
Bobcat	500	NA	500	NA	600	NA
Coyote	16,000	18,800	13,400	17,400	16,400	18,600
Dog	900	800	900	1,200	1,300	1,600
Fox	600	800	900	800	600	500
Mountain Lion	4,800	4,500	3,300	4,000	3,300	3,600
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	1,500	2,300	1,200	1,100	1,000	900
Other/Unknown	3,300	800	600	700	2,200	900
Total Predators	29,500	30,300	22,800	27,600	29,300	28,800
Diseases	1,900	1,200	2,400	1,900	2,100	1,500
Enterotoxaemia [2]	1,100	NA	1,100	1,000	700	1,400
Weather Conditions	3,900	3,700	5,300	3,400	3,300	5,700
Lambing Complications	3,000	2,400	4,500	3,000	1,800	1,100
Old Age	1,200	1,200	2,000	2,200	2,400	1,300
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	1,100	800	1,000	2,100	1,100	600
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	900	NA
Other/Unknown	5,300	9,200	4,900	4,800	2,900	2,600
Total Non-Predators	17,500	18,500	21,200	18,400	15,200	14,200
Total Losses	**47,000**	**48,800**	**44,000**	**46,000**	**44,500**	**43,000**
			Percent of Total by Cause			
Bear	4.0	4.7	4.5	2.2	8.8	6.3
Bobcat	1.1	NA	1.1	NA	1.3	NA
Coyote	34.0	38.5	30.5	37.8	36.9	43.3
Dog	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.7
Fox	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.2
Mountain Lion	10.2	9.2	7.5	8.7	7.4	8.4
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	3.2	4.7	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.1
Other/Unknown	7.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	4.9	2.1
Total Predators	62.8	62.1	51.8	60.0	65.8	67.0
Diseases	4.0	2.5	5.5	4.1	4.7	3.5
Enterotoxaemia [2]	2.3	NA	2.5	2.2	1.6	3.3
Weather Conditions	8.3	7.6	12.0	7.4	7.4	13.3
Lambing Complications	6.4	4.9	10.2	6.5	4.0	2.6
Old Age	2.6	2.5	4.5	4.8	5.4	3.0
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	2.3	1.6	2.3	4.6	2.5	1.4
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.0	NA
Other/Unknown	11.3	18.9	11.1	10.4	6.5	6.0
Total Non-Predators	37.2	37.9	48.2	40.0	34.2	33.0
Total Losses	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
			Dollar Value of Losses by Cause (000)			
Bear	130	182	180	236	335	246
Bobcat	31	NA	41	NA	44	NA
Coyote	973	1,312	1,075	1,274	1,144	1,462
Dog	63	67	84	99	121	146
Fox	30	46	67	47	35	31
Mountain Lion	288	351	274	350	265	301
Wolves	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Eagle	75	133	78	65	59	55
Other/Unknown	207	60	48	60	139	71
Total Predators	1,797	2,152	1,846	2,131	2,142	2,312
Diseases	130	104	215	178	203	148
Enterotoxaemia [2]	79	NA	97	87	50	150
Weather Conditions	219	221	404	267	239	405
Lambing Complications	192	181	377	272	176	116
Old Age	130	153	296	338	352	185
On Back	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Poison	102	81	98	266	109	61
Theft	NA	NA	NA	NA	106	NA
Other/Unknown	354	700	453	406	215	224
Total Non-Predators	1,205	1,441	1,940	1,814	1,449	1,289
Total Losses	**3,002**	**3,592**	**3,786**	**3,946**	**3,591**	**3,601**

[1] Lamb losses include both before and after docking losses.
[2] Enterotoxaemia first published in 2003.
[3] NA are less than 500 head and are included in Other/Unknown.

Cooperation: Data were collected in conjunction with the National Agricultural Statistics Service January 1 Sheep Report. Utah Department of Agriculture and Food provided funding for the "Loss by Cause" portion of the survey.