



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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## WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

**WEST VIRGINIA - All sheep and lamb inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2008, was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2007.

**Breeding sheep and lamb inventory** totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2008, up 2,000 head from 2007. Ewes, one year and older, at 24,000 head, were up 1,000 head from 2007. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2007. Replacement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2007.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2008 totaled 5,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2007. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 1,500 were under 65 pounds, 1,500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2007 lamb crop** totaled 32,000 head, up 3,000 head from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 139 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2007, compared to 132 in 2006.

**Shorn wool production** during 2007 was 130,000 pounds, down slightly from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 24,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.41 per pound for a total value of \$53,000 dollars, down \$11,000 from 2006.

**Meat and other goat** inventory on January 1, 2008 was estimated at 24,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2007. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,800 head, up 100 head 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, 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 marketings. 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 marketings.

**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.

**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.