



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
10 W 15th Street, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626

January 1, 2008 Sheep and Goat Inventory and 2007 Wool Production
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Contact: Christel Pachl or Peggy Stringer at 1-800-835-2612

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory was 290,000 head on January 1, 2008, unchanged from last year, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers were unchanged from 2007 at 265,000 head. The category breakouts were also unchanged and are as follows: Ewes one year and older, 209,000 head, rams one year and older, 7,000 head, replacement lambs, 49,000 head, and the 2007 lamb crop was 270,000 head.

All market sheep and lambs on hand January 1, 2008 totaled 25,000 head, unchanged from 2007. Of that total, 3,000 head were sheep, down from 6,000 head last year, and 22,000 head were lambs, up from 19,000 in 2007. The market lambs by weight category are as follows: 5 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 18 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 54 percent were in the 85-105 pound category, and 23 percent were over 105 pounds.

Montana wool growers produced 2.4 million pounds of wool during 2007, unchanged from 2006. The 2007 price per pound of wool increased \$0.39 to \$1.30 per pound. The total value of all wool produced in 2007 increased 43 percent to \$3.1 million. The total number of head shorn was unchanged from 2006 at 255,000 head. The average fleece weight was unchanged from 2006 at 9.2 pounds in 2007.

Montana's milk goat inventory in 2008 decreased 9 percent from last year to 2,000 head, and meat and other goat inventory decreased 8 percent to 11,000 head on January 1, 2008. All other categories were not published but were included with the U.S. numbers.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 6.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. After consecutive increases in 2005 and 2006, inventory has now declined for the past two years.

Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.51 million head on January 1, 2008, down 2 percent from 4.61 million head on January 1, 2007. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.62 million head, were 2 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008, totaled 1.55 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2007. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total market sheep and lambs.

The 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head, was down slightly from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 110 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from 2006.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2007 was 34.5 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.71 million head, down 3 percent from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.88 per pound for a total value of 30.3 million dollars, up 23 percent from 24.5 million dollars in 2006.

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All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 3.02 million head, up 3 percent from 2007. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.50 million head up 2 percent from 2007. All market goats and kids totaled 520,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2008 meat and all other goats totaled 2.50 million head, up 4 percent from 2007. Milk goat inventory increased 4 percent to 305,000 head while angora goats were down 12 percent totaling 210,000 head. The 2007 kid crop totaled 1.94 million head for all goats, up 1 percent from 2006.

Mohair production in the United States during 2007 was 1.14 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 185,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.20 pounds. Mohair price was \$3.78 per pound with a value of 4.31 million dollars.

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Sheep, Lambs and Goats Inventory January 1, 2006-2008

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2006	2007	2008	'08/'07	2006	2007	2008	'08/'07
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	295	290	290	100%	6,230	6,165	6,055	98%
Breeding sheep	270	265	265	100%	4,640	4,610	4,505	98%
One year old & older								
Ewes	208	209	209	100%	3,661	3,696	3,617	98%
Rams	7	7	7	100%	196	195	193	99%
Replacement Lambs	55	49	49	100%	783	719	695	97%
Market Sheep & Lambs	25	25	25	100%	1,590	1,555	1,550	100%
Sheep	6	6	3	50%	76	89	80	90%
Lambs	19	19	22	116%	1,514	1,466	1,470	100%
Milk goats	2.7	2.2	2.0	91%	290	294	305	104%
Meat and other goats	10.0	12.0	11.0	92%	2,287	2,402	2,500	104%

Lamb Crop, 2005-2007

Item	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	275	270	270	100%	4,117	4,065	4,050	100%

Sheep and Lambs Shorn and Wool Production and Value

Item	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06	2005	2006	2007	'07/'06
Number Shorn (1,000 Hd)	260	255	255	100%	5,072	4,852	4,705	97%
Average Pounds per Fleece	9.6	9.2	9.2	100%	7.3	7.4	7.3	99%
Wool Produced (1,000 Lbs)	2,490	2,350	2,350	100%	37,232	36,019	34,533	96%
Wool: Dollars Per Pound	0.98	0.91	1.30	143%	0.71	0.68	0.88	129%
Total Value (1,000 Dollars)	2,440	2,139	3,055	143%	26,272	24,510	30,258	123%