



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia – All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2015, was 33,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2014.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 27,000 head on January 1, 2015, unchanged from 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 22,000 head, were also unchanged from 2014. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2014. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2014.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2015 totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2014. Market sheep totaled zero head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,100 were under 65 pounds, 1,900 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2014 lamb crop totaled 29,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2013. The 2014 lambing rate was 132 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2014, compared to the lambing rate of 141 in 2013.

Shorn wool production during 2014 was 114,000 pounds, up 9,000 pounds from 2013. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 20,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2013. The average price paid for wool sold in 2014 was \$0.86 per pound for a total value of 98,000 dollars, up 8,000 dollars from 2013.

Sheep death loss during 2014 totaled 2,000 head, up 500 head from 2013. Lamb death loss remained unchanged at 5,000 head in 2014.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2015 was estimated at 21,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1, 2014. **Milk goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2015, totaled 5.28 million head, up 1 percent from 2014.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015, up 1 percent from 3.90 million head on January 1, 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.11 million head, were 1 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2015, totaled 1.35 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2014.

Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 20 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 38 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2014 lamb crop of 3.44 million head, was up 2 percent from 2013. The 2014 lambing rate was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2014, up 4 percent from 2013.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2014 was 26.7 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2013. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.68 million head, also down 1 percent from 2013. The average price paid for wool sold in 2014 was \$1.46 per pound for a total value of 38.9 million dollars, down 1 percent from 39.2 million dollars in 2013.

Sheep death loss during 2014 totaled 220 thousand head, a decrease of 2 percent from 2013. Lamb death loss increased 1 percent from 360 thousand head in 2013 to 365 thousand head in 2014.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2015, totaled 2.68 million head, up 2 percent from 2014. **Breeding goat** inventory totaled 2.20 million head, up 2 percent from 2014. Does one year old and older, at 1.65 million head, were 3 percent above last year's number. **Market goats and kids** totaled 471 thousand head, up 2 percent from a year ago. **Kid crop** for 2014 totaled 1.71 million head for all goats, up 2 percent from 2013. **Meat and all other goats** totaled 2.15 million head on January 1, 2015, up 2 percent from 2014. **Milk goat** inventory was 365 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2014, while **Angora goats** were up 8 percent, totaling 160 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2014 was 880 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 159 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$4.85 per pound with a value of 4.27 million dollars.