

III. LIVESTOCK and WOLVES.

A. LIVESTOCK LOSSES

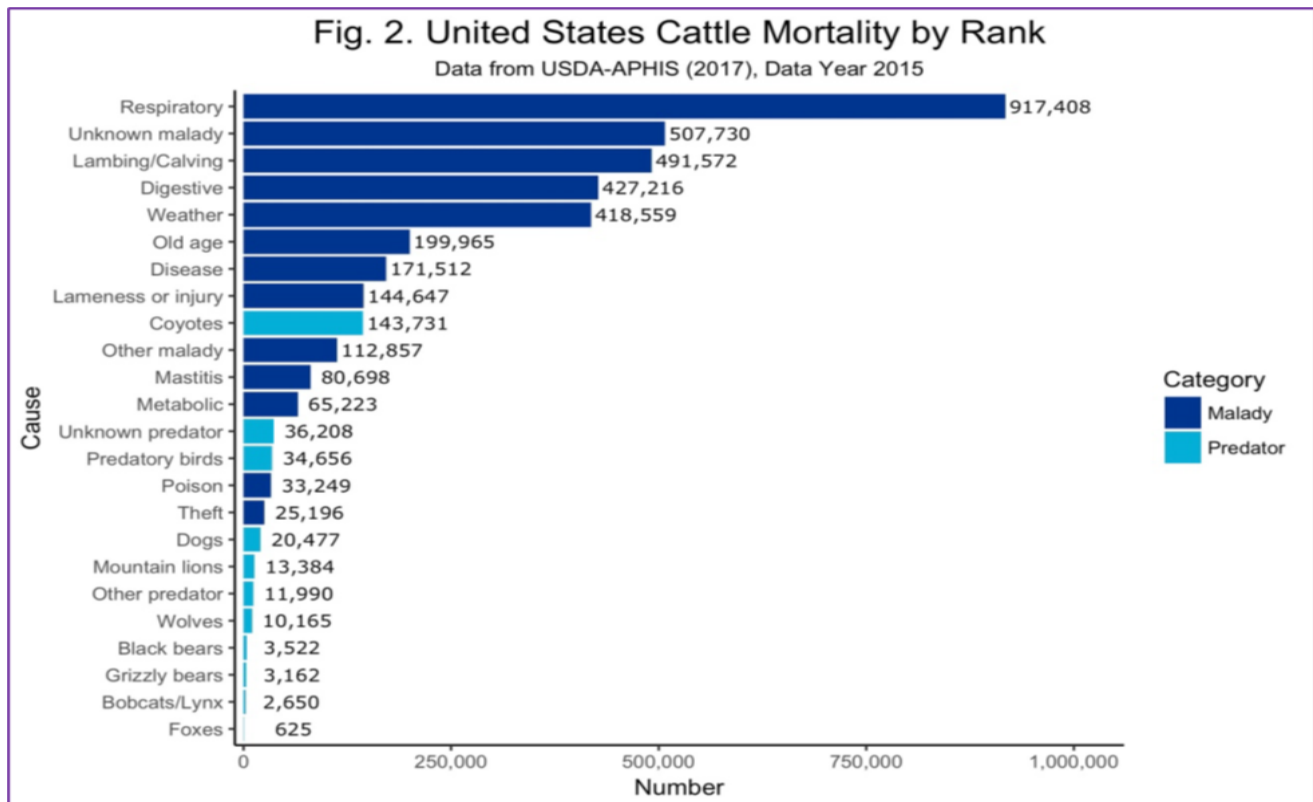
Livestock losses from wolves are rare in every region in which they live:

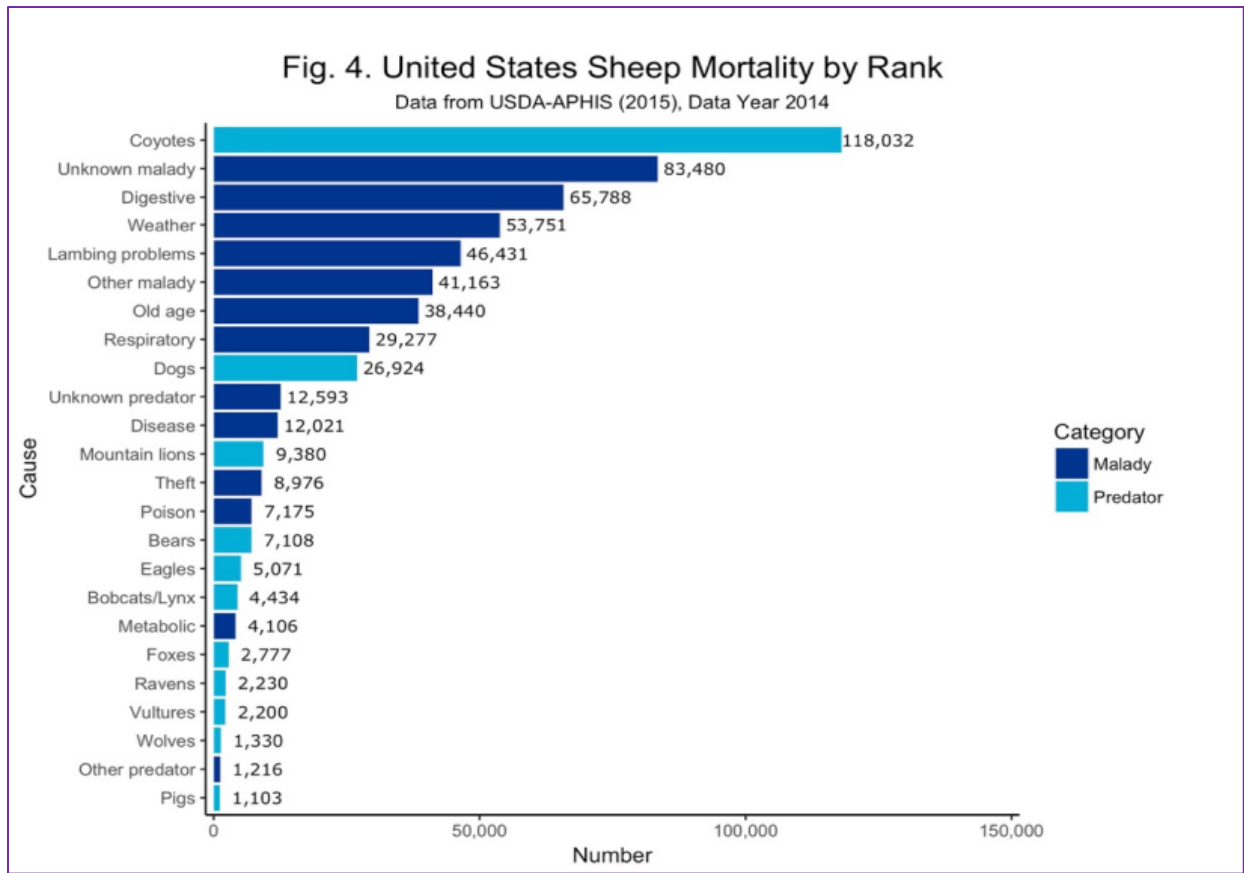
According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), livestock producers in Idaho lose nearly 94 times more cattle and sheep to causes like disease, respiratory problems, and bad weather (“maladies,” collectively) than to wolves. And in Montana, livestock producers lose 97 times more cattle and sheep to maladies than to wolves.

Montana: The wolf population has decreased slightly and may be stabilizing at about 1,160 wolves. Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed the loss of 96 livestock to wolves during 2021, including 67 cattle and 29 sheep; and 3 livestock guard dogs. Thirty-nine wolves were killed in response to depredation or to reduce the potential for further depredation and 273 wolves were taken during the 2021-22 hunting/trapping season. For perspective, at the start of 2021 there were a total of 2.45 million cattle and 200,000 sheep in Montana.

Wyoming: An estimated 338 wolves in ≥41 packs (including ≥23 breeding pairs) inhabited Wyoming statewide on December 31, 2022. Wolves were confirmed to have killed or injured 97 head of livestock (46 cattle, 46 sheep, and 5 horses) statewide in Wyoming in 2022 (Wyoming Game and Fish 2022). Twenty-one wolves were lethally and legally removed by agencies or the public in an effort to reduce livestock losses to wolves and 31 wolves were taken during the 2022 wolf hunting season. For perspective at the start of 2022 there were 1.23 million cattle and 330,000 sheep.

Idaho: USDA-Wildlife Services reports indicate that 84 cattle and 192 sheep were killed by wolves in Idaho in 2022. Idaho’s wolf Population in 2022 is estimated at 1,337. In 2022, 413 wolves were taken during the hunting/trapping season and 38 were removed by Wildlife Services for livestock conflict (IDFG 2023). For perspective, at the start of 2022 there were a total of 2.49 million cattle and 230,000 sheep in the state.





Government data confirm that wolves have a negligible effect on U.S. cattle & sheep industries
https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/HSUS-Wolf-Livestock-6.Mar_.19Final.pdf