AGRICULTURE AND FOOD – PERFORMANCE MEASURES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
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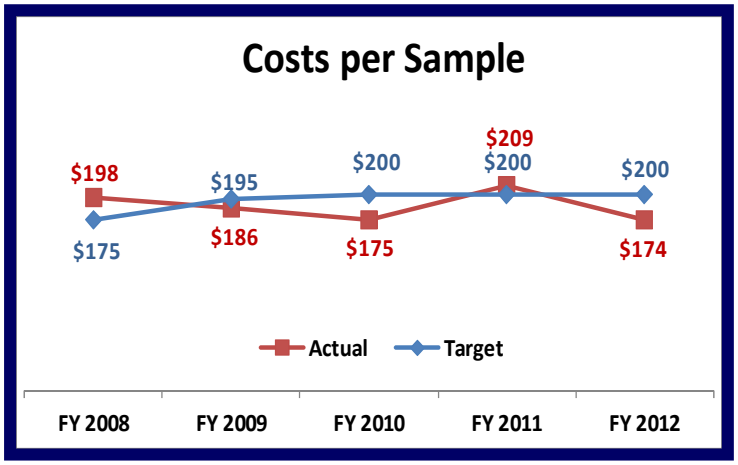
ISSUE BRIEF

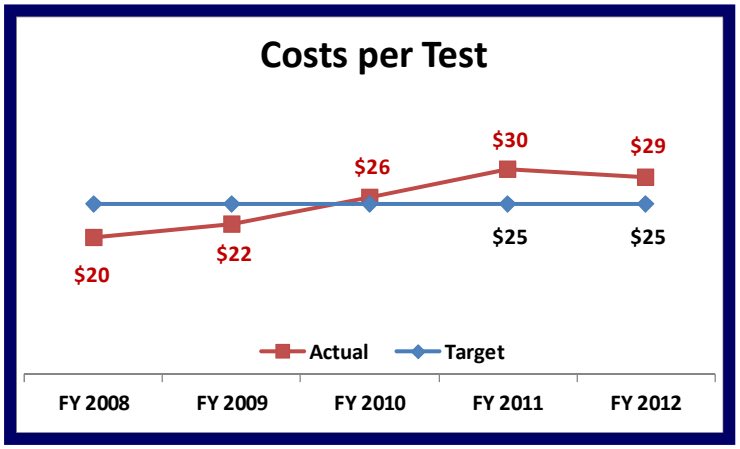
The following are the top measures chosen by the department management to gauge the success of its programs.

Chemistry Laboratory

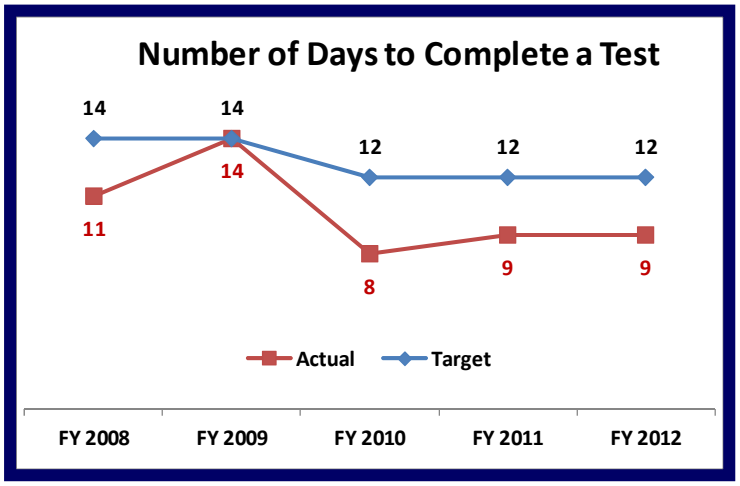
Cost per Sample: The figure below presents the costs per sample and is intended to measure the efficiency of the lab. The program's goal is to reduce costs without compromising on accuracy or turn-around time. The measure is calculated by dividing the total laboratory costs by the total number of samples analyzed each year.



Cost per Test: The next measure tracks the costs per test.

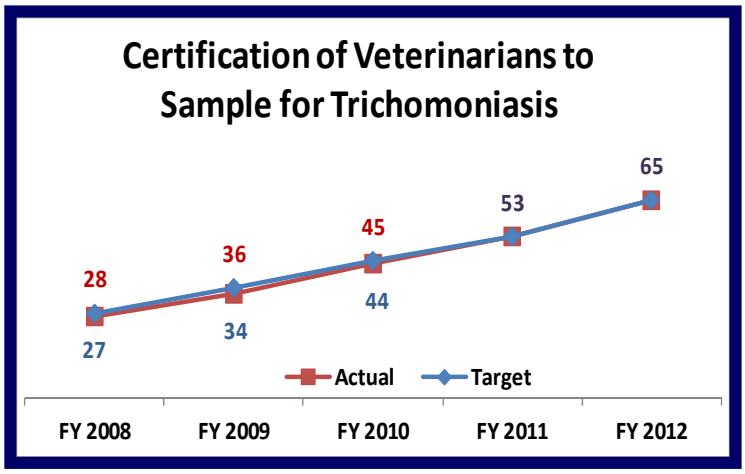


Time to Complete a Test: The Lab's goal for this measure is to reduce the time to analyze samples submitted to the laboratory from other divisions.



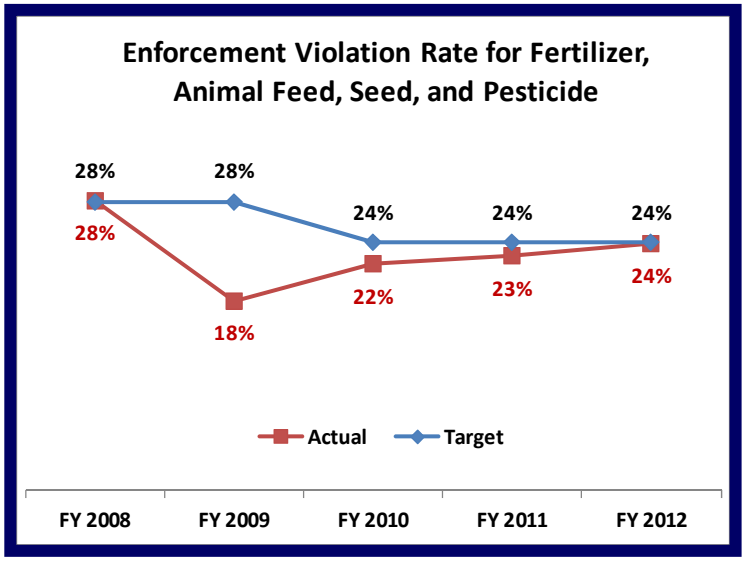
Animal Health

One of the responsibilities of the Animal Health Program is to train and certify veterinarians and their staff on how to recognize Trichomoniasis. This figure shows the number of veterinarians who were certified to take samples for Trichomoniasis.



Plant Industry

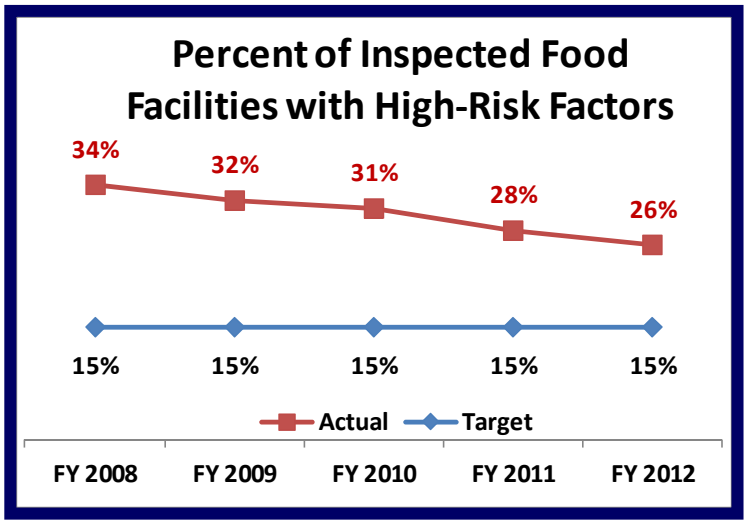
Staff inspectors sample fertilizer, animal feed, seed, and conducts pesticide enforcement to determine truth in labeling and assure consumer protection. The goal is to reduce the amount of violations and to assure consumer protection.



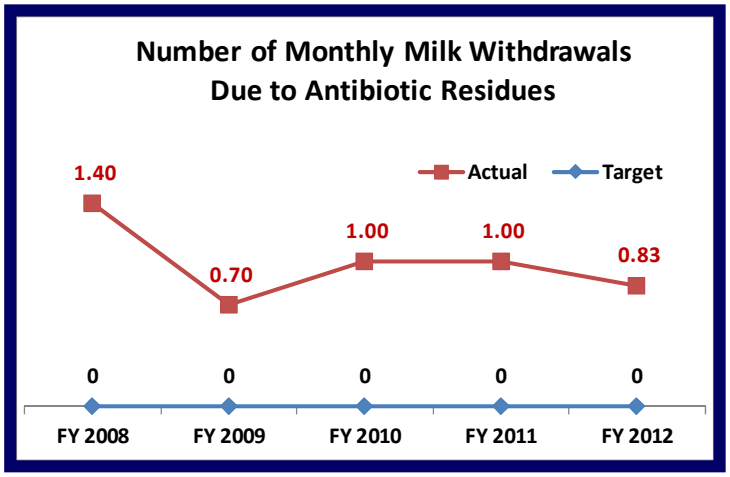
Regulatory Services

High Risk Factors: The first measure tracks the percentage of facilities processing food that are identified as "High Risk" facilities. High Risk facilities are those that, for any reason, are not meeting minimum industry standards as required by law. Such facilities could pose a high risk for contamination if the items are not processed properly. The target, 15%, is set based on the National 2010 Health Objective.

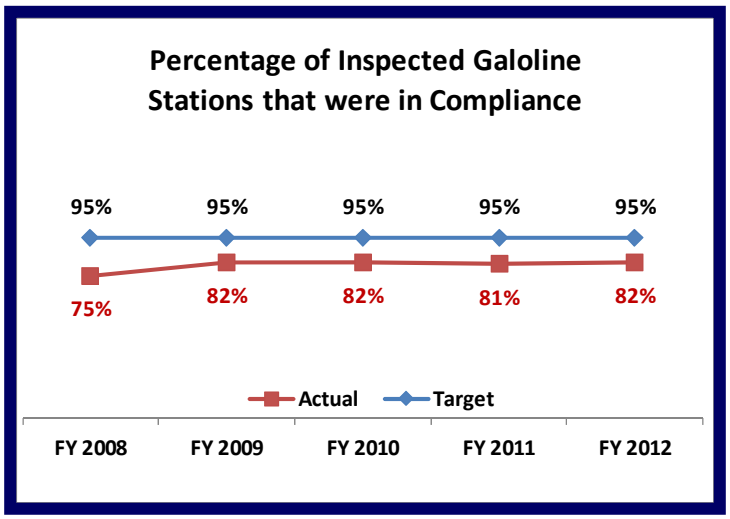
The inspection results show a favorable trend. However, since staff is not able to inspect all facilities each year, the data cannot be used to determine if the actual number of critical violations per facility is increasing or decreasing.



Milk Withdrawals: Milk may not be sold if it has antibiotic residues. The figure below presents the number of monthly withdrawals of milk due to antibiotic residue in the milk.

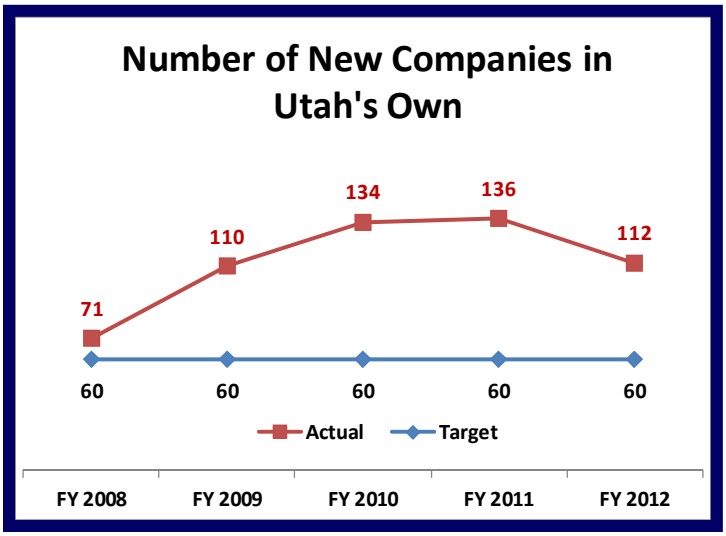


Gasoline Station Compliance: Inspectors from the Weights and Measures program inspect the gasoline stations in the state. They test the gas pumps to insure that they are metering the gasoline dispensed properly, test the gasoline in the underground storage tanks to insure that the water content is below safe minimums, test the octane percentage of the gasoline dispensed, and inspect the cleanliness of the facility. The figure below provides the percent of gasoline stations which pass the fuel pump inspection.



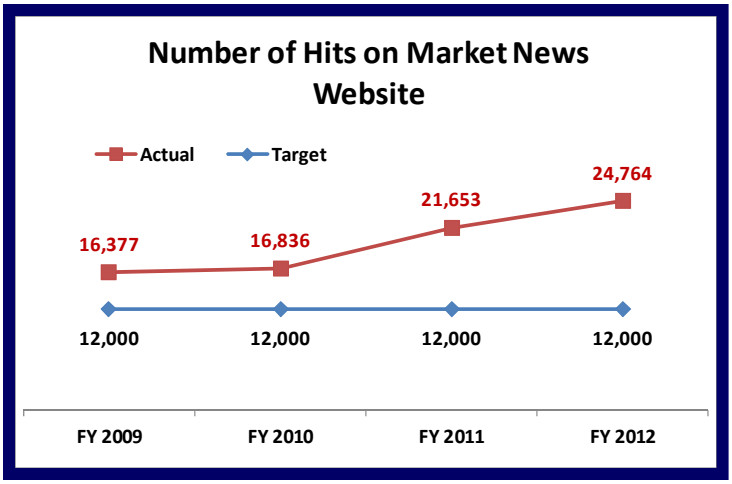
Marketing and Development

Utah's Own: The figure below presents the number of new companies that sign up to be a member of the Utah's Own. Staff reported that there is no active recruiting taking place, other than observation and word of mouth from satisfied companies. Program management anticipates that due to the limited number of food companies in Utah, the number of new companies joining Utah's Own will continue to decrease over time.



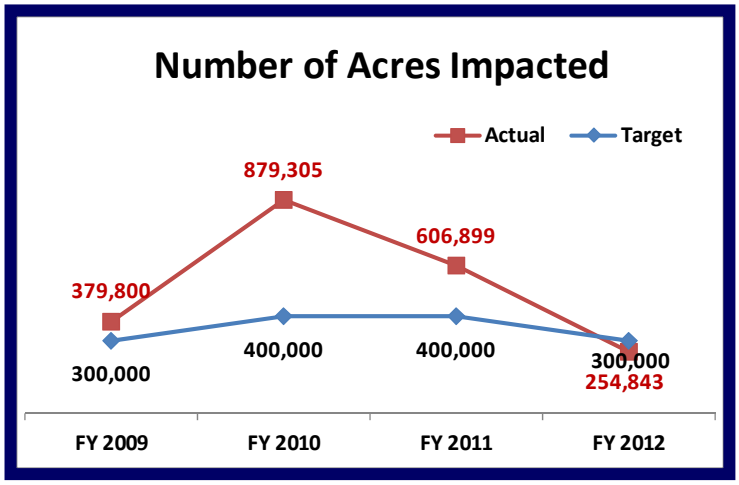
International Marketing Assistance: The second measure tracks the number of companies assisted with international marketing. As Utah companies grow they can diversify and expand market opportunities by exporting. The Marketing Division works with USDA, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and US Commercial Service to help export Utah agriculture and food products.

Hits on Website: The Marketing Division is responsible to provide accurate and unbiased market information that is used by farmers, ranchers, insurance adjuster and attorneys. The management has been tracking the need for that information by measuring the number of hits on the Market News website.

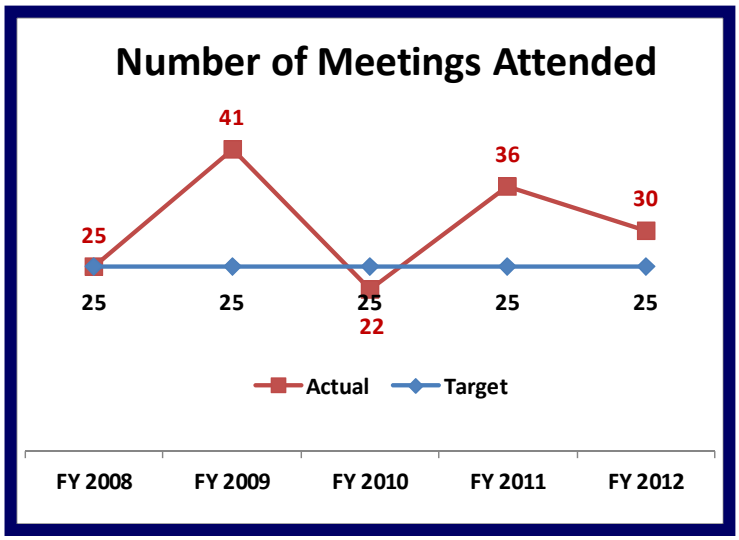


Grazing Improvement

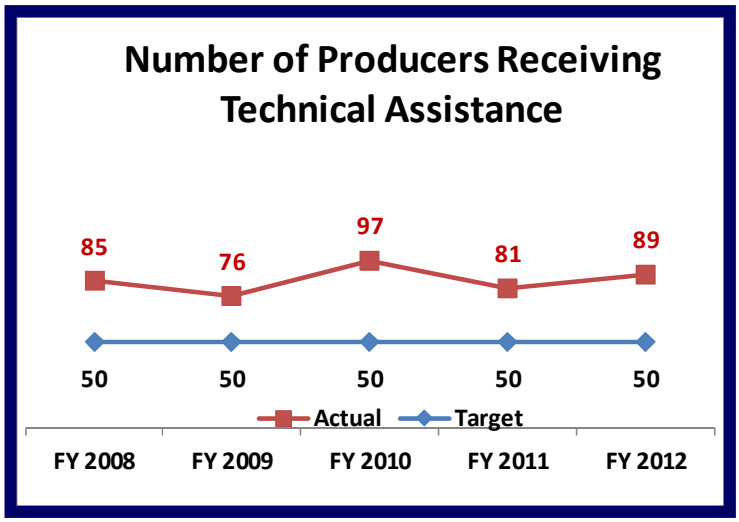
Acres Impacted: This measure was created to determine the numbers of acres of grazing land "affected" by the projects completed through the Grazing Improvement Program. The numbers in the figure below not only include the acres that were treated/improved, but they also try to estimate the impact from the projects on the adjacent lands. Based on the type of project and treatment, the staff uses different criteria and formulas to estimate the impact on the surrounding lands.



Meetings Attended: The second most important measure for the GIP program is the number of meetings staff attends with land owners and land managers. The goal is to meet at least as many times as the target stipulates. It appears that the 3-5 FTEs of the GIP program always met or exceeded their cumulative goal of 25 meetings per year, except in FY 2010, when staff only had 22 meetings.

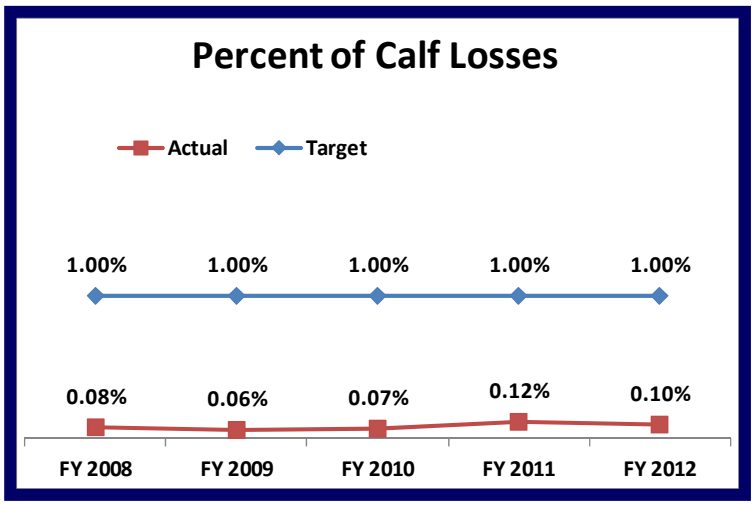


Technical Assistance: The third performance measure keeps track of the number of producers receiving technical assistance in grazing land resource enhancement projects and land management.

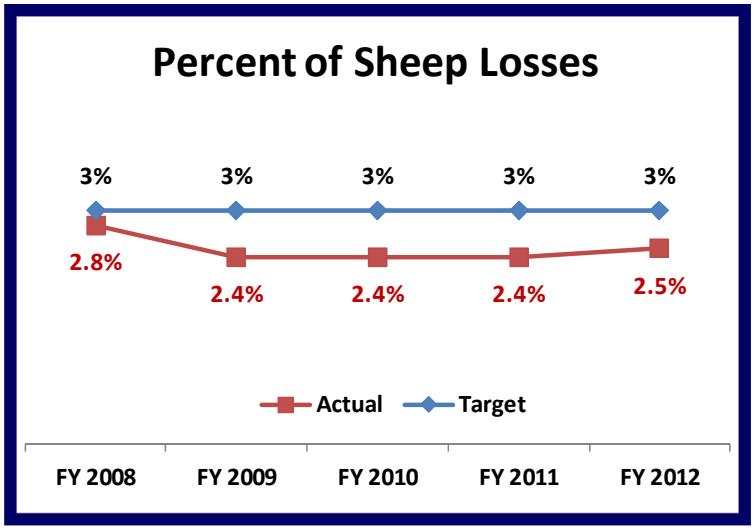


Predatory Animal Control

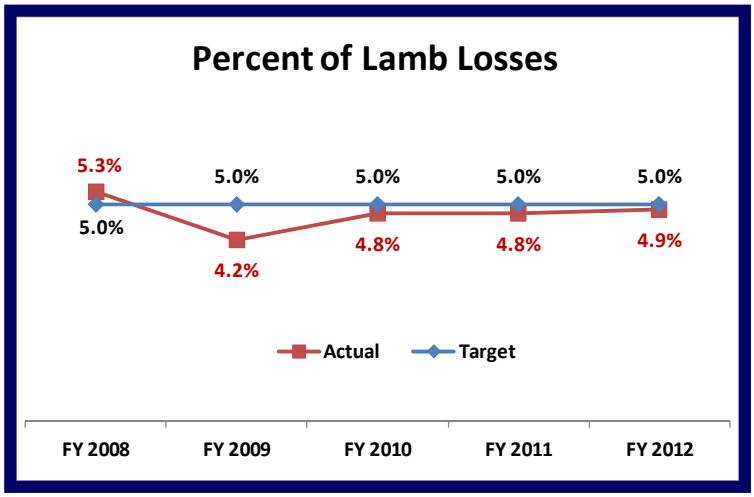
Calf Losses: The figure below presents the percent of calf losses due to predators over time. The program has exceeded the goal of this measure and kept the calf losses to much less than 1%.

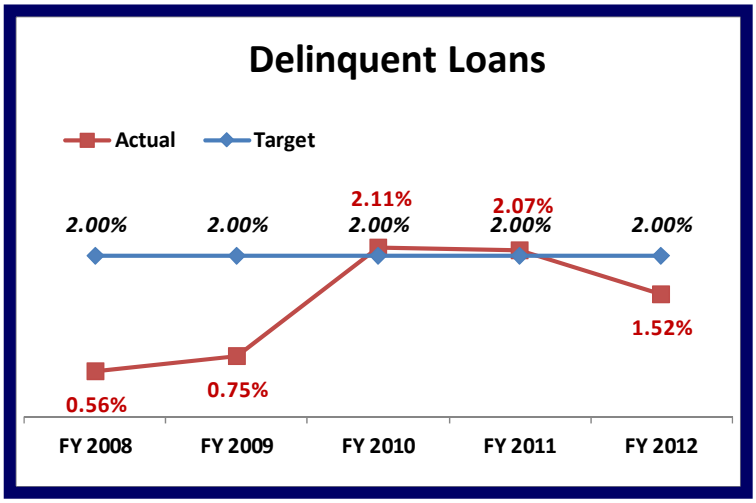


Sheep Losses: The second measure tacks the percent of sheep losses due to predators over time. The program has exceeded the goal of this measure and has kept the sheep losses to less than 3%.



Lamb Losses: The third measure tracks the percent of lamb losses due to predators over time.



Agriculture Loan Programs

Since this is revolving loan funds program, the objective is to keep the delinquency rates as low as possible, so that funds can be repaid and loaned out again to meet the intent of the program. The program is measuring the percent of loan portfolio that is delinquent for more than 30 days. Though they did not always meet their target of 2% or less, the delinquency rates for the Agricultural Loans Program is significantly better than those of the commercial banking industry.