

# Wolves & Livestock

**Wolves do not discriminate....  
Cattle, sheep, horses, and dogs all fall prey to wolves.**

**70% of cattle depredations and 51% of sheep depredations occur on private property.**

*Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission*

**43% of all confirmed livestock depredations occurred on private property.**

*2016 Wyoming Wolf Recovery Annual Report*

Gray wolves killed a record number of livestock in Wyoming in 2016. Wolves killed 154 cattle, 88 sheep, and 1 horse. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

“Idaho’s Rangeland Resource Commission says wolf attacks on livestock in Idaho hit a record over the past year, and they’re anticipating more this summer. From January to June of 2018, state and federal authorities documented 61 confirmed wolf-livestock kills, the commission said Tuesday, and over the fiscal year that ended in June confirmed wolf-livestock kills on a record 113 different Idaho cattle or sheep ranches.” *Idaho Press - July 24, 2018*

“Officials with the Montana Department of Livestock believe that, for every “verified” wolf kill, most of which must be verified by a DNA lab if any remains are found, another seven head of livestock killed by wolves go unreported.”  
– excerpt from *The Real Wolf (page 163): The Science, Politics, and Economics of Co-Existing with Wolves in Modern Times.*



“Wolf advocates state that wolf depredation of livestock is only a small percentage of the total number of livestock. While this statement is true, it also lacks relevance and attempts to divert scrutiny away from the real issue: the number of livestock killed by wolves that are within proximity of wolves. Obviously, no livestock are going to be killed by wolves, if there are no wolves in the area.” *Bonnie Brown, Colorado Wool Growers Association*

“Individual wolves were 170 times more likely to kill cattle than were individual coyotes or bears. Individual wolves were about 21 times more likely to kill cattle than were individual mountain lions in 2005.” *Mark Collinge, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services – Relative Risks of Predation on Livestock Posed by Individual Wolves, Black Bears, Mountain Lions, and Coyotes in Idaho*

**Colorado Wool Growers Association  
Coloradosheep.org**

### ***Wolves Near Livestock Increase Management Costs***

- Increased time and labor for additional herd monitoring
- Livestock that have been harassed/attacked by wolves may become aggressive towards working dogs; and the presence of wolves make both cattle and sheep more difficult to herd.
- Wolves disrupt grazing patterns, which are designed to minimize the impact on vegetation. Cattle and sheep bunch up for protection, and excessive trampling of vegetation and over-grazing can occur.
- Livestock can get trampled, severely injured, and killed when stampeding from wolves.
- Increased cost for fencing, and non-lethal and lethal control methods.
- Increased costs for caring for injured livestock
- Increased feed cost for cattle and sheep that come off the summer range in poor body condition
- Decreased weight of gain for calves and lambs
- Decreased conception rate for cows and ewes



*176 head of sheep killed in Idaho—wolf attack 2013*

### ***Emotional Impact on Ranchers***

“Mostly overlooked, is the emotional toll the wolf issue takes on ranchers. Wolves cause a significant financial loss for affected ranchers. The presence of wolves cause constant worry about keeping livestock, pets, and family members safe, which can be a 24/7 ordeal. Ranchers have to deal with the emotional loss of injured and dead livestock, plus the burden and stress of dealing with the highly polarized and political component of managing wolves.”  
*Bonnie Brown, Colorado Wool Growers Assn.*



This beautiful colt was killed on private property, 98 yards from the house. “Yesterday a part of me died with my little friend, JR Luna Azul...RIP my beautiful little colt.” -Kevin & Jennifer Swigert (Idaho - 2014)



## ***Colorado Wool Growers Association***

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