

This Livestock Reduction program was a result of the New Deal. It originated when the government found Navajo land had been overgrazed by the livestock, which reduced the land's ability to grow plants. Furthermore, grazing created excessive erosion, caused sediment accumulation, and threatened the Boulder Dam. However, many of these factors were old news, exposed only when Navajo farmers were thriving more than non-Navajo farmers.³ Despite this, the government implemented the Livestock Reduction program in 1933. Throughout the program, hundreds of thousands of livestock were killed, and two thirds of the Navajo's herd was gone by 1952.⁴ The animal were not even bruised, and oftentimes officer shot sheep and left them to rot.⁵ This devastated the Navajo, as their entire culture depended upon livestock, as the animals brought the Navajo income, food, clothing, and material for their weaving. Additionally, the Navajo rarely received adequate compensation, being paid only only one dollar per head of sheep.⁶ Without livestock, the Navajo had no income, and were no longer self-sufficient. Instead of making a living within their community, they were forced to pay outside merchants for food, water and other living necessities, which further impoverished the tribe.

³Lawrence A. Kuznar, *Reclaiming A Scientific Anthropology* (Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 1997), Google Play Books.

⁴Jessica L. Bertolozzi, "Environmental Programs and Material Culture: The 1934 Livestock Reduction Program and Weaving Among the Navajo," *OPENSIUC*, March 20, 2012, https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1250&context=gs_rp.

⁵"The Navajo, Sheep, and the Federal Government," *Native American Net Roots*, November 10, 2011, <http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1136>.

⁶Jessica L. Bertolozzi, "Environmental Programs and Material Culture: The 1934 Livestock Reduction Program and Weaving Among the Navajo," *OPENSIUC*, March 20, 2012, https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1250&context=gs_rp.