



# News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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## WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

**WEST VIRGINIA - All sheep and lamb inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2012, was 33,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2011.

**Breeding sheep and lamb** inventory totaled 28,000 head on January 1, 2012, down 1,000 head from 2011. Ewes, one year and older, at 23,000 head, were down 1,000 head from 2011. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2011. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2011.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2012 totaled 5,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2011. Market sheep totaled zero head, down 1,000 head from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,500 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2011 lamb crop** totaled 31,000 head, unchanged from 2010. The 2011 lambing rate was 129 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2011, compared to the lambing rate of 155 in 2010.

**Shorn wool production** during 2011 was 126,000 pounds, up 1,000 pounds from 2010. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 21,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2010. The average price paid for wool sold in 2011 was \$0.82 per pound for a total value of 103,000 dollars, up 43,000 dollars from 2010.

**Sheep death loss** during 2011 totaled 2,500 head, unchanged from 2010. Lamb death loss increased 10 percent from 5,000 head in 2010 to 5,500 head in 2011.

**Meat and other goat** inventory on January 1, 2012 was estimated at 23,000 head, down 1,500 head from January 1, 2011. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 2,500 head, unchanged from last year. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**UNITED STATES - 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, down 3 percent 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, down 2 percent from January 1, 2011. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Twenty-two percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 22 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 38 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

**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, an increase of 2 percent from 2010.

**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, also down 4 percent from 2010. The average price paid for wool sold in 2011 was a record high \$1.67 per pound for a total value of 48.9 million dollars, up 40 percent from 35.0 million dollars in 2010.

**Sheep death loss** during 2011 totaled 240 thousand head, an increase of 4 percent from 2010. Lamb death loss increased 3 percent from 370 thousand head in 2010 to 380 thousand head in 2011.

**All goat inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2012, totaled 2.86 million head, down 4 percent from 2011. **Breeding goat** inventory totaled 2.38 million head, down 4 percent from 2011. Does one year old and older, at 1.78 million head, were 3 percent below last year's number. **Market goats and kids** totaled 487 thousand head, down 5 percent from a year ago. **Kid crop** for 2011 totaled 1.88 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2010. **Meat and all other goats** totaled 2.36 million head on January 1, 2012, down 4 percent from 2011. **Milk goat** inventory was 360 thousand head, unchanged from January 1, 2011, while **Angora goats** were down 15 percent, totaling 146 thousand head.

**Mohair production** in the United States during 2011 was 865 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 149 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.8 pounds. Mohair price was \$4.12 per pound with a value of 3.56 million dollars.