

Sheep and Goats



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released February 5, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to January 1.

Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1992, totaled 10.9 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The value of sheep and lambs on hand totaled \$666 million, 9 percent below a year earlier. The average value per head was \$61.40, down 6 percent from a year earlier.

Stock sheep inventory decreased to 9.04 million head on January 1, 1992, down 5 percent from 9.47 million last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 7.18 million head, were down 3 percent. Ewe lamb inventory totaled 1.17 million head, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1992, for the slaughter market in the 25 major feeding states totaled 1.81 million head, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

1991 lamb crop of 7.70 million head was down fractionally from the 1990 lamb crop. The 1991 lambing rate was 104 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1991, compared with 101 in 1990.

The number of operations with sheep during 1991 totaled 105,710, down 3 percent from 1990.

Goat numbers in Texas totaled 2.00 million on January 1, 1992, up 9 percent from a year earlier. Total value of \$84.0 million was up 15 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat inventory on January 1, 1992, in the five major producing States totaled 1.90 million head up 7 percent from last year. Value of the angora goat inventory totaled \$81.6 million.

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Sheep: Number by Class, Value Per Head, and Total Value,
United States, January 1, 1990-92

Class	:	1990	:	1991	:	1992	:	1992/1991
	:	----- 1,000 Head -----					:	Percent
All Sheep and Lambs <u>1/</u>	:	11,363	:	11,200	:	10,850	:	97
On Feed	:	1,762	:	1,730	:	1,807	:	104
Stock Sheep	:	9,601	:	9,471	:	9,043	:	95
Lambs	:		:		:		:	
Ewes	:	1,324	:	1,342	:	1,174	:	87
Wethers and Rams	:	312	:	351	:	335	:	95
One Year Old and Older	:		:		:		:	
Ewes	:	7,609	:	7,429	:	7,182	:	97
Wethers and Rams	:	356	:	349	:	352	:	101
New Crop Lambs <u>2/</u>	:	774	:	761	:	710	:	93
	:	----- Dollars -----					:	
All Sheep and Lambs	:		:		:		:	
Value Per Head <u>3/</u>	:	79.30	:	65.60	:	61.40	:	94
	:	----- 1,000 Dollars -----					:	
All Sheep and Lambs	:		:		:		:	
Total Value	:	901,545	:	734,868	:	666,056	:	91

1/ New Crop Lambs are not included in all Sheep and Lambs Inventory estimates in this report. 2/ Includes all lambs born after September 30 previous year that are on hand Jan 1. 3/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head.

All Sheep and Lambs: Balance Sheet, United States, 1989-91 1/

Item	:	1989	:	1990	:	1991
	:	----- 1,000 Head -----				
Jan 1 Inventory	:	10,858	:	11,363	:	11,200
Lamb Crop and Imports	:	7,877	:	7,729	:	7,723
Total Supply	:	18,735	:	19,092	:	18,923
Slaughter	:	5,572	:	5,750	:	5,812
Deaths and Exports	:	1,514	:	1,802	:	2,055
Total Disappearance	:	7,086	:	7,552	:	7,867
Residual	:	286	:	340	:	206
Jan 1 Inventory (End of year)	:	11,363	:	11,200	:	10,850

1/ Final 1990 and preliminary 1991 estimates will be published in "Meat Animals, Production, Disposition, and Income", April 13, 1992.

Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous Year, by State and United States, 1990-91

State	Breeding Ewes 1 Year and Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop 1/		1991 % of 1990
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	
	--- 1,000 Head ---		- Number -		--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct
AL	2/	7.8	2/	87	7.4	6.8	92
AK	1.5	1.4	53	50	0.8	0.7	88
AZ	170.0	163.0	68	64	115.0	105.0	91
CA	620.0	576.0	86	90	535.0	520.0	97
CO	375.0	363.0	113	106	425.0	385.0	91
CT	7.0	7.0	117	114	8.2	8.0	98
ID	215.0	199.0	119	138	255.0	275.0	108
IL	106.0	89.0	109	118	115.0	105.0	91
IN	67.0	74.0	134	132	90.0	98.0	109
IA	332.0	315.0	130	127	430.0	400.0	93
KS	155.0	126.0	87	100	134.0	126.0	94
KY	28.0	25.0	111	104	31.0	26.0	84
LA	12.2	12.5	86	80	10.5	10.0	95
ME	14.0	12.0	107	104	15.0	12.5	83
MD	21.2	21.0	109	119	23.0	25.0	109
MA	12.0	12.0	125	121	15.0	14.5	97
MI	75.0	68.0	113	115	85.0	78.0	92
MN	165.0	170.0	133	132	220.0	225.0	102
MO	100.0	95.0	110	100	110.0	95.0	86
MT	490.0	504.0	109	116	535.0	585.0	109
NE	111.0	98.0	108	112	120.0	110.0	92
NV	80.0	79.0	100	82	80.0	65.0	81
NH	8.8	7.1	114	141	10.0	10.0	100
NJ	9.5	7.6	126	145	12.0	11.0	92
NM	373.0	338.0	70	74	260.0	250.0	96
NY	60.0	61.0	107	93	64.0	57.0	89
NC	10.5	11.5	114	120	12.0	13.8	115
ND	120.0	138.0	143	130	171.0	180.0	105
OH	166.0	184.0	124	112	205.0	206.0	100
OK	82.0	86.0	104	110	85.0	95.0	112
OR	279.0	285.0	115	112	320.0	320.0	100
PA	95.0	100.0	105	101	100.0	101.0	101
SD	441.0	438.0	122	121	540.0	530.0	98
TN	9.2	10.0	109	90	10.0	9.0	90
TX	1,490.0	1,420.0	77	89	1,150.0	1,270.0	110
UT	407.0	403.0	106	99	430.0	400.0	93
VT	19.0	18.0	126	122	24.0	22.0	92
VA	100.0	98.0	124	122	124.0	120.0	97
WA	58.0	59.0	121	119	70.0	70.0	100
WV	62.0	67.0	121	97	75.0	65.0	87
WI	71.0	67.0	132	143	94.0	96.0	102
WY	545.0	555.0	101	103	550.0	570.0	104
Oth Sts 3/	46.0	58.0	83	50	38.1	28.8	76
US	7,608.9	7,428.9	101	104	7,704.0	7,700.1	100

1/ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States. 2/ Not in the estimating program.
3/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

All Sheep and Lambs: Number, Value per Head, and Total Value, by State,
and United States, January 1, 1991-92

State	All Sheep and Lambs ^{1/}			Value per Head		Total Value	
	1991	1992	:92/91:	1991	1992	1991	1992
	--- 1,000 Head ---			--- Dollars ---		-- 1,000 Dollars -	
			Pct				
AL	11.5	12.3	107	115.00	71.00	1,323	873
AK	2.5	2.4	96	68.00	71.00	170	170
AZ	250.0	225.0	90	80.00	83.00	20,000	18,675
CA	1,015.0	995.0	98	76.00	76.00	77,140	75,620
CO	710.0	710.0	100	80.00	66.00	56,800	46,860
CT	9.9	9.4	95	115.00	105.00	1,139	987
ID	272.0	273.0	100	69.00	65.00	18,768	17,745
IL	145.0	129.0	89	76.00	72.00	11,020	9,288
IN	100.0	95.0	95	83.00	73.00	8,300	6,935
IA	465.0	345.0	74	58.00	55.00	26,970	18,975
KS	213.0	190.0	89	55.00	49.00	11,715	9,310
KY	35.0	29.0	83	65.00	68.00	2,275	1,972
LA	16.0	15.0	94	82.00	86.00	1,312	1,290
ME	17.7	14.8	84	105.00	92.00	1,859	1,362
MD	30.0	33.0	110	105.00	110.00	3,150	3,630
MA	16.6	16.7	101	115.00	115.00	1,909	1,921
MI	115.0	103.0	90	70.00	77.00	8,050	7,931
MN	300.0	293.0	98	67.00	57.00	20,100	16,701
MO	134.0	111.0	83	56.00	53.00	7,504	5,883
MT	683.0	688.0	101	64.00	57.00	43,712	39,216
NE	165.0	144.0	87	67.00	51.00	11,055	7,344
NV	98.5	85.0	86	74.00	61.00	7,289	5,185
NH	10.8	11.6	107	115.00	120.00	1,242	1,392
NJ	11.4	13.0	114	120.00	105.00	1,368	1,365
NM	462.0	445.0	96	62.00	65.00	28,644	28,925
NY	92.0	72.0	78	84.00	86.00	7,728	6,192
NC	17.0	17.9	105	64.00	60.00	1,088	1,074
ND	222.0	214.0	96	67.00	61.00	14,874	13,054
OH	305.0	275.0	90	73.00	68.00	22,265	18,700
OK	135.0	145.0	107	53.00	58.00	7,155	8,410
OR	466.0	433.0	93	54.00	49.00	25,164	21,217
PA	140.0	134.0	96	88.00	75.00	12,320	10,050
SD	640.0	602.0	94	62.00	56.00	39,680	33,712
TN	14.0	13.0	93	88.00	87.00	1,232	1,131
TX	2,000.0	2,140.0	107	54.00	52.00	108,000	111,280
UT	508.0	488.0	96	64.00	65.00	32,512	31,720
VT	28.3	25.5	90	100.00	95.00	2,830	2,423
VA	157.0	143.0	91	54.00	50.00	8,478	7,150
WA	81.0	78.0	96	82.00	70.00	6,642	5,460
WV	85.0	68.0	80	59.00	53.00	5,015	3,604
WI	103.0	105.0	102	74.00	67.00	7,622	7,035
WY	830.0	850.0	102	64.00	59.00	53,120	50,150
Oth Sts ^{2/}	87.9	58.3	66	72.00	71.00	6,329	4,139
US	11,200.1	10,849.9	97	65.60	61.40	734,868	666,056

^{1/} New crop lambs are not included in the inventory estimates of all sheep and lambs. ^{2/} Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1991-92

State	Stock Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Stock Sheep-Lambs			
	Ewes		Rams & Wethers		Ewes		Rams & Wethers	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000 Head							
AL	7.8	9.1	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.8
AK	1.4	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
AZ	163.0	150.0	7.0	6.0	22.0	15.0	13.0	9.0
CA	576.0	562.0	27.0	23.0	91.0	85.0	41.0	40.0
CO	363.0	320.0	13.0	12.0	71.0	56.0	13.0	12.0
CT	7.0	6.8	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.5	0.7	0.6
ID	199.0	210.0	6.0	6.0	43.0	35.0	7.0	4.0
IL	89.0	85.0	6.0	6.0	17.0	13.0	3.0	4.0
IN	74.0	67.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	10.0	2.0	1.0
IA	315.0	210.0	12.0	9.0	43.0	23.0	10.0	8.0
KS	126.0	120.0	5.0	7.0	15.0	13.0	4.0	2.0
KY	25.0	19.5	1.7	1.7	3.8	3.5	4.5	4.3
LA	12.5	11.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.9	0.5	0.4
ME	12.0	10.0	1.2	0.9	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.5
MD	21.0	22.0	2.0	3.0	4.5	4.7	2.5	3.3
MA	12.0	12.0	1.0	1.0	2.6	2.6	1.0	1.1
MI	68.0	63.0	3.0	3.0	12.0	9.0	2.0	2.0
MN	170.0	170.0	7.0	9.0	36.0	26.0	7.0	5.0
MO	95.0	75.0	7.0	4.5	12.0	10.0	3.0	6.5
MT	504.0	510.0	17.0	18.0	117.0	110.0	12.0	12.0
NE	98.0	81.0	5.0	5.0	14.0	10.0	3.0	4.0
NV	79.0	60.0	3.0	3.0	13.0	8.0	1.0	1.0
NH	7.1	7.1	0.7	0.7	2.1	2.6	0.9	1.2
NJ	7.6	8.8	1.7	1.1	1.3	2.0	0.8	1.1
NM	338.0	325.0	21.0	20.0	60.0	54.0	16.0	11.0
NY	61.0	50.0	3.0	3.0	18.0	12.0	10.0	7.0
NC	11.5	12.6	1.0	1.1	3.5	2.0	1.0	2.2
ND	138.0	142.0	5.0	5.0	22.0	19.0	2.0	4.0
OH	184.0	170.0	10.0	9.0	32.0	28.0	4.0	3.0
OK	86.0	95.0	5.0	5.0	15.0	17.0	9.0	8.0
OR	285.0	280.0	15.0	15.0	43.0	41.0	17.0	16.0
PA	100.0	96.0	8.0	8.0	19.0	18.0	13.0	12.0
SD	438.0	430.0	17.0	15.0	94.0	64.0	6.0	8.0
TN	10.0	9.4	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.6	0.8	0.7
TX	1,420.0	1,500.0	70.0	80.0	240.0	250.0	90.0	100.0
UT	403.0	388.0	12.0	12.0	58.0	53.0	7.0	7.0
VT	18.0	16.0	1.5	1.3	5.2	5.3	3.6	2.9
VA	98.0	93.0	5.0	5.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	2.0
WA	59.0	57.0	3.0	3.0	15.0	12.0	4.0	6.0
WV	67.0	55.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	7.0	5.0	3.0
WI	67.0	67.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	12.0	4.0	2.0
WY	555.0	570.0	20.0	23.0	130.0	117.0	15.0	10.0
Oth Sts ^{1/}	58.0	35.1	9.3	11.0	16.1	6.8	4.5	5.4
US	7,428.9	7,181.9	348.9	352.0	1,341.5	1,173.8	351.3	335.2

^{1/} Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1991-92 and Operations with Sheep, 1990-1991 1/

State	Stock Sheep and Lambs - Total			Sheep and Lambs on Feed <u>1/</u>			Operations with Sheep <u>2/</u>	
	1991	1992	:92/91:	1991	1992	:92/91:	1990	1991
	-- 1,000 Head --		Pct	-- 1,000 Head --		Pct	---- Number ----	
AL	11.5	12.3	107				3/	350
AK	2.5	2.4	96				30	30
AZ	205.0	180.0	88	45.0	45.0	100	450	450
CA	735.0	710.0	97	280.0	285.0	102	5,500	5,500
CO	460.0	400.0	87	250.0	310.0	124	2,200	2,000
CT	9.9	9.4	95				460	460
ID	255.0	255.0	100	17.0	18.0	106	2,000	1,800
IL	115.0	108.0	94	30.0	21.0	70	4,500	4,000
IN	90.0	82.0	91	10.0	13.0	130	3,500	3,500
IA	380.0	250.0	66	85.0	95.0	112	10,000	9,500
KS	150.0	142.0	95	63.0	48.0	76	2,600	2,400
KY	35.0	29.0	83				1,100	1,100
LA	16.0	15.0	94				1,200	1,300
ME	17.7	14.8	84				700	700
MD	30.0	33.0	110				1,200	1,000
MA	16.6	16.7	101				800	800
MI	85.0	77.0	91	30.0	26.0	87	2,600	2,500
MN	220.0	210.0	95	80.0	83.0	104	5,200	5,200
MO	117.0	96.0	82	17.0	15.0	88	3,400	3,400
MT	650.0	650.0	100	33.0	38.0	115	2,800	2,800
NE	120.0	100.0	83	45.0	44.0	98	3,200	3,100
NV	96.0	72.0	75	2.5	13.0	520	300	300
NH	10.8	11.6	107				550	540
NJ	11.4	13.0	114				700	750
NM	435.0	410.0	94	27.0	35.0	130	1,200	1,200
NY	92.0	72.0	78				2,400	2,400
NC	17.0	17.9	105				600	600
ND	167.0	170.0	102	55.0	44.0	80	1,900	1,900
OH	230.0	210.0	91	75.0	65.0	87	7,400	7,300
OK	115.0	125.0	109	20.0	20.0	100	2,700	2,500
OR	360.0	352.0	98	106.0	81.0	76	5,100	5,000
PA	140.0	134.0	96				3,800	3,700
SD	555.0	517.0	93	85.0	85.0	100	4,100	4,100
TN	14.0	13.0	93				650	650
TX	1,820.0	1,930.0	106	180.0	210.0	117	8,200	8,000
UT	480.0	460.0	96	28.0	28.0	100	2,100	2,100
VT	28.3	25.5	90				800	780
VA	119.0	108.0	91	38.0	35.0	92	2,500	2,400
WA	81.0	78.0	96				2,200	2,200
WV	85.0	68.0	80				2,000	1,900
WI	85.0	85.0	100	18.0	20.0	111	2,800	2,600
WY	720.0	720.0	100	110.0	130.0	118	1,500	1,400
Oth Sts	4/87.9	4/58.3	66				5/2,000	4/1,500
US	9,470.6	9,042.9	95	1,729.5	1,807.0	104	108,940	105,710

See footnotes on page 7.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class - Footnotes

- 1/ Sheep on Feed for AL, AK, CT, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, TN, VT, WA, WV, and other States were combined with stock sheep. Sheep on feed for these states totaled 66,600 in 1991 and 59,400 in 1992.
- 2/ An operation is any place having one or more sheep on hand during the year.
- 3/ Not in estimating program.
- 4/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.
- 5/ Other States includes AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

New Crop Lambs: Number, Selected States and United States,
January 1, 1991-92 1/

State :	1991	1992	1992/91
:	----- 1,000 Head -----		Percent
AZ :	50.0	45.0	90
CA :	315.0	320.0	102
CO :	3.0	4.0	133
ID :	15.0	14.0	93
IA :	15.0	10.0	67
KS :	28.0	37.0	132
KY :	5.0	3.0	60
MO :	6.0	3.0	50
NE :	5.0	4.0	80
OH :	15.0	12.0	80
OK :	15.0	17.0	113
OR :	15.0	20.0	133
PA :	8.0	7.0	88
SD :	11.0	8.0	73
TX :	180.0	140.0	78
VA :	16.0	12.0	75
Oth :			
Sts :	59.3	53.6	90
US :	761.3	709.6	93

1/ New crop lamb inventory includes all lambs born after September 30 the previous year that are on hand Jan 1. New crop lambs are not included in the inventory estimates of all sheep and lambs on pages 4-6 of this publication.

All Goats: Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value,
Texas, January 1, 1990-92

Year	Number	Value <u>1/</u>	
		Per Head	Total
	1,000 Head	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1990	1,900	49.00	93,100
1991	1,830	*40.00	*73,200
1992	2,000	42.00	84,000

1/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head.
* Revised.

Angora Goats: Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value,
5 States, January 1, 1991-92

State	Number		Value <u>1/</u>			
			Per Head		Total	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	-- 1,000 Head --		--- Dollars ---		--- 1,000 Dollars -	
AZ	108	98	45.00	40.00	4,860	3,920
MI	9	8	65.00	55.00	585	440
NM	100	110	39.00	42.00	3,900	4,620
OK	63	60	50.00	50.00	3,150	3,000
TX	1,500	1,620	39.00	43.00	*58,500	69,660
Total	1,780	1,896	*39.90	43.10	*70,995	81,640

1/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head.
* Revised.

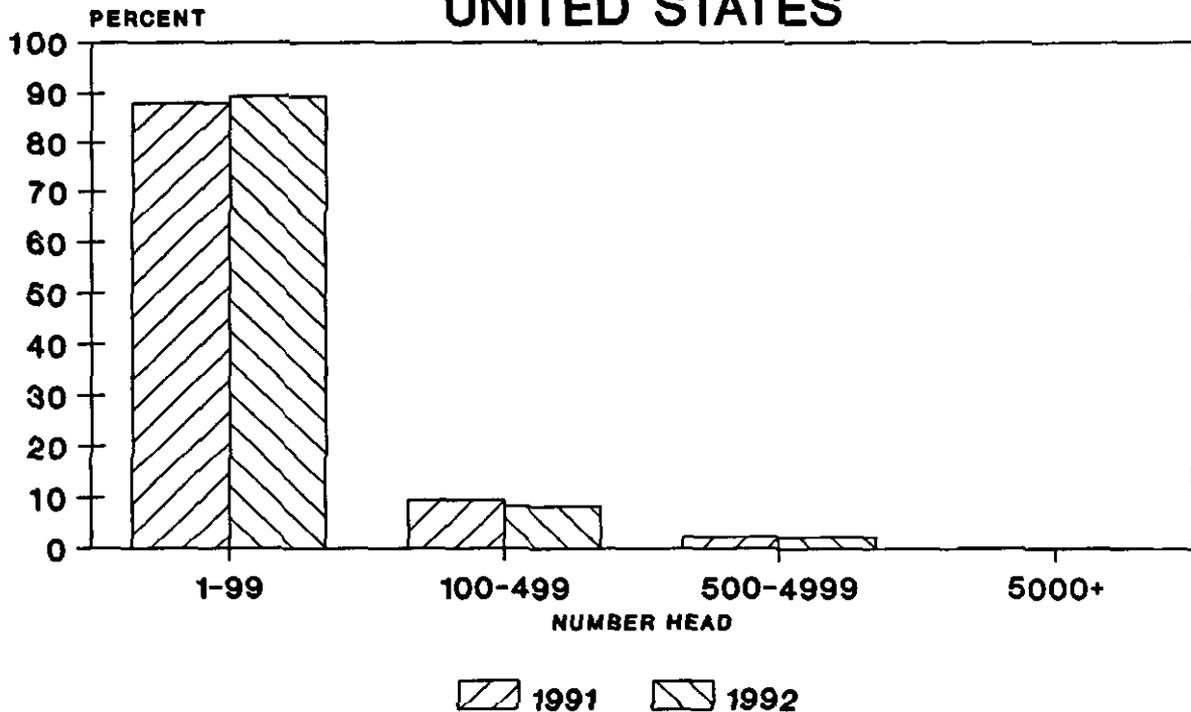
Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Operations by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1991-92 1/

Regions	Operations Having:							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Percent							
Native States	91.5	92.3	7.7	7.2	0.8	0.5	2/0.0	2/0.0
Western States	81.0	84.4	13.4	10.0	5.2	5.2	0.4	0.4
United States	88.0	89.3	9.5	8.2	2.3	2.3	0.2	0.2

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

2/ Less than 0.05 percent.

SHEEP OPERATIONS PERCENT BY SIZE GROUP, 1991, 1992 UNITED STATES

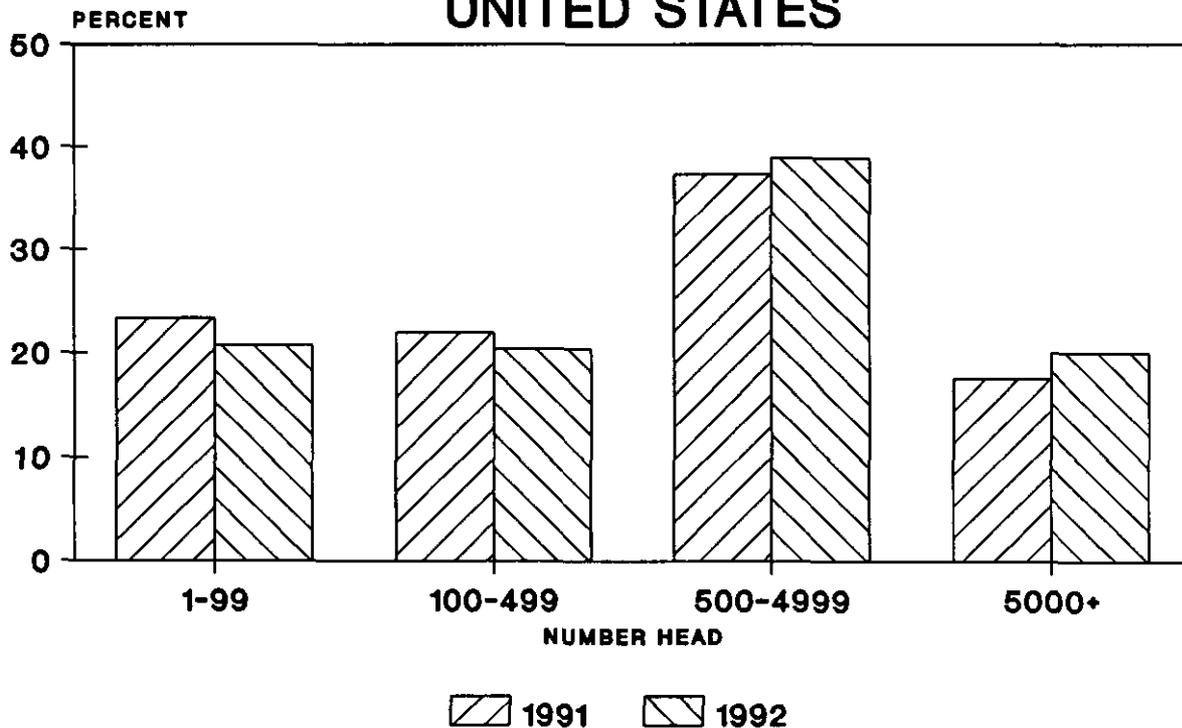


Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Inventory by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1991-92 1/

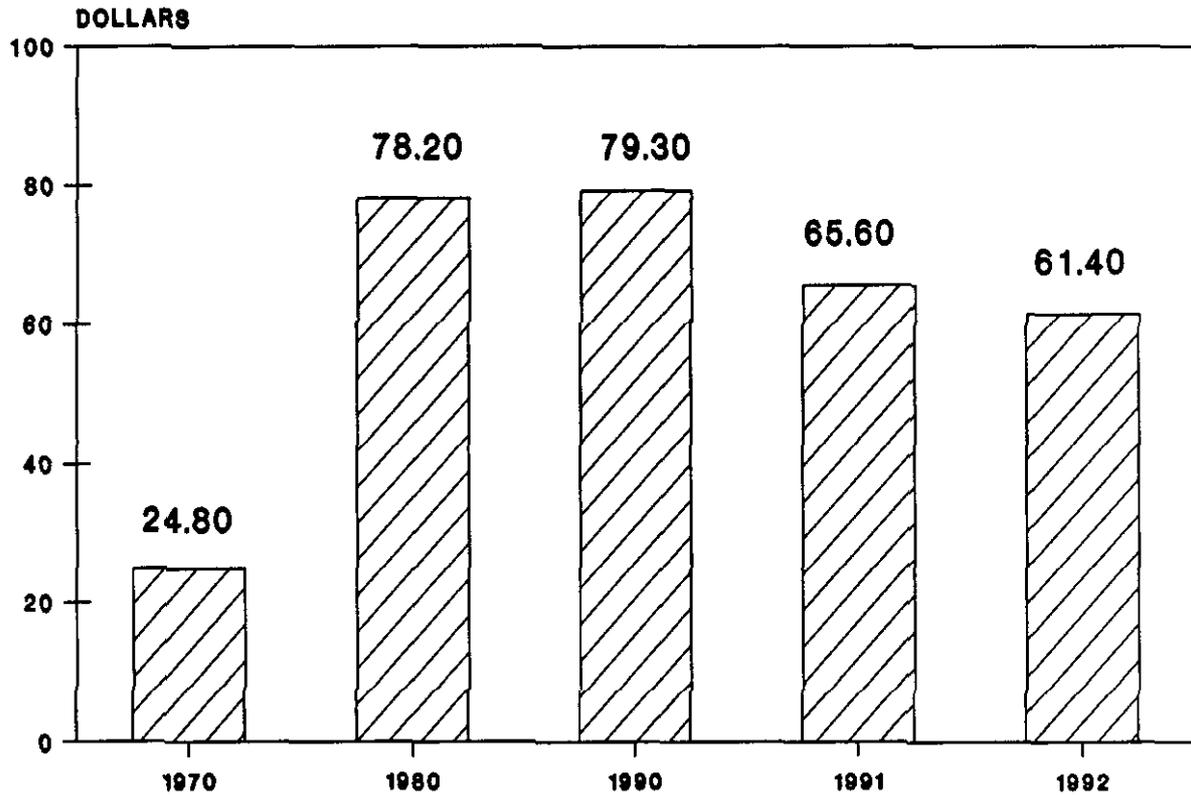
Regions	Inventory on Operations Having							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Percent							
Native States	50.1	50.4	32.0	36.2	16.6	11.7	1.3	1.7
Western States	9.3	8.8	16.7	14.0	48.1	49.8	25.9	27.4
United States	23.3	20.7	21.9	20.4	37.3	38.9	17.5	20.0

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

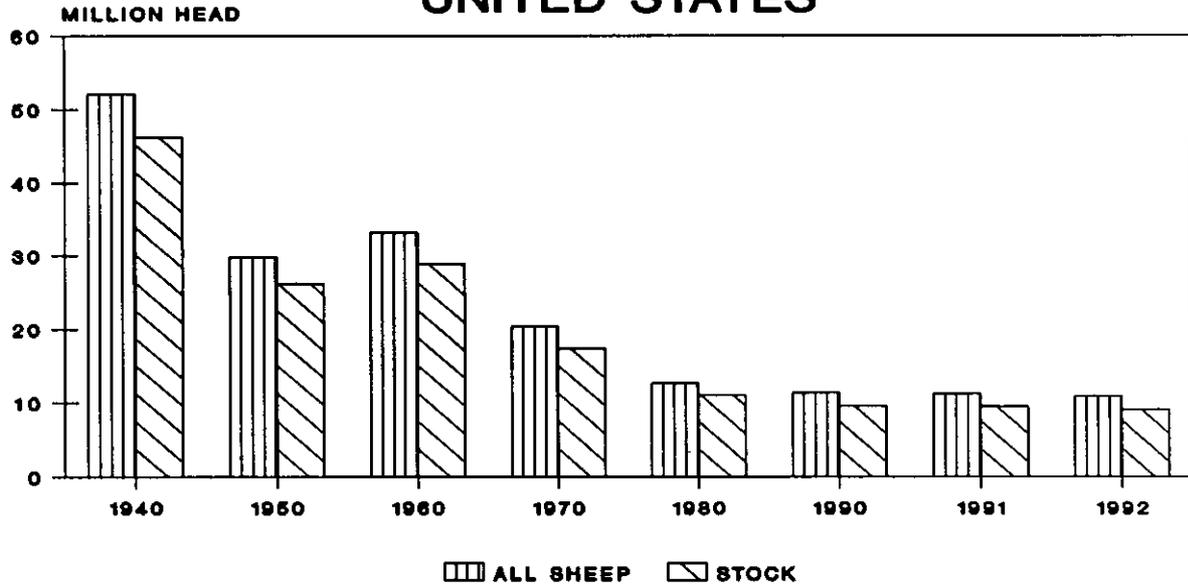
SHEEP INVENTORY PERCENT BY SIZE GROUP, 1991, 1992 UNITED STATES



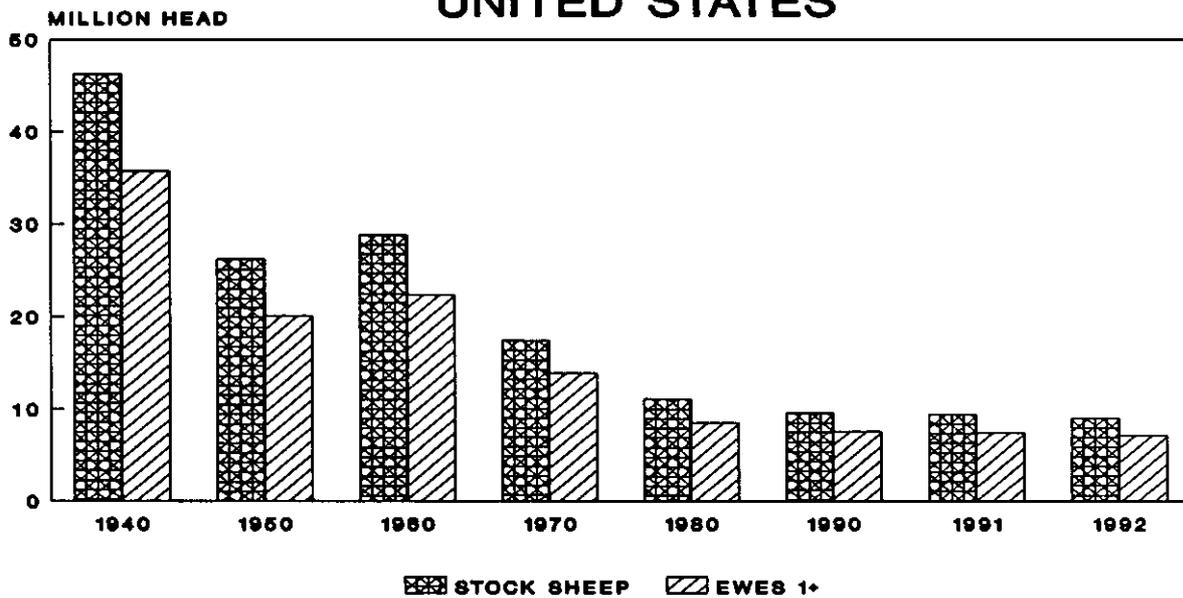
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS AVERAGE VALUE PER HEAD UNITED STATES



JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY AND STOCK SHEEP UNITED STATES



STOCK SHEEP AND EWES 1+ UNITED STATES



Reliability of January 1 Sheep and Goats Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U. S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep and goat producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 70,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of January 1.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep and goat estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from past years. A balance sheet for all sheep and lambs was also used at the U. S. level. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate for all sheep and lambs, adds to it estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared with the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve the current estimate. Estimates for January 1, 1991, were subject to revision in November of that same year. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Commerce's five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations raising sheep and goats are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected sheep items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for sheep and lamb inventory estimates over the past 7 years is 1.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.8 million head by more than 1.6 percent, or about 173,600 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.1 percent, or about 336,350 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 7-year record showing the range between the first

inventory estimate and the latest estimate. Using estimates for All Sheep and Lambs as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 7 years have averaged 135,900 head, ranging from 0 to 272,800 head. The inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 5 times, above once and unchanged once in the last 7 years.

Reliability of U. S. January 1 Sheep and Lamb Estimates 1/

Item	: Root : : Mean : : Square : : Error :	: 90 % : Confidence : Level :	: Difference Between			: Number of : Years	: First : First : Above : Below : Latest: Latest	
			: First and Latest : Estimates	: Average	: Smallest			: Largest
	: - Percent -		----- 1,000 Head -----			- Number -		
All Sheep & Lambs	: 1.6	: 3.1	: 336.4	: -135.9	: 0	: 272.8	: 1	: 5
Stock Sheep	: 2.4	: 4.7	: 425.0	: -154.2	: 0	: 371.0	: 1	: 5
Breeding Ewes	: 2.3	: 4.5	: 323.2	: -117.4	: 0	: 271.2	: 1	: 5
Sheep & Lambs on Feed	: 4.9	: 9.5	: 171.7	: 18.3	: 0	: -200.0	: 3	: 3
Lamb Crop	: 0.9	: 1.7	: 130.9	: -51.3	: 0	: 119.4	: 1	: 5

1/ Based on data from 1985 through 1991.

Terms and Definitions

Agricultural Statistics Board: A panel of agricultural Statisticians assembled to review agricultural survey indications and to set national and state estimates for inventory, production and prices for a commodity. The "Board" meets in Washington, D. C. and data are held under tight security until the report is released.

Census of Agriculture: A count, every 5 years, by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, of agricultural inventories, production, and related economic data. Data are published for States and counties.

Docking: The removal of an animal's tail a short distance from the body of the animal; cutting off most of the solid part of the tail.

Estimate: An approximate measure of the actual quantity of an item, usually derived by calculation from sample data.

Ewe: Female sheep.

Goats, Angora: Any of a breed or variety of domestic goat raised for production of its' long, silky hair called mohair.

Goats, Milk: Straight-haired goat breed, selected for production of milk.

Goats, Spanish: Straight-haired goat breed, selected for production of meat.

Lamb: A young sheep, usually less than 1 year old.

Lambs, Feeder: Lambs that need to grow and mature before being suitable for placement on feed for slaughter; usually 50 - 90 pounds.

Lambs on Feed: Lambs being fed grain or other concentrates, or being pastured on succulent grasses (alfalfa pastures, etc.) or crop residue (corn stalks, beet tops, etc.) and expected to produce a slaughter carcass that will grade select or better. They usually weigh over 90 pounds.

Lambs, Hot-house: Fall or very early winter lambs marketed at a young age (usually under 16 weeks) for Christmas to Easter trade.

Lamb Crop: Lambs born alive between October 1 through September 30 in all States except California where it is September 1 through August 31. In the Western States, lambs lost prior to being marked, docked or branded are excluded.

New Crop Lambs: Lambs born between October 1 (September 1 in California) and December 31 that are on hand January 1.

Operation: Any place that has 1 or more sheep on hand anytime during the year.

Ram: Male sheep, usually kept for breeding purposes.

Revision: A change made by the Agricultural Statistics Board to an earlier published USDA estimate. Revisions are made as a result of more current information or additional information learned about the commodity since the original estimate was published.

Sheep on Feed: Sheep being fed grain or other concentrates, or being pastured on succulent grasses (alfalfa pastures, etc.) or crop residue (corn stalks, beet tops, etc.) and expected to produce a slaughter carcass that will grade select or better.

Sheep, Stock: Sheep in the breeding flock, including ewes and rams used for breeding, wethers one year old and older, ewe lambs and ram lambs.

SOF: Sheep and lambs on feed.

States, Native: States east of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska and Hawaii. They usually contain farm flock operations.

States, Western: Eleven states containing the Rocky Mountains and the Western United States. They are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. This area usually contains range type operations.

Value: The value of all sheep is the weighted average of lambs, ewes and rams on January 1. Values of ewes vary widely, but fall somewhere between "replacement" and "salvage" value. Replacement value represents the current cost to replace a ewe or ram in the breeding flock. Replacement value for registered sheep may be considerably higher than the replacement value for sheep in a commercial flock. The salvage value of sheep represents the current market price if sold at auction or to a packer.

Variance: A statistical term indicating the variation within a population.

Wether: Castrated male sheep.

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