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JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Sheep and Goats report showing the **Virginia sheep** inventory increased 8% from last year and the **goat** inventory increased 2% from last year. Data in the report are based on a survey of farmers conducted in January.

The total number of **sheep** and lambs in **Virginia** on January 1, 2024, was estimated at 79,000 head, up 6,000 head from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 62,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 17,000 head. Breeding ewes were estimated at 49,000 head, up 4,000 head from last year and breeding rams were estimated at 3,000 head, unchanged head from last year. Replacement lambs were estimated at 10,000 head, unchanged head from 2023. Lamb crop for 2023 was estimated at 62,000 head, up 6,000 head from 2022.

All **sheep** and lambs inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2024 totaled 5.03 million head, down 2% from 2023. Breeding sheep inventory was estimated at 3.67 million head on January 1, 2024, down 2% from 2023. Ewes one year old and older were estimated at 2.87 million head, down 2% from last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2024 totaled 1.36 million head, down 2% from January 1, 2023. Market lambs comprised 94% of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6% of total market inventory. The 2023 lamb crop was estimated at 3.03 million head, down 2% from 2022. The 2023 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2023, down 2% from 2022.

All meat and other **goats** in **Virginia** were estimated at 34,000 head, unchanged head from January 2023. Milk goats were at 5,400 head, up 600 head from the previous year's estimate.

All **goats** and kids inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2024 totaled 2.47 million head, down 2% from 2023. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.03 million head, down 2% from 2023. Does one year old and older, at 1.51 million head, were down 2% from last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 438,700 head, down 4% from 2023. Kid crop for 2023 totaled 1.52 million head for all goats, down 2% from 2022. Meat and other goats totaled 1.95 million head on January 1, 2024, down 3% from 2023. Milk goat inventory was estimated at 415,000 head, up 1% from January 1, 2023, while Angora goats totaled 105,000 head, down 2% from last year.