



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Northern Plains Region
1805 NDSU Research Park Dr., Fargo, ND 58102 • (800) 582-6443

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Contact: Darin Jantzi

(800) 582-6443

darin.jantzi@usda.gov

NORTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOATS

FARGO, N.D. January 31, 2020 - All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2020 totaled 75,000 head, up 3,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Breeding sheep inventory totaled 51,000 head, up 6,000 from last year. Ewes one year and older totaled 41,000 head, up 5,000 from the previous year. Rams one year and older totaled 2,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 8,000 head, up 1,000 from last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 24,000 head, down 3,000 from last year. A total of 1,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 23,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 2,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 6,000 were 65-84 pounds. Weight groups, 85-105 pounds and over 105 pounds, were withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

The 2019 lamb crop totaled 50,000 head, up 5,000 from 2018. The 2019 **lambing rate** was 139 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 115 in 2018.

Sheep deaths totaled 3,000 head, up 1,000 from 2018. **Lamb deaths** totaled 7,500 head, up 1,500 from last year.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm totaled 1,000 head, up 200 from 2018.

Shorn wool production during 2019 was 465,000 pounds, up 55,000 from 2018. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 62,000 head, up 3,000 from 2018. **Weight per fleece** was 7.5 pounds, up 0.6 from last year. The average price paid for wool sold in 2019 was \$1.35 per pound, compared with \$1.32 in 2018. The total value of wool produced in North Dakota was 628,000 dollars in 2019.

North Dakota goat inventory numbers are not separately published as part of NASS's annual program. The counts are included in the "other states" category and U.S. totals each year. State-level data for those "other states" are published as part of NASS's Census of Agriculture.

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/2020/01-31-2020.pdf

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