



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## NORTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP

**FARGO, N.D. February 28, 2019** - All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2019 totaled 72,000 head, up 2,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

**Breeding sheep inventory** totaled 45,000 head, a record low and down 4,000 from last year. Ewes one year and older totaled 36,000 head, a record low and down 3,000 from the previous year. Rams one year and older totaled 2,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 7,000 head, down 1,000 from last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** totaled 27,000 head, up 6,000 from last year. A total of 1,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 26,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 2,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 8,000 were 65-84 pounds; 9,000 were 85-105 pounds; 7,000 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2018 lamb crop** totaled 45,000 head, down 4,000 from 2017. The 2018 **lambing rate** was 115 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 117 in 2017.

**Sheep deaths** totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2017. **Lamb deaths** totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from last year.

**Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm** totaled 800 head, up 100 from 2017.

**Shorn wool production** during 2018 was 410,000 pounds, down 10,000 from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 59,000 head, down 2,000 from 2017. **Weight per fleece** was 6.9 pounds, unchanged from last year. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.32 per pound, compared with \$1.09 in 2017. The total value of wool produced in North Dakota was 541,000 dollars in 2018.

Access the national report at:

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/000000018>

Access the National Livestock Executive Briefing at:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive\\_Briefings/2019/02-28-2019.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2019/02-28-2019.pdf)

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