



**USDA**  
South Dakota  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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Sioux Falls, SD  
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# South Dakota

## WOOL PRODUCTION

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News Release

March 25, 1999

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### ***1998 WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN***

SIOUX FALLS, March 25, 1999 -- South Dakota wool production fell 11 percent in 1998, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. Wool production totaled 2,950,000 pounds in 1998 compared to the 3,302,000 pounds produced in 1997.

All sheep and lambs shorn totaled 355,000 head, down 35,000 head from the 1997 level of 390,000. The average weight per fleece was 8.3 pounds, down from the 8.5 pounds in 1997.

Wool price averaged 59 cents per pound, down 34 percent from last year's 90 cents. The total wool value for the state was \$1,741,000, down \$1,231,000 from 1997.

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