

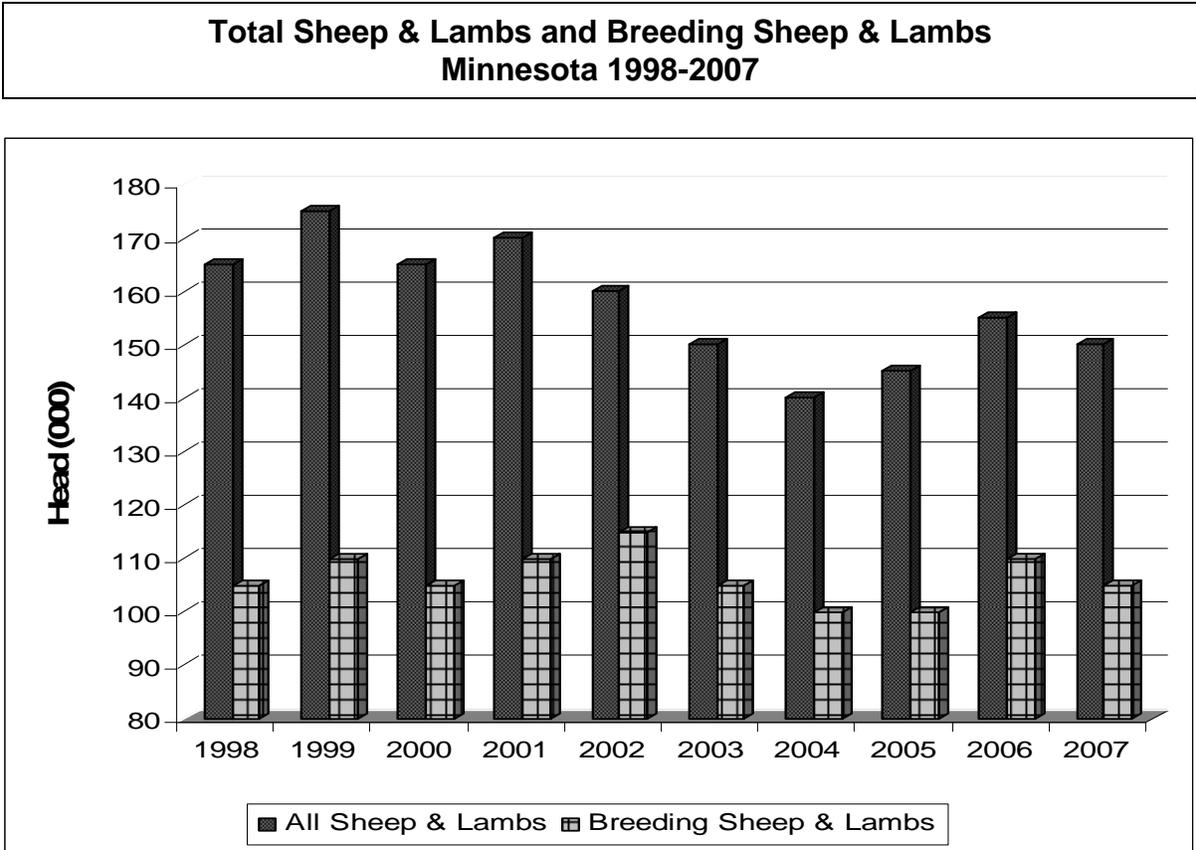


Released: February 2, 2007

MINNESOTA'S SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

Minnesota's January 1, 2007 sheep and lamb inventory was down 3 percent from last year to 150,000 head, according to USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Breeding stock numbers were down 5 percent at 105,000. The remaining inventory of 45,000 market lambs and sheep was unchanged from last year. Of the 45,000 total lambs and sheep for slaughter market, 2,000 were mature sheep (1 year old and older) and the remaining 43,000 were lambs under 1 year. Market lambs by weight group were estimated as follows: under 65 pounds: 9,000; 65-84 pounds: 8,000; 85-105 pounds: 14,000; over 105 pounds: 12,000.

Minnesota's 2006 lamb crop totaled 135,000 head, down 4 percent from the previous year. The 2006 lambing rate was 159 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2006, compared with 175 per 100 ewes in 2005.



MINNESOTA WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT FROM 2005

Minnesota's 2006 wool output decreased 6 percent with production totaling 910,000 pounds compared with 970,000 pounds in 2005. Minnesota is ranked 12th in 2006 U.S. wool production. The 140,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 2006 were down 7 percent from 2005. Fleece weight averaged 6.5 pounds, unchanged from the previous year. Value of the state's 2006 wool production was \$309,000, down 16 percent from the previous year's value of \$369,000. Average price per pound for 2006 was 34 cents, down 4 cents from the 2005 price.

(over)

Kerry Siekmann
 Agricultural Statistician

Douglas Hartwig
 Director

MINNESOTA'S MEAT AND OTHER GOAT INVENTORY UP 23 PERCENT

Minnesota's January 1, 2007 meat and other goat inventory, at 12,300, was up 23 percent from the January 1, 2006 figure. The milk goat inventory, at 6,400, was up 7 percent from the 2006 figure, while angora goats, at 1,300, were up 30 percent from last year.

U.S. TOTAL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2007, totaled 6.19 million head, down 1 percent from 2006, but still 1% above 2005. After two consecutive year to year increases inventory growth was hampered by extremely dry weather in the Southwestern part of the United States.

Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.62 million head on January 1, 2007, down slightly from 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.71 million head, were 1 percent above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2007, totaled 1.57 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2006. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65-84 pounds, 25 percent were 85-105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total marketings.

The 2006 lamb crop of 4.09 million head, was down 1 percent from 2005. The 2006 lambing rate was 112 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2006, down 3 percent from 2005.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2006 was 36.0 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2005. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.85 million head, down 4 percent from 2005. The average price paid for wool sold in 2006 was \$0.68 per pound for a total value of 24.4 million dollars, down 7 percent from 26.3 million dollars in 2005.

U.S. TOTAL GOAT INVENTORY UP 3 PERCENT

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2007, totaled 2.93 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.44 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. **All market goats and kids** totaled 494,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2007 **meat and all other goats** totaled 2.40 million head, up 5 percent from 2006. **Milk goat** inventory increased 2 percent to 296,000 head while **angora goats** were down 8 percent totaling 238,000 head. The 2006 **kid crop** totaled 1.92 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2005.

Mohair production in the United States during 2006 was 1.35 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 216,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.30 pounds. **Mohair price** was \$3.68 per pound with a value of 4.98 million dollars.

Goats: Number by Class, United States, January 1, 2006-2007

Item	Total <i>Head</i>	Breeding <i>Head</i>	Market <i>Head</i>	Kid Crop ¹ <i>Head</i>
2006				
Angora	260,000	226,000	34,000	144,000
Milk	290,000	263,000	27,000	203,000
Meat	2,287,000	1,874,000	413,000	1,492,000
All	2,837,000	2,363,000	474,000	1,839,000
2007				
Angora	238,000	207,000	31,000	130,000
Milk	296,000	268,000	28,000	215,000
Meat	2,400,000	1,965,000	435,000	1,573,000
All	2,934,000	2,440,000	494,000	1,918,000

¹ Kid Crop for 2006 refers to kids born in 2005. Kid Crop for 2007 refers to kids born in 2006.