



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOATS INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia – All sheep and lambs inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2023, was 34,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1, 2022.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 28,000 head on January 1, 2023, unchanged from 2022. Ewes totaled 23,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2022. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2022.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2023 totaled 6,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1, 2022. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, up 500 head from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,500 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2022 lamb crop totaled 27,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2021. The 2022 lambing rate was 123 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2022, down from the total of 124 lambs per 100 ewes in 2021.

Shorn wool production during 2022 was 78,000 pounds, up 4,000 pounds from 2021. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 14,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2021. The average price paid for wool sold in 2022 was \$1.50 per pound, up \$0.10 per pound from the average price paid in 2021. Value was 117,000 dollars, up 13,000 dollars from the value of 104,000 dollars in 2021.

Sheep death loss during 2022 totaled 2,000 head, up 300 head from 2021. Lamb death loss during 2022 totaled 4,000 head, up 500 head from 2021.

Meat and other goats and kids inventory on January 1, 2023 was estimated at 21,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2022. **Milk goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. **Angora goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2023 totaled 5.02 million head, down 1 percent from 2022.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.67 million head on January 1, 2023, decreased 1 percent from 3.71 million head on January 1, 2022. Ewes one year old and older, at 2.87 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2023 totaled 1.36 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2022. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2022 lamb crop of 3.11 million head was down 2 percent from 2021. The 2022 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2022, unchanged from 2021.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2022 was 22.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2021. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.17 million head, down 1 percent from 2021. The average price paid for wool sold in 2022 was \$1.53 per pound for a total value of 33.9 million dollars, down 11 percent from 38.2 million dollars in 2021.

Sheep death loss during 2022 totaled 205,000 head, up 3 percent from 2021. Lamb death loss increased 3 percent from 365,000 head to 375,000 head in 2022.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2023 totaled 2.51 million head, down 2 percent from 2022. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2022. Does one year old and older, at 1.52 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 451,000 head, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2022 totaled 1.58 million head for all goats, down 1 percent from 2021.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.00 million head on January 1, 2023, down 1 percent from 2022. Milk goat inventory was 400,000 head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2022, while Angora goats were down 3 percent, totaling 107,000 head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2022 was 520,000 pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 99,000 head. Average weight per clip was 5.3 pounds. Mohair price was \$6.35 per pound with a value of 3.30 million dollars.

Sheep and Goats Revisions

All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2022, 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.