



# Immediate Release

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## WYOMING'S SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DECREASE IN 2007

On January 1, 2008, Wyoming operators owned 440,000 **sheep and lambs**, down 4 percent from January 1, 2007, according to Carrie White with the Wyoming Field Office of USDA NASS. The number of **breeding sheep and lambs** was 340,000 head and the number of **market sheep and lambs** on January 1 was 100,000 head.

Of the total breeding sheep, 272,000 head were **ewes one year old and older**, down 3 percent from January 1, 2007. There were 9,000 **rams one year old and older**, down 10 percent from last year. **Replacement lambs** for breeding totaled 59,000, down 2 percent from 2007.

Of the 100,000 **market sheep and lambs**, 3,000 were **market sheep**, and 97,000 were **market lambs**. By weight groups, the number of market lambs was: under 65 pounds - 2,000 (2% of the total), 65 to 84 pounds - 5,000 (5%), 85 to 105 pounds - 40,000 (41%), and over 105 pounds - 50,000 (52%).

The **2007 lamb crop** in Wyoming at 290,000 head docked or branded is down 6 percent from the 2006 crop of 310,000.

Wyoming sheep produced 3.325 million pounds of **wool** from 360,000 sheep and lamb shorn during 2007 for a total value of \$4.19 million. Total value was up 28 percent from the previous year, even as production was down slightly but wool prices were up 34 cents to 1.26 dollars per pound. Wyoming was third in the nation in wool production behind Texas and California.

**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.



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**ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS, JANUARY 1, 2007-08 WYOMING AND U.S.**

Class	Wyoming			United States		
	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
All Sheep and Lambs	460	440	96	6,165.0	6,055.0	98
Market Sheep and Lambs	110	100	91	1,555.0	1,550.0	100
Breeding Sheep	350	340	97	4,610.0	4,505.0	98
Ewes 1 yr. & Over	280	272	97	3,696.0	3,617.0	98
Rams 1 yr. & Over	10	9	90	195.0	193.0	99
Replacement Lambs	60	59	98	719.0	695.0	97

**LAMB CROP 2006-07, WYOMING AND U.S.**

Area	Breeding Ewes 1 Yr. & Over January 1		Lambs Saved Per 100 Ewes 1 Yr. & Over January 1		Lambs Saved 1/		
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2007 as % of 2006
	Thousand Head		Percent		Thousand Head		Percent
Wyoming	278	280	112	104	310	290	94
United States	3,661.0	3,696.0	111	110	4,065	4,050.0	100

1/Lamb crop defined as lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.