



West Virginia  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service

# West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

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## WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP INVENTORY

**WEST VIRGINIA -- All sheep and lamb inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2004, was 34,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2003.

**Breeding sheep and lamb inventory** totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2004, up 1,000 head from 2003. Ewes, one year and older, at 25,000 head, were up 2,000 head from 2003. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2003. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2003.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2004 totaled 4,000 head, down 20 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs totaled 3,500 head, down 500 head from the previous year. Of these, 1,500 were under 65 pounds, 500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2003 lamb crop** totaled 33,000 head, unchanged from 2002. The 2003 lambing rate was 143 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2003, compared to 138 in 2002.

**UNITED STATES --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.

### *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.