



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Sheep Inventory

HARRISBURG, PA, January 30, 2012 – All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2012 totaled 89,000, down 9 percent from the previous year according to the Pennsylvania field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Total inventory included 56,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, down 10 percent from January 1, 2011. Rams one year old and older were at 6,000 head, the same as the previous year's inventory. There were 13,000 replacement lambs, 3,000 less than a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 14,000 on January 1, 2012, the same as the 2011 estimate. Of this total, 11,000 were market lambs and 3,000 were market sheep. The 2011 lamb crop of 64,000 head was down 9 percent from 2010. The 2010 lambing rate was 103 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2011, a decrease of 8 lambs from the 2010 lambing rate.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2012, totaled 5.35 million head, down 2 percent from 2011. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 3.98 million head on January 1, 2012, a 3 percent drop from 4.08 million head on January 1, 2011. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.16 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2012 totaled 1.37 million head, which was 2 percent lower than the inventory taken on January 1, 2011. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total marketing. Of the number of market lambs, 23 percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 41 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total marketing. The 2011 lamb crop of 3.51 million head was down 2 percent from 2010. The 2011 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2011 was 2 lambs higher than the 2010 lambing rate.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2011 was 29.3 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2010. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.03 million head, a 4 percent decrease from 2010. The average price paid for wool sold in 2011 was \$1.67 per pound for a total value of \$48.9 million dollars, up 40 percent from \$35.0 million dollars in 2010.