



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NORTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOATS

FARGO, N.D. January 31, 2024 - All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2024 totaled 63,000 head, down 1,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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

Market sheep and lambs totaled 18,000 head, unchanged from last year.

The 2023 lamb crop totaled 44,000 head, down 4,000 from 2022. The 2023 **lambing rate** was 119 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 112 in 2022.

Sheep deaths totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2022. **Lamb deaths** totaled 5,500 head, down 500 from last year.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm totaled 500 head, down 500 from 2022.

Shorn wool production during 2023 was 370,000 pounds, down 20,000 from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 46,000 head, down 4,000 from 2022. **Weight per fleece** was 8.0 pounds, up 0.2 from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$0.95 per pound, compared with \$1.05 in 2022. The total value of wool produced in North Dakota was 352,000 dollars in 2023.

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/2024/01-31-2024.pdf

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