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Joseph W. Guthrie, Commissioner

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## JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Sheep and Goats report showing the **Virginia sheep** inventory increased 1% from last year. The meat and other goats inventory decreased 7% from last year while milk goats increased 14% from 2022. Data in the report are based on a survey of farmers conducted in January.

The total number of **sheep** and lambs in **Virginia** on January 1, 2023, was estimated at 73,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 58,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 15,000 head. Breeding ewes were estimated at 45,000 head, down 1,000 head from last year and breeding rams were estimated at 3,000 head, unchanged head from last year. Replacement lambs were estimated at 10,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. Lamb crop for 2022 was estimated at 56,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2021.

All **sheep** and lambs inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2023 totaled 5.02 million head, down 1% from 2022. Breeding sheep inventory was estimated at 3.67 million head on January 1, 2023, down 1% from 2022. Ewes one year old and older were estimated at 2.87 million head, down 1% from last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2023 totaled 1.36 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2022. Market lambs comprised 94% of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6% of total market inventory. The 2022 lamb crop was estimated at 3.11 million head, down 2% from 2021. The 2022 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2022, unchanged from 2021.

All meat and other **goats** in **Virginia** were estimated at 39,000 head, down 3,000 head from January 2022. Milk goats were at 4,800 head, up 600 head from the previous year's estimate.

All **goats** and kids inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2023 totaled 2.51 million head, down 2% from 2022. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.06 million head, down 2% from 2022. Does one year old and older, at 1.52 million head, were down 2% from last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 451,000 head, down 1% from 2022. Kid crop for 2022 totaled 1.58 million head for all goats, down 1% from 2021. Meat and other goats totaled 2.00 million head on January 1, 2023, down 1% from 2022. Milk goat inventory was estimated at 400,000 head, down 2% from January 1, 2022, while Angora goats totaled 107,000 head, down 3% from last year.