

Released January 30, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Sheep and Goats" call Scott Hollis at 202-720-4751, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Update Alert

Page 10, Oregon was inadvertently excluded from U.S. Value of Wool Production; thereby constituting a change to U.S. Wool price per pound.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

All goat inventory in Texas on January 1, 2004 totaled 1.2 million head, unchanged from 2003 and 4 percent below two years ago.

Mohair production in the three major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) during 2003 was 1.88 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2002. Goats and kids clipped, at 248,000 head, were down 12 percent from 2002. Average weight per clip was 7.6 pounds compared with 7.7 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$3.1 million dollars, down 9 percent from 2002.

Special Note

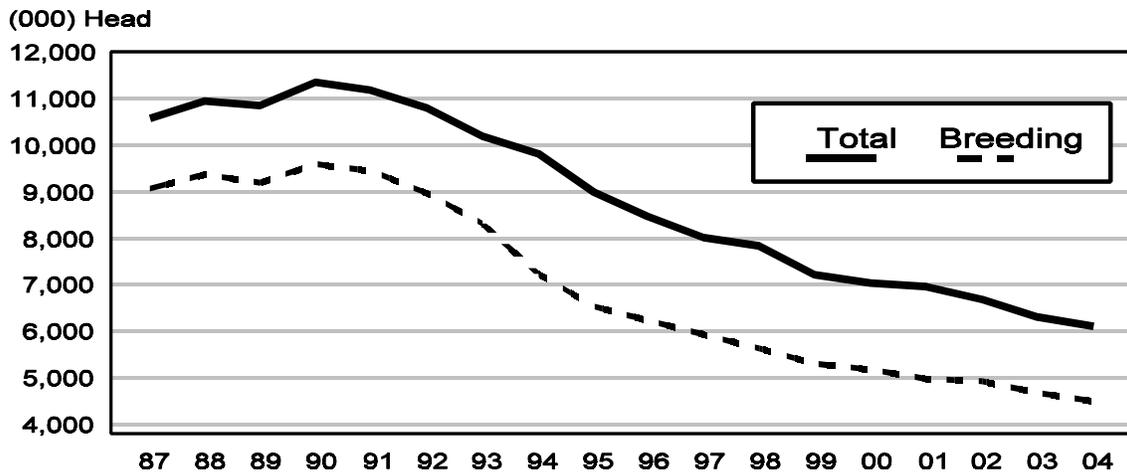
Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2004 and revised 2003 estimates included in this publication. Although no significant revisions were made to the U.S. level estimates, States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series until the release of the 5-year *Final Estimates* publications which are scheduled for April 30, 2004.

**Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States,
January 1, 2002-2004¹**

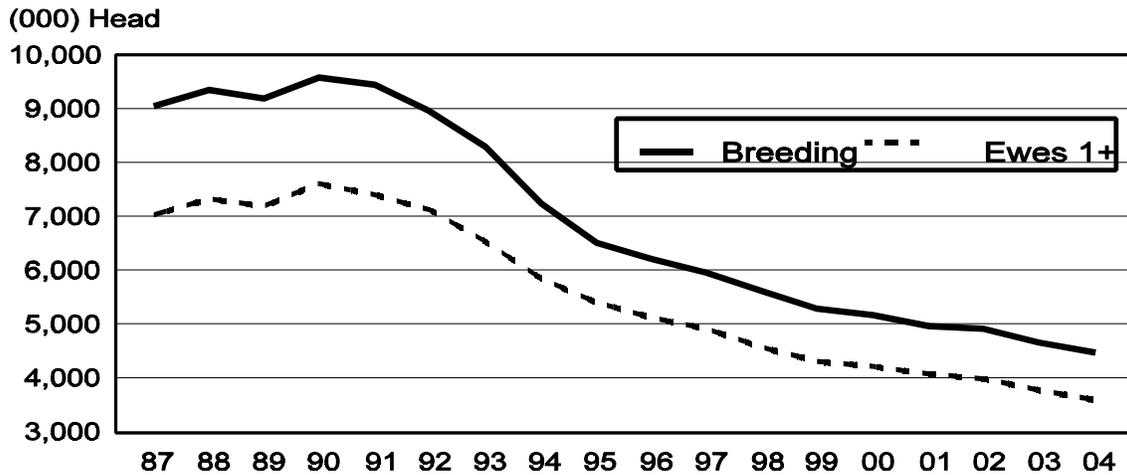
Class	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Sheep and Lambs	6,685	6,300	6,090	97
Market	1,772	1,642	1,610	98
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	4,913	4,658	4,480	96
Replacement Lambs - Under One Year Old	734	695	691	99
Ewes - One Year Old and Older	3,980	3,770	3,601	96
Rams - One Year Old and Older	200	193	189	98

¹ May not add due to rounding.

**Sheep and Lambs, 1987-2004
United States**



**Total Breeding and Ewes 1+, 1987-2004
United States**

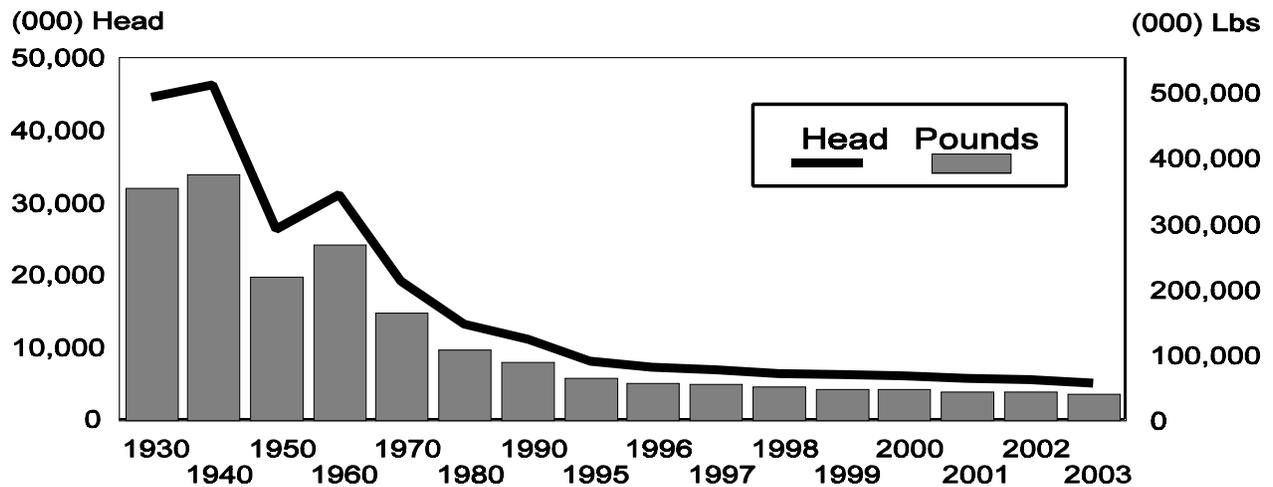


Wool: Production, Price, and Value, United States, 2001-2003

Year	Sheep Shorn ¹	Weight per Fleece	Shorn Wool Production	Price per Pound	Value
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
2001	5,689	7.56	43,016	0.36	15,311
2002	5,476	7.55	41,322	0.53	21,876
2003	5,057	7.54	38,114	0.72	27,408

¹ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.

Sheep & Lambs Shorn & Wool Production 1930-2003
United States



**All Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class,
State, and United States, January 1, 2003-2004**

State	All Sheep and Lambs			Total Breeding		Total Market	
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	115.0	114.0	99	57.0	57.0	58.0	57.0
CA	730.0	680.0	93	350.0	325.0	380.0	355.0
CO	380.0	360.0	95	185.0	170.0	195.0	190.0
ID	260.0	260.0	100	225.0	225.0	35.0	35.0
IL	68.0	63.0	93	56.0	53.0	12.0	10.0
IN	50.0	45.0	90	45.0	40.0	5.0	5.0
IA	255.0	250.0	98	175.0	180.0	80.0	70.0
KS	90.0	100.0	111	56.0	64.0	34.0	36.0
MI	85.0	83.0	98	63.0	59.0	22.0	24.0
MN	145.0	140.0	97	105.0	100.0	40.0	40.0
MO	67.0	60.0	90	60.0	54.0	7.0	6.0
MT	310.0	300.0	97	280.0	280.0	30.0	20.0
NE	97.0	102.0	105	77.0	81.0	20.0	21.0
NV	80.0	75.0	94	70.0	64.0	10.0	11.0
N ENG ¹	47.0	43.0	91	40.0	37.0	7.0	6.0
NM	175.0	160.0	91	140.0	133.0	35.0	27.0
NY	72.0	70.0	97	55.0	54.0	17.0	16.0
ND	115.0	97.0	84	84.0	71.0	31.0	26.0
OH	150.0	140.0	93	125.0	119.0	25.0	21.0
OK	75.0	70.0	93	60.0	55.0	15.0	15.0
OR	235.0	215.0	91	157.0	145.0	78.0	70.0
PA	95.0	85.0	89	82.0	71.0	13.0	14.0
SD	380.0	370.0	97	315.0	290.0	65.0	80.0
TX	1,040.0	1,100.0	106	820.0	840.0	220.0	260.0
UT	310.0	265.0	85	280.0	235.0	30.0	30.0
VA	62.0	55.0	89	48.0	43.0	14.0	12.0
WA	55.0	46.0	84	46.0	40.0	9.0	6.0
WV	34.0	34.0	100	29.0	30.0	5.0	4.0
WI	83.0	83.0	100	68.0	68.0	15.0	15.0
WY	460.0	430.0	93	360.0	340.0	100.0	90.0
Oth Sts ²	180.0	195.0	108	145.0	157.0	35.0	38.0
US	6,300.0	6,090.0	97	4,658.0	4,480.0	1,642.0	1,610.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

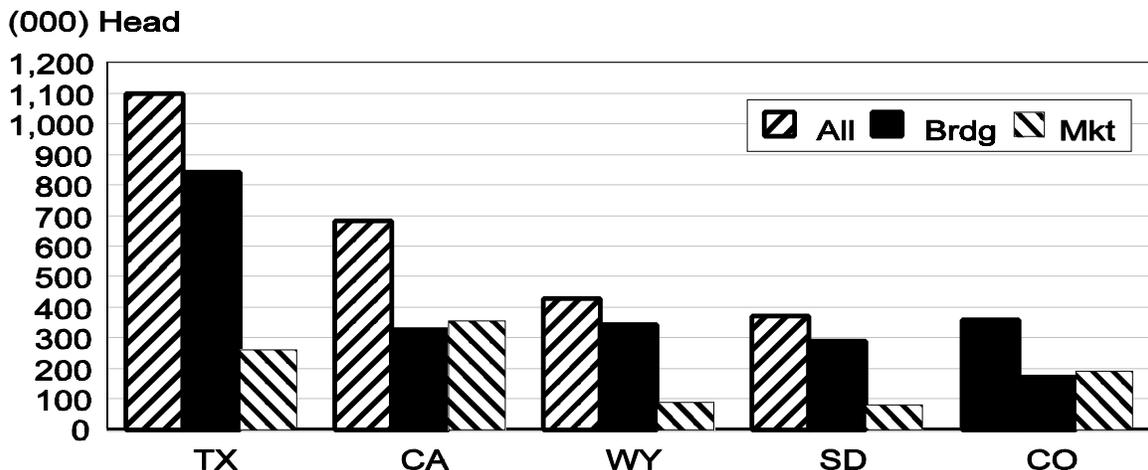
**Breeding Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State,
and United States, January 1, 2003-2004**

State	Breeding Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Replacement Lambs		Total Breeding Sheep and Lambs	
	Ewes		Rams		2003	2004	2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004				
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	49.0	48.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	6.0	57.0	57.0
CA	290.0	275.0	10.0	10.0	50.0	40.0	350.0	325.0
CO	155.0	139.0	6.0	5.0	24.0	26.0	185.0	170.0
ID	184.0	184.0	5.0	5.0	36.0	36.0	225.0	225.0
IL	42.0	40.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	10.0	56.0	53.0
IN	34.0	30.0	2.5	3.0	8.5	7.0	45.0	40.0
IA	140.0	147.0	7.0	7.0	28.0	26.0	175.0	180.0
KS	47.0	53.0	2.5	2.5	6.5	8.5	56.0	64.0
MI	48.0	43.0	3.0	3.0	12.0	13.0	63.0	59.0
MN	85.0	80.0	5.0	5.0	15.0	15.0	105.0	100.0
MO	48.0	45.0	3.0	2.5	9.0	6.5	60.0	54.0
MT	220.0	220.0	8.0	7.0	52.0	53.0	280.0	280.0
NE	63.0	67.0	3.0	4.0	11.0	10.0	77.0	81.0
NV	55.0	52.0	2.0	2.0	13.0	10.0	70.0	64.0
N ENG ¹	29.0	28.0	3.0	2.0	8.0	7.0	40.0	37.0
NM	115.0	108.0	7.0	7.0	18.0	18.0	140.0	133.0
NY	42.0	41.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	10.0	55.0	54.0
ND	71.0	57.0	2.5	2.0	10.5	12.0	84.0	71.0
OH	97.0	94.0	6.0	5.0	22.0	20.0	125.0	119.0
OK	48.0	43.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	9.0	60.0	55.0
OR	125.0	112.0	7.0	7.0	25.0	26.0	157.0	145.0
PA	64.0	55.0	6.0	5.0	12.0	11.0	82.0	71.0
SD	265.0	240.0	10.0	9.0	40.0	41.0	315.0	290.0
TX	660.0	675.0	40.0	45.0	120.0	120.0	820.0	840.0
UT	240.0	195.0	9.0	7.0	31.0	33.0	280.0	235.0
VA	38.0	34.0	3.5	2.5	6.5	6.5	48.0	43.0
WA	37.0	32.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	6.0	46.0	40.0
WV	23.0	25.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	29.0	30.0
WI	53.0	52.0	3.0	3.0	12.0	13.0	68.0	68.0
WY	295.0	270.0	10.0	9.0	55.0	61.0	360.0	340.0
Oth Sts ²	108.0	117.0	14.0	14.0	23.0	26.0	145.0	157.0
US	3,770.0	3,601.0	193.0	188.5	695.0	690.5	4,658.0	4,480.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Total Inventory, January 1, 2004
Top Five Sheep & Lamb Producing States**



Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous Year, by State, and United States, 2002-2003

State	Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop ¹		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	57.0	49.0	60	69	34.0	34.0	100
CA	310.0	290.0	90	90	280.0	260.0	93
CO	170.0	155.0	118	116	200.0	180.0	90
ID	184.0	184.0	130	130	240.0	240.0	100
IL	44.0	42.0	134	136	59.0	57.0	97
IN	39.0	34.0	121	118	47.0	40.0	85
IA	142.0	140.0	151	157	215.0	220.0	102
KS	53.0	47.0	117	140	62.0	66.0	106
MI	40.0	48.0	150	125	60.0	60.0	100
MN	95.0	85.0	153	159	145.0	135.0	93
MO	46.0	48.0	130	115	60.0	55.0	92
MT	232.0	220.0	127	127	295.0	280.0	95
NE	58.0	63.0	145	140	84.0	88.0	105
NV	69.0	55.0	90	109	62.0	60.0	97
N ENG ²	32.0	29.0	119	117	38.0	34.0	89
NM	150.0	115.0	67	86	100.0	99.0	99
NY	40.0	42.0	128	121	51.0	51.0	100
ND	85.0	71.0	118	113	100.0	80.0	80
OH	93.0	97.0	145	135	135.0	131.0	97
OK	36.0	48.0	144	100	52.0	48.0	92
OR	134.0	125.0	112	112	150.0	140.0	93
PA	55.0	64.0	153	130	84.0	83.0	99
SD	265.0	265.0	123	113	325.0	300.0	92
TX	720.0	660.0	75	79	540.0	520.0	96
UT	275.0	240.0	100	100	275.0	240.0	87
VA	37.0	38.0	149	113	55.0	43.0	78
WA	36.0	37.0	164	149	59.0	55.0	93
WV	24.0	23.0	138	143	33.0	33.0	100
WI	52.0	53.0	140	140	73.0	74.0	101
WY	320.0	295.0	106	105	340.0	310.0	91
Oth Sts ³	87.0	108.0	120	96	104.0	104.0	100
US	3,980.0	3,770.0	109	109	4,357.0	4,120.0	95

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

² N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

³ Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, January 1, 2003**

State	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Pounds	85 to 105 Pounds	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
AZ	11.0	16.0	17.0	12.0	56.0	2.0	58.0
CA	150.0	80.0	95.0	45.0	370.0	10.0	380.0
CO	2.0	5.0	32.0	155.0	194.0	1.0	195.0
ID	11.0	2.0	6.0	14.0	33.0	2.0	35.0
IL	5.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	11.0	1.0	12.0
IN	1.1	0.9	1.8	0.9	4.7	0.3	5.0
IA	9.0	7.0	20.0	41.0	77.0	3.0	80.0
KS	14.5	3.5	6.5	6.5	31.0	3.0	34.0
MI	3.0	3.0	6.0	9.0	21.0	1.0	22.0
MN	9.0	8.0	11.0	11.0	39.0	1.0	40.0
MO	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	6.5	0.5	7.0
MT	2.0	6.0	17.0	4.0	29.0	1.0	30.0
NE	3.0	2.0	4.0	10.0	19.0	1.0	20.0
NV		1.0	3.0	5.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
N ENG ¹	2.2	1.6	1.2	0.5	5.5	1.5	7.0
NM	9.0	11.0	11.0	2.0	33.0	2.0	35.0
NY	10.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	16.0	1.0	17.0
ND	2.5	4.5	11.5	11.5	30.0	1.0	31.0
OH	10.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	24.0	1.0	25.0
OK	6.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
OR	12.0	14.0	29.0	21.0	76.0	2.0	78.0
PA	6.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	11.0	2.0	13.0
SD	4.0	7.0	17.0	33.0	61.0	4.0	65.0
TX	130.0	40.0	25.0	15.0	210.0	10.0	220.0
UT	0.2	0.3	7.5	21.0	29.0	1.0	30.0
VA	4.5	3.5	3.5	1.5	13.0	1.0	14.0
WA	1.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	8.5	0.5	9.0
WV	2.0	0.5	1.0	0.5	4.0	1.0	5.0
WI	2.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
WY	2.0	17.0	43.0	36.0	98.0	2.0	100.0
Oth Sts ²	15.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	28.0	7.0	35.0
US	441.0	266.3	393.0	474.9	1,575.2	66.8	1,642.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, January 1, 2004**

State	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Pounds	85 to 105 Pounds	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
AZ	11.0	15.0	16.0	13.0	55.0	2.0	57.0
CA	145.0	70.0	95.0	35.0	345.0	10.0	355.0
CO	2.0	4.0	18.0	165.0	189.0	1.0	190.0
ID	11.0	1.0	8.0	14.0	34.0	1.0	35.0
IL	4.0	1.0	1.0	3.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
IN	2.0	0.4	1.4	0.7	4.5	0.5	5.0
IA	8.0	10.0	28.0	22.0	68.0	2.0	70.0
KS	17.0	3.0	5.5	7.5	33.0	3.0	36.0
MI	5.0	4.0	4.0	9.0	22.0	2.0	24.0
MN	8.0	10.0	12.0	9.0	39.0	1.0	40.0
MO	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	5.5	0.5	6.0
MT	1.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	18.0	2.0	20.0
NE	4.0	2.0	4.0	10.0	20.0	1.0	21.0
NV		1.0	2.0	7.0	10.0	1.0	11.0
N ENG ¹	1.9	1.1	1.1	0.4	4.5	1.5	6.0
NM	6.0	8.0	8.0	3.0	25.0	2.0	27.0
NY	10.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	15.0	1.0	16.0
ND	3.0	4.0	11.0	7.0	25.0	1.0	26.0
OH	5.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	1.0	21.0
OK	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
OR	11.0	12.0	26.0	20.0	69.0	1.0	70.0
PA	7.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	12.0	2.0	14.0
SD	4.0	4.0	20.0	51.0	79.0	1.0	80.0
TX	130.0	50.0	40.0	30.0	250.0	10.0	260.0
UT	2.0	2.0	6.0	15.0	25.0	5.0	30.0
VA	4.0	3.0	2.5	1.5	11.0	1.0	12.0
WA	0.6	1.5	0.9	2.7	5.7	0.3	6.0
WV	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.5	3.5	0.5	4.0
WI	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	13.0	2.0	15.0
WY	2.0	18.0	29.0	40.0	89.0	1.0	90.0
Oth Sts ²	16.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	30.0	8.0	38.0
US	433.0	255.5	367.4	486.8	1,542.7	67.3	1,610.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Wool: Number of Sheep and Lambs Shorn, Weight per Fleece,
and Production by State, and United States, 2002-2003**

State	Sheep Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AZ	109.0	102.0	6.1	6.1	660	620
CA	510.0	500.0	7.1	7.0	3,600	3,500
CO	460.0	360.0	6.7	7.2	3,070	2,580
ID	217.0	217.0	9.7	9.7	2,115	2,115
IL	65.0	58.0	6.6	6.8	430	395
IN	42.0	40.0	6.7	6.8	280	270
IA	220.0	240.0	5.9	5.7	1,300	1,360
KS	73.0	80.0	7.2	7.0	525	560
MI	78.0	77.0	6.1	6.2	475	475
MN	150.0	140.0	6.8	6.8	1,020	950
MO	59.0	53.0	6.7	7.0	395	370
MT	289.0	272.0	9.6	9.5	2,788	2,597
NE	87.0	88.0	7.4	7.2	640	630
NV	65.0	55.0	9.1	8.4	590	460
N ENG ¹	40.0	37.0	7.1	7.0	283	260
NM	175.0	160.0	8.1	7.8	1,410	1,240
NY	51.0	48.0	6.9	6.7	350	320
ND	93.0	70.0	8.5	9.3	790	650
OH	155.0	144.0	7.1	6.4	1,100	920
OK	60.0	50.0	6.8	6.3	410	315
OR	200.0	178.0	6.3	6.8	1,250	1,210
PA	63.0	61.0	6.8	6.7	430	410
SD	375.0	330.0	8.3	8.0	3,105	2,625
TX	850.0	800.0	7.0	7.0	5,950	5,600
UT	280.0	240.0	9.5	9.3	2,650	2,230
VA	40.0	36.0	6.4	6.1	255	220
WA	44.0	36.0	8.1	8.1	357	292
WV	28.0	28.0	6.2	5.7	174	160
WI	67.0	67.0	7.2	7.2	480	480
WY	420.0	390.0	8.9	9.4	3,750	3,650
Oth Sts ²	111.0	100.0	6.2	6.5	690	650
US	5,476.0	5,057.0	7.5	7.5	41,322	38,114

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

Wool: Price and Value by State and United States, 2002-2003

State	Price per Pound		Value ¹	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AZ	0.32	0.34	211	211
CA	0.45	0.79	1,620	2,765
CO	0.57	0.74	1,750	1,909
ID	0.67	0.86	1,417	1,819
IL	0.23	0.23	99	91
IN	0.16	0.19	45	51
IA	0.18	0.29	234	394
KS	0.30	0.45	158	252
MI	0.14	0.30	67	143
MN	0.20	0.30	204	285
MO	0.20	0.42	79	155
MT	0.76	1.03	2,119	2,675
NE	0.30	0.35	192	221
NV	0.85	0.95	502	437
N ENG ²	0.40	0.35	113	91
NM	0.80	1.10	1,128	1,364
NY	0.20	0.27	70	86
ND	0.60	0.60	474	390
OH	0.15	0.23	165	212
OK	0.25	0.40	103	126
OR	0.38	0.58	475	702
PA	0.25	0.27	108	111
SD	0.45	0.76	1,397	1,995
TX	0.68	0.90	4,046	5,040
UT	0.60	0.80	1,590	1,784
VA	0.26	0.33	66	73
WA	0.47	0.63	168	184
WV	0.22	0.28	38	45
WI	0.15	0.25	72	120
WY	0.73	1.10	2,738	4,015
Oth Sts ³	0.62	0.56	428	364
US	0.53	0.74	21,876	28,110

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. U.S. value is summation of State values.

² N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

³ Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

Goats: Inventory, Selected States, and Total, January 1, 2003-2004

State	Angora		All Goats	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	30	30		
NM	15	10		
TX	240	220	1,200	1,200
3 Sts	285	260	1,200	1,200

**Mohair: Production, Price, and Value by Selected States
and 3-State Total, 2002-2003**

State	Goats Clipped		Average Clip per Goat		Production		Price per Pound		Value ¹	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AZ	28	28	5.0	5.0	140	140	1.40	1.40	196	196
NM	15	10	6.0	6.0	90	60	1.40	1.25	126	75
TX	240	210	8.1	8.0	1,944	1,680	1.60	1.70	3,110	2,856
3 Sts	283	248	7.7	7.6	2,174	1,880	1.58	1.66	3,432	3,127

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price for individual States. Three-State value is summation of State values.

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 13,000 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone and face-to-face personal interview and 85 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. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness and with estimates from past years. A projected balance sheet for calendar year 2003 was also used. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, 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 will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Agriculture'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 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 10 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 6.09 million head by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for sheep shorn over the past 10 years is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 5.1 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 percent.

Also shown in the table is a 10-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 10 years have averaged 64,000 head, ranging from 0 to 209,000 head. The initial inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 7 times and above the latest estimate 2 times in the last 10 years.

For Sheep and Lambs Shorn, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 30,000 head, ranging from 0 to 72,000 head. The initial inventory estimate of Sheep and Lambs Shorn has been below the latest estimate 6 times and above 3 times in the last 10 years.

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

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates ¹			Number of Years	
		Percent	(000) Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Sheep & Lambs	1.1	2.0	121.8	64	0	209	2	7
Breeding Sheep	0.7	1.4	62.7	31	0	78	3	6
Lamb Crop	1.0	1.8	74.2	36	0	112	2	6
Sheep Shorn	0.6	1.0	50.6	30	0	72	3	6
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Wool Prod	0.4	0.7	266.8	154	0	510	4	5

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

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The next "*Sheep and Goats*" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on July 23, 2004.

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