

Sheep and Goats



National
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Agricultural
Statistics
Board

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ALL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY in the United States on January 1, 1989 totaled 10.8 million head, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, nearly the same as a year earlier. The value of sheep and lambs on hand totaled \$ 890 million, down 8 percent from a year earlier. The average value per head was \$82.40, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

STOCK SHEEP INVENTORY increased to 9.19 million head on January 1, 1989, up 1 percent from 9.14 million last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 7.17 million head, was nearly the same as a year earlier. Ewe lamb inventory totaled 1.34 million head, up 4 percent.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED January 1, 1989 for the slaughter market in the 25 major feeding States totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

1988 LAMB CROP of 7.12 million head decreased 1 percent from the 1987 lamb crop. Breeding ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1988 were up 4 percent from the previous year. The 1988 lambing rate was 99 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand at the beginning of the lambing year compared with 104 in 1987.

GOAT NUMBERS in Texas totaled 1.75 million on January 1, 1989 up 6 percent from a year earlier. Total value of \$94.7 million was 4 percent below a year earlier. Anogora goat inventory on January 1, 1989 in th five major producing states totaled 1.82 million head. Value of the Angora goat inventory totaled \$102 million.

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RELIABILITY AND ESTIMATING PROCEDURES

Primary data used in making sheep and lamb estimates in this report were obtained from a sample of agricultural producers across the U.S. using probability surveys. Information was collected during the first half of January by mail, telephone and personal interview. These surveys included information from a list of 57,500 agricultural producers plus additional information from operators of about 8500 small land area tracts. Since all operations with sheep were not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. This variability, as measured by the relative standard error, was 3.5 percent of the total sheep and lambs at the national level. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that the survey estimate will be within 7 percent of the complete coverage value if the same procedures were used to survey all producers. The relative standard error for stock sheep, classes of stock sheep, and lamb crop were somewhat larger ranging from 3.4 to 5.2 percent.

Survey estimates are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

In setting the inventory estimates, the Agricultural Statistics Board used survey estimates of inventory numbers, births, and deaths. These survey estimates were combined with reliable check data from other sources on slaughter, imports and exports to construct a national balance sheet (on page 3), which provides an additional check on survey inventory estimates.

SHEEP: NUMBER BY CLASSES, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE
UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1987-89

CLASS	1987	1988	1989	1988/87
	1,000 HEAD			PERCENT
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS 1/	10,334	10,784	10,802	100
ON FEED	1,508	1,644	1,613	98
STOCK SHEEP	8,826	9,140	9,189	101
LAMBS				
EWES	1,296	1,282	1,338	104
WETHERS AND RAMS	363	332	345	104
ONE YEAR OLD AND OLDER:				
EWES	6,847	7,192	7,173	100
WETHERS AND RAMS	320	335	333	99
NEW CROP LAMBS 2/	845	854	821	97
	DOLLARS			
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS VALUE PER HEAD 3/	75.70	90.00	82.40	92
	1,000 DOLLARS			
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS TOTAL VALUE	782,108	970,484	889,765	92

1/ NEW CROP LAMBS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY ESTIMATES IN THIS REPORT. 2/ INCLUDES ALL LAMBS BORN AFTER SEP 30 PREVIOUS YEAR THAT ARE ON HAND JAN 1. 3/ BASED ON REPORTERS' ESTIMATES OF AVERAGE PRICE PER HEAD IN THEIR LOCALITIES.

UNITED STATES BALANCE SHEET 1/: ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS 1986-88

ITEM	1986 2/	1987	1988
	1,000 HEAD		
JAN 1 INVENTORY	9,983	10,389	10,784
LAMB CROP AND IMPORTS	7,378	7,217	7,160
TOTAL SUPPLY	13,361	17,606	17,944
SLAUGHTER	5,762	5,312	5,402
DEATHS AND EXPORTS	1,398	1,278	1,442
TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE	7,160	6,590	6,844
RESIDUAL	(133)	232	298
JAN 1 INVENTORY (END OF YEAR)	10,334	10,784	10,802

1/ FINAL 1987 AND PRELIMINARY 1988 ESTIMATES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MEAT ANIMALS, PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME, APRIL 1989. 2/ 41 STATES.

LAMB CROP, 1987-88

STATE	: BREEDING EWES 1 YEAR: LAMB CROP PER 100:		: AND OLDER JAN 1 : EWES 1+ JAN 1 :		: LAMB CROP 1/ :		: 1988
	: 1987	: 1988	: 1987	: 1988	: 1987	: 1988	: AS % OF 1987
	1,000 HEAD		NUMBER		1,000 HEAD		PERCENT
ALAS	1.3	1.2	54	58	0.7	0.7	100
ARIZ	144.0	180.0	69	69	100.0	125.0	125
CALIF	685.0	685.0	91	86	625.0	590.0	94
COLO	300.0	320.0	110	113	330.0	360.0	109
CONN	6.0	5.8	142	145	8.5	8.4	99
IDAHO	245.0	247.0	118	113	290.0	280.0	97
ILL	79.0	94.0	122	122	96.0	115.0	120
IND	63.0	57.0	119	132	75.0	75.0	100
IOWA	255.0	277.0	129	126	330.0	350.0	106
KANS	145.0	150.0	107	93	155.0	140.0	90
KY	24.0	27.0	113	100	27.0	27.0	100
LA	12.0	12.0	100	100	12.0	12.0	100
MAINE	13.0	12.0	115	117	15.0	14.0	93
MD	16.0	22.0	131	100	21.0	22.0	105
MASS	9.5	9.2	116	120	11.0	11.0	100
MICH	68.0	67.0	132	134	90.0	90.0	100
MINN	130.0	135.0	131	130	170.0	175.0	103
MO	80.0	76.0	125	132	100.0	100.0	100
MONT	370.0	380.0	119	121	440.0	460.0	105
NEBR	94.0	105.0	122	105	115.0	110.0	96
NEV	69.0	78.0	116	95	80.0	74.0	93
N H	8.6	8.0	128	125	11.0	10.0	91
N J	8.2	9.0	134	122	11.0	11.0	100
N MEX	342.0	367.0	80	82	275.0	300.0	109
N Y	40.0	42.0	120	131	48.0	55.0	115
N C	9.3	9.9	118	101	11.0	10.0	91
N DAK	120.0	114.0	125	124	150.0	141.0	94
OHIO	200.0	170.0	103	115	205.0	195.0	95
OKLA	60.0	78.0	102	103	61.0	80.0	131
OREG	255.0	320.0	125	100	320.0	320.0	100
PA	73.0	76.0	103	112	75.0	85.0	113
S DAK	434.0	453.0	118	110	510.0	500.0	98
TENN	8.7	8.9	98	79	8.5	7.0	82
TEX	1300.0	1310.0	87	73	1130.0	950.0	84
UTAH	375.0	390.0	101	97	380.0	380.0	100
VT	11.0	9.7	118	155	13.0	15.0	115
VA	98.0	92.0	117	128	115.0	118.0	103
WASH	44.0	54.0	132	120	58.0	65.0	112
W VA	68.0	67.0	113	107	77.0	72.0	94
WIS	53.0	53.0	147	142	78.0	75.0	96
WYO	530.0	580.0	97	95	515.0	550.0	107
9 OTHER STATES 2/:	40.0	40.0	118	113	47.0	45.0	99
U S	6886.6	7191.7	104	99	7189.7	7123.1	99

1/ LAMB CROP DEFINED AS LAMBS BORN IN THE NATIVE STATES AND LAMBS DOCKED OR BRANDED IN THE WESTERN STATES. 2/ OTHER STATES INCLUDE ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, MISSISSIPPI, RHODE ISLAND, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE BY STATES,
JANUARY 1, 1988-89

STATE	ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS 1/			VALUE PER HEAD :		TOTAL	
	1988	1989	1989/1988	1988	1989	1988	1989
	1,000 HEAD		PERCENT	DOLLARS		1,000 DOLLARS	
ALAS	2.4	2.7	113	71.00	75.50	170	204
ARIZ	284.0	284.0	100	89.50	90.00	25,418	25,560
CALIF	990.0	940.0	95	97.00	87.00	96,030	81,780
COLO	755.0	825.0	109	99.50	90.00	75,123	74,250
CONN	8.0	8.4	105	99.00	101.00	792	848
IDAHO	324.0	287.0	89	108.00	83.00	34,992	23,821
ILL	135.0	140.0	104	88.50	89.00	11,948	12,460
IND	80.0	95.0	119	78.50	99.00	6,280	9,405
IOWA	405.0	415.0	102	99.00	83.50	40,095	34,653
KANS	277.0	262.0	95	80.00	72.00	22,160	18,864
KY	34.0	32.0	94	92.00	95.00	3,128	3,040
LA	16.0	17.0	106	68.00	74.50	1,088	1,267
MAINE	17.0	15.0	88	91.00	95.00	1,547	1,425
MD	34.0	35.0	103	93.00	107.00	3,162	3,745
MASS	14.0	14.0	100	113.00	115.00	1,582	1,610
MICH	105.0	115.0	110	77.50	79.00	8,138	9,085
MINN	258.0	263.0	102	93.00	78.50	23,994	20,646
MO	103.0	125.0	121	90.50	73.00	9,322	9,125
MONT	530.0	568.0	107	99.00	89.00	52,470	50,552
NEBR	180.0	169.0	94	83.00	80.00	14,940	13,520
NEV	96.0	87.0	91	101.00	86.00	9,696	7,482
N H	12.0	11.0	92	101.00	109.00	1,212	1,199
N J	15.0	15.0	100	104.00	113.00	1,560	1,695
N MEX	489.0	516.0	106	90.00	75.00	44,010	38,700
N Y	63.0	81.0	129	97.50	112.00	6,143	9,072
N C	13.0	13.0	100	65.00	85.00	845	1,105
N DAK	169.0	164.0	97	94.50	89.50	15,971	14,678
OHIO	270.0	246.0	91	82.50	95.00	22,275	23,370
OKLA	124.0	136.0	110	84.50	84.50	10,478	11,492
OREG	490.0	475.0	97	83.00	67.50	40,670	32,063
PA	110.0	134.0	122	90.00	75.50	9,900	10,117
S DAK	610.0	590.0	97	92.00	85.00	56,120	50,150
TENN	12.0	10.0	83	73.00	78.50	876	785
TEX	1960.0	1900.0	97	76.00	73.50	148,960	139,650
UTAH	478.0	503.0	105	95.50	84.50	45,649	42,504
VT	14.0	17.0	121	84.00	88.00	1,176	1,496
VA	148.0	158.0	107	82.00	74.50	12,136	11,771
WASH	72.0	74.0	103	78.50	76.50	5,652	5,661
W VA	91.0	82.0	90	75.00	81.00	6,825	6,642
WIS	78.0	84.0	108	93.50	87.50	7,293	7,350
WYO	865.0	837.0	97	100.00	87.00	86,500	72,819
9 OTHER STATES 2/:	54.0	57.0	106	77.00	72.00	4,158	4,104
U S	10784.4	10802.1	100	90.00	82.40	970,484	889,765

1/ NEW CROP LAMBS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE INVENTORY ESTIMATES OF ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS. 2/ OTHER STATES INCLUDES ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, DELAWARE, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, MISSISSIPPI, RHODE ISLAND, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER BY CLASSES, BY STATES,
JANUARY 1, 1988-89

STATE	:STOCK SHEEP-ONE YEAR OLD AND OLDER:				STOCK SHEEP-LAMBS			
	EWES		:RAMS AND WETHERS :		EWES		:RAMS AND WETHERS	
	: 1988	: 1989	: 1988	: 1989	: 1988	: 1989	: 1988	: 1989
	1,000 HEAD							
ALAS	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
ARIZ	180.0	185.0	12.0	9.0	28.0	26.0	17.0	19.0
CALIF	685.0	632.0	25.0	24.0	75.0	100.0	15.0	24.0
COLO	320.0	355.0	11.0	13.0	53.0	64.0	11.0	13.0
CONN	5.8	5.8	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.6
IDAHO	247.0	220.0	6.0	6.0	48.0	46.0	4.0	5.0
ILL	94.0	98.0	6.0	5.0	17.0	19.0	5.0	4.0
IND	57.0	68.0	4.0	5.0	10.0	11.0	2.0	2.0
IOWA	277.0	285.0	12.0	12.0	41.0	48.0	5.0	5.0
KANS	150.0	135.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	16.0	4.0	5.0
KY	27.0	25.0	1.7	1.5	3.3	4.0	2.0	1.5
LA	12.0	12.0	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.1	0.9	1.1
MAINE	12.0	11.0	0.9	0.9	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.2
MD	22.0	23.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	7.0	3.0	2.0
MASS	9.2	9.7	1.0	0.9	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.1
MICH	67.0	72.0	3.0	4.0	11.0	10.0	3.0	3.0
MINN	135.0	170.0	7.0	8.0	36.0	40.0	7.0	7.0
MO	76.0	87.0	4.0	5.0	10.0	14.0	2.0	3.0
MONT	380.0	410.0	12.0	14.0	106.0	105.0	5.0	9.0
NEBR	105.0	97.0	5.0	4.0	20.0	15.0	5.0	3.0
NEV	78.0	70.0	2.0	2.0	13.0	12.0	1.0	1.0
N H	8.0	7.6	0.6	0.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.8
N J	9.0	9.0	1.3	1.3	3.2	2.2	1.5	2.5
N MEX	367.0	384.0	20.0	21.0	63.0	70.0	9.0	10.0
N Y	42.0	52.0	2.0	2.0	12.0	14.0	7.0	13.0
N C	9.9	9.5	0.6	0.9	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.6
N DAK	114.0	111.0	5.0	5.0	20.0	22.0	3.0	5.0
OHIO	170.0	165.0	8.0	7.0	27.0	24.0	5.0	4.0
OKLA	78.0	94.0	3.0	5.0	12.0	14.0	7.0	7.0
OREG	320.0	280.0	13.0	14.0	45.0	42.0	12.0	14.0
PA	76.0	91.0	7.0	10.0	19.0	22.0	8.0	11.0
S DAK	453.0	430.0	13.0	12.0	65.0	70.0	9.0	8.0
TENN	8.9	8.1	0.7	0.8	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.3
TEX	1310.0	1280.0	80.0	70.0	290.0	270.0	120.0	110.0
UTAH	390.0	405.0	12.0	12.0	52.0	57.0	6.0	6.0
VT	9.7	11.3	0.7	0.7	2.5	2.8	1.1	2.2
VA	92.0	95.0	5.0	5.0	9.0	12.0	2.0	3.0
WASH	54.0	51.0	2.0	4.0	12.0	14.0	4.0	5.0
W VA	67.0	62.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	7.0
WIS	53.0	60.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	11.0	2.0	2.0
WYO	580.0	555.0	28.0	23.0	122.0	125.0	20.0	17.0
9 OTHER STATES 1/:	40.0	41.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	6.0
U S	7191.7	7173.4	335.0	333.0	1282.0	1337.6	331.7	345.1

1/ OTHER STATES INCLUDES ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, DELWARE, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, MISSISSIPPI, RHODE ISLAND, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER BY CLASSES, BY STATES, JANUARY 1, 1988-89
OPERATIONS WITH SHEEP, 1988-89 1/

STATE	STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS - TOTAL			SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED 1/			OPERATIONS WITH SHEEP 2/	
	1988	1989	1988/88	1988	1989	1989/88	1987	1988
	1,000 HEAD		PERCENT	1,000 HEAD		PERCENT	NUMBER	
ALAS	2.4	2.7	113				30	40
ARIZ	237.0	239.0	101	47.0	45.0	96	550	500
CALIF	800.0	780.0	98	190.0	160.0	84	6,000	6,500
COLO	395.0	445.0	113	360.0	380.0	106	2,700	2,800
CONN	8.0	8.4	105				480	450
IDAHO	305.0	277.0	91	19.0	10.0	53	2,500	2500
ILL	122.0	126.0	103	13.0	14.0	108	5,100	5,000
IND	73.0	86.0	118	7.0	9.0	129	4,600	3,800
IOWA	335.0	350.0	104	70.0	65.0	93	11,000	12,000
KANS	172.0	164.0	95	105.0	98.0	93	2,000	2,000
KY	34.0	32.0	94				1,100	1,200
LA	16.0	17.0	106				1,200	1,200
MAINE	17.0	15.0	88				680	700
MD	34.0	35.0	103				1,000	1,100
MASS	14.0	14.0	100				700	750
MICH	84.0	89.0	106	21.0	26.0	124	2,500	2,500
MINN	185.0	225.0	122	73.0	38.0	52	4,800	4,800
MO	92.0	109.0	118	11.0	16.0	145	3,700	3,500
MONT	503.0	538.0	107	27.0	30.0	111	2,900	3,100
NEBR	135.0	119.0	88	45.0	50.0	111	3,400	3,500
NEV	94.0	85.0	90	2.0	2.0	100	300	300
N H	12.0	11.0	92				500	500
N J	15.0	15.0	100				750	800
N MEX	459.0	485.0	106	30.0	31.0	103	1,400	1,200
N Y	63.0	81.0	129				2,100	2,100
N C	13.0	13.0	100				600	500
N DAK	142.0	143.0	101	27.0	21.0	78	1,900	1,800
OHIO	210.0	200.0	95	60.0	46.0	77	7,100	7,200
OKLA	100.0	120.0	120	24.0	16.0	67	2,500	2,700
OREG	390.0	350.0	90	100.0	125.0	125	4,800	5,100
PA	110.0	134.0	122				4,700	4,700
S DAK	540.0	520.0	96	70.0	70.0	100	5,000	4,800
TENN	12.0	10.0	83				550	550
TEX	1800.0	1730.0	96	160.0	170.0	106	8,500	8,400
UTAH	460.0	480.0	104	18.0	23.0	128	2,200	2,100
VT	14.0	17.0	121				700	700
VA	108.0	115.0	106	40.0	43.0	108	3,000	3,000
WASH	72.0	74.0	103				2,200	2,200
W VA	91.0	82.0	90				2,800	2,700
WIS	68.0	76.0	112	10.0	8.0	80	3,000	2,800
WYO	750.0	720.0	96	115.0	117.0	102	1,400	1,400
9 OTHER STATES 3/:	54.0	57.0	106				1900	2,000
U S	9140.4	9189.1	101	1644.0	1613.0	98	114,840	115,490

1/ SHEEP ON FEED FOR CONN, KY, LA, MAINE, MD, MASS, N H, N J, N Y, N C, PA, TENN, VT, W VA, AND WASH WERE COMBINED WITH STOCK SHEEP. SHEEP ON FEED FOR THESE STATES TOTALED 47 (THOUSAND). 2/ AN OPERATION IS ANY PLACE HAVING ONE OR MORE SHEEP ON HAND DURING THE YEAR. 3/ OTHER STATES INCLUDES ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, DELAWARE, HAWAII, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, RHODE ISLAND, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

NEW CROP LAMBS: NUMBER, SELECTED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1988-89 1/

STATE	1988	1989	1989/88
	1,000 HEAD		PERCENT
ARIZ	36.0	56.0	156
CALIF	400.0	385.0	96
COLO	2.0	4.0	200
IDAHO	12.0	12.0	100
IOWA	9.0	10.0	111
KANS	50.0	40.0	80
KY	3.5	3.0	86
MO	5.0	5.0	100
NEBR	10.0	5.0	50
OHIO	10.0	10.0	100
OKLA	16.0	15.0	94
OREG	15.0	15.0	100
PA	10.0	6.0	60
S DAK	9.0	10.0	111
TEX	210.0	180.0	86
VA	12.0	12.0	100
OTH STS	44.3	53.3	120
U S	853.8	821.3	96

1/ NEW CROP LAMB INVENTORY INCLUDES ALL LAMBS BORN AFTER SEP 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 5-7 OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ALL GOATS: INVENTORY, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE, TEXAS, JANUARY 1, 1987-1989

YEAR	NUMBER	VALUE 1/	
		PER HEAD	TOTAL
	1,000 HEAD	DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS
1987	1,670	46.40	77,571
1988	1,650	60.10	99,165
1989	1,750	54.10	94,750

1/ BASED ON REPORTERS' ESTIMATES OF AVERAGE PRICE PER HEAD IN THEIR LOCALITIES.

ANGORA GOATS: INVENTORY, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE, 5 STATES, JANUARY 1, 1989

STATE	NUMBER	VALUE 1/	
		PER HEAD	TOTAL
	1,000 HEAD	DOLLARS	1,000 DOLLARS
ARIZ	100	55.00	5,500
MICH	15	70.00	1,050
N.MEX	135	56.00	7,560
OKLA	70	56.00	3,920
TEXAS	1,500	56.00	84,000
TOTAL	1,820	56.00	102,030

1/ BASED ON REPORTERS' ESTIMATES OF AVERAGE PRICE PER HEAD IN THEIR LOCALITIES.

125 YEARS OF COUNTING SHEEP

Sheep and lamb production has long been an important segment of our economy. Since colonial times, production of sheep and lamb for meat and wool has substantially contributed to our food and fiber industry. Prior to the early 1900's production of wool was of primary importance and the production of slaughter animals was incidental. There was a marked change in the character sheep industry from 1870 to 1920. After 1890 the production of lambs for slaughter became increasingly important.

The total count of sheep and lambs on January 1, 1867, just after the Civil War, was 46.3 million head valued at \$108 million. This was about \$2.40 per head. There were about one-third more sheep than cattle in this earliest count. By 1884, sheep and lamb numbers increased to 53.3 million head but exceeded cattle numbers for the last time.

Sheep and lamb numbers passed through many cyclical phases. Inventory declined after 1884 until 1897 and then increased again until 1909, when almost 50.8 million head were on U.S. farms and ranches.

The next inventory peak was in 1932, when nearly 54.0 million sheep and lambs were on farms and ranches with over 6 million head on feed. The all-time high was in 1942 when farmers, ranchers, and feeders had 56.2 million head on hand.

The inventory numbers dropped in the post World War II years of the late 1940's, declining to below 30 million head by 1950. Inventory numbers generally leveled off throughout the 1950's. After 1960, and throughout the 1960's and most of the 1970's, inventory numbers continued to decline to hover just below 13 million head from 1977 to 1982. Inventory numbers declined below 10 million head on January 1, 1986, to an all-time low. The industry recovered modestly to 10.8 million sheep and lambs on January 1, 1988. The inventory was valued at \$970 million, averaging near \$90 per head.

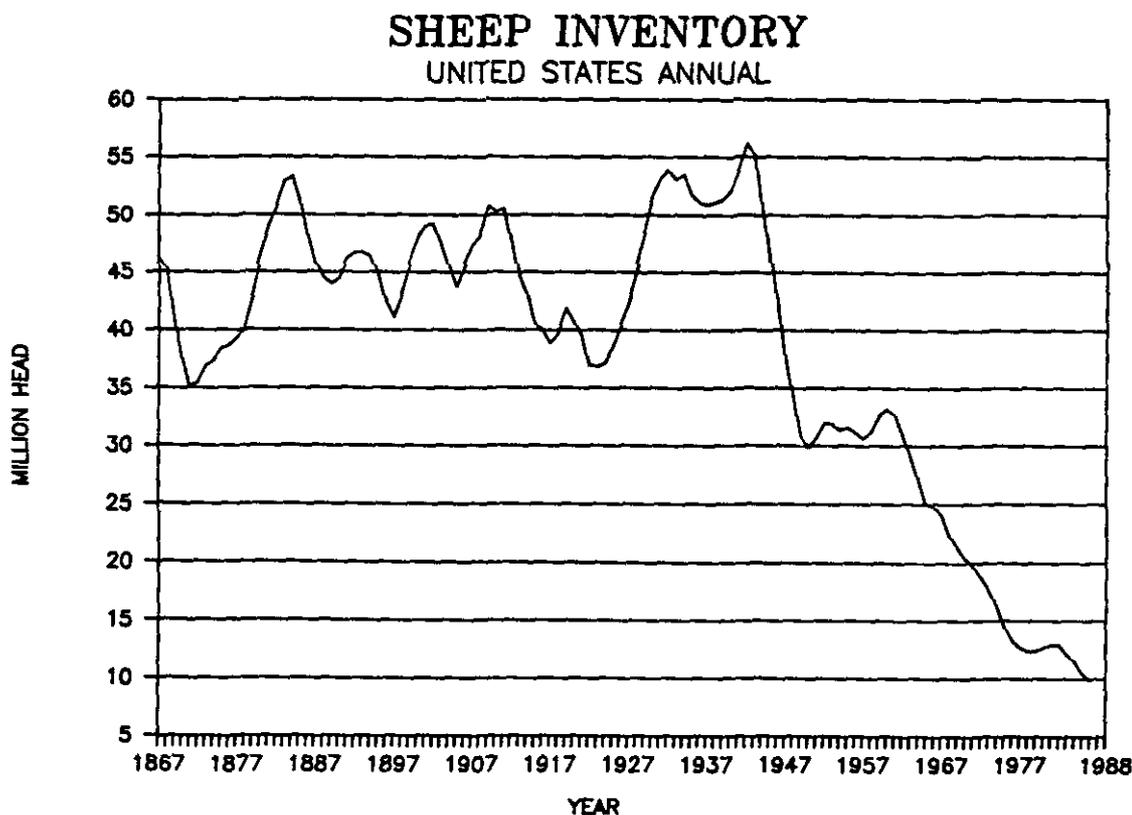
Wool production during 1987 from 11 million head shorn totaled 86 million pounds. The fleece weight was near 8 pounds per head and averaged over 90 cents per pound. The need for information concerning wool production resulted in initiation of a new series in 1909. That year nearly 45 million sheep were shorn producing 310 million pounds of wool which sold for 22 cents per pound. The fleece weight was less than 7 pounds per sheep shorn. Estimates of the inventory by class and age began in 1920 and estimates of births (lamb crop) were added in 1924.

The declining importance of sheep and lambs has been attributed to a number of causes. Primarily the decline stems from less demand for wool as more synthetics and cheaper substitute materials were introduced and the declining demand for lamb in consumer diets. Second, there has been increased difficulty in obtaining and keeping reliable herders to manage and care for range flocks, and increased competing uses for public-owned range land. Another important factor which has contributed to the decline is the increasing problem of predators in many range and farm-flock producing States. Also, relatively large imports of lamb and mutton has contributed to the decline of the domestic sheep industry.

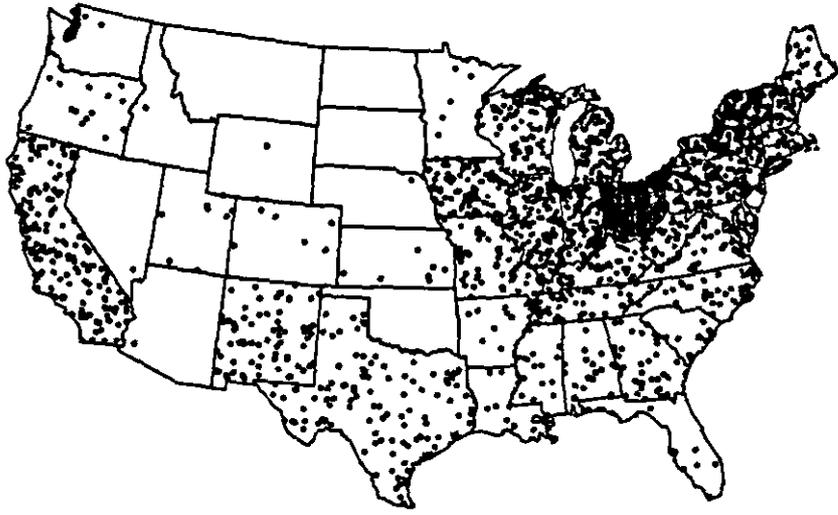
Estimates of the total sheep and lamb population by States in the year's prior to 1920 were based on interpolating annual data for years between enumerations conducted every 10 years as part of the Census of Agriculture. These interim annual estimates of change were based on reports from field agents and reporters giving their estimates of the percentage change from the previous year. During the period of the 1920's through early 1970's annual estimates were based primarily on survey returns from livestock producers, obtained mostly in cooperation with rural mail carriers.

Probability sampling procedures were initiated in 1970 with samples selected from the nearly complete list of producers stratified by size. Fully operational probability sampling principles to improve survey precision were initiated in 1987.

The survey procedures and estimates have continued to monitor the western movement of the sheep inventory. The open-range lands of the western and southwestern States were particularly inviting for sheep production. The distribution of sheep and lamb inventory shifted from the East North Central States to western States in 1890. Texas is now the leading sheep State.

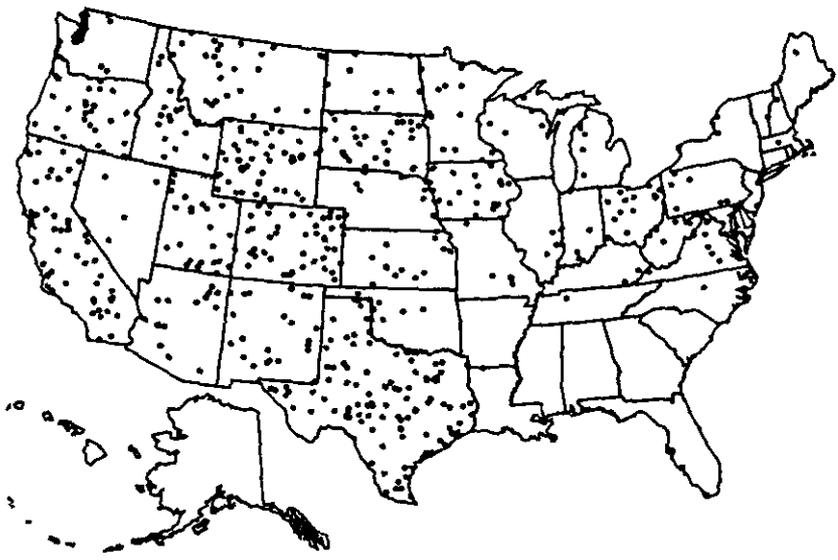


1867 SHEEP INVENTORY
UNITED STATES = 46.3 MILLION



1 Dot = 20,000 HEAD

1988 SHEEP INVENTORY
UNITED STATES = 10.8 MILLION



1 Dot = 20,000 HEAD