



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## SOUTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP

**SIoux FALLS, S.D. February 28, 2019** - All sheep and lamb inventory in South Dakota on January 1, 2019 totaled 255,000 head, up 5,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

**Breeding sheep inventory** totaled 194,000 head, up 4,000 from last year. Ewes one year and older totaled 157,000 head, up 4,000 from the previous year. Rams one year and older totaled 6,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 31,000 head, unchanged from last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** totaled 61,000 head, up 1,000 from last year. A total of 2,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 59,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 8,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 10,000 were 65-84 pounds; 16,000 were 85-105 pounds; 25,000 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2018 lamb crop** totaled 200,000 head, up 5,000 from 2017. The 2018 **lambing rate** was 131 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 134 in 2017.

**Sheep deaths** totaled 8,500 head, up 500 from last year. **Lamb deaths** totaled 23,000 head, up 2,000 from last year.

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

**Shorn wool production** during 2018 was 1.75 million pounds, unchanged from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 230,000 head, unchanged from 2017. **Weight per fleece** was 7.6 pounds, unchanged from last year. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.83 per pound, compared with \$1.49 in 2017. The total value of wool produced in South Dakota was 3.20 million 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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