



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SOUTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

SIoux FALLS, S.D. January 31, 2018 - All sheep and lamb inventory in South Dakota on January 1, 2018 totaled 260,000 head, up 10,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Breeding sheep inventory totaled 200,000 head, up 7,000 from last year. Ewes one year and older totaled 161,000 head, up 6,000 from the previous year. Rams one year and older totaled 6,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 33,000 head, up 1,000 from last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 60,000 head, up 3,000 from last year. A total of 2,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 58,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 8,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 8,000 were 65-84 pounds; 13,000 were 85-105 pounds; 29,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2017 lamb crop totaled 190,000 head, down 5,000 from 2016 and is a record low. The 2017 lambing rate was 123 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 121 in 2016.

Sheep deaths totaled 8,000 head, unchanged from last year. **Lamb deaths** totaled 21,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm totaled 1,200 head, unchanged from last year.

Shorn wool production during 2017 was 1.78 million pounds, up 30,000 from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 235,000 head, up 5,000 from 2016. **Weight per fleece** was 7.6 pounds, unchanged from last year. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.49 per pound, compared with \$1.43 in 2016. The total value of wool produced in South Dakota was 2.65 million dollars in 2017.

Access the national report at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SheeGoat//2010s/2018/SheeGoat-01-31-2018.pdf>

Access the National Livestock Executive Briefing at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2018/01-31-2018.pdf

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