



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 31, 2024

Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## SHEEP, LAMB, AND GOAT INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2024

### ARIZONA

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in Arizona totaled 105,000 head, up 5 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs increased by 7 percent from last year to 80,000 head, while the market sheep and lambs inventory remained unchanged, at 25,000 head. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older increased 7 percent to 58,000 head, rams one year old and older remained unchanged, at 4,000 head, and replacement lambs increased 6 percent to 18,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 4,000 head were market sheep and 21,000 head were market lambs. There were 6,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, unchanged from last year; 2,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, unchanged from last year; 7,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, also unchanged from last year; and 6,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, up 1,000 head from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 30,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2022. Wool production in Arizona during 2023 totaled 445,000 pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 65,000 head, was down 3 percent from the 67,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$378,000, an increase of 1 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$0.85 per pound of wool sold, unchanged from the previous year.

Meat and other goats inventory totaled 24,000 head on January 1, 2024, down 8 percent from last year. This is the lowest meat and other goats inventory since 2009. Angora goat inventory dropped to a record low 14,000 head, down 13 percent from last year. Mohair production in Arizona during 2023 totaled a record low 52,000 pounds, down 7 percent from last year. The number of angora goats clipped, at 13,000 head, was down 19 percent from last year. The value of mohair production for 2023 totaled \$57,200, a decrease of 15 percent from the previous year, as producers received \$1.10 per pound of mohair sold, compared with \$1.20 the previous year.

### COLORADO

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in Colorado totaled 400,000 head, down 4 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs, at 190,000 head, was unchanged from last year, while the market sheep and lambs inventory, at 210,000 head, was down 7 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older decreased 1 percent to 151,000 head, rams one year old and older remained unchanged, at 5,000 head, and replacement lambs increased 6 percent to 34,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 208,000 head were market lambs. There were 2,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, down 1,000 head from last year; 12,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, down 1,000 head from last year; 46,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, down 4,000 head from last year; and 148,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, down 9,000 head from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 175,000 head, unchanged from 2022. Wool production in Colorado during 2023 totaled 2.28 million pounds, up 27 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 350,000 head, was up 19 percent from the 295,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$5.24 million, an increase of 17 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$2.30 per pound of wool sold, compared with \$2.50 the previous year.

Meat and other goats accounted for 24,000 head on January 1, 2024, compared with 23,000 head last year, while milk goats totaled 9,500 head, compared with 8,500 head a year ago.

### MONTANA

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in Montan totaled 180,000 head, down 5 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs, at 149,000 head, down 5 percent from last year, while the market sheep and lambs inventory, at 31,000 head, was down 9 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older decreased 3 percent to 114,000 head, rams one year old and older remained unchanged, at 5,000 head, and replacement lambs decreased 9 percent to 30,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 29,000 head were market lambs. There were 3,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, unchanged from last year; 7,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, up 1,000 head from last year; 13,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, unchanged from last year; and 6,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, down 4,000 head from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 144,000 head, down 6,000 from 2022. Wool production in Montana during 2023 totaled 1.38 million pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 160,000 head, was unchanged from the head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$2.76 million, an decrease of 12 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$2.00 per pound of wool sold, compared with \$2.25 the previous year.

### NEW MEXICO

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in New Mexico totaled 75,000 head, down 12 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs, at 60,000 head, down 10 percent from last year, and the market sheep and lambs inventory, at 15,000 head, was down 17 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older decreased 10 percent to 45,000 head, rams one year old and older decreased 25 percent to 3,000 head, and replacement lambs decreased 8 percent to 12,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 13,000 head were market lambs. There were 3,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, down 2,000 head from last year; 3,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, unchanged from last year; 4,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, down 1,000 head from last year; and 3,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, was unchanged from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 34,000 head, down 6 percent from

2022. Wool production in New Mexico during 2023 totaled 500,000 pounds, down 12 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 65,000 head, was down 13 percent from the 75,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$825 thousand, an decrease of 17 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$1.65 per pound of wool sold, compared with \$1.75 the previous year.

Angora goat inventory on January 1, 2024, dropped to a record low 7,000 head, down 13 percent from last year. Mohair production in New Mexico during 2023 totaled a record low 20,000 pounds, down 9 percent from last year. The number of angora goats clipped, at 6,000 head, was down 8 percent from last year. The value of mohair production for 2023 totaled \$38,000, a decrease of 18 percent from the previous year, as producers received \$1.90 per pound of mohair sold, compared with \$2.10 the previous year.

## UTAH

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in Utah totaled 270,000 head, down 4 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs, at 240,000 head, was down 2 percent from last year, while the market sheep and lambs inventory, at 30,000 head, was down 14 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older decreased 3 percent to 192,000 head, rams one year old and older remained unchanged, at 8,000 head, and replacement lambs also remained unchanged at 40,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 28,000 head were market lambs. There were 1,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, unchanged from last year; 3,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, down 1,000 head from last year; 11,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, down 2,000 head from last year; and 13,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, down 2,000 head from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 215,000 head, was down 2 percent from 2022. Wool production in Utah during 2023 totaled 2.20 million pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 250,000 head, was down 6 percent from the 265,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$4.18 million, a decrease of 1 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$1.90 per pound of wool sold, compared with \$1.80 the previous year.

## WYOMING

The January 1, 2024, inventory of all sheep and lambs in Wyoming totaled 320,000 head, down 4.5 percent from January 1, 2023, according to the January 1 Sheep and Goat Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The number of breeding sheep and lambs, at 245,000 head, was down 4 percent from last year, while the market sheep and lambs inventory, at 75,000 head, was down 6 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep, the number of ewes one year old and older decreased 2 percent to 200,000 head, rams one year old and older decreased 1,000 head to 6,000 head, and replacement lambs increased 9 percent to 39,000 head. Of the total market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 73,000 head were market lambs. There were 2,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, unchanged from last year; 8,000 head were in the 65-84 pound weight group, up 1,000 head from last year; 30,000 head weighed 85-105 pounds, down 1,000 head from last year; and 33,000 head weighed over 105 pounds, down 4,000 head from last year. The 2023 lamb crop totaled 220,000 head, down 4 percent from 2022. Wool production in Wyoming during 2023 totaled 2.30 million pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 255,000 head, was down 4 percent from the 265,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2023 totaled \$5.06 million, a decrease of 15 percent from a year earlier, as producers received \$2.20 per pound of wool sold, compared with \$2.50 the previous year.

## UNITED STATES

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.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2024 totaled 2.47 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.03 million head, down 2 percent from 2023. Does one year old and older, at 1.51 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 438,700 head, down 4 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2023 totaled 1.52 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2022.

Meat and all other goats totaled 1.95 million head on January 1, 2024, down 3 percent from 2023. Milk goat inventory was 415,000 head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2023, while Angora goats were down 2 percent, totaling 105,000 head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2023 was 505,000 pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 100,000 head. Average weight per clip was 5.1 pounds. Mohair price was \$6.35 per pound with a value of 3.21 million dollars.

All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2023, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, January 1, 2023 all sheep and lambs increased by 2.2 percent and lamb crop decreased by 0.4 percent. January 1, 2023 all goats and kids increased by 0.8 percent and kid crop decreased by 1.6 percent. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

For a full copy of the *Sheep and Goats* report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your USDA NASS State Statistician at 1-800-392-3202:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt  
Colorado – Rodger Ott  
Montana – Eric Sommer

New Mexico – Margie Whitcotton  
Utah – John Hilton  
Wyoming – Leslee Lohrenz