

Sheep and Goats



USDA
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Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 6 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1997, totaled 7.94 million head, down 6 percent from 1996 and 11 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.

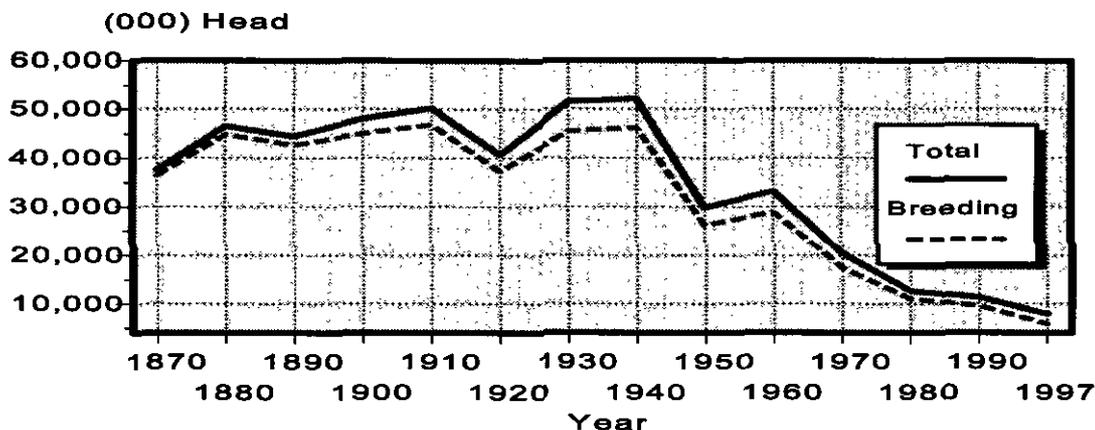
Breeding sheep inventory reached 5.85 million head on January 1, 1997, down 6 percent from 1996's 6.23 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.84 million head, were 6 percent below last year's record low.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1997 totaled 2.09 million head, down 7 percent from January 1, 1996. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-three percent were under 65 pounds, 18 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 31 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 24 percent were over 105 pounds

The 1996 lamb crop was a record low 5.28 million head, down 6 percent from 1995. This compares with the previous record low of 5.61 million head set a year ago. The 1996 lambing rate was 103 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1996, compared with 106 in 1995.

The number of operations with sheep during 1996 totaled 77,010, down 5 percent from 1995 and 12 percent from 1994.

Sheep and Lambs, 1870-1997 United States



Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States
January 1, 1995-97

Class	:	1995	:	1996	:	1997	:	97/96
	:	----- 1,000 head -----						Percent
All Sheep and Lambs	:	8,886		8,461		7,937		94
Market	:	2,450		2,234		2,087		93
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	:	6,436		6,228		5,850		94
Replacement Lambs -	:							
Under One Year Old	:	878		863		794		92
Ewes - One Year Old	:							
and Older	:	5,300		5,128		4,836		94
Rams - One Year Old	:							
and Older	:	258		236		220		93

All Sheep and Lambs: Balance Sheet, United States, 1994-96 1/

Item	:	1994	:	1995	:	1996
	:	----- 1,000 head -----				
Jan 1 Inventory	:	9,742		8,886		*8,461
Lamb Crop and Imports	:	5,925		*5,648		5,328
Total Supply	:	15,667		14,534		13,789
Slaughter	:	5,014		*4,628		4,249
Deaths and Exports	:	1,728		*1,179		1,240
Total Disappearance	:	6,742		5,807		5,489
Residual	:	-39		-266		-363
Jan 1 Inventory	:	8,886		*8,461		7,937
(End of year)	:					

* Revised.

1/ Final 1995 and preliminary 1996 estimates will be published in "Meat Animals, Production, Disposition, and Income", April 25, 1997.

Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous
Year by State and United States, 1995-96

State	:Breeding Ewes 1 Year : : & Older Jan 1 :		Lambs per 100 : Ewes 1+ Jan 1 :		Lamb Crop 1/		
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	96/95
	: ---- 1,000 Head ---		-- Percent --		--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct
AL	4.6	3.7	87	130	4.0	4.8	120
AK	.9	.9	89	89	.8	.8	100
AZ	70.0	54.0	71	74	50.0	40.0	80
CA	430.0	390.0	88	87	380.0	340.0	89
CO	210.0	210.0	114	114	240.0	240.0	100
CT	4.8	4.8	135	138	6.5	6.6	102
ID	194.0	201.0	132	129	256.0	260.0	102
IL	55.0	53.0	144	149	79.0	79.0	100
IN	55.0	*39.0	109	141	*65.0	55.0	92
IA	155.0	160.0	148	144	230.0	230.0	100
KS	87.0	90.0	115	100	100.0	90.0	90
KY	16.5	13.0	115	115	19.0	15.0	79
LA	9.6	10.4	99	85	9.5	8.8	93
ME	7.8	6.6	103	106	8.0	7.0	88
MD	14.0	14.0	121	107	17.0	15.0	88
MA	8.2	6.8	91	125	7.5	8.5	113
MI	49.0	50.0	137	144	67.0	72.0	107
MN	110.0	110.0	145	145	160.0	160.0	100
MO	53.0	49.0	123	122	65.0	60.0	92
MT	367.0	347.0	112	112	410.0	390.0	95
NE	70.0	74.0	137	123	96.0	91.0	95
NV	61.0	56.0	107	96	65.0	54.0	83
NH	4.7	5.2	128	125	6.0	6.5	108
NJ	10.9	12.0	110	92	12.0	11.0	92
NM	210.0	205.0	81	73	170.0	150.0	88
NY	44.0	43.0	127	126	56.0	54.0	96
NC	11.4	9.0	92	116	10.5	10.4	99
ND	79.0	77.0	127	130	100.0	100.0	100
OH	107.0	100.0	113	112	121.0	112.0	93
OK	60.0	57.0	108	105	65.0	60.0	92
OR	200.0	205.0	110	102	220.0	210.0	95
PA	74.0	72.0	115	108	85.0	78.0	92
SD	355.0	330.0	118	118	420.0	390.0	93
TN	6.1	8.0	107	106	*6.5	8.5	131
TX	1,100.0	1,080.0	83	75	910.0	810.0	89
UT	310.0	305.0	110	107	340.0	325.0	96
VT	14.0	10.2	93	127	13.0	13.0	100
VA	65.0	54.0	118	130	77.0	70.0	91
WA	35.0	41.0	143	129	50.0	53.0	106
WV	43.0	37.0	116	122	50.0	45.0	90
WI	53.0	52.0	142	129	75.0	67.0	89
WY	460.0	455.0	100	101	460.0	460.0	100
Oth							
Sts 2/	25.8	27.5	92	58	23.8	15.9	67
US	5,300.3	*5,128.1	106	103	*5,606.1	5,281.9	94

* 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 include AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

All Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Class,
State, and United States, January 1, 1996-97

State	All Sheep and Lambs			Total Breeding		Total Market	
	1996	1997	97/96	1996	1997	1996	1997
	--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct	----- 1,000 Head -----			
AL	7.0	9.0	129	5.5	7.0	1.5	2.0
AK	1.7	1.7	100	1.5	1.5	.2	.2
AZ	135.0	125.0	93	65.0	50.0	70.0	75.0
CA	1,000.0	960.0	96	480.0	480.0	520.0	480.0
CO	535.0	575.0	107	245.0	250.0	290.0	325.0
CT	7.0	7.0	100	6.0	6.2	1.0	.8
ID	273.0	285.0	104	245.0	245.0	28.0	40.0
IL	79.0	79.0	100	69.0	69.0	10.0	10.0
IN	*57.0	67.0	118	*48.0	55.0	9.0	12.0
IA	345.0	285.0	83	200.0	188.0	145.0	97.0
KS	160.0	150.0	94	105.0	100.0	55.0	50.0
KY	20.0	22.0	110	17.0	17.7	3.0	4.3
LA	16.0	15.0	94	14.0	13.0	2.0	2.0
ME	10.0	10.0	100	8.4	8.8	1.6	1.2
MD	25.0	32.0	128	21.0	27.6	4.0	4.4
MA	9.5	11.5	121	8.4	10.0	1.1	1.5
MI	93.0	98.0	105	62.0	65.0	31.0	33.0
MN	185.0	180.0	97	135.0	130.0	50.0	50.0
MO	73.0	68.0	93	60.0	55.0	13.0	13.0
MT	465.0	432.0	93	430.0	400.0	35.0	32.0
NE	105.0	95.0	90	87.0	77.0	18.0	18.0
NV	87.0	85.0	98	72.0	74.0	15.0	11.0
NH	7.5	6.5	87	6.8	5.8	.7	.7
NJ	18.5	17.5	95	16.0	13.5	2.5	4.0
NM	265.0	235.0	89	245.0	220.0	20.0	15.0
NY	65.0	60.0	92	55.0	48.0	10.0	12.0
NC	13.0	13.2	102	11.0	11.5	2.0	1.7
ND	125.0	135.0	108	91.0	105.0	34.0	30.0
OH	153.0	130.0	85	121.0	101.0	32.0	29.0
OK	85.0	75.0	88	65.0	60.0	20.0	15.0
OR	353.0	304.0	86	253.0	209.0	100.0	95.0
PA	107.0	94.0	88	92.0	81.0	15.0	13.0
SD	500.0	450.0	90	385.0	355.0	115.0	95.0
TN	14.5	13.5	93	10.5	10.0	4.0	3.5
TX	1,650.0	1,400.0	85	1,300.0	1,150.0	350.0	250.0
UT	395.0	375.0	95	355.0	339.0	40.0	36.0
VT	15.0	16.4	109	12.8	14.3	2.2	2.1
VA	84.0	80.0	95	67.0	65.0	17.0	15.0
WA	60.0	50.0	83	50.0	45.0	10.0	5.0
WV	55.0	50.0	91	45.0	42.0	10.0	8.0
WI	79.0	69.0	87	65.0	57.0	14.0	12.0
WY	680.0	720.0	106	560.0	550.0	120.0	170.0
Oth							
Sts 1/	48.4	50.9	105	36.6	38.1	11.8	12.8
US	*8,461.1	7,937.2	94	*6,227.5	5,850.0	2,233.6	2,087.2

* Revised.

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

Breeding Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State,
and United States, January 1, 1996-97

State	:Breeding Sheep-One Year Old & Older:						: Total Breeding	
	Ewes		Rams		Replacement Lambs		Sheep and Lambs	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	: 1,000 Head							
AL	3.7	4.9	.5	.5	1.3	1.6	5.5	7.0
AK	.9	.9	.4	.4	.2	.2	1.5	1.5
AZ	54.0	44.0	3.0	2.0	8.0	4.0	65.0	50.0
CA	390.0	380.0	15.0	15.0	75.0	85.0	480.0	480.0
CO	210.0	210.0	7.0	7.0	28.0	33.0	245.0	250.0
CT	4.8	5.0	.3	.4	.9	.8	6.0	6.2
ID	201.0	204.0	5.0	5.0	39.0	36.0	245.0	245.0
IL	53.0	57.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	69.0	69.0
IN	*39.0	45.0	*3.0	3.0	6.0	7.0	*48.0	55.0
IA	160.0	153.0	9.0	8.0	31.0	27.0	200.0	188.0
KS	90.0	84.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	10.0	105.0	100.0
KY	13.0	15.0	.8	1.0	3.2	1.7	17.0	17.7
LA	10.4	9.7	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.9	14.0	13.0
ME	6.6	6.7	.7	.7	1.1	1.4	8.4	8.8
MD	14.0	19.8	2.5	2.8	4.5	5.0	21.0	27.6
MA	6.8	8.0	.6	.6	1.0	1.4	8.4	10.0
MI	50.0	53.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	9.0	62.0	65.0
MN	110.0	105.0	5.0	5.0	20.0	20.0	135.0	130.0
MO	49.0	44.0	3.0	2.5	8.0	8.5	60.0	55.0
MT	347.0	330.0	11.0	11.0	72.0	59.0	430.0	400.0
NE	74.0	65.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	9.0	87.0	77.0
NV	56.0	54.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	18.0	72.0	74.0
NH	5.2	4.5	.5	.4	1.1	.9	6.8	5.8
NJ	12.0	10.0	1.8	1.3	2.2	2.2	16.0	13.5
NM	205.0	180.0	10.0	10.0	30.0	30.0	245.0	220.0
NY	43.0	38.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	7.0	55.0	48.0
NC	9.0	9.5	.8	.8	1.2	1.2	11.0	11.5
ND	77.0	91.0	2.5	2.5	11.5	11.5	91.0	105.0
OH	100.0	80.0	6.0	6.0	15.0	15.0	121.0	101.0
OK	57.0	52.0	3.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	65.0	60.0
OR	205.0	165.0	13.0	9.0	35.0	35.0	253.0	209.0
PA	72.0	64.0	6.0	6.0	14.0	11.0	92.0	81.0
SD	330.0	310.0	11.0	10.0	44.0	35.0	385.0	355.0
TN	8.0	7.6	1.0	.9	1.5	1.5	10.5	10.0
TX	1,080.0	980.0	50.0	40.0	170.0	130.0	1,300.0	1,150.0
UT	305.0	290.0	10.0	9.0	40.0	40.0	355.0	339.0
VT	10.2	11.0	.6	.8	2.0	2.5	12.8	14.3
VA	54.0	51.0	3.0	3.0	10.0	11.0	67.0	65.0
WA	41.0	37.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	5.0	50.0	45.0
WV	37.0	36.0	2.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	45.0	42.0
WI	52.0	44.0	3.0	3.5	10.0	9.5	65.0	57.0
WY	455.0	450.0	15.0	15.0	90.0	85.0	560.0	550.0
Oth								
Sts 1/	27.5	27.6	5.8	6.2	3.3	4.3	36.6	38.1
US	*5,128.1	4,836.2	*236.3	219.7	863.1	794.1	*6,227.5	5,850.0

* Revised.

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

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	1/.4	1/	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	.0	.0	.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	.2	.1	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	.0	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	690.7	539.9	2,151.5	82.1	2,233.6

1/ Data combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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

Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group by State
and United States, January 1, 1997

State	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Lbs.	85 to 105 Lbs.	Over 105 Lbs.	Total		
	1,000 Head						
AL	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	2.0
AK	.0	.0	.2	.0	.2	.0	.2
AZ	14.0	4.0	45.0	10.0	73.0	2.0	75.0
CA	210.0	90.0	110.0	50.0	460.0	20.0	480.0
CO	4.0	43.0	100.0	175.0	322.0	3.0	325.0
CT	.3	.2	.1	.0	.6	.2	.8
ID	5.0	1.0	11.5	22.0	39.5	.5	40.0
IL	3.0	1.9	2.5	2.4	9.8	.2	10.0
IN	1.5	3.0	4.5	2.0	11.0	1.0	12.0
IA	15.0	22.0	29.0	30.0	96.0	1.0	97.0
KS	22.0	7.0	12.0	4.0	45.0	5.0	50.0
KY	2.3	.6	.5	.5	3.9	.4	4.3
LA	.7	.6	.5	.1	1.9	.1	2.0
ME	.5	.2	.1	.1	.9	.3	1.2
MD	2.7	.7	.3	.4	4.1	.3	4.4
MA	.8	.2	.1	.0	1.1	.4	1.5
MI	6.0	8.0	11.0	7.5	32.5	.5	33.0
MN	7.0	9.0	16.0	16.0	48.0	2.0	50.0
MO	4.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	12.0	1.0	13.0
MT	4.0	8.0	14.0	4.0	30.0	2.0	32.0
NE	3.0	2.0	5.0	7.0	17.0	1.0	18.0
NV	.0	.0	5.0	6.0	11.0	.0	11.0
NH	.2	.2	.1	.0	.5	.2	.7
NJ	1.0	1.5	.5	.5	3.5	.5	4.0
NM	4.0	6.0	3.0	1.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
NY	5.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	11.0	1.0	12.0
NC	.9	.3	.1	.1	1.4	.3	1.7
ND	1.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	29.0	1.0	30.0
OH	12.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	26.0	3.0	29.0
OK	9.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
OR	17.0	14.0	40.0	21.0	92.0	3.0	95.0
PA	5.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	10.0	3.0	13.0
SD	8.0	11.0	37.0	38.0	94.0	1.0	95.0
TN	1.8	.4	.3	.2	2.7	.8	3.5
TX	95.0	75.0	35.0	30.0	235.0	15.0	250.0
UT	1.0	3.0	15.0	11.0	30.0	6.0	36.0
VT	.9	.1	.5	.3	1.8	.3	2.1
VA	6.0	3.5	3.5	1.5	14.5	.5	15.0
WA	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	.0	5.0
WV	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	8.0	.0	8.0
WI	3.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	11.5	.5	12.0
WY	2.0	20.0	102.0	43.0	167.0	3.0	170.0
Oth							
Sts 2/	5.8	2.1	1.4	.8	10.1	2.7	12.8
US	489.3	368.3	637.8	506.9	2,002.3	84.9	2,087.2

1/ Data combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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

Sheep and Lambs: January 1, 1993-96

State	Operations with Sheep			
	1993	1994	1995	1996
	Number			
AL	340	340	310	310
AK	40	40	40	40
AZ	450	450	450	400
CA	5,200	5,000	4,800	4,600
CO	1,800	1,600	1,300	1,300
CT	470	480	*350	350
ID	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,100
IL	3,700	3,700	3,500	3,300
IN	3,300	3,200	*2,700	2,400
IA	7,000	6,500	6,300	6,000
KS	2,400	2,300	1,900	1,900
KY	1,000	1,000	*900	850
LA	1,200	1,100	1,000	900
ME	670	700	*600	550
MD	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,000
MA	650	600	*500	500
MI	2,300	2,100	2,000	2,000
MN	4,000	3,600	3,500	3,300
MO	3,100	2,900	*2,600	2,300
MT	2,500	2,300	2,200	2,200
NE	2,200	1,700	1,800	2,000
NV	350	350	350	350
NH	480	540	*400	450
NJ	900	900	850	800
NM	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000
NY	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,800
NC	600	600	600	600
ND	1,700	1,400	1,200	1,000
OH	5,200	5,200	5,000	4,500
OK	2,300	2,000	1,700	1,700
OR	3,500	3,200	2,600	2,600
PA	3,400	3,300	3,200	3,100
SD	3,900	3,500	3,000	2,700
TN	650	650	650	650
TX	7,800	7,600	7,300	7,000
UT	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,700
VT	700	720	750	600
VA	2,100	1,800	1,600	1,400
WA	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
WV	1,700	1,500	1,600	1,400
WI	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,300
WY	1,500	1,200	1,100	1,100
Oth				
Sts 1/	1,780	1,780	1,620	1,460
US	93,280	87,150	*81,070	77,010

* Revised.

1/ Other States include 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, 1996-97 1/

Regions	Operations Having							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Percent							
Native States	94.9	94.8	4.7	4.8	.4	.4	2/	2/
Western States	82.8	86.8	11.8	8.8	5.1	4.1	.3	.3
US	90.9	91.9	7.0	6.2	2.0	1.7	.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, 1996-97 1/

		Inventory on Operations Having							
Regions	:	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	:	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
		Percent							
Native States	:	58.4	57.3	29.5	28.9	11.1	11.7	1.0	2.1
Western States	:	10.4	11.2	16.5	16.4	53.9	53.0	19.2	19.4
US	:	25.0	25.7	20.4	20.3	40.9	40.0	13.7	14.0

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

All Goats: Inventory, Texas, January 1, 1994-97

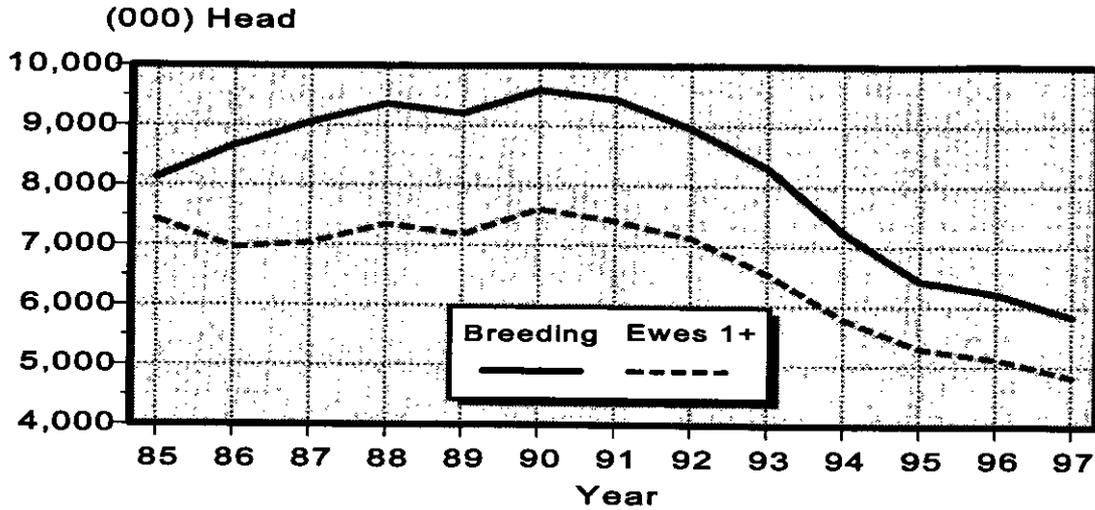
Year	Number
	1,000 Head
1994	1,960
1995	1,850
1996	1,900
1997	1,650

Angora Goats: Inventory, 4 States and Total, January 1, 1995-97

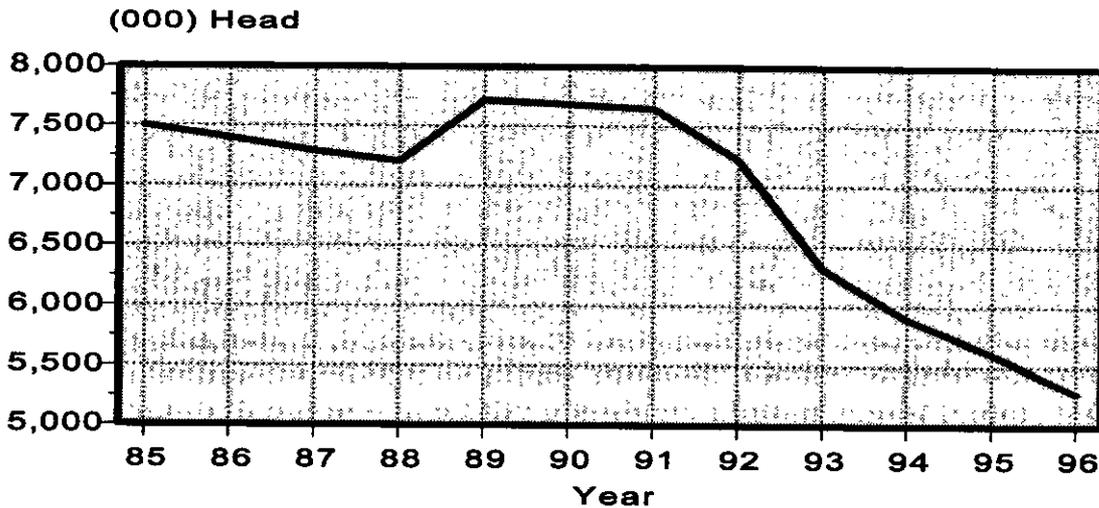
State	Number		
	1995	1996	1997
	1,000 Head		
AZ	52	*50	40
NM	85	85	77
OK	15	15	10
TX	1,250	1,250	1,000
Total	1,402	*1,400	1,127

* Revised.

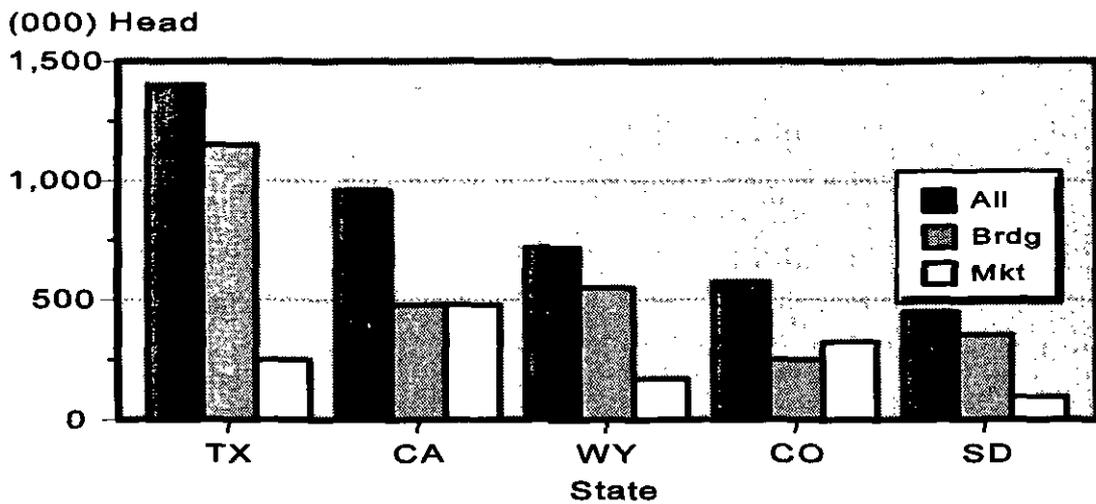
Total Breeding and Ewes 1+, 1985 -1997 United States



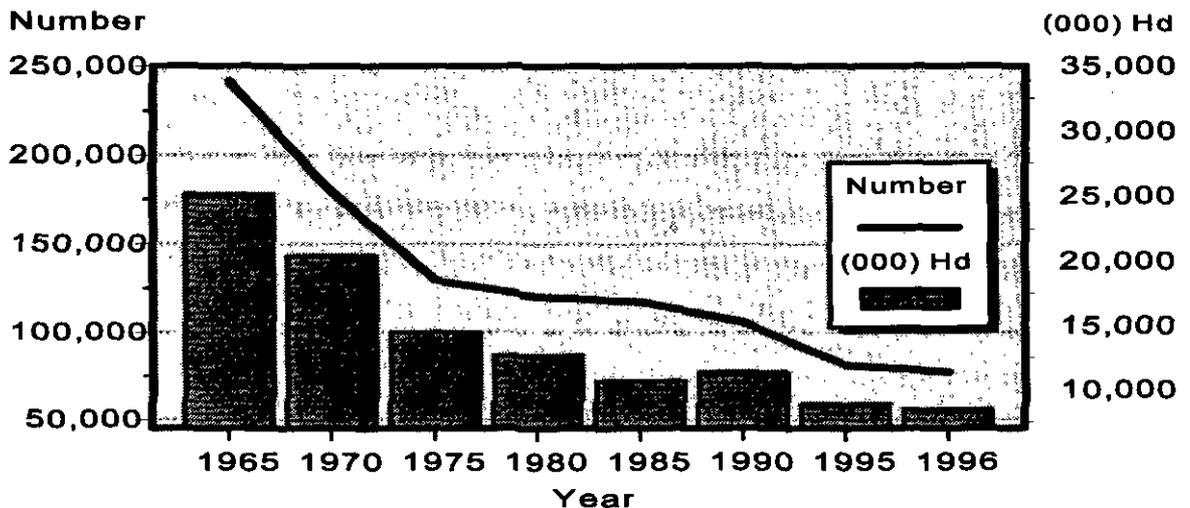
Lamb Crop, 1985-96 United States



Total Inventory, January 1, 1997 Top Five Sheep & Lamb Producing States



Number of Operations & Total Inventory 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 16,000 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 86 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 10 years is 1.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 7.9 million head by more than 1.0 percent, or about 79,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.7 percent, or about 134,900 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

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 95,000 head, ranging from 900 to 246,000 head. The inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 4 times and above the latest estimate 6 times in the last 10 years.

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The next "**Sheep and Goats**" report will be released in January 1998.

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