

SHEEP and LAMBS



The New England sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2009, totaled 48,000 head, a decrease of 2,000 head from a year earlier. Breeding stock totaled 41,000 head at the first of the year, a four percent decline from 2008. There were 36,000 lambs born on New England farms during 2008, compared to 37,000 born during 2007. Wool production in the six-state region totaled 263,000 pounds in 2008, down one percent from 2007. Prices received for sheep averaged \$50 per cwt, an increase of four dollars from a year earlier.

Producers received an average of \$125 per cwt for lamb marketed in 2008, \$5 per cwt more than in 2007. On January 1, 2009, the total value of New England's sheep and lamb inventory was estimated \$9.4 million, 11 percent below the previous year due to the decline in inventory.

The number of operations by state will no longer be published on an annual basis. State level numbers will only be published in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture every five years. The number of operations at the US level will continue to be published on an annual basis.

NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Inventory by State 2000 – 2009

Year	Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont
1,000 head						
2000	5.0	10.5	8.2	7.3	1.0	17.0
2001	5.0	9.8	8.7	7.2	1.3	17.0
2002	5.5	9.0	8.7	6.5	1.3	16.0
2003	5.5	8.6	9.6	7.5	1.3	14.5
2004	5.0	8.1	8.5	7.0	1.0	13.4
2005	5.0	7.0	10.2	7.6	1.2	14.5
2006	4.8	7.9	9.3	7.2	1.3	16.5
2007	5.8	9.5	9.0	7.5	1.2	15.0
2008	5.5	10.5	11.4	7.6	1.4	13.6
2009	5.7	9.7	10.1	7.0	1.5	14.0

NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Inventory by Class, January 1, 2000 – 2009

Year	Total Inventory Sheep and Lambs	Total Market Sheep and Lambs	Breeding Sheep 1+ Year Old		Replacement Lambs	Total Breeding Sheep and Lambs
			Ewes	Rams		
1,000 Head						
2000	49.0	6.0	32.0	3.0	8.0	43.0
2001	49.0	6.0	32.0	3.0	8.0	43.0
2002	47.0	6.0	31.0	2.0	8.0	41.0
2003	47.0	7.0	29.0	3.0	8.0	40.0
2004	43.0	6.0	28.0	2.0	7.0	37.0
2005	45.5	6.5	29.0	2.5	7.5	39.0
2006	47.0	6.5	30.5	2.5	7.5	40.5
2007	48.0	7.0	31.0	2.5	7.5	41.0
2008	50.0	7.5	32.0	2.5	8.0	42.5
2009	48.0	7.0	31.5	2.5	7.0	41.0

NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Operations and Lambs Born, 1999 – 2008

Year	Lambs Born	Lambs Per 100 Ewes 1+ Year Old on Jan 1	Operations with Sheep ¹
1,000 Head			Number
1999	38.0	115	2,100
2000	39.0	122	2,100
2001	37.5	117	2,000
2002	38.0	123	2,000
2003	33.0	114	2,000
2004	35.0	125	1,900
2005	36.0	124	2,000
2006	36.0	118	2,050
2007	37.0	119	3,000
2008	36.0	113	—

¹ Estimated number of operations discontinued after 2007.

**NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Lamb Crop, Inventory, Disposition,
and Lambing Rate, 1999 – 2008 ¹**

Year	All Sheep and Lambs Jan 1 ²	Lambs Born	Inshipments All Sheep and Lambs	Marketings ³		Farm Slaughter ⁴	Deaths		All Sheep and Lambs Jan 1 Following Year
				Sheep	Lambs		Sheep	Lambs	
				1,000 Head					
1999	49.0	38.0	2.4	8.1	26.5	0.9	1.8	3.1	49.0
2000	49.0	39.0	2.1	7.8	26.7	0.9	2.3	3.4	49.0
2001	49.0	37.5	1.9	9.9	25.6	0.9	2.0	3.0	47.0
2002	47.0	38.0	1.8	8.7	24.8	0.9	2.1	3.3	47.0
2003	47.0	33.0	1.7	10.0	22.9	0.9	1.7	3.2	43.0
2004	43.0	35.0	1.8	6.9	22.9	0.9	1.0	2.6	45.5
2005	45.5	36.0	2.2	5.5	24.6	1.5	1.6	3.5	47.0
2006	47.0	36.0	2.1	7.1	24.0	1.5	1.7	2.8	48.0
2007	48.0	37.0	2.4	6.4	23.1	2.0	2.1	3.8	50.0
2008	50.0	36.0	2.2	8.3	23.2	3.0	2.1	3.6	48.0

¹ Balance sheet estimates by state; for example: the sum of inventory January 1, 2008, lamb crop and inshipments is equal to the sum of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths and inventory January 1, 2009.

² Includes new crop lambs.

³ Includes customer slaughter for use on farms where produced and state outshipments, but excludes interfarm sales within New England.

⁴ Excludes custom slaughter for farmers at commercial establishments.



Photo courtesy of Fayre Farm, St. Albans, VT

NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Production and Income, 1999– 2008

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Price Per 100 Pounds		Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Sheep	Lambs			
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars		1,000 Dollars		
1999	3,045	3,035	40.00	110.00	2,630	345	2,975
2000	3,227	3,135	40.00	110.00	2,766	354	3,120
2001	2,925	3,184	40.00	115.00	2,733	358	3,091
2002	3,159	3,086	35.00	110.00	2,578	339	2,917
2003	2,671	3,077	40.00	115.00	2,601	346	2,947
2004	3,057	2,690	45.00	125.00	2,672	376	3,048
2005	2,951	2,668	50.00	125.00	2,819	389	3,208
2006	2,656	2,493	50.00	125.00	2,450	379	2,829
2007	2,744	2,440	46.00	120.00	2,336	430	2,766
2008	2,639	2,686	50.00	125.00	2,579	529	3,108

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within New England.

³ Receipts from marketings and sales of farm slaughter.

**NEW ENGLAND SHEEP and LAMBS: Inventory and Value,
January 1, 2000 – 2009**

Year	All Sheep and Lambs	Average Value per Head	Value of Inventory
	1,000 Head	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2000	49.0	170	8,330
2001	49.0	180	8,820
2002	47.0	200	9,400
2003	47.0	200	9,400
2004	43.0	195	8,385
2005	45.5	201	9,146
2006	47.0	203	9,541
2007	48.0	205	9,840
2008	50.0	211	10,550
2009	48.0	195	9,360

NEW ENGLAND WOOL: Production and Value, 1999 – 2008

Year	Sheep & Lambs Shorn	Weight per Fleece	Wool Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Head	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1999	43.0	7.3	315	0.33	104
2000	44.0	7.2	318	0.36	114
2001	40.0	7.4	295	0.40	118
2002	40.0	7.1	283	0.40	113
2003	37.0	7.0	260	0.35	91
2004	40.0	7.1	284	0.45	128
2005	41.0	7.1	293	0.45	132
2006	37.0	7.0	259	0.55	142
2007	38.0	7.0	266	0.55	146
2008	37.0	7.1	263	0.55	145



Photo courtesy of Village Farm, New Sharon, ME