



Minnesota Ag News – Sheep and Lambs



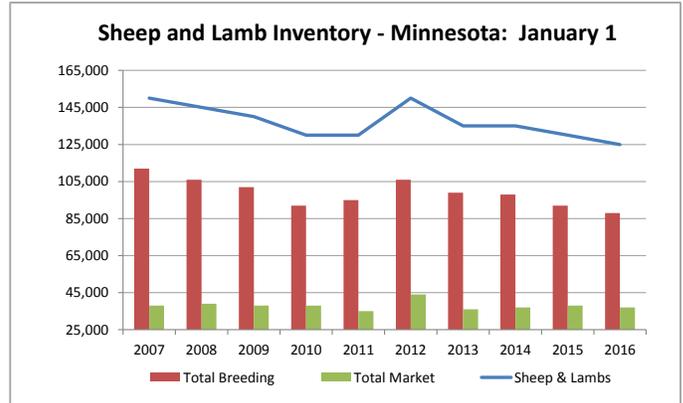
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All sheep and lambs inventory in Minnesota as of January 1, 2016, totaled 125,000 head, dropping 4 percent from 2015, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Sheep and Goats* report. Total **breeding stock**, at 88,000 head, was 4 percent less than a year ago. Compared to last year, **market sheep and lambs** decreased 3 percent to 37,000 head. The **lamb crop** for 2015 was 4 percent less than the previous year at 120,000 head. **Wool** production for the State was 770,000 pounds, down 4 percent from last year.



All Sheep and Lambs, Number by Class – Minnesota and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2015	2016	2016 as % of 2015	2015	2016	2016 as % of 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All sheep and lambs	130.0	125.0	96	5,280.0	5,320.0	101
Total breeding sheep	92.0	88.0	96	3,935.0	3,965.0	101
Ewes	73.0	70.0	96	3,110.0	3,125.0	100
Rams	4.0	4.0	100	175.0	175.0	100
Replacement lambs	15.0	14.0	93	650.0	665.0	102
Total market	38.0	37.0	97	1,345.0	1,355.0	101

Lamb Crop – Minnesota and United States: 2015 and 2016

	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)
Lamb crop	125.0	120.0	96	3,440.0	3,440.0	100

Wool Production, Price and Value – Minnesota and United States: 2014 and 2015

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
Sheep shorn.....(1,000 head)	125.0	120.0	96	3,680.0	3,680.0	100
Weight per fleece.....(pounds)	6.4	6.4	100	7.3	7.4	101
Production.....(1,000 pounds)	800	770	96	26,680	27,050	101
Price per pound.....(dollars)	0.82	0.79	96	1.46	1.45	99
Value ¹(1,000 dollars)	656	608	93	38,909	39,298	101

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, 2016 totaled 5.32 million head, up 1 percent from 2015. **Breeding sheep** inventory at 3.97 million head on January 1, 2016, increased 1 percent from 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015. **Ewes one year old and older**, at 3.13 million head, were slightly above last year. **Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2016 totaled 1.36 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2015. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2015 **lamb crop** of 3.44 million head was unchanged from 2014. The 2015 **lambing rate** was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2015, also unchanged from 2014.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2015 was 27.1 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. **Sheep and lambs shorn** totaled 3.68 million head, unchanged from 2014. The average price paid for wool sold in 2015 was \$1.45 per pound for a total value of 39.3 million dollars, up 1 percent from 38.9 million dollars in 2014.

Sheep death loss during 2015 totaled 230 thousand head, up 5 percent from 2014. **Lamb death loss** increased 3 percent from 365 thousand head to 375 thousand head in 2015.

