



Iowa Ag News – Sheep and Lambs

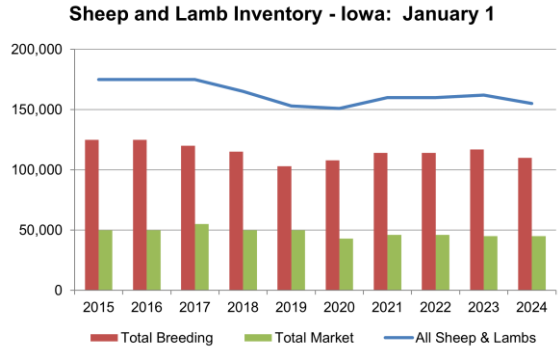
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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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All sheep and lambs inventory in Iowa as of January 1, 2024, totaled 155,000 head, down 7,000 head from 2023, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Sheep and Goats* report. Total **breeding stock**, at 110,000 head, was 6 percent below one year ago. **Market sheep and lambs** was unchanged from a year ago and totaled 45,000 head. The 2023 **lamb crop** was estimated at 115,000 head, down 4 percent from the 2022 lamb crop. **Wool** production for 2023 was 740,000 pounds, down 8 percent from 2022, with fleece weights averaging 5.5 pounds.



Sheep and Lambs Inventory by Class – Iowa and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024

| Class | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) |
| All sheep and lambs | 162.0 | 155.0 | 96 | 5,130.0 | 5,030.0 | 98 |
| Total breeding sheep | 117.0 | 110.0 | 94 | 3,740.0 | 3,670.0 | 98 |
| Ewes | 92.0 | 89.0 | 97 | 2,930.0 | 2,870.0 | 98 |
| Rams | 4.0 | 4.0 | 100 | 166.5 | 165.0 | 99 |
| Replacement lambs | 21.0 | 17.0 | 81 | 643.5 | 635.0 | 99 |
| Total market | 45.0 | 45.0 | 100 | 1,390.0 | 1,360.0 | 98 |

Lamb Crop – Iowa and United States: 2022 and 2023

| | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 as % of 2022 | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 as % of 2022 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) |
| Lamb crop | 120.0 | 115.0 | 96 | 3,099.0 | 3,030.0 | 98 |

Wool Production, Price and Value – Iowa and United States: 2022 and 2023

| Class | Iowa | | | United States | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------|-----|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 as % of 2022 | 2022 | 2023 | 2023 as % of 2022 | |
| Sheep shorn | 1,000 head | 140.0 | 135.0 | 96 | 3,303.0 | 3,222.0 | 98 |
| Weight per fleece | pounds | 5.7 | 5.5 | 96 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 100 |
| Production | 1,000 pounds | 800 | 740 | 93 | 23,269 | 22,700 | 98 |
| Price per pound | dollars | 0.20 | 0.15 | 75 | 1.53 | 1.56 | 102 |
| Value ¹ | 1,000 dollars | 160 | 111 | 69 | 35,527 | 35,323 | 99 |

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. United States value is the summation of State values.

United States Sheep and Lambs

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2024, totaled 5.03 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.67 million head on January 1, 2024, decreased 2 percent from 3.74 million head on January 1, 2023. Ewes one year old and older, at 2.87 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2024, totaled 1.36 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2023. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2023 lamb crop of 3.03 million head was down 2 percent from 2022. The 2023 lambing rate was 103 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2023, down 2 percent from 2022.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2023 was 22.7 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.22 million head, down 2 percent from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$1.56 per pound for a total value of 35.3 million dollars, down 1 percent from 35.5 million dollars in 2022.

Sheep death loss during 2023 totaled 200,000 head, down 4 percent from 2022. Lamb death loss decreased 3 percent from 377,000 head to 365,000 head in 2023.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

All Sheep and Lambs Inventory – United States: January 1

