



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, 2019, was 32,000 head, down 3,000 head from January 1, 2018.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 26,000 head on January 1, 2019, down 2,000 head from 2018. Ewes totaled 21,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2018. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2018. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2018.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2019 totaled 6,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2018. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, down 1,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2018 lamb crop totaled 26,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 113 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2018, down 4 lambs per 100 ewes from 2017.

Shorn wool production during 2018 was 92,000 pounds, down 13,000 pounds from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 17,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2017. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.40 per pound, down \$0.05 per pound from the total of \$1.45 per pound in 2017. Value was 129,000 dollars, down 23,000 dollars from the value of 152,000 dollars in 2017.

Sheep death loss during 2018 totaled 2,200 head, up 200 head from 2017. Lamb death loss during 2018 totaled 4,200 head, up 200 head from 2017.

Meat and other goats and kids inventory on January 1, 2019 was estimated at 19,000 head, down 2,000 head from January 1, 2018. **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, 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.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2018 was 24.4 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.37 million head, down 2 percent from 2017. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.75 per pound for a total value of 42.8 million dollars, up 16 percent from 36.8 million dollars in 2017.

Sheep death loss during 2018 totaled 216 thousand head, up 1 percent from 2017. Lamb death loss increased 6 percent from 367 thousand head to 388 thousand head in 2018.

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.

Mohair production in the United States during 2018 was 755 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 133 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.7 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.25 per pound with a value of 3.96 million dollars.

Sheep and Goat Revisions

All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2018, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to goats and kids inventory and kid crop at the United States level. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to sheep and lambs inventory and lamb crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.