



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2016

Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia – All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2016, was 36,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2015.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2016, up 3,000 head from 2015. Ewes one year old and older, at 24,000 head, were up 2,000 head from 2015. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2015. Replacement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2015.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2016 totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2015. Market sheep totaled zero head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 3,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2015 lamb crop totaled 32,000 head, up 3,000 head from 2014. The 2015 lambing rate was 145 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2015, compared to the lambing rate of 132 in 2014.

Shorn wool production during 2015 was 120,000 pounds, up 6,000 pounds from 2014. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 22,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2014. The average price paid for wool sold in 2015 was \$1.00 per pound for a total value of 120,000 dollars, up 22,000 dollars from 2014.

Sheep death loss during 2015 totaled 2,500 head, up 500 head from 2014. Lamb death loss during 2015 totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2014.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2016 was estimated at 21,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2015. **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, 2016 totaled 5.32 million head, up 1 percent from 2015.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.97 million head on January 1, 2016, increased 1 percent from 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.13 million head, were slightly above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2016 totaled 1.36 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2015. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2015 lamb crop of 3.44 million head was unchanged from 2014. The 2015 lambing rate was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2015, also unchanged from 2014.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2015 was 27.1 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.68 million head, unchanged from 2014. The average price paid for wool sold in 2015 was \$1.45 per pound for a total value of 39.3 million dollars, up 1 percent from 38.9 million dollars in 2014.

Sheep death loss during 2015 totaled 230 thousand head, up 5 percent from 2014. Lamb death loss increased 3 percent from 365 thousand head to 375 thousand head in 2015.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Does one year old and older, at 1.61 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2015 totaled 1.68 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2014.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2016, down 1 percent from 2015. Milk goat inventory was 375 thousand head, up 3 percent from January 1, 2015, while Angora goats were down 6 percent, totaling 150 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2015 was 765 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 139 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.30 per pound with a value of 4.05 million dollars.

Sheep and Goat Revisions

All sheep and goat inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2015, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. No revisions were made to sheep inventory or lamb crop at the United States level. A revision of 1 percent was made to goat inventory and no change was made to the kid crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.