



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP INVENTORY, UNITED STATES SHEEP AND GOATS INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia – All sheep and lambs inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2025 was 36,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2024.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2025, up 1,000 head from 2024. Ewes totaled 25,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2024. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2024. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2024.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2025 totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2024. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2024 lamb crop totaled 30,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2023. The 2024 lambing rate was 125 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2024, up from the total of 122 lambs per 100 ewes in 2023.

Shorn wool production during 2024 was 85,000 pounds, up 5,000 pounds from 2023. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 16,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2023. Weight per fleece was 5.3 pounds in 2024, unchanged from 2023. The average price paid for wool sold in 2024 was 80 cents per pound, down 60 cents per pound from the average price paid in 2023 of \$1.40 per pound. Value was 68,000 dollars, down 44,000 dollars from the value of 112,000 dollars in 2023.

Sheep death loss during 2024 totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2023. Lamb death loss during 2024 totaled 4,500 head, up 500 head from 2023.

Note - Program changes were made following the 2022 Census of Agriculture. As a result of these changes, West Virginia was dropped from published states in 2025 for meat goats.

United States – All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2025 totaled 5.05 million head, up slightly from 2024.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.68 million head on January 1, 2025, increased slightly from 3.67 million head on January 1, 2024. Ewes one year old and older, at 2.88 million head, were slightly above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2025 totaled 1.37 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2024. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2024 lamb crop of 3.04 million head was up slightly from 2023. The 2024 lambing rate was 106 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2024, up 3 percent from 2023.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2024 was 22.5 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2023. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.17 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. The average price paid for wool sold in 2024 was \$1.43 per pound for a total value of 32.1 million dollars, down 9 percent from 35.4 million dollars in 2023. As of January 1, 2025, 27 percent of the total sheep and lambs were hair sheep or wool hair crosses.

Sheep death loss during 2024 totaled 200,000 head, unchanged from 2023. Lamb death loss increased 1 percent from 365,000 head to 370,000 head in 2024.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2025 totaled 2.51 million head, up 1 percent from 2024. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.07 million head, up 1 percent from 2024. Does one year old and older, at 1.54 million head, were 2 percent above last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 442,000 head, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2024 totaled 1.52 million head for all goats, down 1 percent from 2023.

Meat and all other goats totaled 1.98 million head on January 1, 2025, up 1 percent from 2024. Milk goat inventory was 430,000 head, up 4 percent from January 1, 2024, while angora goats were down 3 percent, totaling 102,000 head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2024 was 500,000 pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 92,000 head. Average weight per clip was 5.4 pounds. Mohair price was \$6.48 per pound with a value of 3.24 million dollars.

Sheep and Goats Revisions

All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2024, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. No revisions were made to sheep and lamb inventory or lamb crop at the United States level. No revisions were made to total goat and kid inventory or kid crop at the United States level. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total. Program changes were made following the 2022 Census of Agriculture. As a result of these changes, LA, NY, WA, and WV were dropped from published states and NE and WI were added in 2025 for meat goats. NV was added as a published state in 2025 for milk goats.