

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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SHEEP & LAMB INVENTORY

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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 85-105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

U.S. SHEEP & LAMBS BY CLASS, JANUARY 1, 2001-2004

ITEM	2001	2002	2003	2004
	-----THOUSAND-----			
All Sheep & Lambs	6,965	6,685	6,300	6,090
Breeding	4,967	4,913	4,658	4,480
Ewes	4,091	3,980	3,770	3,601
Rams	201	200	193	189
Replacement Lambs	675.0	734	695	691
Market Sheep & Lambs	1,998.0	1,772.0	1642.0	1610.0
under 65	470.6	435.9	441.0	433.0
65 to 84	359.4	299.9	266.3	255.5
85 to 105	487.3	415.6	393.0	367.4
over 105	604.2	549.0	474.9	486.8
Market Sheep	76.5	71.6	66.8	67.3
Lamb Crop	4,495.0	4,357.0	4,120.0	-----

Preliminary Census Results

The Census of Agriculture, which NASS took over from the Department of Commerce in 1997, is the most comprehensive source of statistics portraying Maryland and all of our Nation's agriculture. Preliminary data indicate what many have suspected; that Maryland has continued to lose farms and farmland over the 5-year period, 1997-2002. New demographic data indicate that the number of women involved in farming are increasing in the State and that farm operators claim farming as their principle occupation.

Complete tabulated census of agriculture data for Maryland and the 23 Maryland counties (in addition to all other states and counties in the U.S.) will be available in June 2004. In addition to a complete picture of agriculture down to the county level, the 2002 Census of Agriculture final report will include new information on multiple operator characteristics, production contracts, computer and Internet use, and farm-related income.

Abbreviated Historical Highlights: 2002 and Earlier Census Year

All Farms	2002	1997	Not adjusted for coverage					
			1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974
Farms number	12,206	13,254	12,084	13,037	14,776	16,183	15,540	15,163
Land in farms acres	2,076,167	2,193,063	2,154,875	2,223,476	2,396,629	2,557,728	2,614,439	2,634,395
Average size of farm acres	170	165	178	171	162	158	168	174
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	1,429	1,630	1,407	1,560	1,838	2,105	1,747	1,505
10 to 49 acres	4,419	4,500	3,828	3,979	4,400	4,822	3,947	3,399
50 to 179 acres	3,590	4,121	3,825	4,254	4,885	5,263	5,430	5,797
180 to 499 acres	1,830	2,022	2,038	2,252	2,591	2,978	3,346	3,461
500 to 999 acres	552	609	617	641	712	789	781	716
1,000 to 1,999 acres	272	276	274	266	284	252	230	228
2,000 acres or more	114	96	95	85	66	64	59	57
Farms by value of sales ¹								
Less than \$2,500	5,210	3,933	3,097	3,165	4,165	3,891	3,137	3,739
\$2,500 to \$4,999	1,182	1,517	1,365	1,642	1,948	2,123	2,143	1,631
\$5,000 to \$9,999	1,084	1,645	1,551	1,698	1,881	2,044	2,247	1,916
\$10,000 to \$24,999	1,331	1,776	1,668	1,822	2,012	2,388	2,496	
\$25,000 to \$49,999	645	908	952	1,096	1,100	1,451	1,610	4,6248
\$50,000 to \$99,999	637	829	854	904	1,084	1,504	1,713	
\$100,000 to \$499,999	1,443	1,931	1,944	2,229	2,306	2,525	2,047	1,538
\$500,000 or more	674	715	653	481	280	239	134	74
Farms by type of organization:								
Family or individual	10,598	11,308	10,229	11,129	12,738	14,040	13,423	(NA)
Partnership	759	1,039	994	1,114	1,323	1,544	1,541	(NA)
Corporation	719	812	771	709	619	519	497	(NA)
Other-cooperative, estate or trust institutional, etc.	130	95	90	85	96	80	79	(NA)
Total operators	18,715	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total women operators	5,560	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Principal operator by days of work off farm								
None	5,868	5,160	4,873	5,440	5,766	6,255	6,508	5,551
Any	6,338	7,217	6,362	6,745	7,985	8,682	8,278	6,721
200 days or more	4,330	4,962	4,317	4,563	5,504	5,875	5,411	4,477
Principal operator by primary occupation ³								
Farming	6,977	6,523	6,235	6,980	7,882	8,740	8,711	9,162
Other	5,229	6,731	5,849	6,057	6,894	7,443	6,829	5,672
Avg. age of principal operator years ³	55.8	54.9	55.2	53.9	52.7	51.5	51.3	52.3
Number of persons living in household of								
Principal operator	34,277	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Second operator	5,056	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Third operator	1,367	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by number of households sharing in net income of farm:								
1 Household	9,282	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2 Households	1,824	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
3 Households	379	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4 Households	186	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
5 Households or more	110	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

1 Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

2. Data for 1997 and prior years do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

3 Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorships) and partnerships.

4 Farms with value of sales of \$10,000 to \$99,999.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received for the month of January were mixed with small grain prices mostly down and row crop prices up from December. The Maryland wheat price decreased six cents to \$3.53 per bushel and the barley price was down thirty-four cents to a price of \$2.00 per bushel. Soybeans moved up sixty cents per bushel from last month's price of \$7.44 and corn was up eighteen cents to \$2.92 per bushel.

Maryland calf prices went down to \$3.80 per cwt and beef cattle decreased to \$80.40 from \$93.80 per cwt. in December. Hog prices increased slightly to \$37.90 per cwt.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity
		JAN 2003	DEC	JAN	JAN	DEC	JAN	
<i>Dollars</i>								
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.06	3.59	3.53	3.66	3.63	3.70	9.75
Corn	BU	2.82	2.74	2.92	2.33	2.32	2.46	6.55
Barley	BU	1.94	2.34	2.00	2.85	2.94	2.70	6.50
Soybeans	BU	5.75	7.44	8.04	5.51	7.17	7.82	15.40
All Hay, Baled	TON	157.00	159.10	129.00	91.40	81.30	79.30	----
Apples, Fresh	LB	----	----	----	0.258	0.285	0.301	0.511
All Beef Cattle	CWT	69.70	93.80	80.40	73.20	90.50	77.40	165.00
Calves	CWT	81.00	88.50	84.70	96.80	112.00	105.00	221.00
Hogs	CWT	31.80	37.80	37.90	33.00	34.20	35.70	102.00
Broilers	LB	0.355	.349	.381	0.350	0.380	0.430	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.346	0.377	0.349	0.992
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.583	0.917	.922	0.610	0.775	0.874	1.64

¹ Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

QUARTERLY AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

Beginning February 27th, around 1,200 Maryland farmers will be contacted for our March Agricultural Survey. For this survey we are asking for acres operated, crops to be grown in 2004, and crops stored on your operation. The results of this survey will help give an early picture of what is planned, as well as an update on stocks of grain. Those

operators selected will receive a questionnaire in the mail and possibly a follow-up phone call. Regardless of the size of the operation, every report is important to the accuracy of the results and their information is kept confidential.

MARCH PUBLICATION CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2 Weather crop Summary	3 Broiler Hatchery	4 Dairy Products	5 Dairy Products Prices Livestock Slaughter -Ann
8 Poultry Slaughter Poultry Slaughter- Ann	9 Weather -Crop Summary	10 Crop Production	11	12 Dairy Products Prices Turkey Hatchery
15	16 Weather-Crop Summary Milk Production	17 Broiler Hatchery	18	19 Dairy Products Prices Livestock Slaughter
22 Chickens and Eggs	23 Weather-Crop Summary	24 Broiler Hatchery	25	26 Dairy Products Prices Quarterly Hogs, and Pigs
29	30 Weather - Crop Summary Agricultural Prices	31 Grain Stocks Prospective Plantings Broiler Hatchery		

Reports can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, STATE STATISTICIAN AT (410) 841-5740
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