

Sheep and Goats



National
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Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released February 5, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Inventory estimates refer to January 1, 1993, and lamb crop and number of operations to calendar year 1992.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 5 Percent Stock Sheep and Lambs and Ewes 1+ at Record Lows

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1993, totaled 10.2 million head, down 5 percent from a year earlier, and only slightly above the record low of 10.1 million head set in 1986. Total stock sheep and lambs and ewes one year old and older set record lows. The value of sheep and lambs totaled \$716 million, 9 percent above a year earlier. The average value per head was \$70.20, up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Stock sheep inventory decreased to 8.30 million head on January 1, 1993, down 7 percent from 8.92 million last year. This is the lowest level ever recorded. Ewes one year old and older, at 6.57 million head, were down 7 percent. This compares with the previous record low of 6.96 million head set in 1986.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1993, for the slaughter market in the 27 major feeding States totaled 1.89 million head, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

The 1992 lamb crop of 7.25 million head was down 5 percent from 1991. This compares with the lowest level of 7.21 million head set in 1988. The 1992 lambing rate was 102 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1992, compared with 103 in 1991.

The number of operations with sheep during 1992 totaled 101,040, down 4 percent from 1991 and is also a record low.

Goat numbers in Texas totaled 1.96 million on January 1, 1993, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total value of \$84.3 million was up slightly from a year earlier. Angora goat inventory on January 1, 1993, in the five major producing States totaled 1.81 million head, down 5 percent from last year. Value of the angora goat inventory totaled \$79.0 million.

For information call Linda Simpson (202) 720-3578. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Sheep: Number by Class, Value Per Head, and Total Value
United States, January 1, 1991-93

Class	1991	1992	1993	1993/1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent
All Sheep and Lambs <u>1/</u>	11,200	*10,750	10,191	95
On Feed	1,765	*1,830	1,894	103
Stock Sheep	9,435	*8,920	8,297	93
Lambs				
Ewes	1,328	*1,160	1,097	95
Wethers and Rams	334	*320	300	94
One Year Old and Older				
Ewes	7,425	*7,090	6,569	93
Wethers and Rams	348	*350	331	95
New Crop Lambs <u>2/</u>	761	710	704	99
	----- Dollars -----			
All Sheep and Lambs Value Per Head <u>3/</u>	65.60	*61.20	70.20	115
	----- 1,000 Dollars -----			
All Sheep and Lambs Total Value	734,868	*658,301	715,834	109

1/ New Crop Lambs are not included in all Sheep and Lambs Inventory estimates in this report. 2/ Includes all lambs born after September 30 previous year that are on hand Jan 1. 3/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head. 4/ Sheep and lambs on feed included in stock sheep for NY and PA in prior releases.

All Sheep and Lambs: Balance Sheet, United States, 1990-92 1/

Item	1990	1991	1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----		
Jan 1 Inventory	11,363	11,200	10,750
Lamb Crop and Imports	7,729	*7,667	7,275
Total Supply	19,092	*18,867	18,025
Slaughter	5,750	5,812	5,585
Deaths and Exports	1,802	*1,980	1,905
Total Disappearance	7,552	*7,792	7,490
Residual	340	*325	344
Jan 1 Inventory (End of year)	11,200	*10,750	10,191

1/ Final 1991 and preliminary 1992 estimates will be published in "Meat Animals, Production, Disposition, and Income", April 14, 1993.

* Revised.

Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous Year, by State and United States, 1991-92

State	Breeding Ewes 1 Year and Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop 1/		1992 % of 1991
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	
	--- 1,000 Head ---		- Number -		--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct
AL	7.8	9.1	87	69	6.8	6.3	93
AK	1.4	1.3	50	46	0.7	0.6	86
AZ	163.0	*120.0	*55	75	*90.0	90.0	100
CA	576.0	562.0	90	94	520.0	530.0	102
CO	363.0	320.0	106	120	385.0	385.0	100
CT	7.0	6.8	114	132	8.0	9.0	113
ID	199.0	210.0	138	122	275.0	257.0	93
IL	89.0	85.0	118	113	105.0	96.0	91
IN	74.0	67.0	132	134	98.0	90.0	92
IA	315.0	210.0	127	136	400.0	285.0	71
KS	126.0	120.0	100	98	126.0	118.0	94
KY	25.0	19.5	104	113	26.0	22.0	85
LA	12.5	11.2	80	94	10.0	10.5	105
ME	12.0	10.0	104	110	12.5	11.0	88
MD	21.0	22.0	119	109	25.0	24.0	96
MA	12.0	12.0	121	125	14.5	15.0	103
MI	68.0	63.0	115	124	78.0	78.0	100
MN	170.0	170.0	132	124	225.0	210.0	93
MO	95.0	75.0	100	107	95.0	80.0	84
MT	504.0	*487.0	116	104	585.0	506.0	86
NE	98.0	81.0	112	125	110.0	101.0	92
NV	79.0	60.0	82	103	65.0	62.0	95
NH	7.1	7.1	141	141	10.0	10.0	100
NJ	7.6	8.8	145	131	11.0	11.5	105
NM	338.0	325.0	74	74	250.0	240.0	96
NY 2/	59.0	48.0	93	125	57.0	60.0	105
NC	11.5	12.6	120	132	13.8	16.6	120
ND	138.0	142.0	130	120	180.0	170.0	94
OH	184.0	*135.0	*90	107	*165.0	145.0	88
OK	86.0	95.0	110	100	95.0	95.0	100
OR	285.0	280.0	112	107	320.0	300.0	94
PA 2/	98.0	94.0	101	107	101.0	101.0	100
SD	438.0	430.0	121	121	530.0	520.0	98
TN	10.0	9.4	90	85	9.0	8.0	89
TX	1,420.0	1,500.0	89	81	1,270.0	1,210.0	95
UT	403.0	388.0	99	103	400.0	400.0	100
VT	18.0	16.0	122	125	22.0	20.0	91
VA	98.0	93.0	122	124	120.0	115.0	96
WA	59.0	57.0	119	114	70.0	65.0	93
WV	67.0	55.0	97	127	65.0	70.0	108
WI	67.0	67.0	143	143	96.0	96.0	100
WY	555.0	570.0	103	102	570.0	580.0	102
Oth							
Sts 3/	58.0	35.1	50	82	28.8	28.8	100
US	7,424.9	*7,089.9	*103	102	*7,644.1	7,248.3	95

1/ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States. 2/ Sheep on feed included in 1992 ewes 1+ in the February 1992 release. They are published separately for 1991 and 1992 in this release. 3/ Other states includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.
* Revised.

All Sheep and Lambs: Number, Value per Head, and Total Value,
by State and United States, January 1, 1992-93

State	All Sheep and Lambs ^{1/}			Value per Head		Total Value	
	1992	1993	:93/92:	1992	1993	1992	1993
	--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct	--- Dollars ---		-- 1,000 Dollars --	
AL	12.3	10.9	89	71.00	70.00	873	763
AK	2.4	2.1	88	71.00	74.00	170	155
AZ	*195.0	205.0	105	83.00	85.00	*16,185	17,425
CA	995.0	955.0	96	76.00	81.00	75,620	77,355
CO	710.0	685.0	96	66.00	73.00	46,860	50,005
CT	9.4	10.0	106	105.00	110.00	987	1,100
ID	273.0	250.0	92	65.00	78.00	17,745	19,500
IL	129.0	105.0	81	72.00	85.00	9,288	8,925
IN	95.0	92.0	97	73.00	87.00	6,935	8,004
IA	345.0	320.0	93	55.00	78.00	18,975	24,960
KS	190.0	215.0	113	49.00	60.00	9,310	12,900
KY	29.0	23.0	79	68.00	76.00	1,972	1,748
LA	15.0	16.0	107	86.00	88.00	1,290	1,408
ME	14.8	17.5	118	92.00	110.00	1,362	1,925
MD	33.0	33.0	100	110.00	120.00	3,630	3,960
MA	16.7	16.3	98	115.00	105.00	1,921	1,712
MI	103.0	108.0	105	77.00	76.00	7,931	8,208
MN	293.0	245.0	84	57.00	75.00	16,701	18,375
MO	111.0	97.0	87	53.00	63.00	5,883	6,111
MT	*658.0	554.0	84	57.00	66.00	*37,506	36,564
NE	144.0	136.0	94	51.00	63.00	7,344	8,568
NV	85.0	91.0	107	61.00	67.00	5,185	6,097
NH	11.6	10.5	91	120.00	125.00	1,392	1,313
NJ	13.0	13.7	105	105.00	105.00	1,365	1,439
NM	445.0	405.0	91	65.00	66.00	28,925	26,730
NY	72.0	78.0	108	86.00	96.00	6,192	7,488
NC	17.9	20.8	116	60.00	77.00	1,074	1,602
ND	214.0	180.0	84	61.00	69.00	13,054	12,420
OH	*215.0	190.0	88	*69.00	77.00	*14,835	14,630
OK	145.0	115.0	79	58.00	69.00	8,410	7,935
OR	433.0	415.0	96	49.00	56.00	21,217	23,240
PA	134.0	139.0	104	75.00	85.00	10,050	11,815
SD	602.0	591.0	98	56.00	71.00	33,712	41,961
TN	13.0	16.0	123	87.00	85.00	1,131	1,360
TX	2,140.0	2,000.0	93	52.00	58.00	111,280	116,000
UT	488.0	490.0	100	65.00	81.00	31,720	39,690
VT	25.5	24.6	96	95.00	105.00	2,423	2,583
VA	143.0	122.0	85	50.00	61.00	7,150	7,442
WA	78.0	75.0	96	70.00	78.00	5,460	5,850
WV	68.0	76.0	112	53.00	63.00	3,604	4,788
WI	105.0	99.0	94	67.00	73.00	7,035	7,227
WY	*870.0	885.0	102	*58.00	68.00	*50,460	60,180
Oth							
Sts ^{2/}	58.3	58.3	100	71.00	75.00	4,139	4,373
US	*10,749.9	10,190.7	95	*61.20	70.20	*658,301	715,834

^{1/} New crop lambs are not included in the inventory estimates of all sheep and lambs.
^{2/} Other states includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.
* Revised.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1992-93

State	Stock Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Stock Sheep-Lambs			
	Ewes		Rams & Wethers		Ewes		Rams & Wethers	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000 Head							
AL	9.1	7.7	0.8	0.6	1.6	1.7	0.8	0.9
AK	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
AZ	*120.0	115.0	6.0	5.0	15.0	9.0	9.0	6.0
CA	562.0	500.0	23.0	23.0	85.0	80.0	40.0	37.0
CO	320.0	305.0	12.0	9.0	56.0	45.0	12.0	11.0
CT	6.8	7.0	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.8	0.6	0.7
ID	210.0	189.0	6.0	5.0	35.0	32.0	4.0	4.0
IL	85.0	70.0	6.0	5.0	13.0	10.0	4.0	2.0
IN	67.0	62.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	10.0	1.0	2.0
IA	210.0	200.0	9.0	8.0	23.0	20.0	8.0	7.0
KS	120.0	105.0	7.0	7.0	13.0	10.0	2.0	6.0
KY	19.5	15.0	1.7	1.8	3.5	3.1	4.3	3.1
LA	11.2	12.0	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	0.4	0.4
ME	10.0	12.0	0.9	1.0	2.4	3.0	1.5	1.5
MD	22.0	21.5	3.0	2.5	4.7	6.5	3.3	2.5
MA	12.0	12.0	1.0	1.0	2.6	2.4	1.1	0.9
MI	63.0	60.0	3.0	5.0	9.0	12.0	2.0	3.0
MN	170.0	145.0	9.0	8.0	26.0	27.0	5.0	5.0
MO	75.0	64.0	4.5	4.0	10.0	6.0	6.5	3.0
MT	*487.0	407.0	*17.0	15.0	*105.0	89.0	*11.0	9.0
NE	81.0	78.0	5.0	4.0	10.0	9.0	4.0	3.0
NV	60.0	56.0	3.0	2.0	8.0	11.0	1.0	1.0
NH	7.1	7.1	0.7	0.5	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.1
NJ	8.8	9.5	1.1	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.9
NM	325.0	295.0	20.0	20.0	54.0	55.0	11.0	15.0
NY <u>2/</u>	48.0	50.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	8.0	2.0	3.0
NC	12.6	15.4	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3
ND	142.0	118.0	5.0	4.0	19.0	17.0	4.0	4.0
OH	*135.0	120.0	9.0	8.0	28.0	24.0	3.0	3.0
OK	95.0	73.0	5.0	4.0	17.0	12.0	8.0	6.0
OR	280.0	250.0	15.0	20.0	41.0	36.0	16.0	14.0
PA <u>2/</u>	94.0	96.0	7.0	8.0	14.0	13.0	3.0	4.0
SD	430.0	415.0	15.0	15.0	64.0	62.0	8.0	8.0
TN	9.4	8.9	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.9	0.7	2.7
TX	1,500.0	1,410.0	80.0	72.0	250.0	256.0	100.0	82.0
UT	388.0	378.0	12.0	12.0	53.0	53.0	7.0	7.0
VT	16.0	15.5	1.3	1.3	5.3	4.6	2.9	3.2
VA	93.0	83.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	2.0
WA	57.0	50.0	3.0	3.0	12.0	13.0	6.0	9.0
WV	55.0	60.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	7.0	3.0	6.0
WI	67.0	65.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	13.0	2.0	2.0
WY	570.0	570.0	23.0	20.0	117.0	110.0	10.0	10.0
Oth								
Sts <u>1/</u>	35.1	35.1	11.0	11.0	6.8	6.8	5.4	5.4
US	*7,089.9	6,568.9	*350.0	331.0	*1,159.8	1,097.1	*320.2	299.7

1/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC. 2/ Sheep and Lambs on Feed included in the 1992 stock sheep in the February 1992 release. They are published separately for 1992 and 1993 in this release. * Revised.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1992-93 and Operations with Sheep, 1991-92

State	Stock Sheep and Lambs - Total			Sheep and Lambs on Feed 1/			Operations with Sheep 2/	
	1992	1993	:93/92:	1992	1993	:93/92:	1991	1992
	-- 1,000 Head --- Pct			-- 1,000 Head -- Pct			---- Number ----	
AL	12.3	10.9	89				350	350
AK	2.4	2.1	88				30	30
AZ	*150.0	135.0	90	45.0	70.0	156	450	450
CA	710.0	640.0	90	285.0	315.0	111	*5,300	5,300
CO	400.0	370.0	93	310.0	315.0	102	2,000	1,800
CT	9.4	10.0	106				460	460
ID	255.0	230.0	90	18.0	20.0	111	1,800	1,700
IL	108.0	87.0	81	21.0	18.0	86	4,000	4,000
IN	82.0	78.0	95	13.0	14.0	108	3,500	3,500
IA	250.0	235.0	94	95.0	85.0	89	9,500	8,500
KS	142.0	128.0	90	48.0	87.0	181	2,400	2,400
KY	29.0	23.0	79				1,100	1,000
LA	15.0	16.0	107				1,300	1,300
ME	14.8	17.5	118				700	700
MD	33.0	33.0	100				1,000	1,200
MA	16.7	16.3	98				800	800
MI	77.0	80.0	104	26.0	28.0	108	2,500	2,400
MN	210.0	185.0	88	83.0	60.0	72	*5,000	4,800
MO	96.0	77.0	80	15.0	20.0	133	3,400	3,300
MT	*620.0	520.0	84	38.0	34.0	89	2,800	2,500
NE	100.0	94.0	94	44.0	42.0	95	3,100	2,900
NV	72.0	70.0	97	13.0	21.0	162	*350	350
NH	11.6	10.5	91				*550	550
NJ	13.0	13.7	105				750	800
NM	410.0	385.0	94	35.0	20.0	57	1,200	1,200
NY 3/	60.0	64.0	107	12.0	14.0	117	2,400	2,200
NC	17.9	20.8	116				600	600
ND	170.0	143.0	84	44.0	37.0	84	1,900	1,800
OH	*175.0	155.0	89	*40.0	35.0	88	7,300	6,800
OK	125.0	95.0	76	20.0	20.0	100	2,500	2,300
OR	352.0	320.0	91	81.0	95.0	117	*4,500	4,000
PA 3/	118.0	121.0	103	16.0	18.0	113	3,700	3,700
SD	517.0	500.0	97	85.0	91.0	107	4,100	4,000
TN	13.0	16.0	123				650	550
TX	1,930.0	1,820.0	94	210.0	180.0	86	8,000	8,000
UT	460.0	450.0	98	28.0	40.0	143	*2,200	2,300
VT	25.5	24.6	96				*800	800
VA	108.0	97.0	90	35.0	25.0	71	2,400	2,200
WA	78.0	75.0	96				2,200	2,200
WV	68.0	76.0	112				1,900	1,800
WI	85.0	84.0	99	20.0	15.0	75	2,600	2,500
WY	720.0	710.0	99	*150.0	175.0	117	*1,500	1,500
Oth								
Sts 4/	58.3	58.3	100				1,500	1,500
27 Sts:				*1,830.0	1,894.0	103		
US	*8,919.9	8,296.7	93				*105,090	101,040

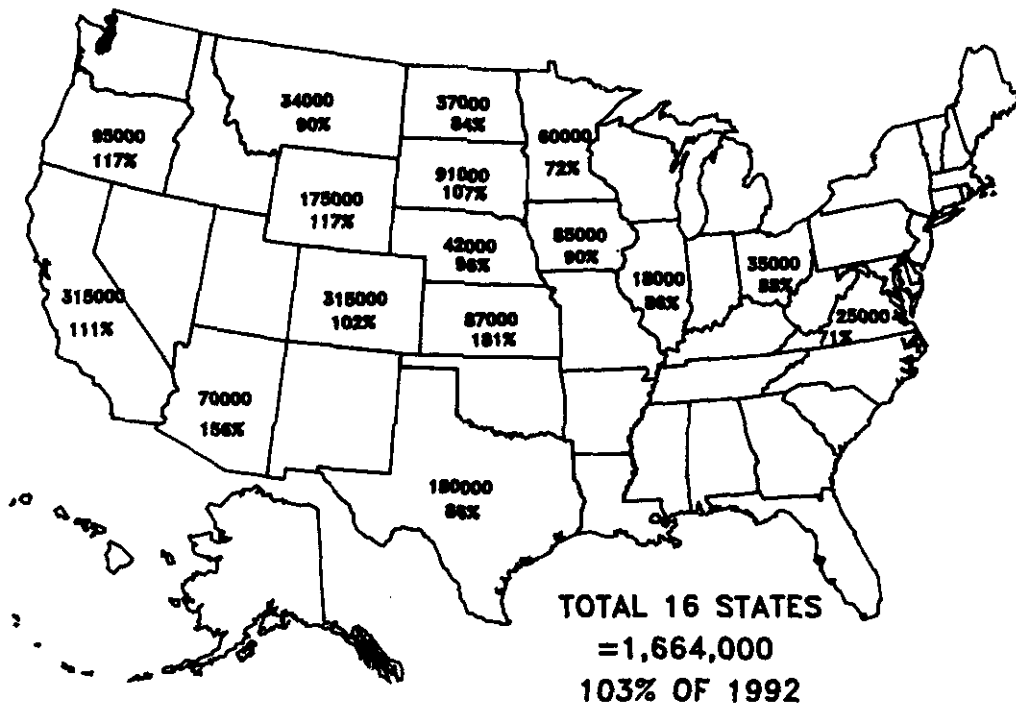
See footnotes on page 7.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class - Footnotes

- 1/ Sheep on Feed for AL, AK, CT, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NC, TN, VT, WA, WV, and other States were combined with stock sheep. Sheep on feed for these states totaled 31,400 in 1992 and 41,100 in 1993.
 - 2/ An operation is any place having one or more sheep on hand during the year.
 - 3/ Sheep and lambs on feed included in the 1992 stock sheep in the February 1992 release. They are published separately for 1992 in this release.
 - 4/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.
- * Revised.

16 SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED STATES

JANUARY 1, 1993 HEAD AND % OF 1992



New Crop Lambs: Number, Selected States and United States,
January 1, 1992-93 1/

State	1992	1993	1993/92
	----- 1,000 Head -----		Percent
AZ	45.0	45.0	100
CA	320.0	280.0	88
CO	4.0	3.0	75
ID	14.0	16.0	114
IA	10.0	8.0	80
KS	37.0	33.0	89
KY	3.0	4.0	133
MO	3.0	5.0	167
NE	4.0	5.0	125
OH	12.0	9.0	75
OK	17.0	12.0	71
OR	20.0	24.0	120
PA	7.0	7.0	100
SD	8.0	9.0	113
TX	140.0	180.0	129
VA	12.0	10.0	83
Oth			
Sts	53.6	54.3	101
US	709.6	704.3	99

1/ New crop lamb inventory includes all lambs born after September 30 the previous year that are on hand Jan 1. New crop lambs are not included in the inventory estimates of all sheep and lambs on pages 4-6 of this publication.

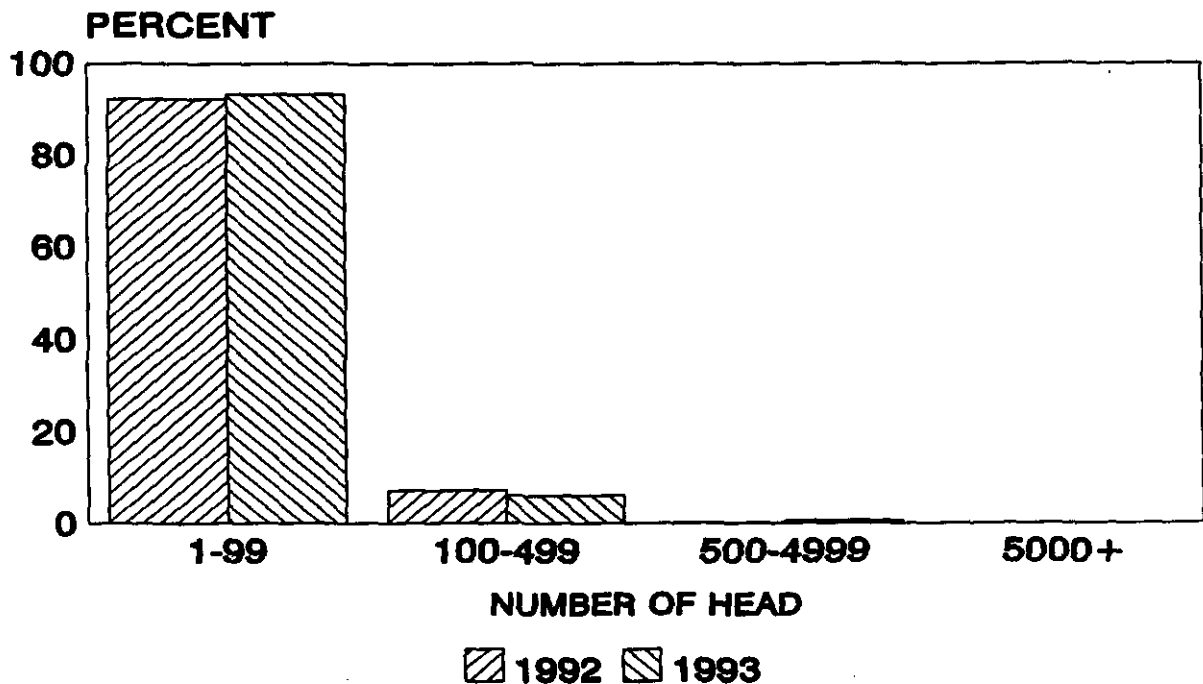
Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Operations by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1992-93 ^{1/}

Regions	Operations Having:							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Percent							
Native States	92.3	93.2	7.2	6.2	0.5	0.6	^{2/} 0.0	^{2/} 0.0
Western States	84.4	85.3	10.0	10.1	5.2	4.2	0.4	0.4
United States	89.3	90.3	8.2	7.7	2.3	1.9	0.2	0.1

^{1/} Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

^{2/} Less than 0.05 percent.

SHEEP OPERATIONS PERCENT BY SIZE GROUP, 1992, 1993 UNITED STATES

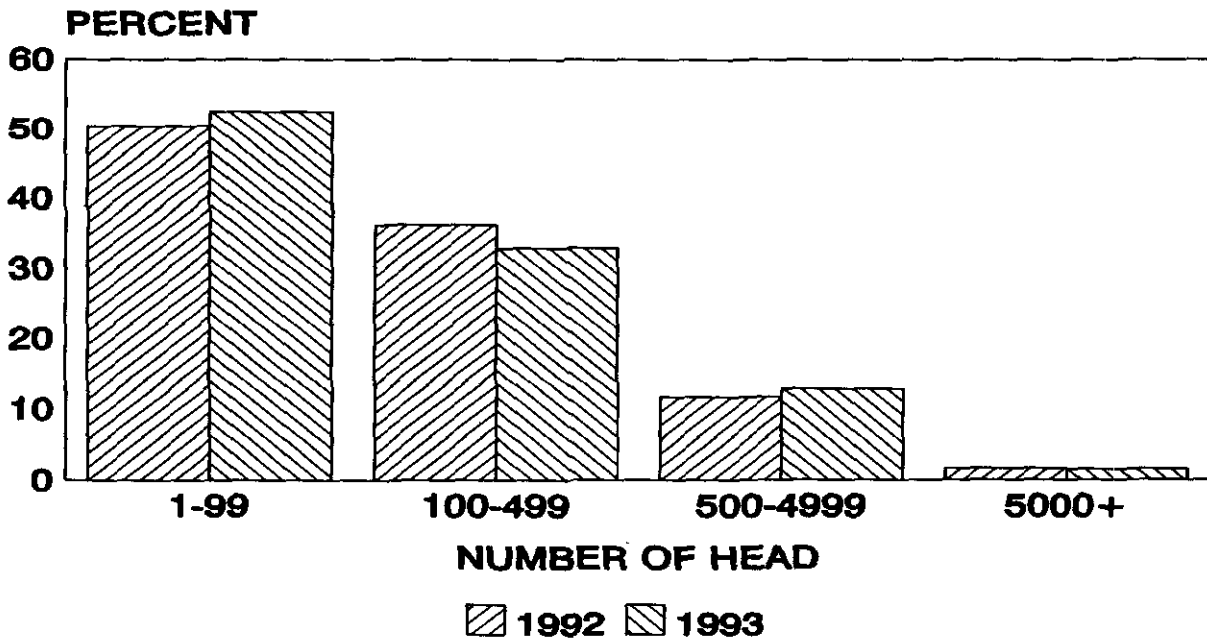


Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Inventory by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1992-93 1/

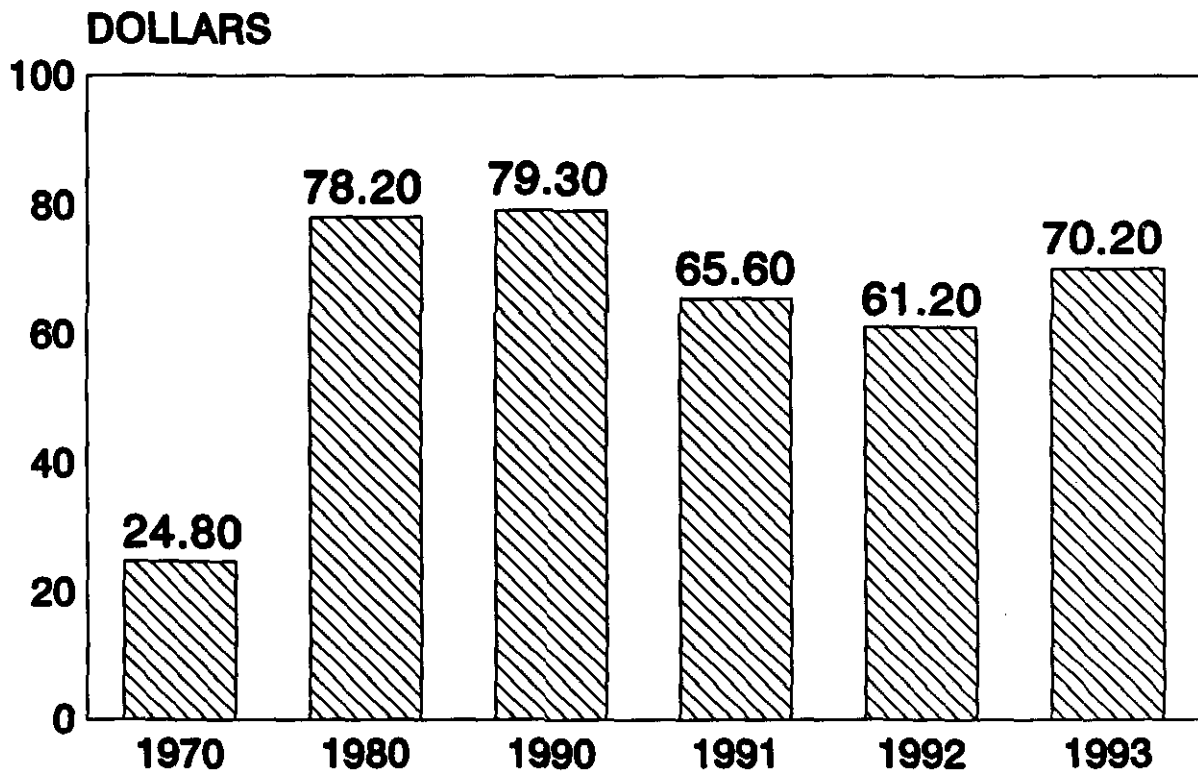
Regions	Inventory on Operations Having							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Percent							
Native States	50.4	52.6	36.2	32.9	11.7	12.9	1.7	1.6
Western States	8.8	8.7	14.0	16.1	49.8	45.7	27.4	29.5
United States	20.7	21.9	20.4	21.1	38.9	35.8	20.0	21.2

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

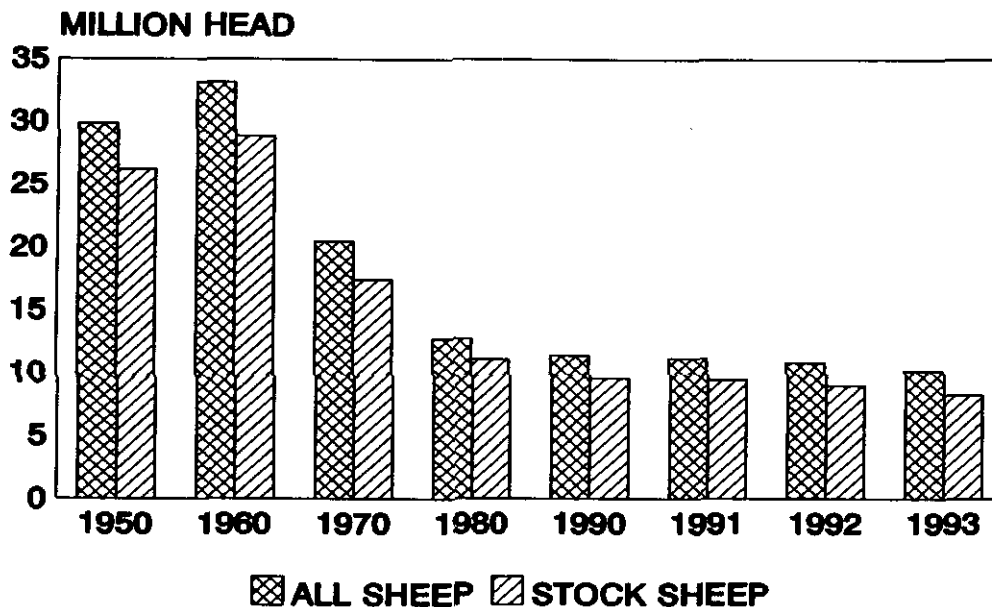
SHEEP INVENTORY PERCENT BY SIZE GROUP, 1992, 1993 UNITED STATES



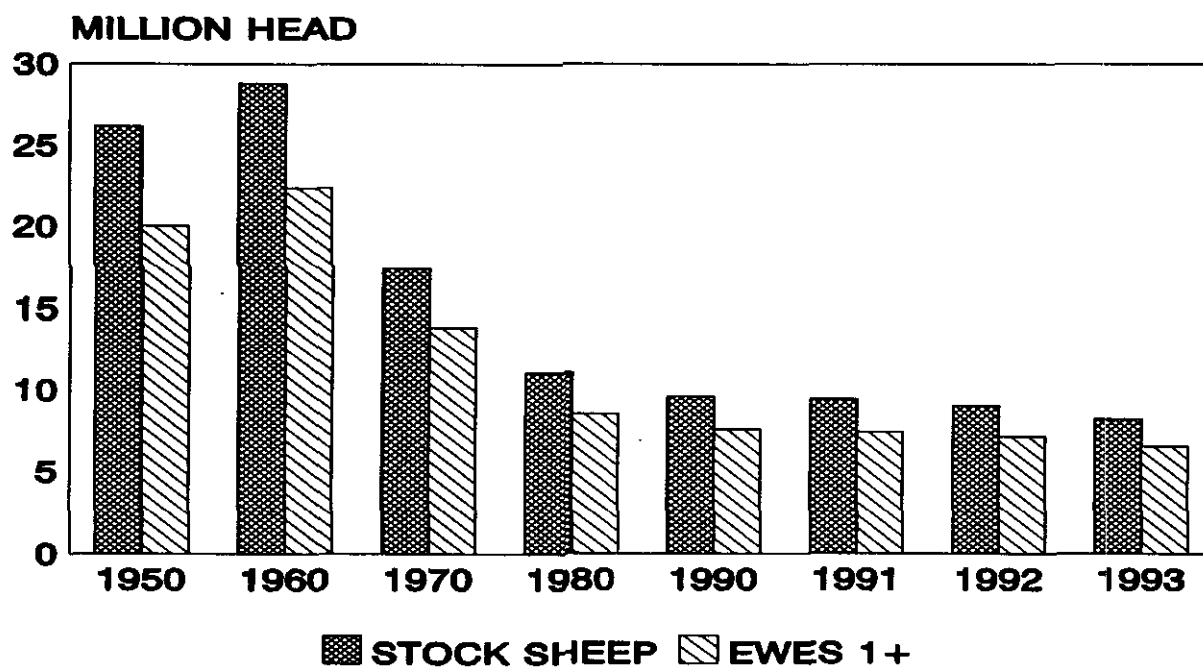
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS AVERAGE VALUE PER HEAD UNITED STATES



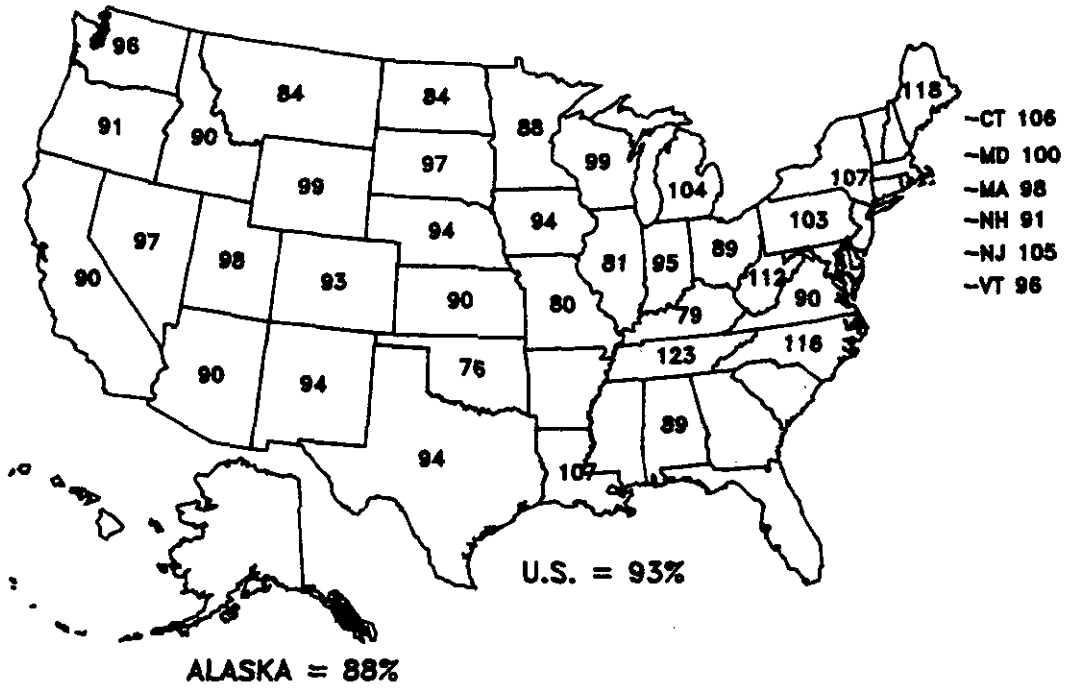
JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY AND STOCK SHEEP UNITED STATES



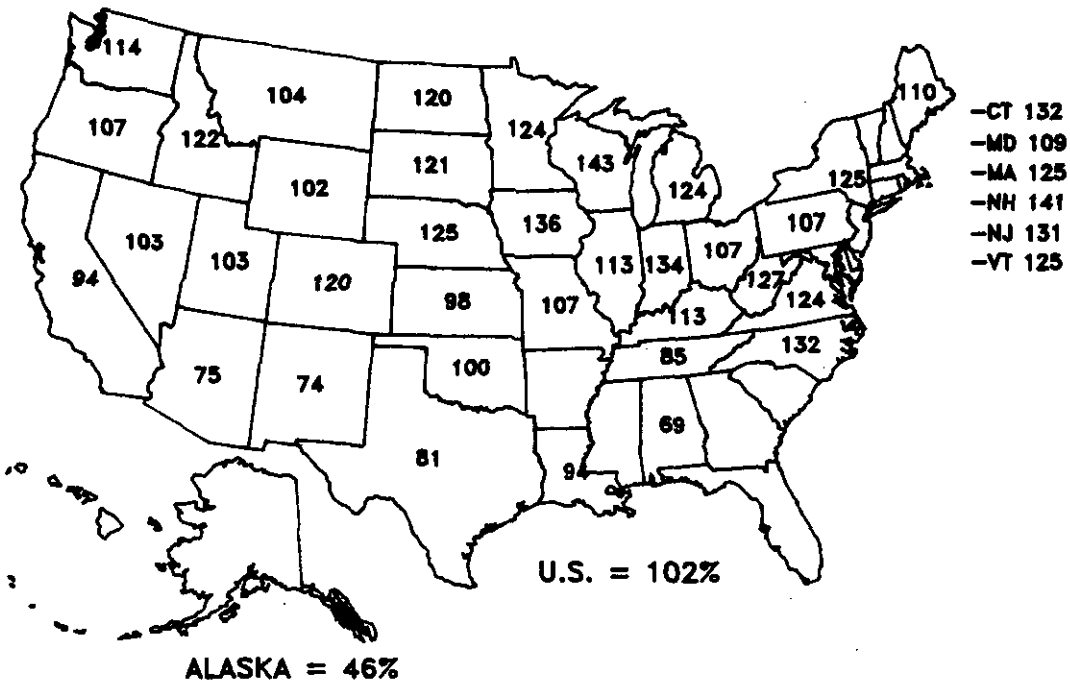
STOCK SHEEP AND EWES 1+ UNITED STATES



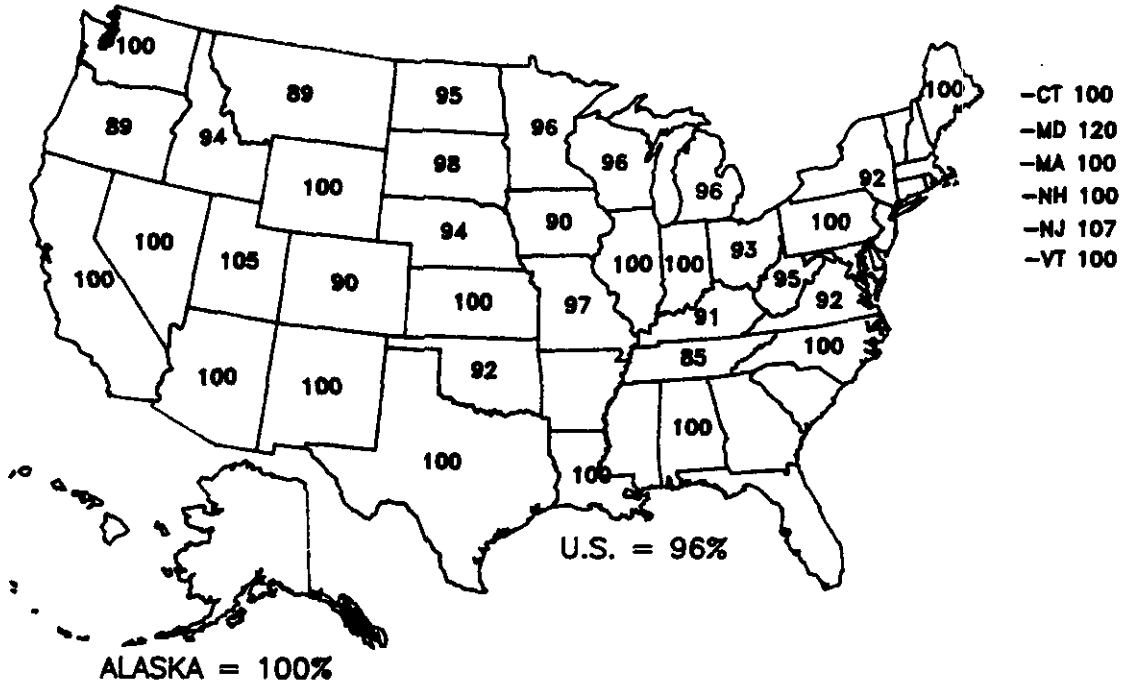
JANUARY 1, 1993 STOCK SHEEP AS % OF 1992



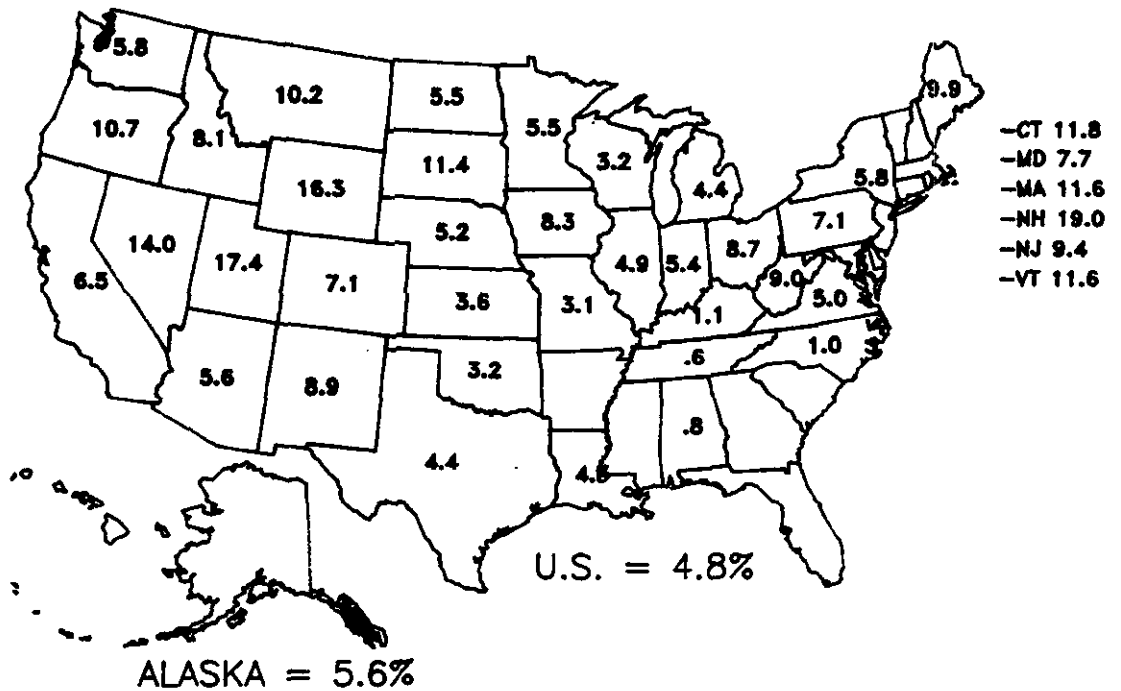
1992 LAMB CROP as % of JANUARY 1, 1992 EWES 1+



1992 SHEEP OPERATIONS as % of 1991



1992 SHEEP OPERATIONS as % of ALL FARMS



All Goats: Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value,
Texas, January 1, 1991-93

Year	Number	Value	
		Per Head	Total
	1,000 Head	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1991	1,830	40.00	73,200
1992	2,000	42.00	84,000
1993	1,960	43.00	84,280

1/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head.

Angora Goats: Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value,
5 States and Total, January 1, 1992-93

State	Number		Value 1/			
			Per Head		Total	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	-- 1,000 Head --		--- Dollars ---		-- 1,000 Dollars --	
AZ	98	88	40.00	40.00	3,920	3,520
MI	8	7	55.00	60.00	440	420
NM	110	105	42.00	44.00	4,620	4,620
OK	60	45	50.00	40.00	3,000	1,800
TX	1,620	1,560	43.00	44.00	69,660	68,640
Total	1,896	1,805	43.10	43.80	81,640	79,000

1/ Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head.

Reliability of January 1 Sheep and Goats Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U. S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep and goat producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 70,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. /Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of January 1.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep and goat estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from past years. A balance sheet for all sheep and lambs was also used at the U. S. level. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate for all sheep and lambs, adds to it estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared with the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve the current estimate. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Commerce's five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations raising sheep and goats are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected sheep items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for sheep and lamb inventory estimates over the past 8 years is 1.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.2 million head by more than 1.6 percent, or about 163,200 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.0 percent, or about 305,700 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 8-year record showing the range between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate. Using estimates for All Sheep and Lambs as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 8 years have averaged 106,400 head, ranging from 0 to 272,800 head. The inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 5 times, above twice and unchanged once in the last 8 years.

Reliability of U. S. January 1 Sheep and Lamb Estimates ^{1/}

Item	: Root : : Mean : : Square : : Error :	: 90 % : Confidence : Level	: Difference Between			: Number of	
			: First and Latest : Estimates			: Years	
			: Average :	: Smallest :	: Largest :	: First : : Above :	: First : : Below :
						: Latest:	: Latest
	: - Percent -		----- 1,000 Head -----			- Number -	
All Sheep & Lambs	: 1.6	: 3.0	: 305.7	: 106.4	: 0	: 272.8	: 2 5
Stock Sheep	: 2.2	: 4.2	: 348.2	: 118.4	: 0	: 282.8	: 2 5
Breeding Ewes	: 3.3	: 6.3	: 413.8	: 37.9	: 0	: 271.2	: 2 5
Sheep & Lambs on Feed	: 4.7	: 8.8	: 170.3	: 12.1	: 0	: -200.0	: 3 4
Lamb Crop	: 0.9	: 1.7	: 123.2	: 37.9	: 0	: 119.4	: 2 5

^{1/} Based on data from 1985 through 1992

Terms and Definitions

Agricultural Statistics Board: A panel of agricultural Statisticians assembled to review agricultural survey indications and to set national and state estimates for inventory, production and prices for a commodity. The "Board" meets in Washington, D. C. and data are held under tight security until the report is released.

Census of Agriculture: A count, every 5 years, by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, of agricultural inventories, production, and related economic data. Data are published for States and counties.

Docking: The removal of an animal's tail a short distance from the body of the animal; cutting off most of the solid part of the tail.

Estimate: An approximate measure of the actual quantity of an item, usually derived by calculation from sample data.

Ewe: Female sheep.

Goats, Angora: Any of a breed or variety of domestic goat raised for production of its' long, silky hair called mohair.

Goats, Milk: Straight-haired goat breed, selected for production of milk.

Goats, Spanish: Straight-haired goat breed, selected for production of meat.

Lamb: A young sheep, usually less than 1 year old.

Lambs, Feeder: Lambs that need to grow and mature before being suitable for placement on feed for slaughter, usually 50 - 90 pounds.

Lambs on Feed: Lambs being fed grain or other concentrates, or being pastured on succulent grasses (alfalfa pastures, etc.) or crop residue (corn stalks, beet tops, etc.) and expected to produce a slaughter carcass that will grade select or better. They usually weigh over 90 pounds.

Lambs, Hot-house: Fall or very early winter lambs marketed at a young age (usually under 16 weeks) for Christmas to Easter trade.

Lamb Crop: Lambs born alive between October 1 through September 30 in all States except California where it is September 1 through August 31.

In the Western States, lambs lost prior to being marked, docked or branded are excluded.

New Crop Lambs: Lambs born between October 1 (September 1 in California) and December 31 that are on hand January 1.

Operation: Any place that has 1 or more sheep on hand anytime during the year.

Ram: Male sheep, usually kept for breeding purposes.

Revision: A change made by the Agricultural Statistics Board to an earlier published USDA estimate. Revisions are made as a result of more current information or additional information learned about the commodity since the original estimate was published.

Sheep on Feed: Sheep being fed grain or other concentrates, or being pastured on succulent grasses (alfalfa pastures, etc.) or crop residue (corn stalks, beet tops, etc.) and expected to produce a slaughter carcass that will grade select or better.

Sheep, Stock: Sheep in the breeding flock, including ewes and rams used for breeding, wethers one year old and older, ewe lambs and ram lambs.

SOF: Sheep and lambs on feed.

States, Native: States east of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska and Hawaii. They usually contain farm flock operations.

States, Western: Twelve States containing the Rocky Mountains and the Western United States. They are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. This area usually contains range type operations.

Value: The value of all sheep is the weighted average of lambs, ewes and rams on January 1. Values of ewes vary widely, but fall somewhere between "replacement" and "salvage" value. Replacement value represents the current cost to replace a ewe or ram in the breeding flock. Replacement value for registered sheep may be considerably higher than the replacement value for sheep in a commercial flock. The salvage value of sheep represents the current market price if sold at auction or to a packer.

Variance: A statistical term indicating the variation within a population.

Wether: Castrated male sheep.

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