

MINNESOTA AG NEWS

SHEEP AND GOATS



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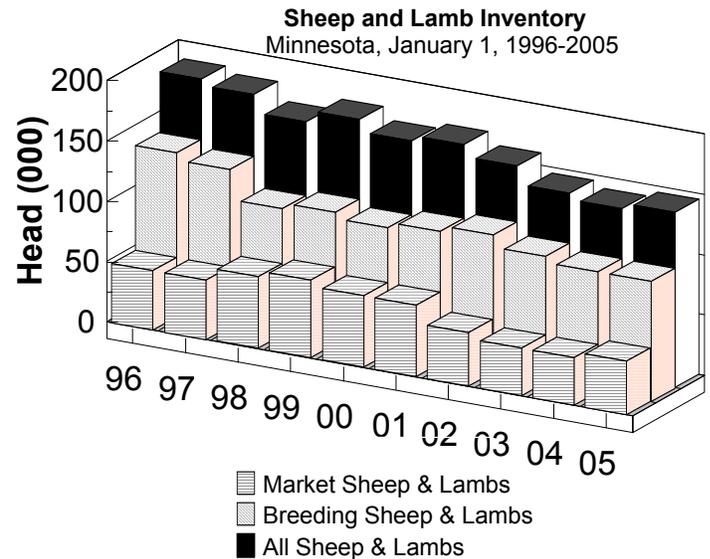
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MINNESOTA'S SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Minnesota's January 1, 2005 sheep and lamb inventory up 4 percent from last year to 145,000 head, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding stock numbers were unchanged at 100,000. The remaining inventory of 45,000 market lambs and sheep increased 1 percent from last year.

Minnesota's 2004 lamb crop totaled 135,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. The 2004 lambing rate was 169 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2004, compared with 159 per 100 ewes in 2003.

Of the 45,000 total lambs and sheep for slaughter market, 1,000 were mature sheep (1 year old and older) and the remaining 44,000 were lambs under 1 year. Market lambs by weight group were estimated as follows: under 65 pounds: 9,000; 65-84 pounds: 11,000; 85-105 pounds: 13,000; over 105 pounds: 11,000.



MINNESOTA WOOL PRICE UP 7 CENTS FROM 2003

Minnesota's 2004 wool output decreased 4 percent with production totaling 910,000 pounds compared with 950,000 pounds in 2003. Minnesota ranked 12th in 2004 U.S. wool production.

The 140,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 2004 were unchanged from 2003. Fleece weight averaged 6.5 pounds, down from 6.8 the previous year.

Value of the state's 2004 wool production was \$337,000, up 18 percent from the previous year's value of \$285,000. Average price per pound for 2004 was 37 cents, up 7 cents from the 2003 price.

MINNESOTA'S GOAT INVENTORY

Goat data provided in this report are results of the first annual goat survey. Minnesota's January 1, 2005 all milk goats inventory at 5,800 and all meat/other goats inventory at 8,000.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. TOTAL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY UP SLIGHTLY

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep.

The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

U.S. TOTAL GOAT INVENTORY

Goat data provided in this report are results of the first annual goat survey.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.1 million head and **market goats** totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, **meat and all other goats** totaled 1.97 million head, **milk goats** totaled 283,500 head and **angora goats** totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 **kid crop** was 1.67 million head for all goats.

Mohair production in the United States during 2004 was 1.94 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 269,500 head. Average weight per clip was 7.2 pounds. **Mohair price** was 1.97 per pound with a value of 3.8 million dollars.