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JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Sheep and Goats report showing the Kentucky sheep inventory decreased from last year, while the goat inventory was higher. Data in the report are based on a survey of farmers conducted in January.

The total number of sheep and lambs in Kentucky on January 1, 2020, was estimated at 62,000 head, a decrease of 2,000 head from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 48,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 14,000 head. Breeding ewes were unchanged at 37,000 head as well as breeding rams which remained at 2,500 head. Replacement lambs numbered 8,500, down 1,000 from 2019. Lamb crop for 2019 increased by 3,000 from last year to 40,000 head.

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2020 totaled 5.20 million head, down 1 percent from 2019. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.81 million head on January 1, 2020, decreased slightly from 3.82 million head on January 1, 2019. Ewes one year old and older, at 2.98 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2020 totaled 1.39 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory. The 2019 lamb crop of 3.23 million head was down slightly from 2018. The 2019 lambing rate was 108 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2019, up 1 percent from 2018.

All meat and other goats in Kentucky were estimated at 57,000 head, up 5,000 head from January 2019. Milk goats at 7,000 head, an increase of 1,000 head from the previous year's estimate.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2020 totaled 2.66 million head, up 1 percent from 2019. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.18 million head, up 2 percent from 2019. Does one year old and older, at 1.62 million head, were up 2 percent from last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 478 thousand head, up 1 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2019 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, up slightly from 2018. Meat and other goats totaled 2.09 million head on January 1, 2020, up 2 percent from 2019. Milk goat inventory was 440 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2019, while Angora goats were down 5 percent, totaling 130 thousand head.