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STERNER, RAY T. Wildlife damage to agriculture: The characteristic of positive skewness. USDA/APHIS/ADC/Denver Wildlife Research Center, Denver, CO 80225-0266 USA.

Economists/biologists often use indices of central tendency to estimate the magnitude of regional and national wildlife-caused damage to agriculture. I conducted several archival- and field-type surveys to characterize the losses associated with a number of wildlife/agricultural damage situations. For example, I conducted an archival-type survey of coyote (*Canis latrans*) depredation upon sheep (*Ovis aries*) literature (since 1965) and a 3-year field-type survey (1980-82) of blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*, *Quiscalus quiscula*, etc.) damage to sunflower in a 232-km<sup>2</sup> area of Central North Dakota. Results indicated that damage is highly skewed (+), with proximity of specific wildlife habitats to livestock/crops correlated with damage estimates. Alternative procedures for characterizing wildlife-caused damage under conditions of "extreme skewness" will be discussed.