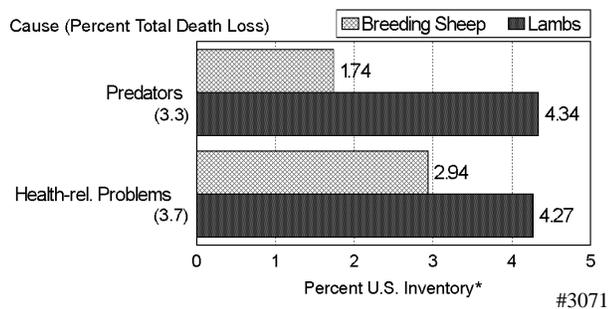


1994 Sheep Death Losses Due to Health-Related Problems

Figure 1

1994 U.S. Breeding Sheep & Lamb Death Loss Due to Predators & Health-Related Problems



In 1994, predators and health-related problems each accounted for death losses of about 4.3 percent of the lamb inventory in the United States.

The total 1994 breeding sheep and lamb deaths from diseases, lambing problems, poisoning, weather, and other health-related problems was 3.7 percent, while predators were credited with 3.3 percent. With few exceptions, regional death loss totals due to health-related problems slightly exceeded predator losses. Figure 1 shows the 1994 predator and health-related death loss percentages for breeding sheep and lambs.

Figure 2 shows breeding sheep and lamb death loss percentages by health-related categories. Lambing losses equaled 0.66 percent of the 1994 national inventory.* Following close behind were digestive problems (bloat, scours, parasites, enterotoxemia, acidosis, etc.) and respiratory problems (pneumonia, shipping fever, etc.) with 0.65 and 0.64 percent. The 'other' category included lameness, old age, on back, and diseases not covered in specific categories.

Figure 2

1994 U.S. Breeding Sheep & Lamb Death Loss* by Health-Related Cause

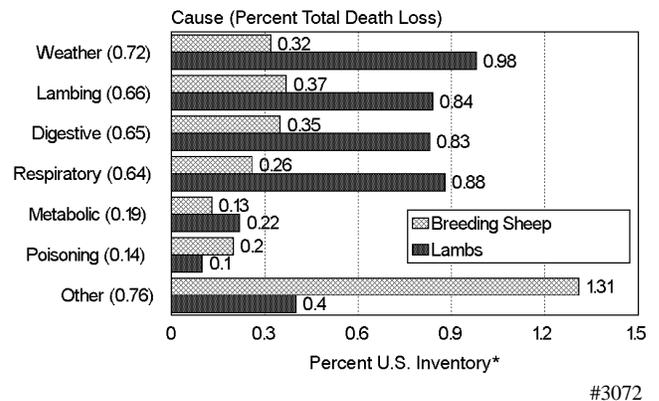
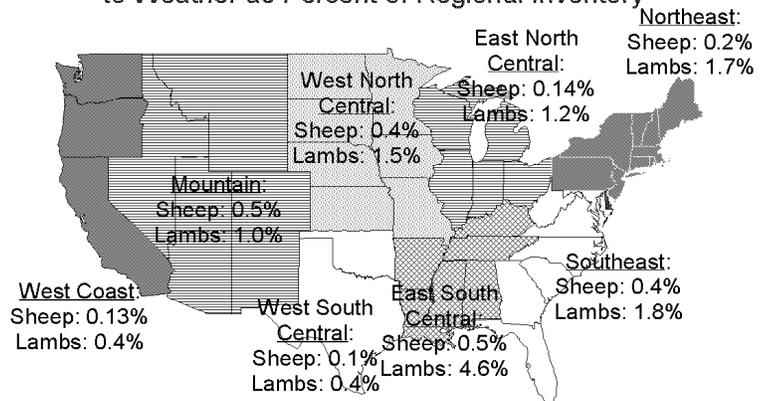


Figure 3

Regional 1994 Breeding Sheep & Lamb Losses Due to Weather as Percent of Regional Inventory*



Weather accounted for the highest combined sheep and lamb total for a specified health-related problem (0.72 percent) with 0.98 percent of the 1994 lamb inventory and 0.32 percent of the breeding sheep inventory. Figure 3 shows the West South Central had the lowest death losses from weather problems.

*Breeding sheep: 1/1/94 inventory of ewes & rams. Lambs: 1/1/94 lambs on feed & 1/1/94 replacement lambs (calculated by subtracting ewes & rams from the total inventory on 1/1/94) plus the 1994 lamb crop. AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC were not included in regional estimates due to missing inventory totals. Inventory per Sheep & Goats, USDA:NASS. Lv Gn 1 (1-95).

Lambing problems accounted for higher lamb losses than breeding sheep losses in each region (Figure 4). The Southeast and Northeast regions reported the highest death rates in this category (2.6 and 1.9 percent lamb death loss, respectively.)

More lambs than breeding sheep were also lost due to digestive problems in most regions (Figure 5). The East South Central and Southeast regions had the highest incidence of deaths in this category with 1.5 percent of each region's lamb inventory lost to this cause.

Figure 6 shows the north central United States had the highest lamb death loss due to respiratory problems (1.7 percent in the West North Central region and 1.6 percent in the East North Central region).

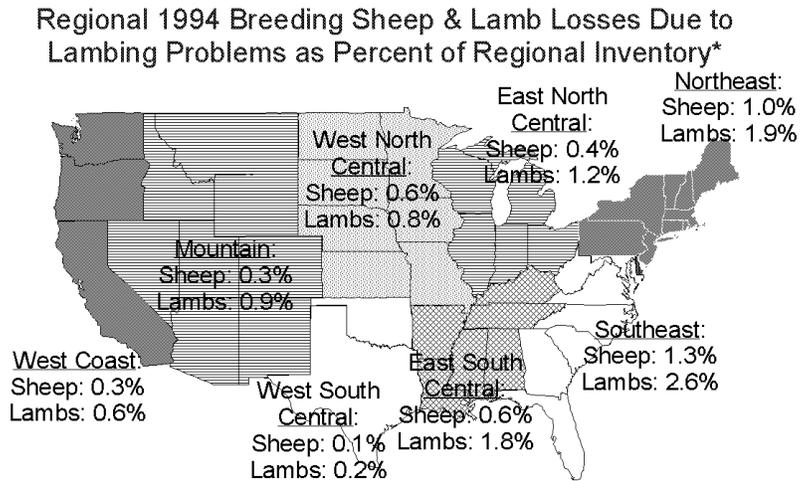
Death losses for sheep and lambs attributed to metabolic problems varied little at the regional level. The Southeast region reported the highest regional loss (0.8 percent lamb deaths and 0.3 percent of breeding sheep deaths). Regional lamb losses ranged from 0.03 percent to 0.4 percent for the other regions and breeding sheep losses ranged from 0.03 percent to 0.3 percent.

The Mountain region showed the highest death losses from poisoning with 0.4 percent for breeding sheep and 0.2 percent for lambs. Ranges for other regions fell between 0.008 and 0.3 for both breeding sheep and lambs.

The information presented herein originated from a report entitled 'Sheep and Lamb Death Loss 1994' (NASS LDP Number 95-01). Sheep producers from across the United States identified the causes of sheep deaths in a study by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the USDA:Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' National Animal Health Monitoring System and Animal Damage Control. About 75,000 sheep producers were selected by random sample and participated in the study through mailed questionnaires and telephone or personal interviews.

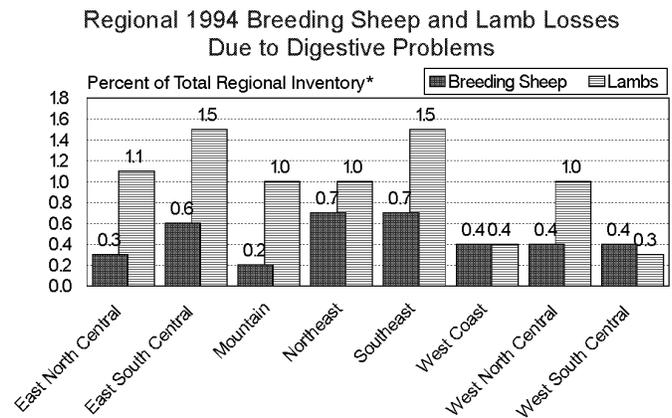
For additional information on national and regional sheep death loss and health-related causes, contact: Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health; USDA:APHIS:VS, Attn. NAHMS; 2150 Centre Ave., Bldg. B, MS 2E7; Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117; (970) 494-7000; NAHMSweb@aphis.usda.gov

Figure 4



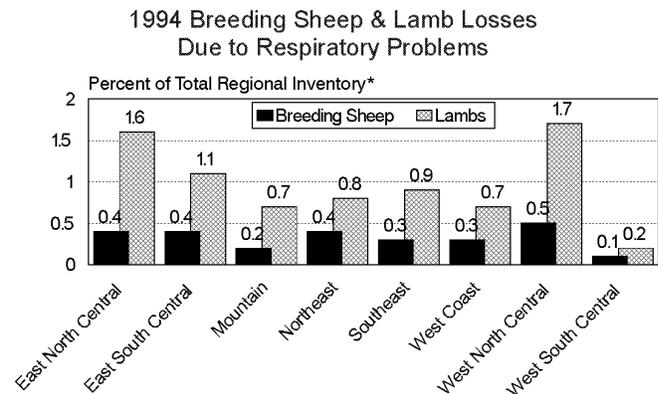
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Figure 5



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Figure 6



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*Breeding sheep: 1/1/94 inventory of ewes & rams. Lambs: 1/1/94 lambs on feed & 1/1/94 replacement lambs (calculated by subtracting ewes & rams from the total inventory on 1/1/94) plus the 1994 lamb crop. AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC were not included due to missing inventory totals. Inventory per Sheep & Goats, USDA:NASS. Lv Gn 1 (1-95).