



USDA
South Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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South Dakota SHEEP INVENTORY

News Release

January 30, 2004

SOUTH DAKOTA SHEEP INVENTORY DOWN

SIoux FALLS, January 30, 2004 – The January 1, 2004 South Dakota inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 370,000 head, 10,000 head below last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the lowest inventory number for South Dakota since records began in 1920. The breeding herd decreased 25,000 head from last year, and the marketing herd increased 15,000 head. Other classes and their changes from one year ago are:

- ! **Breeding sheep**, at 290,000 head, down 8 percent from the January 2003 herd.
- ! **Ewes one year old and older**, at 240,000 head, down 9 percent from last year.
- ! **Rams and wethers** one year old and older, at 9,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 2003.
- ! **Replacement lambs** for breeding, at 41,000 head, up 3 percent from last year.
- ! **Market sheep and lambs**, at 80,000 head, up 23 percent from one year ago.

Lambs born during 2003 totaled 300,000 head, down 25,000 head from the 2002 lamb crop.

Wool production for 2003, at 2,625,000 pounds, was down 480,000 pounds, 15 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 330,000 head, compared to 375,000 head in 2002.

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