



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701
(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov



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Media Contact: Bill Meyer

Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent; Goats and Kid Inventory Up 4 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2008 totaled 7.35 million head, down 3 percent from July 1, 2007, and 5 percent below July 1, 2006, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.42 million head on July 1, 2008 was down 3 percent from July 1, 2007. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 2.93 million head, were down 4 percent from last July. The breeding herd consists of 3.62 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 2.86 million head was comprised of 1.67 million lambs under 65 pounds, 595,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 340,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 250,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000 head. The 2008 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 3.97 million head, down 2 percent from the 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2008 totaled 3.48 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 490,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2008.

All goat inventory on July 1, 2008 totaled 3.73 million head, up 4 percent from the previous July number. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.81 million head, up 4 percent from July 2007. All market goats and kids totaled 925,000 head, up 2 percent from the previous July. On July 1, 2008 meat and all other goats totaled 3.15 million head, up 5 percent from July 2007. Milk goat inventory was up 4 percent increasing to 350,000 head while angora goat numbers fell 12 percent to 230,000 head. The 2008 kid crop is expected to total 2.03 million head, up 5 percent from the 2007 kid crop of 1.94 million head.

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