

Sheep and Goats



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 5 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1996, totaled 8.46 million head, down 5 percent from 1995 and 13 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs reached it's peak of 56.21 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory reached 6.22 million head on January 1, 1996, down 3 percent from 1995's 6.44 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 5.13 million head, were 3 percent below last year's record low.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1996 totaled 2.23 million head, down 9 percent from January 1, 1995. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 32 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 25 percent were over 105 pounds.

The 1995 lamb crop of 5.60 million head was down 5 percent from 1994. This compares with the previous record low of 5.90 million head set a year ago. The 1995 lambing rate was 106 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1995, compared with 102 in 1994.

The number of operations with sheep during 1995 totaled 82,120, down 6 percent from 1994 and 12 percent from 1993.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States
January 1, 1994-96

Class	1994	1995	1996	96/95
	1,000 Head			Percent
All Sheep and Lambs	*9,714	*8,886	8,457	95
Market	1/	*2,450	2,234	91
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	1/	*6,436	6,224	97
Replacement Lambs -				
Under One Year Old	1/	878	863	98
Ewes - One Year Old and Older	5,804	*5,300	5,125	97
Rams - One Year Old and Older	302	258	235	91

* Revised.

1/ Comparable data not available.

All Sheep and Lambs: Balance Sheet, United States, 1993-95 1/

Item	1993	1994	1995
	1,000 Head		
Jan 1 Inventory	10,906	*9,714	*8,886
Lamb Crop and Imports	6,409	*5,926	5,642
Total Supply	17,315	15,640	14,528
Slaughter	*5,256	*5,014	4,642
Deaths and Exports	*1,929	*1,730	1,240
Total Disappearance	7,185	6,744	5,882
Residual	-416	-10	-189
Jan 1 Inventory (End of year)	*9,714	*8,886	8,457

* Revised.

1/ Final 1994 and preliminary 1995 estimates will be published in "Meat Animals, Production, Disposition, and Income", April 11, 1996.

Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous
Year by State and United States, 1994-95

State	:Breeding Ewes 1 Year : : & Older Jan 1 :		Lambs per 100 : Ewes 1+ Jan 1 :		Lamb Crop 1/		
	: 1994 :	: 1995 :	: 1994 :	: 1995 :	: 1994 :	: 1995 :	: 95/94
	---- 1,000 Head ----		--- Percent --		--- 1,000 Head ----		Pct
AL	7.7	4.6	71	87	5.5	4.0	73
AK	1.1	.9	73	89	.8	.8	100
AZ	95.0	70.0	74	71	70.0	50.0	71
CA	400.0	430.0	91	88	365.0	380.0	104
CO	270.0	210.0	94	114	255.0	240.0	94
CT	6.0	4.8	100	135	6.0	6.5	108
ID	185.0	194.0	141	132	260.0	256.0	98
IL	65.0	55.0	131	144	85.0	79.0	93
IN	58.0	55.0	121	109	70.0	60.0	86
IA	145.0	155.0	155	148	225.0	230.0	102
KS	98.0	87.0	92	115	90.0	100.0	111
KY	18.5	16.5	119	115	22.0	19.0	86
LA	11.3	9.6	75	99	8.5	9.5	112
ME	11.5	*7.8	87	103	10.0	8.0	80
MD	21.0	14.0	76	121	16.0	17.0	106
MA	10.0	8.2	95	91	9.5	7.5	79
MI	50.0	49.0	134	137	67.0	67.0	100
MN	130.0	110.0	135	145	175.0	160.0	91
MO	60.0	53.0	122	123	73.0	65.0	89
MT	410.0	367.0	113	112	465.0	410.0	88
NE	56.0	70.0	146	137	82.0	96.0	117
NV	60.0	*61.0	103	107	62.0	65.0	105
NH	4.7	4.7	117	128	5.5	6.0	109
NJ	12.3	10.9	77	110	9.5	12.0	126
NM	260.0	210.0	77	81	200.0	170.0	85
NY	50.0	44.0	124	127	62.0	56.0	90
NC	12.8	11.4	107	92	13.7	10.5	77
ND	104.0	79.0	115	127	120.0	100.0	83
OH	120.0	107.0	110	113	132.0	121.0	92
OK	74.0	60.0	101	108	75.0	65.0	87
OR	240.0	200.0	96	110	230.0	220.0	96
PA	82.0	74.0	110	115	90.0	85.0	94
SD	378.0	355.0	112	118	425.0	420.0	99
TN	7.7	6.1	91	148	7.0	9.0	129
TX	1,180.0	1,100.0	77	83	910.0	910.0	100
UT	340.0	310.0	106	110	360.0	340.0	94
VT	13.0	14.0	138	93	18.0	13.0	72
VA	68.0	65.0	131	118	89.0	77.0	87
WA	42.0	35.0	143	143	60.0	50.0	83
WV	48.0	43.0	115	116	55.0	50.0	91
WI	52.0	53.0	*154	142	*80.0	75.0	94
WY	510.0	460.0	100	100	510.0	460.0	90
Oth							
Sts 2/	36.6	25.8	64	92	23.4	23.8	102
US	5,804.2	*5,300.3	102	106	*5,897.4	5,603.6	95

* Revised.

1/ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

2/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

All Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Class,
State, and United States, January 1, 1995-96

State	All Sheep and Lambs			Total Breeding		Total Market	
	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	1995	1996
	1,000 Head						
AL	7.0	7.0	100	5.7	5.5	1.3	1.5
AK	1.7	1.7	100	1.5	1.5	.2	.2
AZ	145.0	135.0	93	88.0	65.0	57.0	70.0
CA	1,060.0	1,000.0	94	540.0	480.0	520.0	520.0
CO	545.0	535.0	98	250.0	245.0	295.0	290.0
CT	7.0	7.0	100	5.8	6.0	1.2	1.0
ID	270.0	273.0	101	237.0	245.0	33.0	28.0
IL	83.0	79.0	95	65.0	69.0	18.0	10.0
IN	75.0	53.0	71	65.0	44.0	10.0	9.0
IA	294.0	345.0	117	184.0	200.0	110.0	145.0
KS	155.0	160.0	103	100.0	105.0	55.0	55.0
KY	27.0	20.0	74	22.5	17.0	4.5	3.0
LA	14.5	16.0	110	13.0	14.0	1.5	2.0
ME	11.0	10.0	91	10.0	8.4	1.0	1.6
MD	25.0	25.0	100	21.0	21.0	4.0	4.0
MA	11.5	9.5	83	10.0	8.4	1.5	1.1
MI	94.0	93.0	99	60.0	62.0	34.0	31.0
MN	190.0	185.0	97	140.0	135.0	50.0	50.0
MO	*83.0	73.0	88	68.0	60.0	*15.0	13.0
MT	490.0	465.0	95	450.0	430.0	40.0	35.0
NE	105.0	105.0	100	82.0	87.0	2/51.0	18.0
NV	*103.0	87.0	84	*75.0	72.0	2/	15.0
NH	7.0	7.5	107	6.1	6.8	.9	.7
NJ	16.9	18.5	109	13.9	16.0	3.0	2.5
NM	315.0	265.0	84	265.0	245.0	50.0	20.0
NY	72.0	65.0	90	58.0	55.0	14.0	10.0
NC	16.0	13.0	81	13.5	11.0	2.5	2.0
ND	127.0	125.0	98	93.0	91.0	34.0	34.0
OH	162.0	153.0	94	132.0	121.0	30.0	32.0
OK	96.0	85.0	89	70.0	65.0	26.0	20.0
OR	330.0	353.0	107	242.0	253.0	88.0	100.0
PA	110.0	107.0	97	96.0	92.0	14.0	15.0
SD	530.0	500.0	94	405.0	385.0	125.0	115.0
TN	12.5	14.5	116	8.5	10.5	4.0	4.0
TX	1,700.0	1,650.0	97	1,350.0	1,300.0	350.0	350.0
UT	445.0	395.0	89	360.0	355.0	85.0	40.0
VT	19.5	15.0	77	17.0	12.8	2.5	2.2
VA	95.0	84.0	88	77.0	67.0	18.0	17.0
WA	55.0	60.0	109	46.0	50.0	9.0	10.0
WV	60.0	55.0	92	50.0	45.0	10.0	10.0
WI	83.0	79.0	95	66.0	65.0	17.0	14.0
WY	790.0	680.0	86	538.0	560.0	252.0	120.0
Oth							
Sts 1/	47.4	48.4	102	35.5	36.6	11.9	11.8
US	*8,886.0	8,457.1	95	*6,436.0	6,223.5	*2,450.0	2,233.6

* Revised.

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

2/ Data combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Breeding Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State,
and United States, January 1, 1995-96

State	Breeding Sheep-One Year Old & Older:						Total Breeding	
	Ewes		Rams		Replacement Lambs		Sheep and Lambs	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	1,000 Head							
AL	4.6	3.7	.3	.5	.8	1.3	5.7	5.5
AK	.9	.9	.4	.4	.2	.2	1.5	1.5
AZ	70.0	54.0	3.0	3.0	15.0	8.0	88.0	65.0
CA	430.0	390.0	20.0	15.0	90.0	75.0	540.0	480.0
CO	210.0	210.0	7.0	7.0	33.0	28.0	250.0	245.0
CT	4.8	4.8	.3	.3	.7	.9	5.8	6.0
ID	194.0	201.0	5.0	5.0	38.0	39.0	237.0	245.0
IL	55.0	53.0	3.0	4.0	7.0	12.0	65.0	69.0
IN	55.0	36.0	3.0	2.0	7.0	6.0	65.0	44.0
IA	155.0	160.0	8.0	9.0	21.0	31.0	184.0	200.0
KS	87.0	90.0	5.0	5.0	8.0	10.0	100.0	105.0
KY	16.5	13.0	1.5	.8	4.5	3.2	22.5	17.0
LA	9.6	10.4	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.1	13.0	14.0
ME	*7.8	6.6	.7	.7	*1.5	1.1	10.0	8.4
MD	14.0	14.0	2.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	21.0	21.0
MA	8.2	6.8	.5	.6	1.3	1.0	10.0	8.4
MI	49.0	50.0	3.0	3.0	8.0	9.0	60.0	62.0
MN	110.0	110.0	6.0	5.0	24.0	20.0	140.0	135.0
MO	53.0	49.0	3.0	3.0	12.0	8.0	68.0	60.0
MT	367.0	347.0	12.0	11.0	71.0	72.0	450.0	430.0
NE	70.0	74.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	10.0	82.0	87.0
NV	*61.0	56.0	2.0	2.0	12.0	14.0	*75.0	72.0
NH	4.7	5.2	.4	.5	1.0	1.1	6.1	6.8
NJ	10.9	12.0	1.1	1.8	1.9	2.2	13.9	16.0
NM	210.0	205.0	15.0	10.0	40.0	30.0	265.0	245.0
NY	44.0	43.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	9.0	58.0	55.0
NC	11.4	9.0	.8	.8	1.3	1.2	13.5	11.0
ND	79.0	77.0	3.0	2.5	11.0	11.5	93.0	91.0
OH	107.0	100.0	6.5	6.0	18.5	15.0	132.0	121.0
OK	60.0	57.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	5.0	70.0	65.0
OR	200.0	205.0	12.0	13.0	30.0	35.0	242.0	253.0
PA	74.0	72.0	7.0	6.0	15.0	14.0	96.0	92.0
SD	355.0	330.0	12.0	11.0	38.0	44.0	405.0	385.0
TN	6.1	8.0	.9	1.0	1.5	1.5	8.5	10.5
TX	1,100.0	1,080.0	55.0	50.0	195.0	170.0	1,350.0	1,300.0
UT	310.0	305.0	11.0	10.0	39.0	40.0	360.0	355.0
VT	14.0	10.2	.7	.6	2.3	2.0	17.0	12.8
VA	65.0	54.0	4.0	3.0	8.0	10.0	77.0	67.0
WA	35.0	41.0	3.0	3.0	8.0	6.0	46.0	50.0
WV	43.0	37.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	6.0	50.0	45.0
WI	53.0	52.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	10.0	66.0	65.0
WY	460.0	455.0	18.0	15.0	60.0	90.0	538.0	560.0
Oth								
Sts 1/	25.8	27.5	6.1	5.8	3.6	3.3	35.5	36.6
US	*5,300.3	5,125.1	258.1	235.3	*877.6	863.1	*6,436.0	6,223.5

* Revised.

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

Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group by State
and United States, January 1, 1995

State	Market Lambs				Total	Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Lbs.	85 to 105 Lbs.	Over 105 Lbs.			
	1,000 Head						
AL	.4	.3	.4	.1	1.2	.1	1.3
AK	1/	1/	.2	1/	.2	.0	.2
AZ	15.0	16.0	22.0	2.0	55.0	2.0	57.0
CA	250.0	110.0	95.0	45.0	500.0	20.0	520.0
CO	5.0	35.0	115.0	135.0	290.0	5.0	295.0
CT	.5	.2	3/.2	3/	.9	.3	1.2
ID	8.0	1.0	8.0	16.0	33.0	.0	33.0
IL	8.5	2.1	4.0	2.4	17.0	1.0	18.0
IN	2.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
IA	6.0	12.0	48.0	39.0	105.0	5.0	110.0
KS	22.0	8.0	15.0	7.0	52.0	3.0	55.0
KY	2.0	.3	.5	1.0	3.8	.7	4.5
LA	.8	.2	.2	.2	1.4	.1	1.5
ME	.5	.1	.1	.2	.9	.1	1.0
MD	2.8	.7	.1	.1	3.7	.3	4.0
MA	.6	.4	.4	1/	1.4	.1	1.5
MI	6.0	8.0	11.0	8.5	33.5	.5	34.0
MN	4.0	6.0	18.0	20.0	48.0	2.0	50.0
MO	*3.5	*1.0	*5.5	4.0	*14.0	1.0	*15.0
MT	2.0	14.0	18.0	5.0	39.0	1.0	40.0
NE	3.0	3.0	8.0	5.0	19.0	4.0	3/51.0
NV	2.0	12.0	11.0	2.0	27.0	1.0	3/
NH	.4	.1	1/	1/	.5	.4	.9
NJ	1.5	.3	3/.6	3/	2.4	.6	3.0
NM	2.0	5.0	37.0	3.0	47.0	3.0	50.0
NY	6.0	2.0	4.0	1.0	13.0	1.0	14.0
NC	1.0	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.9	2.5
ND	1.0	5.0	12.5	14.5	33.0	1.0	34.0
OH	8.0	8.5	7.5	5.0	29.0	1.0	30.0
OK	18.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	25.0	1.0	26.0
OR	8.0	23.0	44.0	11.0	86.0	2.0	88.0
PA	5.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	11.0	3.0	14.0
SD	11.0	15.0	45.0	47.0	118.0	7.0	125.0
TN	1.2	.5	.5	.2	2.4	1.6	4.0
TX	150.0	75.0	85.0	30.0	340.0	10.0	350.0
UT	1.0	2.0	40.0	27.0	70.0	15.0	85.0
VT	.7	.4	.7	.5	2.3	.2	2.5
VA	4.0	4.0	6.5	2.5	17.0	1.0	18.0
WA	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	9.0	.0	9.0
WV	1.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	10.0	.0	10.0
WI	4.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	16.0	1.0	17.0
WY	10.0	25.0	100.0	114.0	249.0	3.0	252.0
Oth							
Sts 2/	5.1	2.3	1.3	.7	9.4	2.5	11.9
US	*586.5	*418.8	*782.3	*559.0	*2,346.6	103.4	*2,450.0

* Revised.

1/ Less than 100 head.

2/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

3/ Data combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group by State
and United States, January 1, 1996

Market Lambs							
State	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Lbs.	85 to 105 Lbs.	Over 105 Lbs.	Total	Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
1,000 Head							
AL	.7	.2	3/.4	3/	1.3	.2	1.5
AK	.0	.0	.2	.0	.2	.0	.2
AZ	28.0	8.0	31.0	2.0	69.0	1.0	70.0
CA	220.0	80.0	110.0	90.0	500.0	20.0	520.0
CO	3.0	40.0	100.0	145.0	288.0	2.0	290.0
CT	.4	.1	.1	.0	.6	.4	1.0
ID	6.0	1.0	13.0	7.0	27.0	1.0	28.0
IL	3.0	1.5	2.5	2.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
IN	1.5	1.0	4.5	1.0	8.0	1.0	9.0
IA	17.0	18.0	56.0	53.0	144.0	1.0	145.0
KS	24.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	51.0	4.0	55.0
KY	1.5	.4	.4	.1	2.4	.6	3.0
LA	1.1	.3	.2	.2	1.8	.2	2.0
ME	.4	.4	.2	.1	1.1	.5	1.6
MD	2.6	.8	.2	.1	3.7	.3	4.0
MA	.6	3/	3/	3/.1	.7	.4	1.1
MI	5.0	9.0	10.0	6.0	30.0	1.0	31.0
MN	7.0	8.0	15.0	18.0	48.0	2.0	50.0
MO	5.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	12.0	1.0	13.0
MT	2.0	9.0	15.0	7.0	33.0	2.0	35.0
NE	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	17.0	1.0	18.0
NV	.0	.0	14.0	1.0	15.0	.0	15.0
NH	.2	.1	.2	.0	.5	.2	.7
NJ	.7	.9	.4	.2	2.2	.3	2.5
NM	6.0	7.0	6.0	.0	19.0	1.0	20.0
NY	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
NC	1.2	.2	3/.3	3/	1.7	.3	2.0
ND	1.5	3.5	15.5	12.5	33.0	1.0	34.0
OH	11.0	7.0	9.0	4.0	31.0	1.0	32.0
OK	12.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	19.0	1.0	20.0
OR	19.0	12.0	43.0	24.0	98.0	2.0	100.0
PA	6.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	12.0	3.0	15.0
SD	6.0	22.0	46.0	39.0	113.0	2.0	115.0
TN	1.7	.5	.6	.2	3.0	1.0	4.0
TX	145.0	70.0	80.0	40.0	335.0	15.0	350.0
UT	1.0	3.0	11.0	18.0	33.0	7.0	40.0
VT	.2	.2	.5	.9	1.8	.4	2.2
VA	6.5	3.5	4.5	2.0	16.5	.5	17.0
WA	5.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	10.0	1/	10.0
WV	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	10.0	.0	10.0
WI	3.0	4.0	3.5	3.0	13.5	.5	14.0
WY	1.0	9.0	67.0	42.0	119.0	1.0	120.0
Oth							
Sts 2/	4.6	1.9	1.7	.3	8.5	3.3	11.8
US	572.4	348.5	690.9	539.7	2,151.5	82.1	2,233.6

1/ Less than 100 head.

2/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

3/ Data combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Sheep and Lambs: January 1, 1992-95

State	Operations with Sheep			
	1992	1993	1994	1995
	Number			
AL	350	340	340	310
AK	40	40	40	40
AZ	450	450	450	450
CA	5,300	5,200	5,000	4,800
CO	1,900	1,800	*1,600	1,300
CT	450	470	480	450
ID	1,600	1,400	1,400	1,300
IL	4,000	3,700	3,700	3,500
IN	3,500	3,300	3,200	3,200
IA	7,500	7,000	6,500	6,300
KS	2,400	2,400	2,300	1,900
KY	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
LA	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,000
ME	650	670	700	620
MD	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,000
MA	650	650	600	550
MI	2,400	2,300	2,100	2,000
MN	4,800	4,000	3,600	3,500
MO	3,300	3,100	2,900	2,800
MT	2,500	2,500	2,300	2,200
NE	2,600	2,200	1,700	1,800
NV	350	350	*350	350
NH	500	480	540	480
NJ	800	900	900	850
NM	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,000
NY	1,900	2,000	1,800	1,700
NC	600	600	600	600
ND	1,800	1,700	1,400	1,200
OH	5,500	5,200	5,200	5,000
OK	2,300	2,300	2,000	1,700
OR	3,900	3,500	3,200	2,600
PA	3,400	3,400	3,300	3,200
SD	4,000	3,900	3,500	3,000
TN	650	650	650	650
TX	8,000	7,800	7,600	7,300
UT	2,300	2,100	2,000	1,900
VT	750	700	*720	750
VA	2,200	2,100	1,800	1,600
WA	2,200	2,000	1,500	1,500
WV	1,800	1,700	1,500	1,600
WI	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400
WY	1,500	1,500	*1,200	1,100
Oth				
Sts 1/	1,850	1,780	1,780	1,620
US	97,890	93,280	*87,150	82,120

* Revised.

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

Breeding Sheep: Survey Percent of Operations by Size Group,
Native States, Western States, and United States, 1995-96 1/

Regions	Operations Having							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Percent							
Native States	94.7	94.9	4.9	4.7	.4	.4	2/	2/
Western States	84.1	82.8	10.4	11.8	5.2	5.1	.3	.3
US	91.3	90.9	6.7	7.0	2.0	2.0	.1	.1

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

2/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Breeding Sheep: Survey Percent of Inventory by Size Group,
Native States, Western States, and United States, 1995-96 1/

		Inventory on Operations Having							
Regions	:	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	:	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
		Percent							
Native States	:	55.2	58.4	29.4	29.5	13.8	11.1	1.6	1.0
Western States	:	10.5	10.4	15.8	16.5	53.5	53.9	20.2	19.2
US	:	24.1	25.0	19.9	20.4	41.4	40.9	14.6	13.7

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

All Goats: Inventory, Texas, January 1, 1993-96

Year :	Number
:	1,000 Head
:	
1993 :	1,960
1994 :	1,960
1995 :	*1,850
1996 :	1,900

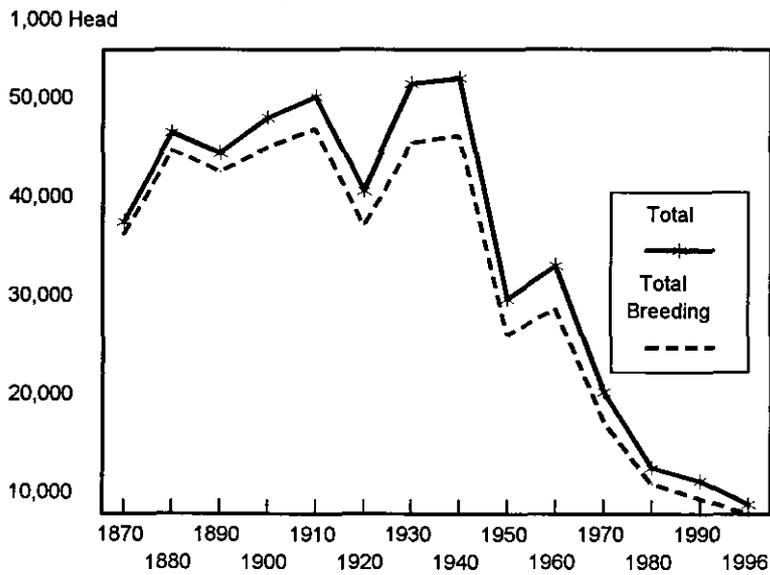
* Revised.

Angora Goats: Inventory, 5 States and Total, January 1, 1994-96

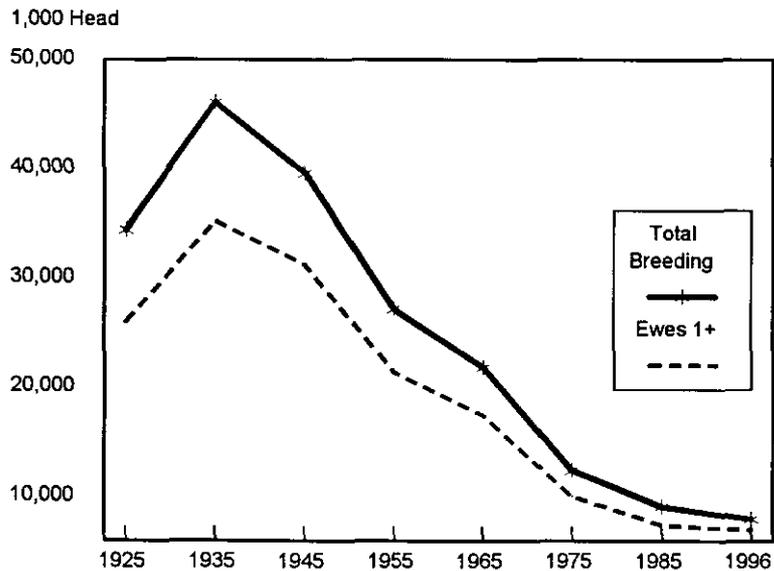
State :	Number				
:	1994	:	1995	:	1996
:	1,000 Head				
:					
AZ :	82		52		80
MI :	5		4		4
NM :	110		85		85
OK :	40		15		15
TX :	1,490		*1,250		1,250
:					
Total :	1,727		*1,406		1,434

* Revised.

Sheep and Lambs 1870-1996 United States

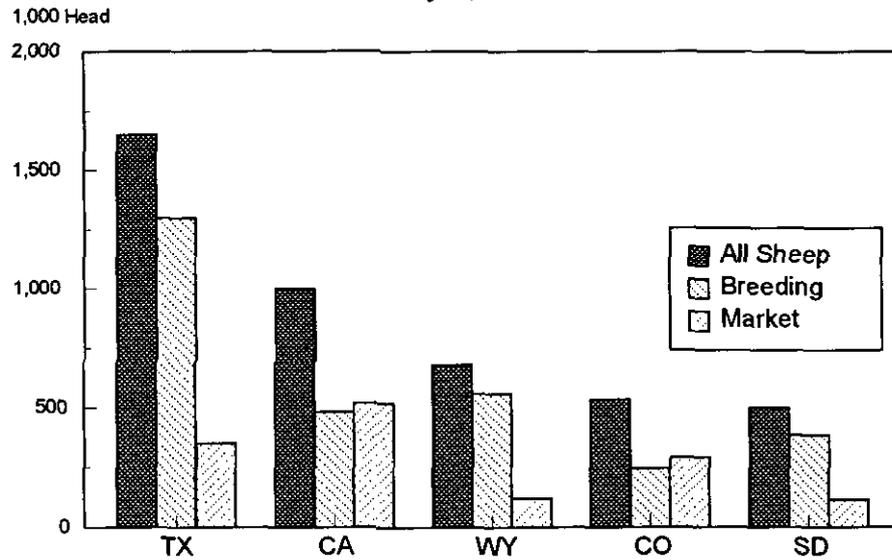


Total Breeding and Ewes 1 + 1925-1996 United States



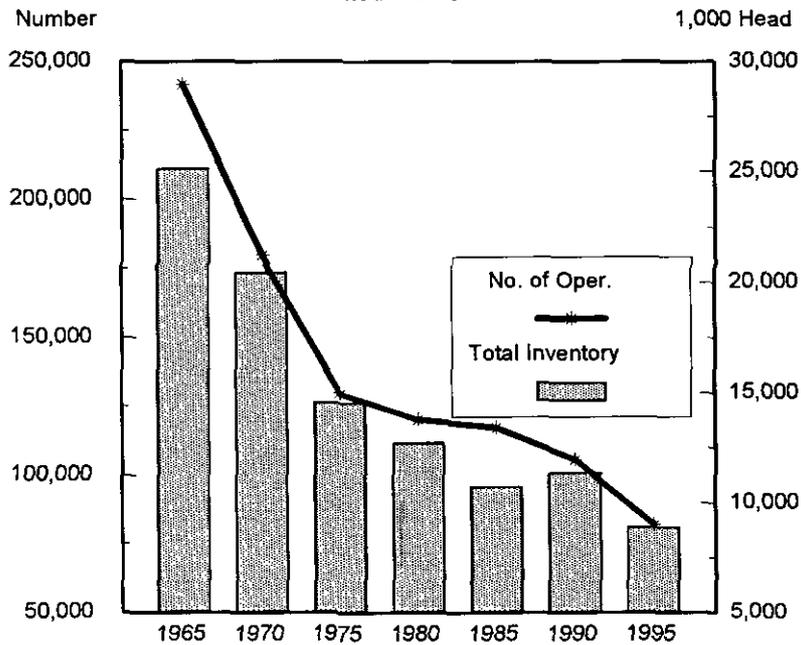
Total Inventory

Top Five Sheep and Lamb Producing States
January 1, 1996



Number of Operations and Total Inventory

1965-95
United States



Reliability of January 1 Sheep and Goat 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. About 18,000 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 88 percent of the reports were usable. 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 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. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates were reviewed after data from the Department of Commerce's five-year Census of Agriculture were made 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 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 the first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for sheep and lamb inventory estimates over the past 11 years is 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.5 million head by more than 1.0 percent, or about 85,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.2 percent, or about 101,500 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 11-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 11 years have averaged 78,200 head, ranging from 6,800 to 272,800 head. The inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 5 times and above the latest estimate 6 times in the last 11 years.

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

Item	Square Error	Confidence Level	Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Above Latest	Below Latest
All Sheep & Lambs	1.0	1.2	101.5	78.2	6.8	272.8	5 6
Brdng Sheep	1.9	2.2	136.9	86.7	4.0	371.0	5 6
Brdng Ewes	2.7	3.2	164.0	26.9	3.7	479.7	5 6
Lamb Crop	2.8	3.3	184.9	41.2	18.0	416.8	6 5

1/ Based on data from 1985 through 1995.

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The next "**Sheep and Goats**" report will be released in January 1997.

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