

Wool and Mohair



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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1991 Wool Production Down 1 Percent

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1991 was 87.0 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Sheep and lambs shorn during 1991 totaled 10.9 million head, a decrease of 3 percent from 1990. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.98 pounds per head, up 0.14 pounds from 1990.

The average price paid for wool sold in 1991 was \$0.55 per pound, the lowest price since 1975 when producers received 44.8 cents. Despite an increase in average fleece weight, total value of shorn wool was \$46.8 million, down 33 percent from \$69.5 million in 1990.

Wool Production and Value, United States, 1989-91

Years	Sheep Shorn 1/	Weight Per Fleece	Shorn Wool Production	Price Per Pound 2/	Value
	1,000 Head	-Pounds-	1,000 Pounds	-Dollars-	1,000 Dollars
1989	11,314	7.89	89,220	1.240	110,537
1990	*11,222	*7.84	*88,033	0.800	*69,534
1991	10,902	7.98	86,970	0.550	46,815

- 1/ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Weighted by sales.
* Revised.

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Mohair production in the five major producing States (Arizona, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) during 1991 was 16.3 million pounds, up slightly from 1990. Goats and kids clipped, at 2.25 million head, were up 4 percent from 1990. Average weight per head clipped was 7.3 pounds, compared with 7.5 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair production was \$20.9 million, up 38 percent from 1990.

Mohair Production and Value, United States, 1989-91

Years	Goats Clipped	Average Clip Per Goat	Production	Price Per Pound	Value
	1,000 Head	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1989	2,467	7.0	17,255	1.58	27,198
1990	2,174	7.5	*16,304	0.93	*15,163
1991	2,252	7.3	16,344	1.28	20,920

* Revised.

Mohair Production and Value, by Selected States
5 States Total 1990-91

State	Goats Clipped	Average Clip Per Goat	Production	Price Per Pound	Value
	1,000 Head	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
AZ	95	4.2	400	0.52	208
MI	17	8.2	140	0.70	98
NM	120	5.0	600	0.73	438
OK	82	*8.1	*664	0.90	*598
TX	1,860	7.8	14,500	0.95	13,775
5 Sts	2,174	7.5	*16,304	0.93	*15,117
	2,252	7.3	16,344	1.28	20,834

1/ Weighted by sales.

2/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price.

* Revised.

Number of Sheep Shorn, Weight Per Fleece and Wool Production
by States, 1990-91

State	Sheep Shorn		Weight Per Fleece		Production	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- Pounds ---		- 1,000 Pounds -	
AL	7.0	6.0	6.1	6.7	43	40
AK	1.7	1.8	8.8	8.9	15	16
AZ	228.0	207.0	6.8	7.2	1,550	1,490
CA	1,015.0	930.0	7.5	7.7	7,646	7,160
CO	770.0	769.0	7.4	7.4	5,698	5,724
CT	*7.0	6.5	7.3	7.5	*51	49
ID	271.0	263.0	10.2	10.1	2,775	2,666
IL	134.0	114.0	6.9	7.0	925	800
IN	86.0	97.0	6.8	7.0	582	681
IA	500.0	480.0	6.6	6.6	3,323	3,150
KS	216.0	197.0	7.1	7.6	*1,544	1,496
KY	33.0	32.0	6.5	6.7	215	214
LA	14.0	13.0	6.3	6.7	88	87
ME	15.0	12.0	7.6	7.2	114	86
MD	25.0	28.0	6.3	6.8	157	190
MA	13.0	12.0	7.3	7.3	95	88
MI	105.0	95.0	7.2	8.1	756	770
MN	*245.0	260.0	*7.0	7.0	*1,707	1,816
MO	120.0	122.0	*6.5	6.8	*778	832
MT	*627.0	641.0	9.9	10.2	*6,204	6,542
NE	180.0	154.0	7.2	7.3	1,293	1,130
NV	86.0	90.0	9.7	9.5	831	854
NH	9.2	9.2	7.3	7.6	67	70
NJ	11.0	9.5	6.4	7.1	70	67
NM	453.0	427.0	9.8	9.7	4,422	4,130
NY	73.0	70.0	7.2	7.1	525	498
NC	13.0	14.5	6.8	6.6	88	96
ND	185.0	191.0	8.9	9.3	1,650	1,780
OH	282.0	285.0	6.4	6.6	1,816	1,871
OK	108.0	118.0	6.7	6.6	725	780
OR	465.0	446.0	6.3	6.4	2,919	2,854
PA	107.0	101.0	6.9	7.0	739	707
SD	590.0	630.0	9.0	9.0	5,317	5,684
TN	11.0	8.5	6.6	7.1	73	60
TX	2,470.0	2,330.0	7.0	7.2	17,400	16,700
UT	464.0	442.0	10.2	10.4	4,723	4,595
VT	25.0	20.0	7.4	7.2	185	144
VA	125.0	112.0	6.1	6.1	767	679
WA	*70.0	70.0	*8.6	8.6	*600	600
WV	71.0	62.6	6.3	6.0	447	375
WI	84.0	91.0	7.4	7.2	618	654
WY	850.0	860.0	9.6	9.6	8,135	8,259
Oth Sts <u>1/</u>	57.0	74.7	6.3	6.5	357	486
US	*11,221.9	10,902.3	*7.84	7.98	*88,033	86,970

1/ AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI and SC.
* Revised.

Wool Production and Value, by States, 1990-91

State	Price Per Pound <u>1/</u>		Value <u>2/</u>	
	1990	1991	1990	1991
	----- Dollars -----		--- 1,000 Dollars ---	
AL	0.37	0.36	16	14
AK	1.25	1.00	19	16
AZ	0.63	0.42	977	626
CA	0.82	0.56	6,270	4,010
CO	0.71	0.52	4,046	2,976
CT	0.59	0.60	*30	29
ID	0.65	0.47	1,804	1,253
IL	0.35	0.17	324	136
IN	0.28	0.18	163	123
IA	0.35	0.21	1,163	662
KS	0.65	0.38	*1,004	568
KY	0.38	0.26	82	56
LA	0.31	0.29	27	25
ME	0.76	0.66	87	57
MD	0.40	0.34	63	65
MA	0.60	0.53	57	47
MI	0.40	0.26	302	200
MN	0.40	0.25	*683	454
MO	0.42	0.25	*327	208
MT	0.91	0.57	*5,646	3,729
NE	0.47	0.29	608	328
NV	0.84	0.52	698	444
NH	0.59	0.56	40	39
NJ	0.40	0.45	28	30
NM	1.07	0.65	4,732	2,685
NY	0.47	0.39	247	194
NC	0.36	0.25	32	24
ND	0.59	0.37	974	659
OH	0.39	0.25	708	468
OK	0.67	0.39	486	304
OR	0.57	0.34	1,664	970
PA	0.39	0.29	288	205
SD	0.80	0.54	4,254	3,069
TN	0.37	0.39	27	23
TX	1.13	0.83	19,662	13,861
UT	0.72	0.51	3,401	2,343
VT	0.71	0.65	131	94
VA	0.40	0.25	307	170
WA	0.58	0.41	*348	246
WV	0.36	0.25	161	94
WI	0.36	0.21	222	137
WY	0.89	0.61	7,240	5,038
Oth Sts <u>3/</u>	0.52	0.28	186	136
US	0.80	0.55	*69,534	46,815

1/ Weighted by sales.

2/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price.

3/ AR, DE, FL, GA, MS, RI, SC.

Reliability of Wool and Mohair 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.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep shorn, wool and mohair 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. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's (ASCS) record of pounds of wool and mohair from producers filing for incentive payments (see Terms and Definitions, page 7) was used as check data. (See Terms and Definitions.)

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 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 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 shorn estimates over the past 6 years is 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.9 million head by more than 0.5 percent, or about 54,500 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 percent, or about 109,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 6-year record showing the range between the first estimate and the latest estimate. Using estimates for Sheep Shorn as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 6 years have averaged 1,900 head, ranging from 6,600 to 104,800 head. The inventory estimate of Sheep Shorn has been below the latest estimate 4 times and above 2 times in the last 6 years.

Reliability of U.S. Sheep Shorn and Wool Production Estimates

Item	: Root Mean Square Error :	: 90% Confidence Level :	: Difference Between First and Latest Estimates :				: Number of Years :	
			: Average :	: Smallest :	: Largest :	: First Above Latest :	: First Below Latest :	
	: --Percent-- :		-----1,000 Head-----				-Number-	
Sheep Shorn	: 0.5 :	: 1.0 :	: 109.0 :	: 1.9 :	: -6.6 :	: 104.8 :	: 2 :	: 4 :
			-----1,000 Pounds-----					
Wool Prod.	: 0.7 :	: 1.3 :	: 1,130.6 :	: 189.3 :	: 16.0 :	: 1,307.0 :	: 2 :	: 4 :

1/ Based on data from 1985 through 1990.

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.

Check Data: Information derived from marketings, inspections, or certified assessments and other sources that has some direct relation to a commodity and can be used, with varying degrees of confidence, to supplement survey data in the preparation or revision of estimates.

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

Fleece: The natural hair (wool) shorn from sheep or lambs.

Fleece Weight: Pounds of wool shorn from a single sheep or lamb, usually 7-12 pounds for sheep and 3-6 pounds for lambs.

Mohair: The long hair from the Angora goat.

Payment, Incentive: A form of compensatory payment in which the support price is set at a level high enough to encourage the increase in production of a particular commodity to a desired level.

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.

Shearing: The operation of using shears to clip wool or mohair from sheep or goats.

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.

Tag: Mohair (goats) and wool(sheep) clipped from face and crotch area.

Value: Production multiplied by market year average price.

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

Wool: The fleece shorn from sheep. Wool is spun into yarn or thread and may be made into garments.

Wool Breeds: White-faced sheep breeds selected for their adaptability to environmental and forage conditions, reproductive efficiency, wool production, milking ability, and longevity. Replacement ewe lambs are generally selected from these breed types or crosses among these breeds.

Wool Pool: A grouping of the wool of many producers into a single total amount so it can be sold on the market as a single unit. Such commodity pools are very helpful in securing a more satisfactory market than the individual producer could command for his small quantity.

Wool Sorting: The process of separating fleeces into groups according to fineness and length of the staple.

The next "Wool and Mohair" report will be released in March 1993 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

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