

Released July 23, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Sheep* call Scott Hollis at 202-720-4751, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

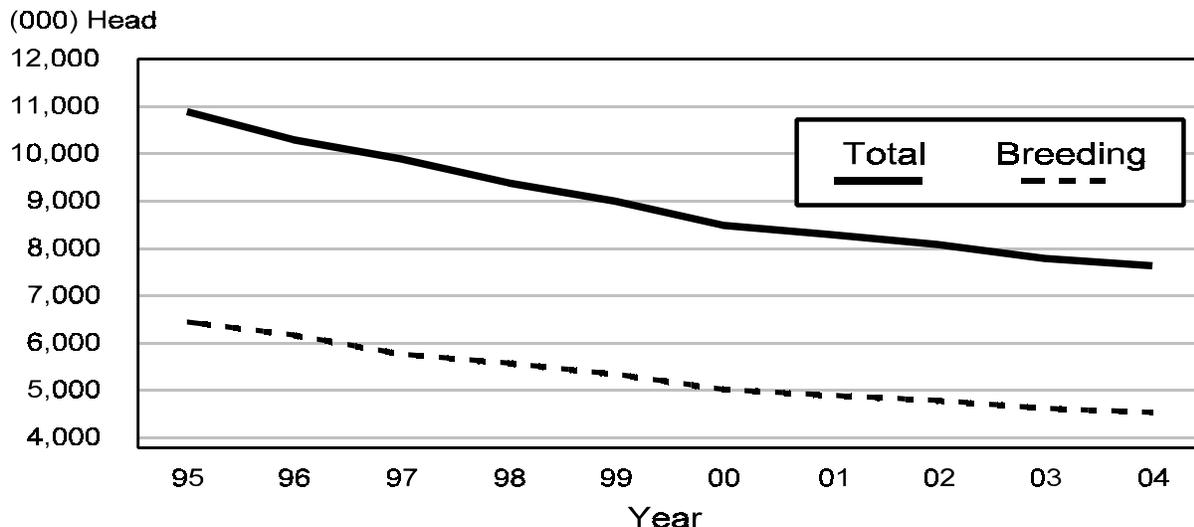
All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2004, totaled 7.65 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2003. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.55 million head on July 1, 2004 was 1 percent below July 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.11 million head, were 3 percent below last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.75 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). **Market lamb** inventory at 3.03 million head was comprised of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 355,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 240,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000.

The 2004 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.08 million head, down 1 percent from the 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2004 totaled 3.61 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2004.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 20.1 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.9 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) accounted for 13.6 percent.

United States Sheep and Lambs July 1, 1995 - 2004



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Special Note

Final estimates for January were published for Sheep covering 1999-2003 in April, 2004. Due to those revisions it was necessary to review July inventory numbers to maintain traditional relationships at the regional and U.S. level. The final estimates for July published on pages 4-7 are a result of that review.

**All Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region
and United States, July 1, 2003-2004**

| Regions ¹ | All Sheep and Lambs | | 2004 as % of 2003 | Breeding Sheep and Lambs | | Market Sheep and Lambs | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| Region 1 | 1,330 | 1,290 | 97 | 830 | 810 | 500 | 480 |
| Region 2 | 1,620 | 1,540 | 95 | 1,050 | 1,010 | 570 | 530 |
| Region 3 | 2,610 | 2,600 | 100 | 1,420 | 1,430 | 1,190 | 1,170 |
| Region 4 | 1,220 | 1,180 | 97 | 670 | 650 | 550 | 530 |
| Region 5 | 1,020 | 1,040 | 102 | 640 | 645 | 380 | 395 |
| US | 7,800 | 7,650 | 98 | 4,610 | 4,545 | 3,190 | 3,105 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region
and United States, July 1, 2003-2004**

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 710 | 685 | 30 | 30 | 90 | 95 | 830 | 810 |
| Region 2 | 875 | 840 | 45 | 40 | 130 | 130 | 1,050 | 1,010 |
| Region 3 | 1,210 | 1,210 | 40 | 40 | 170 | 180 | 1,420 | 1,430 |
| Region 4 | 545 | 525 | 30 | 30 | 95 | 95 | 670 | 650 |
| Region 5 | 485 | 485 | 40 | 40 | 115 | 120 | 640 | 645 |
| US | 3,825 | 3,745 | 185 | 180 | 600 | 620 | 4,610 | 4,545 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region
and United States, July 1, 2004**

| Regions ¹ | Market Lambs | | | | | Market Sheep | Market Sheep and Lambs |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Under 65 Pounds | 65 to 84 lbs | 85 to 105 lbs | Over 105 Pounds | Total | | |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| Region 1 | 130 | 155 | 130 | 50 | 465 | 15 | 480 |
| Region 2 | 355 | 120 | 30 | 15 | 520 | 10 | 530 |
| Region 3 | 830 | 150 | 70 | 100 | 1,150 | 20 | 1,170 |
| Region 4 | 240 | 135 | 85 | 55 | 515 | 15 | 530 |
| Region 5 | 245 | 75 | 40 | 20 | 380 | 15 | 395 |
| US | 1,800 | 635 | 355 | 240 | 3,030 | 75 | 3,105 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region
and United States, July 1, 2003**

| Region ¹ | Market Lambs | | | | | Market Sheep | Market Sheep and Lambs |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Under 65 Pounds | 65 to 84 lbs | 85 to 105 lbs | Over 105 Pounds | Total | | |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| Region 1 | 150 | 155 | 130 | 55 | 490 | 10 | 500 |
| Region 2 | 375 | 130 | 35 | 15 | 555 | 15 | 570 |
| Region 3 | 820 | 165 | 80 | 110 | 1,175 | 15 | 1,190 |
| Region 4 | 255 | 135 | 95 | 55 | 540 | 10 | 550 |
| Region 5 | 245 | 75 | 35 | 15 | 370 | 10 | 380 |
| US | 1,845 | 660 | 375 | 250 | 3,130 | 60 | 3,190 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number by Region
and United States, 2004 ¹**

| Regions ² | Lambs Born Jan-Jun ³ | Lambs Expected Jul-Dec ⁴ | Total Lamb Crop | Breeding Ewes 1+ Jan 1 | Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1 |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Number</i> |
| Region 1 | 530 | 200 | 730 | 703 | 104 |
| Region 2 | 560 | 120 | 680 | 783 | 87 |
| Region 3 | 1,260 | 30 | 1,290 | 1,064 | 121 |
| Region 4 | 620 | 50 | 670 | 492 | 136 |
| Region 5 | 640 | 70 | 710 | 559 | 127 |
| US | 3,610 | 470 | 4,080 | 3,601 | 113 |

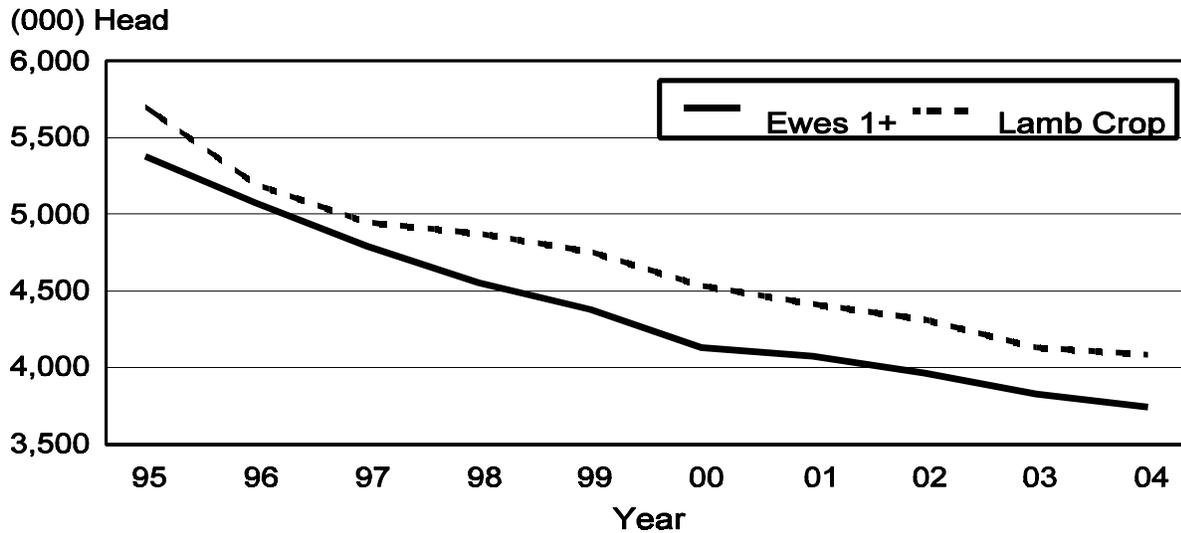
¹ Lamb crop is lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

² States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

³ Lambs born alive between January 1, through June 30, 2004.

⁴ Lambs expected to be born July through December 2004.

United States Total Breeding Ewes 1+ and Lamb Crop July 1, 1995-2004



The 1995-2003 Lamb Crop is the final January estimate. The 2004 estimate is the July forecast.

**All Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | All Sheep and Lambs | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <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> |
| Region 1 | 1,520 | 1,450 | 1,450 | 1,430 | 1,330 |
| Region 2 | 1,960 | 1,760 | 1,690 | 1,660 | 1,620 |
| Region 3 | 3,040 | 2,965 | 2,885 | 2,800 | 2,610 |
| Region 4 | 1,340 | 1,300 | 1,275 | 1,220 | 1,220 |
| Region 5 | 1,140 | 1,025 | 1,000 | 990 | 1,020 |
| US | 9,000 | 8,500 | 8,300 | 8,100 | 7,800 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | Total Breeding Sheep and Lambs | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <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> |
| Region 1 | 950 | 910 | 910 | 900 | 830 |
| Region 2 | 1,280 | 1,160 | 1,110 | 1,080 | 1,050 |
| Region 3 | 1,650 | 1,600 | 1,550 | 1,500 | 1,420 |
| Region 4 | 740 | 715 | 700 | 670 | 670 |
| Region 5 | 730 | 645 | 630 | 620 | 640 |
| US | 5,350 | 5,030 | 4,900 | 4,770 | 4,610 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | Total Market Sheep and Lambs | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <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> |
| Region 1 | 570 | 540 | 540 | 530 | 500 |
| Region 2 | 680 | 600 | 580 | 580 | 570 |
| Region 3 | 1,390 | 1,365 | 1,335 | 1,300 | 1,190 |
| Region 4 | 600 | 585 | 575 | 550 | 550 |
| Region 5 | 410 | 380 | 370 | 370 | 380 |
| US | 3,650 | 3,470 | 3,400 | 3,330 | 3,190 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | Ewes One Year Old and Older | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <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> |
| Region 1 | 800 | 775 | 775 | 765 | 710 |
| Region 2 | 1,060 | 960 | 925 | 900 | 875 |
| Region 3 | 1,370 | 1,330 | 1,320 | 1,280 | 1,210 |
| Region 4 | 595 | 575 | 570 | 545 | 545 |
| Region 5 | 550 | 485 | 480 | 470 | 485 |
| US | 4,375 | 4,125 | 4,070 | 3,960 | 3,825 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | Rams One Year Old and Older | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <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> |
| Region 1 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 30 |
| Region 2 | 55 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Region 3 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 45 | 40 |
| Region 4 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Region 5 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 40 |
| US | 215 | 205 | 190 | 190 | 185 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States,
July 1, 1999-2003**

| Regions ¹ | Replacement Lambs | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| Region 1 | 115 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 90 |
| Region 2 | 165 | 150 | 140 | 135 | 130 |
| Region 3 | 230 | 220 | 185 | 175 | 170 |
| Region 4 | 115 | 110 | 100 | 95 | 95 |
| Region 5 | 135 | 120 | 115 | 115 | 115 |
| US | 760 | 700 | 640 | 620 | 600 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, July 1, 1999**

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 165 | 175 | 165 | 55 | 560 | 10 | 570 |
| Region 2 | 465 | 135 | 40 | 20 | 660 | 20 | 680 |
| Region 3 | 980 | 175 | 105 | 110 | 1,370 | 20 | 1,390 |
| Region 4 | 295 | 150 | 100 | 45 | 590 | 10 | 600 |
| Region 5 | 215 | 95 | 55 | 30 | 395 | 15 | 410 |
| US | 2,120 | 730 | 465 | 260 | 3,575 | 75 | 3,650 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, July 1, 2000**

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 160 | 175 | 140 | 55 | 530 | 10 | 540 |
| Region 2 | 415 | 120 | 25 | 20 | 580 | 20 | 600 |
| Region 3 | 975 | 170 | 90 | 110 | 1,345 | 20 | 1,365 |
| Region 4 | 265 | 145 | 100 | 65 | 575 | 10 | 585 |
| Region 5 | 210 | 95 | 40 | 25 | 370 | 10 | 380 |
| US | 2,025 | 705 | 395 | 275 | 3,400 | 70 | 3,470 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, July 1, 2001**

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 160 | 170 | 140 | 60 | 530 | 10 | 540 |
| Region 2 | 390 | 125 | 25 | 20 | 560 | 20 | 580 |
| Region 3 | 935 | 175 | 90 | 115 | 1,315 | 20 | 1,335 |
| Region 4 | 265 | 140 | 100 | 60 | 565 | 10 | 575 |
| Region 5 | 215 | 80 | 40 | 25 | 360 | 10 | 370 |
| US | 1,965 | 690 | 395 | 280 | 3,330 | 70 | 3,400 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number by Weight Group, State,
and United States, July 1, 2002**

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 155 | 170 | 140 | 55 | 520 | 10 | 530 |
| Region 2 | 385 | 130 | 30 | 15 | 560 | 20 | 580 |
| Region 3 | 910 | 170 | 90 | 110 | 1,280 | 20 | 1,300 |
| Region 4 | 260 | 140 | 90 | 50 | 540 | 10 | 550 |
| Region 5 | 220 | 85 | 35 | 20 | 360 | 10 | 370 |
| US | 1,930 | 695 | 385 | 250 | 3,260 | 70 | 3,330 |

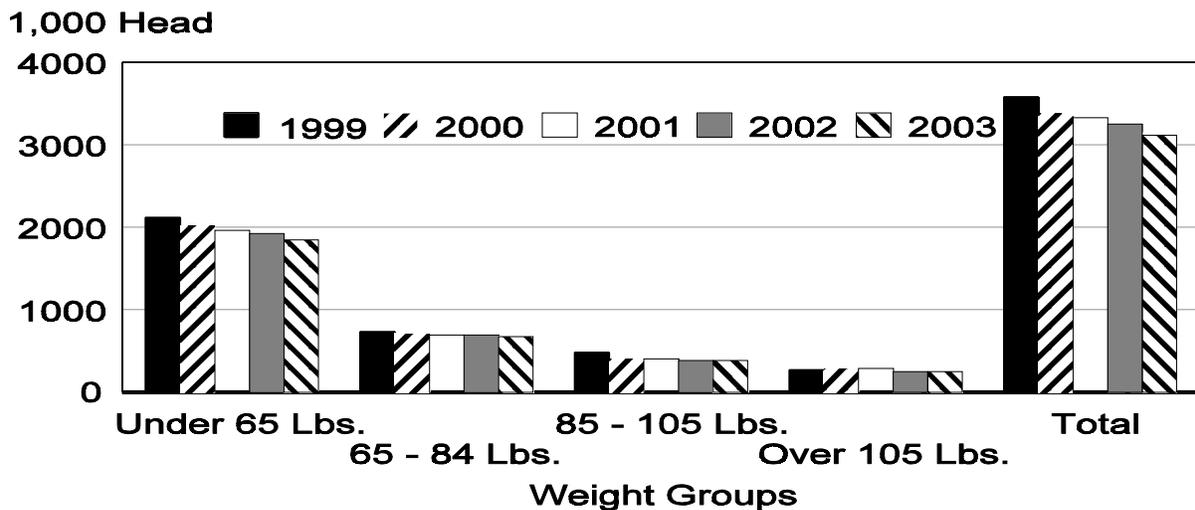
¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

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

| Regions ¹ | 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> |
| Region 1 | 150 | 155 | 130 | 55 | 490 | 10 | 500 |
| Region 2 | 375 | 130 | 35 | 15 | 555 | 15 | 570 |
| Region 3 | 820 | 165 | 80 | 110 | 1,175 | 15 | 1,190 |
| Region 4 | 255 | 135 | 95 | 55 | 540 | 10 | 550 |
| Region 5 | 245 | 75 | 35 | 15 | 370 | 10 | 380 |
| US | 1,845 | 660 | 375 | 250 | 3,130 | 60 | 3,190 |

¹ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

U.S. Market Lambs by Weight Groups July 1, 1999 - 2003



Reliability of July 1 Sheep and Lamb Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Data were collected during the first half of June from about 31,000 small and medium sized operations. These operators were contacted by face-to-face personal interviews. About 2,800 large producers and feedlots were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Operators were asked to report inventories as of the first of the month and lamb crop for the entire year of 2004.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep and lamb 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 2004 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 lambs 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 lamb crop 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 lamb crop estimates over the past 10 years is 3.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 4.08 million head by more than 3.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 5.8 percent.

Also shown in the table is a 10-year record showing the range between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate. Estimate changes for Lamb Crop between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 72,000 head, ranging from 4,000 to 406,000 head. The initial inventory estimate of Lamb Crop has been below the latest estimate 7 times and above the latest estimate 3 times in the last 10 years.

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

| Item | Root Mean Square Error | 90% Confidence Level | | Difference Between First and Final Estimates | | | Number of Years | |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | Percent | 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> |
| Lamb Crop | 3.1 | 5.8 | 236.0 | 72 | 4 | 406 | 3 | 7 |

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

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