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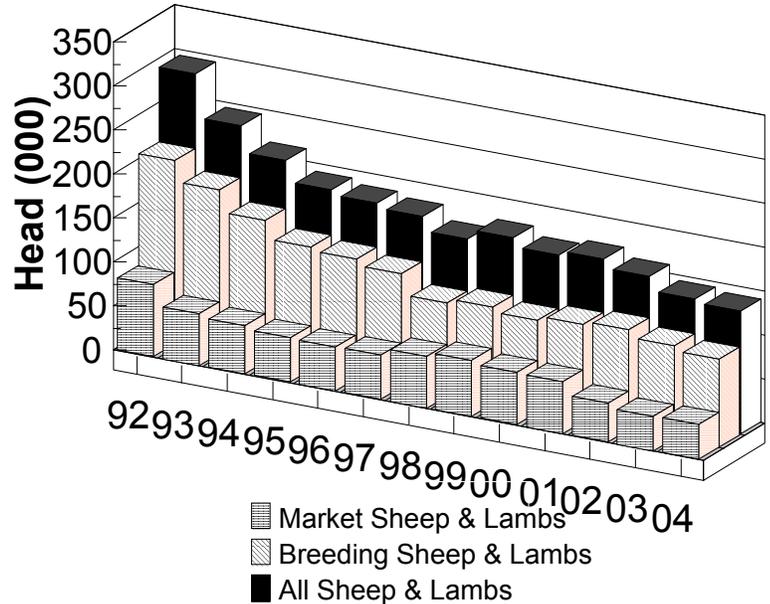
**MINNESOTA'S SHEEP AND LAMB  
INVENTORY DOWN 3% FROM A YEAR  
AGO**

Minnesota's January 1, 2004 sheep and lamb inventory decreased 3% from last year to 140,000 head, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding stock numbers fell 5% to 100,000. The remaining inventory of 40,000 market lambs and sheep was unchanged from last year.

Minnesota's 2003 lamb crop totaled 135,000 head, down 7% from the previous year. The 2003 lambing rate was 159 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2003, compared with 153 per 100 ewes in 2002.

Of the 40,000 total lambs and sheep for slaughter market, 1,000 were mature sheep (1 year old and older) and the remaining 39,000 were lambs under 1 year. Market lambs by weight group were estimated as follows: under 65 pounds: 8,000; 65-84 pounds: 10,000; 85-105 pounds: 12,000; over 105 pounds: 9,000.

**Sheep and Lamb Inventory  
Minnesota, January 1, 1992-2004**



**MINNESOTA WOOL PRICE UP 10 CENTS FROM 2002**

Minnesota's 2003 wool output decreased 7% with production totaling 950,000 pounds compared with 1,020,000 pounds in 2002. Minnesota ranked 12th in 2003 U.S. wool production.

The 140,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 2003 were down 7% from the 150,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 2002. Fleece weight averaged 6.8 pounds, unchanged from the previous year.

Value of the state's 2003 wool production was \$285,000, up 40% from the previous year's value of \$204,000. Average price per pound for 2003 was 30 cents, up 10 cents from the 2002 price.

*(See back page for U.S. highlights)*

## U.S. TOTAL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

**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.

**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.

**Shorn wool production** in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

### ***Special Note***

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2004 and revised 2003 estimates included in this publication. Although no significant revisions were made to the U.S. level estimates, States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series until the release of the 5-year *Final Estimates* publications which are scheduled for April 30, 2004.