



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP AND GOATS INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia – All sheep and lambs inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2018, was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2017.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 28,000 head on January 1, 2018, unchanged from 2017. Ewes totaled 23,000 head, unchanged from 2017. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2017. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2017.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 7,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2017. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, up 1,000 head 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, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2017 lamb crop totaled 27,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 117 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production during 2017 was 105,000 pounds, up 5,000 pounds from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 18,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.45 per pound, up \$0.20 per pound from the total of \$1.25 per pound in 2016. Value was 152,000 dollars, up 27,000 dollars from the value of 125,000 dollars in 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2016. Lamb death loss during 2017 totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2016.

Meat and other goats and kids inventory on January 1, 2018 was estimated at 21,500 head, up 500 head from January 1, 2017. **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 lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 5.23 million head, down slightly from 2017.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.83 million head on January 1, 2018, decreased 1 percent from 3.88 million head on January 1, 2017. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.01 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 1.40 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2017 lamb crop of 3.20 million head was down 2 percent from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2017 was 24.7 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.44 million head, down 4 percent from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.47 per pound for a total value of 36.4 million dollars, down 3 percent from 37.7 million dollars in 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 213 thousand head, down 2 percent from 2016. Lamb death loss decreased 2 percent from 373 thousand head to 367 thousand head in 2017.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2017. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down slightly from 2017. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2017 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, down slightly from 2016.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2018, down 1 percent from 2017. Milk goat inventory was 380 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017, while Angora goats were down 7 percent, totaling 142 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2017 was 725 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 133 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.00 per pound with a value of 3.62 million dollars.

Sheep and Goat Revisions

All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2017, 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 goats and kids inventory or kid crop at the United States level. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to sheep and lambs inventory and no change was made to the lamb crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.