



# Minnesota Ag News – Sheep and Lambs

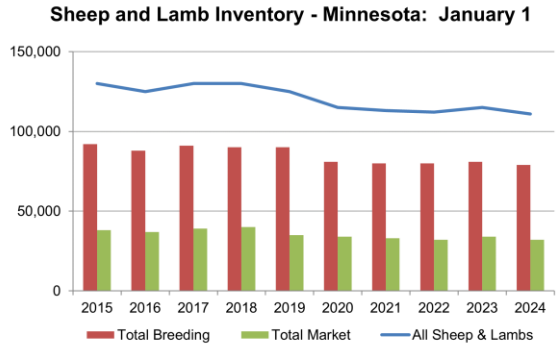
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Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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All sheep and lambs inventory in Minnesota as of January 1, 2024, totaled 111,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2023, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Sheep and Goats* report. Total **breeding stock**, at 79,000 head, was 2 percent below one year ago. **Market sheep and lambs** decreased 6 percent from a year ago and totaled 32,000 head. The 2023 **lamb crop** was estimated at 85,000 head, down 6 percent from the 2022 lamb crop. **Wool** production for 2023 was 600,000 pounds, unchanged from 2022, with fleece weights averaging 6.1 pounds.



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

Class	Minnesota			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 .....	115.0	111.0	97	5,130.0	5,030.0	98
Total breeding sheep .....	81.0	79.0	98	3,740.0	3,670.0	98
Ewes .....	64.0	63.0	98	2,930.0	2,870.0	98
Rams .....	4.0	4.0	100	166.5	165.0	99
Replacement lambs .....	13.0	12.0	92	643.5	635.0	99
Total market .....	34.0	32.0	94	1,390.0	1,360.0	98

## Lamb Crop – Minnesota and United States: 2022 and 2023

	Minnesota			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 .....	90.0	85.0	94	3,099.0	3,030.0	98

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

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022
Sheep shorn ..... 1,000 head	100.0	98.0	98	3,303.0	3,222.0	98
Weight per fleece ..... pounds	6.0	6.1	102	7.0	7.0	100
Production ..... 1,000 pounds	600	600	100	23,269	22,700	98
Price per pound ..... dollars	0.34	0.30	88	1.53	1.56	102
Value <sup>1</sup> ..... 1,000 dollars	204	180	88	35,527	35,323	99

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications).

## All Sheep and Lambs Inventory – United States: January 1

