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Released: February 28, 2019

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY

According to the Virginia Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service sheep and lamb inventories and goat inventories increased overall in Virginia from last year.

The total number of **sheep** in **Virginia** on January 1, 2019, was estimated at 79,000 head, up 4,000 from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 61,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 18,000 head. Breeding ewes increased to 48,000 head, and breeding rams remained at 3,000 head. Replacement lambs numbered 10,000, up 1,000 head from 2018. Lamb crop for 2018 totaled 59,000 head, unchanged from 2017.

All **sheep** and lambs inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2019 totaled 5.23 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.82 million head on January 1, 2019, decreased 1 percent from 3.87 million head on January 1, 2018. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.00 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2019 totaled 1.41 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory. The 2018 lamb crop of 3.24 million head was up slightly from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2018, up 1 percent from 2017.

GOAT INVENTORY

All meat and other **goats** in **Virginia** were estimated at 42,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 2018. Milk goats at 5,000 head, were down 500 head from the previous year's estimate.

All **goats** and kids inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2019 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.15 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 474 thousand head, up 2 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2018 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, up slightly from 2017. Meat and all other goats totaled 2.06 million head on January 1, 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Milk goat inventory was 430 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2018, while Angora goats were down 5 percent, totaling 137 thousand head.