



Illinois Sheep and Goats

Released January 31, 2025

All sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2025, at 58,000 head, is up 5 percent from January 1, 2024. Breeding sheep inventory, at 49,000 head, is up 7 percent from last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2025 totaled 9,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2024. The 2024 lamb crop of 45,000 head was up 7 percent from 2023.

Wool production during 2024 totaled 164,000 pounds, down 2 percent from 2023. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 25,000 head, down 4 percent from 2023.

Sheep and Lamb Inventory by Class – Illinois: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Class	2024	2025	2025 as percent of 2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All sheep and lambs	55.0	58.0	105
Breeding sheep and lambs	46.0	49.0	107
Ewes - one year old and older	36.0	38.0	106
Rams - one year old and older	2.0	2.5	125
Replacement lambs under one year old	8.0	8.5	106
Market sheep and lambs	9.0	9.0	100
Sheep	1.0	1.0	100
Lambs	8.0	8.0	100
Lamb Crop ¹	42.0	45.0	107

¹ Lamb crop refers to lambs born the previous year.

Wool Production – Illinois: 2023 and 2024

Class	2023	2024	2024 as percent of 2023
Sheep Shorn 1,000 head	26.0	25.0	96
Weight per fleece ¹ pounds	6.4	6.6	103
Production 1,000 pounds	167	164	98

¹ Fleece weight is calculated by dividing wool production by sheep shorn and rounded to the nearest tenth.

Meat and all other goat inventory totaled 25,000 head on January 1, 2025, up 9 percent from the previous year. **Milk goat** inventory, at 9,600 head, is up 9 percent from January 1, 2024.

Goat Inventory by Class – Illinois: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Class	2024	2025	2025 as percent of 2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Milk goats	8.8	9.6	109
Meat and other goats	23.0	25.0	109

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