



Minnesota Ag News – Sheep

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Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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All sheep and lambs inventory in Minnesota as of January 1, 2015, totaled 130,000 head, dropping 4 percent from 2014, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Sheep and Goats* report. Total breeding stock, at 92,000 head, was 6 percent less than a year ago. Compared to last year, market sheep and lambs increased 3 percent to 38,000 head. The lamb crop for 2014 was 7 percent less than the previous year at 125,000. Wool production for the State was 800,000 pounds, down 6 percent from last year.



All Sheep and Lambs, Number by Class, and Lamb Crop - Minnesota and United States: January 1, 2014-2015

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All sheep and lambs	135.0	130.0	96	5,245.0	5,280.0	101
Total breeding sheep	98.0	92.0	94	3,900.0	3,935.0	101
Ewes	79.0	73.0	92	3,090.0	3,110.0	101
Rams	4.0	4.0	100	175.0	175.0	100
Replacement lambs	15.0	15.0	100	635.0	650.0	102
Total market	37.0	38.0	103	1,345.0	1,345.0	100
	2013	2014	2014 as % of 2013	2013	2014	2014 as % of 2013
Lamb crop	135.0	125.0	93	3,370.0	3,440.0	102

Wool Production, Price and Value - Minnesota and United States: 2013-2014

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2013	2014	2014 as % of 2013	2013	2014	2014 as % of 2013
Sheep shorn.....(1,000 head)	135.0	125.0	93	3,700.0	3,680.0	99
Weight per fleece.....(pounds)	6.3	6.4	102	7.3	7.3	100
Production.....(1,000 pounds)	850	800	94	26,990	26,700	99
Price per pound.....(dollars)	0.84	0.82	98	1.45	1.46	101
Value ¹(1,000 dollars)	714	656	92	39,209	38,949	99

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. United States value is the summation of State values.

United States Narrative

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2015, totaled 5.28 million head, up 1 percent from 2014. **Breeding sheep** inventory increased to 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015, up 1 percent from 3.90 million head on January 1, 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.11 million head, were 1 percent above last year. **Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2015, totaled 1.35 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2014. **Market lambs** comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 20 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 38 percent were over 105 pounds. **Market sheep** comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2014 **lamb crop** of 3.44 million head, was up 2 percent from 2013. The 2014 **lambing rate** was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2014, up 4 percent from 2013.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2014 was 26.7 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2013. **Sheep and lambs shorn** totaled 3.68 million head, also down 1 percent from 2013. The **average price paid for wool sold** in 2014 was \$1.46 per pound for a total value of 38.9 million dollars, down 1 percent from 39.2 million dollars in 2013.

Sheep death loss during 2014 totaled 220 thousand head, a decrease of 2 percent from 2013. **Lamb death loss** increased 1 percent from 360 thousand head in 2013 to 365 thousand head in 2014.

