



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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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, 2024 was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2023.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 29,000 head on January 1, 2024, up 1,000 head from 2023. Ewes totaled 24,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2023. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2023. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2023.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2024 totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2023. 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, 500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2023 lamb crop totaled 28,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. The 2023 lambing rate was 122 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2023, down from the total of 123 lambs per 100 ewes in 2022.

Shorn wool production during 2023 was 80,000 pounds, up 2,000 pounds from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 15,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$1.40 per pound, down \$0.10 per pound from the average price paid in 2022. Value was 112,000 dollars, down 5,000 dollars from the value of 117,000 dollars in 2022.

Sheep death loss during 2023 totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2022. Lamb death loss during 2023 totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2022.

Meat and other goats and kids inventory on January 1, 2024 was estimated at 18,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2023.

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.

Sheep and Goats Revisions

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.