



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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Issue No.: PR-110-09

On: TEXAS SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 9 PERCENT

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For Immediate Release: January 30, 2009

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AUSTIN . . . The Texas inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 870,000 head on January 1, 2009, down 9 percent from last year's level of 960,000 head.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Field Office, the inventory of breeding sheep and lambs totaled 660,000 head, down 10 percent from 2008. Breeding ewes one year old and older were down 12 percent, at 520,000 head. Replacement lambs were equal to last year at 100,000 head.

State Director Doug Rundle reported the 2008 lamb crop at 360,000 head, down 15 percent from 2007.

Market sheep and lambs in Texas were down 9 percent from last year, totaling 210,000 head. Sheep for market totaled 10,000 head, equal to 2008, while lambs for market totaled 200,000 head, down 9 percent from last year.

Lambs for market weighing less than 65 pounds totaled 80,000 head; lambs weighing 65 to 84 pounds totaled 25,000 head; lambs weighing 85 to 105 pounds totaled 25,000 head, and lambs weighing over 105 pounds totaled 70,000 head.

The January 1 Texas goat inventory was down 5 percent from last year at 1.12 million head.

Angora goats totaled 120,000 head, down 10 percent from last year, while meat and other goats were down 5 percent at 980,000 head.

Nationally, the inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 5.75 million head, down 3 percent from 2008.

United States breeding sheep inventory on January 1, 2009 were at 4.25 million head. Ewes one year and older, at 3.40 million head, were 4 percent lower than last year.

The 2008 lamb crop was 3.71 million head, down 5 percent from 2007. The 2008 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older, down 3 percent from 2007.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 1.50 million head on January 1, 2009. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total.

Market lambs weighing less than 65 pounds accounted for 23 percent of the total; 65 to 84 pounds, 11 percent; 85 to 105 pounds, 21 percent; and more than 105 pounds, 39 percent. Market sheep account for 5 percent.

Nationally, the all goat inventory totaled 3.07 million head, down 2 percent from 2008. Meat and all other goats totaled 2.55 million head, down 2 percent. Milk goats were up 4 percent to 335,000 head while Angora goats were down 10 percent to 185,000 head.

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SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY AND LAMB CROP ^{1/}

Item	Texas		
	January 1		2009 as percent of 2008
	2008*	2009	
INVENTORY:	<u>1,000 head</u>		<u>Percent</u>
All sheep and lambs	960	870	91
Breeding sheep and lambs	730	660	90
Ewes 1 year old and older	590	520	88
Rams 1 year old and older	40	40	100
Replacement lambs under 1 year old	100	100	100
Market sheep and lambs	230	210	91
Sheep 1 year old and over	10	10	100
Lambs under 1 year old	220	200	91
Under 65 pounds	85	80	94
65-84 pounds	35	25	71
85-105 pounds	50	25	50
Over 105 pounds	50	70	140
All goats	1,185	1,120	95
Angora goats	134	120	90
Milk goats	21	20	95
Meat and other goats	1,030	980	95
	2007	2008	2008 as percent of 2007
	<u>1,000</u>		<u>Percent</u>
Lamb crop	425	360	85

^{1/} Inventory estimates now include Barbado and all hair sheep and lambs.

* Revised.