

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



IDAHO  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE  
P.O. Box 1699  
Boise, ID 83701  
1-208-334-1507  
FAX: (208) 334-1114  
[www.nass.usda.gov/id](http://www.nass.usda.gov/id)

Released: January 30, 2004

---

## Idaho Sheep Inventory Unchanged

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 2004, totaled 260,000 head, unchanged from last year, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. The January 1, 2004 inventory equals last year as the lowest inventory since records began in 1920. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2004 totaled 225,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 184,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004 totaled 35,000. The 2003 lamb crop of 240,000 head was unchanged from 2002.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004 totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65-84 pounds, 23 percent were 85-105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507**