



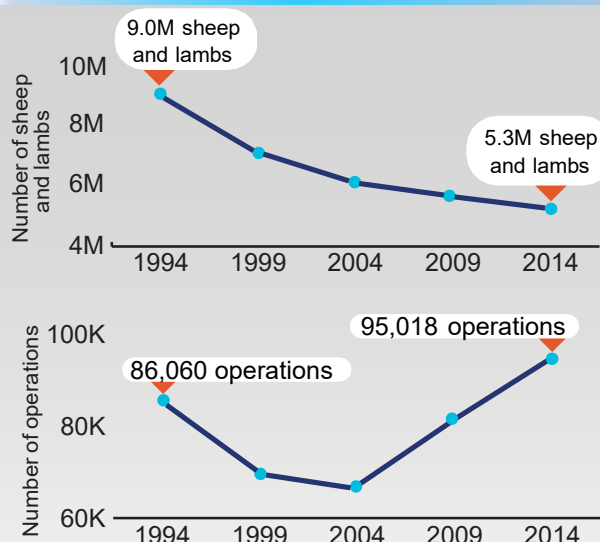
Death Loss Trends in the U.S. Sheep Industry: 1994 to 2014

Sheep Death Loss Study 2015

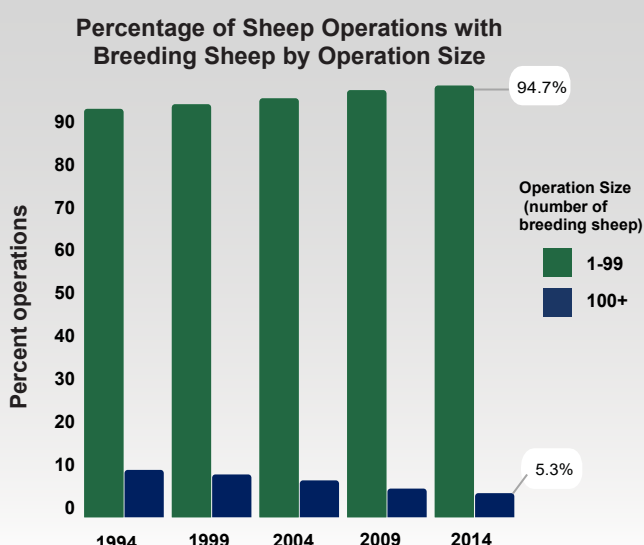
The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Wildlife Services (WS), conducted the Sheep and Lambs Predator and Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States 2015 Study in tandem with NASS' annual Sheep and Goat Report in January 2015. This collaborative study has been taking place every five years since 1995 and aims to quantify amounts, values, and causes of death loss in sheep and lambs in the United States.

SMALL OPERATIONS DROVE INDUSTRY GROWTH

Sheep and lamb inventory continued to decrease, while the number of operations is at a 20-year high.

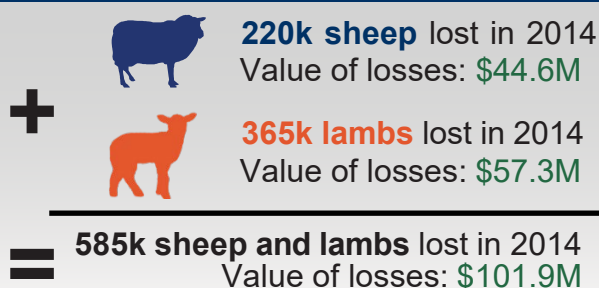


Small operations made up an increasingly dominant share of sheep operations, accounting for 89.6% of sheep operations with breeding sheep in 1994 and 94.7% in 2014.



Source: USDA-NASS, see the Sheep and Lamb Predator and Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States 2015 report for complete information
Link for the report: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/naahms/sheep/downloads/sheep_death/SheepDeathLoss2015.pdf

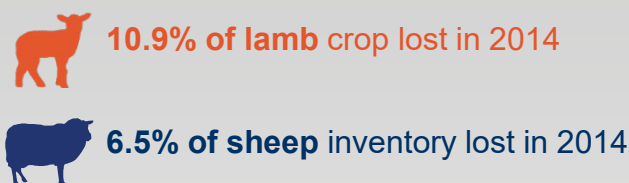
VALUE OF 2014 DEATH LOSSES WAS \$101.9 MILLION



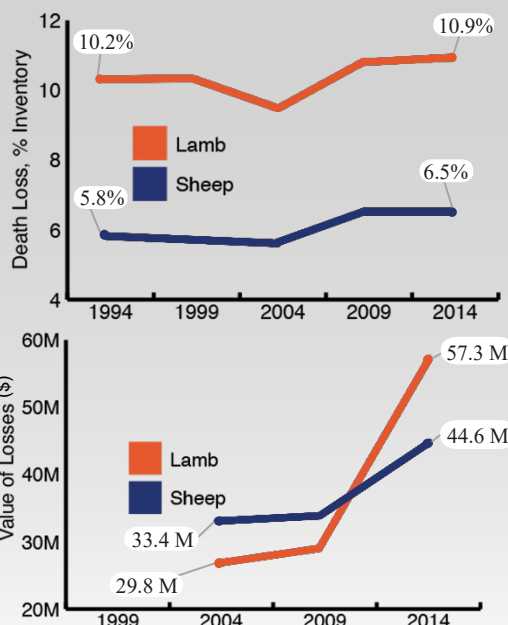
Note: Values of losses calculated as the product of the average of producer-reported values of the sheep and lambs and the number of sheep and lambs lost.

PERCENTAGE OF INVENTORY LOST AND VALUE OF LOSSES

As a percentage of inventory, sheep and lamb losses have seen only slight increases over the past two decades.



Overall value of losses, however, increased by 61% over the past 10 years.



Note: Surveys before 2004 did not ask about value of losses. All values are reported in terms of January 2015 dollars using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator: https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

CAUSES OF SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES IN 2014



Nonpredator Causes

Of the **158,288 sheep** lost to nonpredator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost sheep were:



Of the **232,317 lambs** lost to nonpredator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost lambs were:

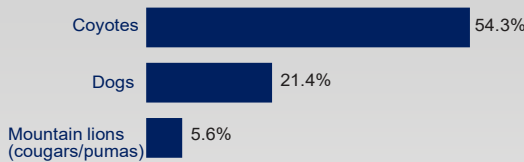


Note: The category "unknown nonpredator causes" is omitted.

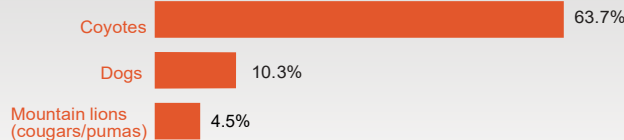


Predator Causes

Of the **61,712 sheep** lost to predator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost sheep were:



Of the **132,683 lambs** lost to predator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost lambs were:

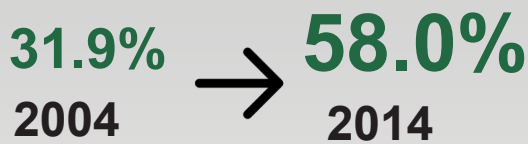


Note: The category "other predators" is omitted.

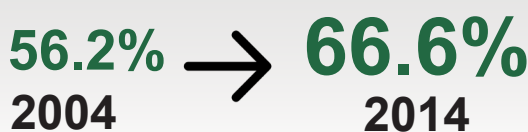
USE OF NONLETHAL PREDATOR DAMAGE MANAGEMENT METHODS INCREASED



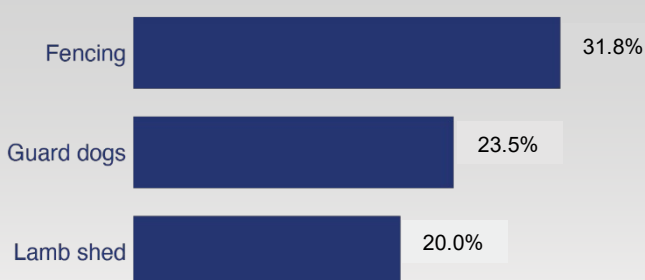
The percentage of operations using any nonlethal predator damage management methods increased.



For operations using any nonlethal methods, the percentage that used multiple methods increased.



Top 3 nonlethal methods used on operations 2014, by percentage of operations:



For a more detailed briefing on this study and full report, visit:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/naahms/naahms_general_studies