

Sheep and Goats



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Released January 28, 1994, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Inventory estimates refer to January 1, 1994, and lamb crop and number of operations to 1993.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 9 Percent Stock Sheep and Lambs and Ewes 1+ at Record Lows

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1994, totaled 9.08 million head, down 9 percent from the previous record low set last year. Total stock sheep and lambs and ewes one year old and older also set record lows. The value of sheep and lambs totaled \$638.6 million, 9 percent below a year earlier. The average value per head was \$70.30, 10 cents above a year earlier.

Stock sheep inventory decreased to 7.24 million head on January 1, 1994, down 11 percent from 8.14 million last year. This is the lowest level ever recorded. Ewes one year old and older, at 5.79 million head, were down 10 percent. This compares with the previous record low of 6.42 million head set last year.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1994, for the slaughter market in the 27 major feeding States totaled 1.84 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

The 1993 lamb crop of 6.31 million head was down 13 percent from 1992. This compares with the lowest level of 7.21 million head set in 1988. The 1993 lambing rate was 98 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1993, compared with 102 in 1992.

The number of operations with sheep during 1993 totaled 98,230, down 3 percent from 1992 and is also a record low.

Goat numbers in Texas totaled 1.96 million on January 1, 1994, unchanged from a year earlier. Total value of \$74.5 million was down 12 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat inventory on January 1, 1994, in the five major producing States totaled 1.73 million head, 4 percent below last year. Value of the angora goat inventory totaled \$60.1 million.

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Sheep: Number by Class, Value Per Head, and Total Value
United States, January 1, 1992-94

Class	1992	1993	1994	1994/1993
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent
All Sheep and Lambs <u>1/</u>	10,750	* 10,013	9,079	91
On Feed	1,830	* 1,877	1,839	98
Stock Sheep	8,920	* 8,136	7,240	89
Lambs				
Ewes	1,160	* 1,092	864	79
Wethers and Rams	320	* 299	284	95
One Year Old and Older				
Ewes	7,090	* 6,415	5,793	90
Wethers and Rams	350	* 329	300	91
New Crop Lambs <u>2/</u>	710	704	641	91
	----- Dollars -----			
All Sheep and Lambs Value Per Head <u>3/</u>	61.20	70.20	70.30	100
	----- 1,000 Dollars -----			
All Sheep and Lambs Total Value	658,301	* 702,785	638,564	91

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. * Revised.

All Sheep and Lambs: Balance Sheet, United States, 1991-93 1/

Item	1991	1992	1993
	----- 1,000 Head -----		
Jan 1 Inventory	11,200	10,750	10,013
Lamb Crop and Imports	7,667	*7,243	6,344
Total Supply	18,867	*17,993	16,357
Slaughter	5,812	5,585	5,271
Deaths and Exports	1,980	*2,034	1,950
Total Disappearance	7,792	*7,619	7,221
Residual	325	*361	57
Jan 1 Inventory (End of year)	10,750	*10,013	9,079

1/ Final 1992 and preliminary 1993 estimates will be published in "Meat Animals, Production, Disposition, and Income", April 14, 1994.
* Revised.

Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+; Number and Percent of Previous Year, by State and United States, 1992-93

State	Breeding Ewes 1 Year and Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop ^{1/}		1993 % of 1992
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	
	---- 1,000 Head ----		- Number -		--- 1,000 Head ---		Pct
AL	9.1	7.7	69	91	6.3	7.0	111
AK	1.3	1.2	46	67	0.6	0.8	133
AZ	120.0	115.0	75	74	90.0	85.0	94
CA	562.0	* 450.0	94	87	530.0	390.0	74
CO	320.0	* 280.0	* 109	114	* 350.0	320.0	91
CT	6.8	7.0	132	129	9.0	9.0	100
ID	210.0	* 202.0	* 129	124	* 270.0	250.0	93
IL	85.0	70.0	113	130	96.0	91.0	95
IN	67.0	62.0	134	121	90.0	75.0	83
IA	210.0	200.0	136	125	285.0	250.0	88
KS	120.0	105.0	98	100	118.0	105.0	89
KY	19.5	* 18.5	113	124	22.0	23.0	105
LA	11.2	12.0	94	83	10.5	10.0	95
ME	10.0	12.0	110	108	11.0	13.0	118
MD	22.0	21.5	109	116	24.0	25.0	104
MA	12.0	12.0	125	125	15.0	15.0	100
MI	63.0	60.0	124	113	78.0	68.0	87
MN	170.0	145.0	124	131	210.0	190.0	90
MO	75.0	64.0	107	125	80.0	80.0	100
MT	487.0	* 392.0	* 102	117	* 496.0	460.0	93
NE	81.0	78.0	125	103	101.0	80.0	79
NV	60.0	56.0	103	113	62.0	63.0	102
NH	7.1	7.1	141	127	10.0	9.0	90
NJ	8.8	9.5	131	132	11.5	12.5	109
NM	325.0	295.0	74	71	240.0	210.0	88
NY	48.0	50.0	125	130	60.0	65.0	108
NC	12.6	15.4	132	97	16.6	15.0	90
ND	142.0	118.0	120	119	170.0	140.0	82
OH	135.0	120.0	107	129	145.0	155.0	107
OK	95.0	73.0	100	116	95.0	85.0	89
OR	280.0	250.0	107	108	300.0	270.0	90
PA	94.0	96.0	107	110	101.0	106.0	105
SD	430.0	415.0	121	113	520.0	470.0	90
TN	9.4	8.9	85	101	8.0	9.0	113
TX	1,500.0	* 1,350.0	81	70	1,210.0	950.0	79
UT	388.0	378.0	103	93	400.0	350.0	88
VT	16.0	15.5	125	116	20.0	18.0	90
VA	93.0	83.0	124	120	115.0	100.0	87
WA	57.0	50.0	114	112	65.0	56.0	86
WV	55.0	60.0	127	92	70.0	55.0	79
WI	67.0	65.0	143	138	96.0	90.0	94
WY	570.0	* 550.0	102	93	580.0	510.0	88
Oth Sts ^{2/}	35.3	35.1	82	82	28.8	28.9	100
US	7,089.9	* 6,415.4	102	98	* 7,216.3	6,314.2	87

^{1/} Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

^{2/} 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, 1993-94

State	All Sheep and Lambs ^{1/}			Value per Head		Total Value	
	1993	1994	:94/93:	1993	1994	1993	1994
	---- 1,000 Head ----		Pct	--- Dollars ---		-- 1,000 Dollars -	
AL	10.9	10.3	94	70.00	65.00	763	670
AK	2.1	1.9	90	74.00	77.00	155	146
AZ	*190.0	160.0	84	*86.00	85.00	*16,340	13,600
CA	*895.0	840.0	94	81.00	77.00	*72,495	64,680
CO	*660.0	645.0	98	*72.00	77.00	*47,520	49,665
CT	10.0	10.6	106	110.00	115.00	1,100	1,219
ID	*265.0	250.0	94	78.00	83.00	*20,670	20,750
IL	*103.0	95.0	92	85.00	95.00	*8,755	9,025
IN	92.0	85.0	92	87.00	91.00	8,004	7,735
IA	320.0	261.0	82	78.00	79.00	24,960	20,619
KS	*210.0	175.0	83	60.00	64.00	*12,600	11,200
KY	*27.0	27.0	100	76.00	75.00	*2,052	2,025
LA	16.0	15.0	94	88.00	91.00	1,408	1,365
ME	17.5	20.0	114	110.00	105.00	1,925	2,100
MD	33.0	33.0	100	120.00	110.00	3,960	3,630
MA	16.3	17.4	107	105.00	105.00	1,712	1,827
MI	*103.0	94.0	91	*75.00	75.00	*7,725	7,050
MN	245.0	210.0	86	75.00	68.00	18,375	14,280
MO	97.0	86.0	89	63.00	59.00	6,111	5,074
MT	*534.0	502.0	94	66.00	65.00	*35,244	32,630
NE	136.0	92.0	68	63.00	70.00	8,568	6,440
NV	91.0	90.0	99	67.00	74.00	6,097	6,660
NH	10.5	8.4	80	125.00	115.00	1,313	966
NJ	13.7	18.2	133	105.00	120.00	1,439	2,184
NM	405.0	337.0	83	66.00	66.00	26,730	22,242
NY	78.0	74.0	95	96.00	91.00	7,488	6,734
NC	20.8	16.3	78	77.00	73.00	1,602	1,190
ND	180.0	165.0	92	69.00	69.00	12,420	11,385
OH	190.0	198.0	104	77.00	90.00	14,630	17,820
OK	115.0	110.0	96	69.00	64.00	7,935	7,040
OR	415.0	390.0	94	56.00	68.00	23,240	26,520
PA	139.0	139.0	100	85.00	76.00	11,815	10,564
SD	591.0	543.0	92	71.00	67.00	41,961	36,381
TN	16.0	12.0	75	85.00	92.00	1,360	1,104
TX	*1,940.0	1,710.0	88	58.00	56.00	*112,520	95,760
UT	490.0	440.0	90	81.00	77.00	39,690	33,880
VT	24.6	24.4	99	105.00	105.00	2,583	2,562
VA	122.0	99.0	81	61.00	56.00	7,442	5,544
WA	75.0	58.0	77	78.00	82.00	5,850	4,756
WV	76.0	62.0	82	63.00	62.00	4,788	3,844
WI	99.0	85.0	86	73.00	76.00	7,227	6,460
WY	*880.0	810.0	92	68.00	68.00	*59,840	55,080
Oth							
Sts ^{2/}	58.3	59.4	102	75.00	70.00	4,373	4,158
US	*10,012.7	9,078.9	91	70.20	70.30	*702,785	638,564

^{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, 1993-94

State	Stock Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Stock Sheep-Lambs			
	Ewes		Rams & Wethers		Ewes		Rams & Wethers	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	1,000 Head							
AL	7.7	7.7	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.6
AK	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
AZ	115.0	95.0	5.0	5.0	9.0	7.0	6.0	3.0
CA	*450.0	400.0	23.0	20.0	80.0	70.0	37.0	30.0
CO	*280.0	270.0	9.0	9.0	45.0	34.0	11.0	7.0
CT	7.0	7.5	0.5	0.5	1.8	1.8	0.7	0.8
ID	*202.0	185.0	5.0	5.0	*34.0	31.0	4.0	6.0
IL	70.0	65.0	5.0	4.0	10.0	9.0	2.0	2.0
IN	62.0	58.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	6.0	2.0	2.0
IA	200.0	145.0	8.0	7.0	20.0	20.0	7.0	4.0
KS	105.0	98.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	2.0
KY	*18.5	18.5	*1.9	2.3	*3.2	3.2	*3.4	3.0
LA	12.0	11.3	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	0.4	0.4
ME	12.0	13.0	1.0	1.2	3.0	3.8	1.5	2.0
MD	21.5	21.5	2.5	3.0	6.5	6.3	2.5	2.2
MA	12.0	12.0	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.9	0.9	1.5
MI	60.0	50.0	*3.0	3.0	*10.0	8.0	*2.0	2.0
MN	145.0	130.0	8.0	8.0	27.0	19.0	5.0	3.0
MO	64.0	60.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	3.0	4.0
MT	*392.0	380.0	15.0	13.0	*84.0	71.0	9.0	6.0
NE	78.0	56.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	3.0	2.0
NV	56.0	60.0	2.0	2.0	11.0	12.0	1.0	4.0
NH	7.1	5.8	0.5	0.6	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.8
NJ	9.5	12.3	1.8	2.2	1.5	2.4	0.9	1.3
NM	295.0	260.0	20.0	18.0	55.0	35.0	15.0	9.0
NY	50.0	50.0	3.0	2.5	8.0	7.0	3.0	2.5
NC	15.4	12.8	1.1	0.9	2.0	1.2	2.3	1.4
ND	118.0	104.0	4.0	4.0	17.0	14.0	4.0	3.0
OH	120.0	130.0	8.0	8.0	24.0	28.0	3.0	4.0
OK	73.0	79.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	10.0	6.0	5.0
OR	250.0	240.0	20.0	17.0	36.0	31.0	14.0	12.0
PA	96.0	95.0	8.0	9.0	13.0	14.0	4.0	4.0
SD	415.0	378.0	15.0	13.0	62.0	44.0	8.0	5.0
TN	8.9	8.0	1.5	1.2	2.9	1.6	2.7	1.2
TX	*1,350.0	1,160.0	72.0	60.0	256.0	175.0	82.0	105.0
UT	378.0	340.0	12.0	13.0	53.0	49.0	7.0	8.0
VT	15.5	15.6	1.3	1.4	4.6	4.4	3.2	3.0
VA	83.0	68.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	2.0	2.0
WA	50.0	42.0	3.0	3.0	13.0	8.5	9.0	4.5
WV	60.0	48.0	3.0	2.5	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.0
WI	65.0	52.0	4.0	3.0	13.0	8.0	2.0	2.0
WY	*550.0	510.0	20.0	20.0	110.0	80.0	10.0	10.0
Oth								
Sts 1/	35.1	37.7	11.0	7.3	6.8	6.9	5.4	7.5
US	*6,415.4	5,792.8	*329.1	299.5	*1,092.2	863.8	*299.0	283.8

1/ 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, 1993-94 and Operations with Sheep, 1992-93

State	Stock Sheep and Lambs - Total			Sheep and Lambs on Feed			Operations with Sheep	
	1993	1994	94/93:	1993	1994	94/93:	1992	1993
	-- 1,000 Head	---	Pct	-- 1,000 Head	--	Pct	----	Number
AL	10.9	10.3	94				350	340
AK	2.1	1.9	90				*40	40
AZ	135.0	110.0	81	55.0	50.0	91	450	450
CA	*590.0	520.0	88	305.0	320.0	105	5,300	5,200
CO	*345.0	320.0	93	315.0	325.0	103	1,800	1,800
CT	10.0	10.6	106				*450	470
ID	*245.0	227.0	93	20.0	23.0	115	*1,600	1,400
IL	87.0	80.0	92	16.0	15.0	94	4,000	3,700
IN	78.0	70.0	90	14.0	15.0	107	3,500	3,300
IA	235.0	176.0	75	85.0	85.0	100	8,500	8,500
KS	128.0	115.0	90	82.0	60.0	73	2,400	2,500
KY	*27.0	27.0	100				1,000	950
LA	16.0	15.0	94				1,300	1,300
ME	17.5	20.0	114				*650	700
MD	33.0	33.0	100				1,200	1,200
MA	16.3	17.4	107				800	800
MI	*75.0	63.0	84	28.0	31.0	111	2,400	2,400
MN	185.0	160.0	86	60.0	50.0	83	4,800	4,800
MO	77.0	74.0	96	20.0	12.0	60	3,300	3,100
MT	*500.0	470.0	94	34.0	32.0	94	2,500	2,500
NE	94.0	69.0	73	42.0	23.0	55	2,900	2,600
NV	70.0	78.0	111	21.0	12.0	57	350	350
NH	10.5	8.4	80				*520	510
NJ	13.7	18.2	133				800	900
NM	385.0	322.0	84	20.0	15.0	75	1,200	1,200
NY	64.0	62.0	97	14.0	12.0	86	2,200	2,300
NC	20.8	16.3	78				600	600
ND	143.0	125.0	87	37.0	40.0	108	1,800	1,700
OH	155.0	170.0	110	35.0	28.0	80	6,800	6,000
OK	95.0	98.0	103	20.0	12.0	60	2,300	2,300
OR	320.0	300.0	94	95.0	90.0	95	4,000	4,000
PA	121.0	122.0	101	18.0	17.0	94	3,700	3,700
SD	500.0	440.0	88	91.0	103.0	113	4,000	3,900
TN	16.0	12.0	75				*650	650
TX	*1,760.0	1,500.0	85	180.0	210.0	117	8,000	7,800
UT	450.0	410.0	91	40.0	30.0	75	2,300	2,100
VT	24.6	24.4	99				800	770
VA	97.0	80.0	82	25.0	19.0	76	2,200	2,100
WA	75.0	58.0	77				2,200	2,000
WV	76.0	62.0	82				1,800	1,800
WI	84.0	65.0	77	15.0	20.0	133	2,500	2,500
WY	*690.0	620.0	90	190.0	190.0	100	1,500	1,500
Oth								
Sts 2/	58.3	59.4	102				1,500	1,500
27 Sts								
3/				1,877.0	1,839.0	98		
US	*8,135.7	7,239.9	89				*100,960	98,230

See footnotes on page 7.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class - Footnotes

- 1/ An operation is any place having one or more sheep on hand during the year.
- 2/ Other States includes AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.
- 3/ Sheep and Lambs 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 and Lambs on Feed for these states totaled 41,100 in 1993 and 30,600 in 1994.
- * Revised.

**New Crop Lambs: Number, Selected States and United States,
January 1, 1993-94 1/**

State	1993	1994	1994/93
	1,000 Head		Percent
AZ	45.0	40.0	89
CA	280.0	280.0	100
CO	3.0	2.0	67
ID	16.0	16.0	100
IA	8.0	6.0	75
KS	33.0	22.0	67
KY	4.0	3.0	75
MO	5.0	5.0	100
NE	5.0	3.0	60
OH	9.0	10.0	111
OK	12.0	12.0	100
OR	24.0	30.0	125
PA	7.0	7.0	100
SD	9.0	7.0	78
TX	180.0	145.0	81
VA	10.0	7.0	70
Oth Sts	54.3	46.4	85
US	704.3	641.4	91

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.

All Goats: Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value,
Texas, January 1, 1992-94

Year	Number		Value <u>1/</u>	
			Per Head	Total
	1,000 Head		Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1992	2,000		42.00	84,000
1993	1,960		43.00	84,280
1994	1,960		38.00	74,480

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, 1993-94

State	Number		Value <u>1/</u>			
			Per Head		Total	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
1,000 Head		Dollars		1,000 Dollars		
AZ	88	82	40.00	32.00	3,520	2,624
MI	7	5	60.00	60.00	420	300
NM	105	110	44.00	33.00	4,620	3,630
OK	45	40	40.00	35.00	1,800	1,400
TX	1,560	1,490	44.00	35.00	68,640	52,150
Total	1,805	1,727	43.80	34.80	79,000	60,104

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

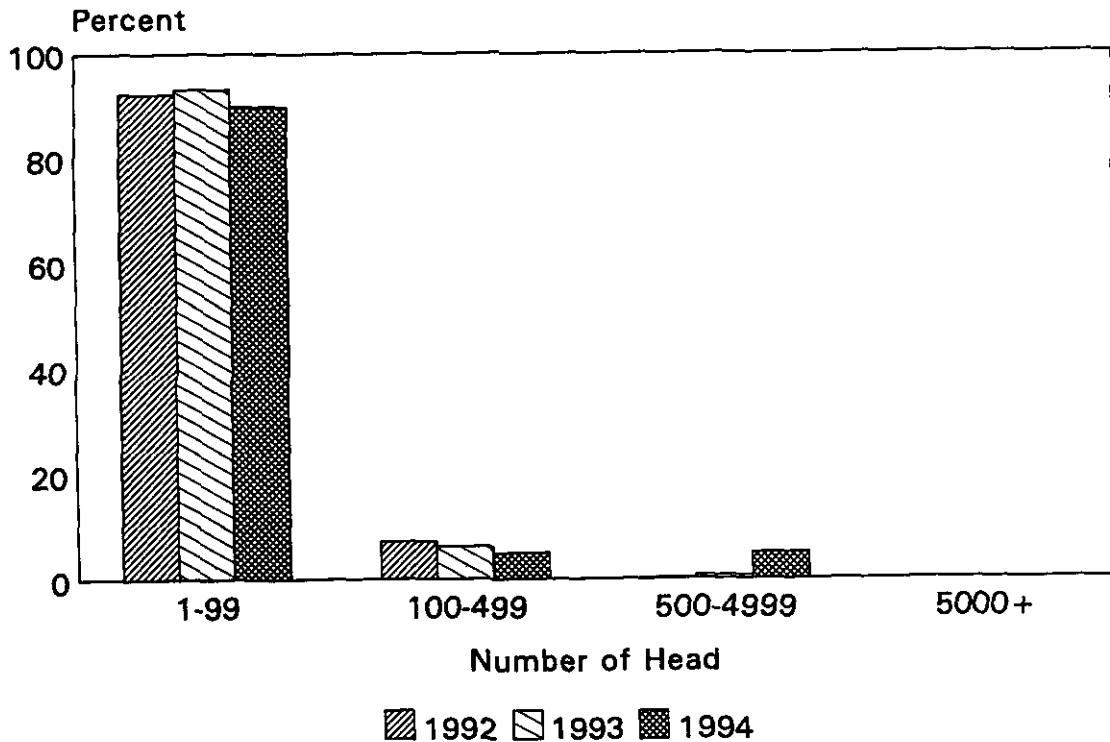
Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Operations by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1993-94 1/

Regions	Operations Having:							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Percent							
Native States	93.2	93.5	6.2	6.0	0.6	0.5	<u>2/0.0</u>	<u>2/0.0</u>
Western States	85.3	82.4	10.1	12.2	4.2	5.0	0.4	0.4
United States	90.3	89.6	7.7	8.2	1.9	2.1	0.1	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, 1994 United States

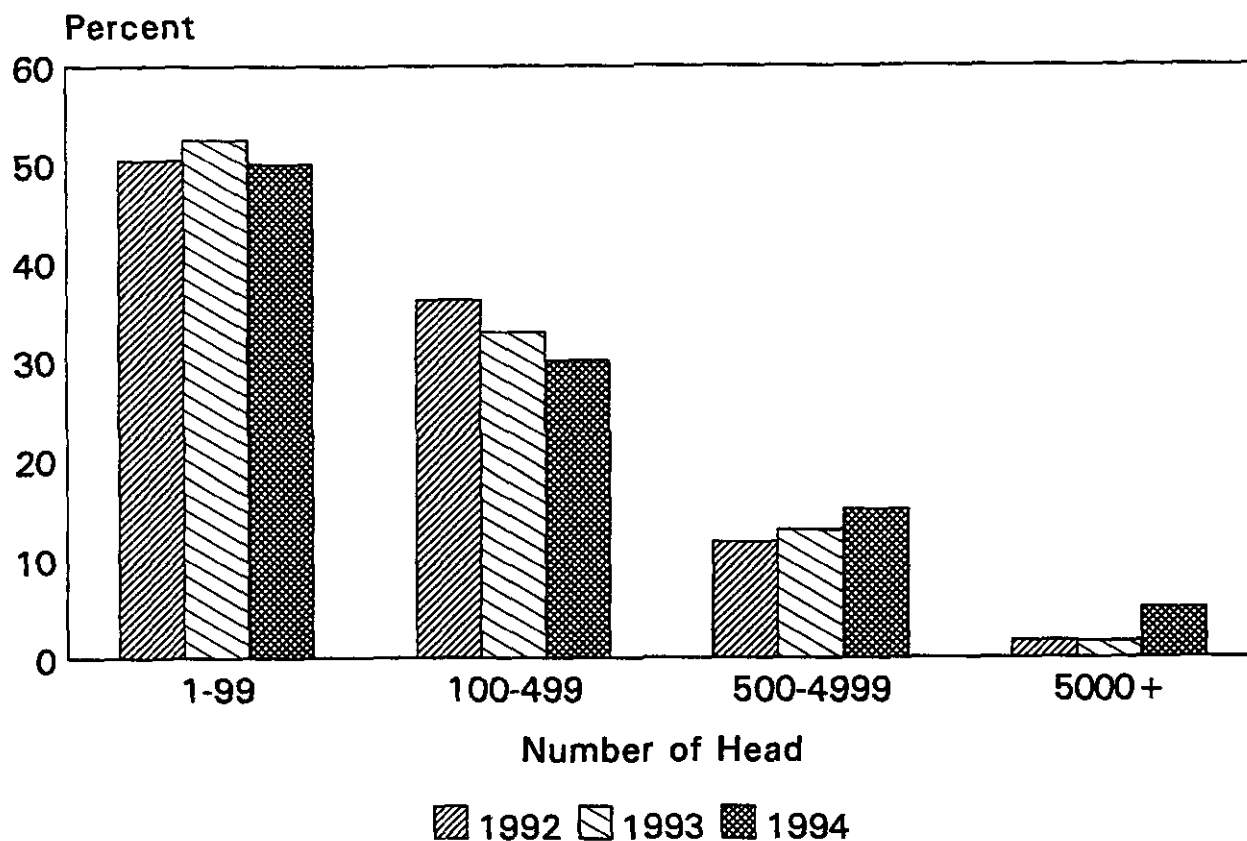


Stock Sheep: Survey Percent of Inventory by Size Groups, Native States, Western States, and United States, 1993-94 1/

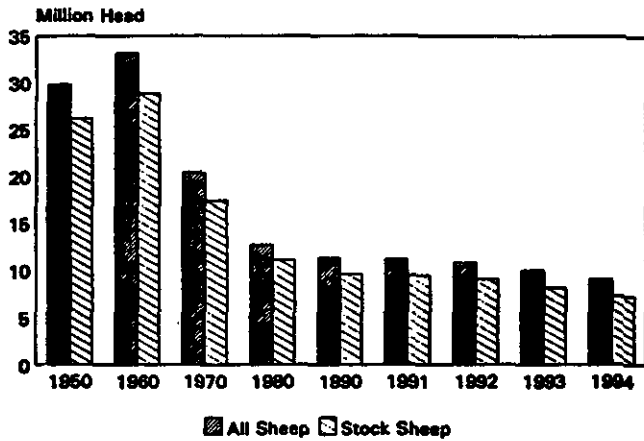
Regions	Inventory on Operations Having							
	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Percent							
Native States	52.6	52.9	32.9	31.9	12.9	12.8	1.6	2.4
Western States	8.7	9.1	16.1	19.0	45.7	49.5	29.5	22.4
United States	21.9	22.4	21.1	22.9	35.8	38.4	21.2	16.3

1/ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

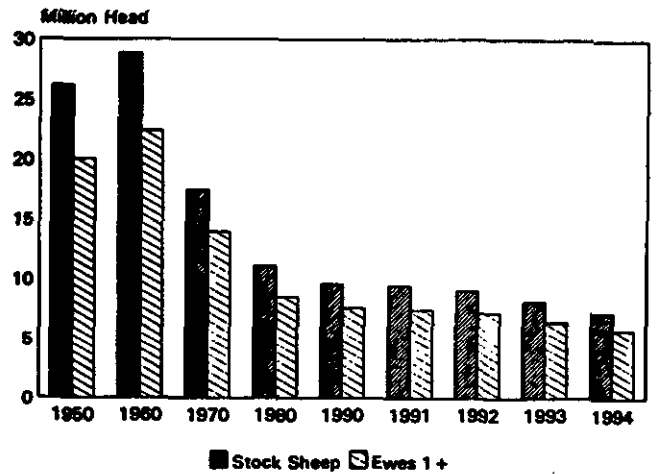
Sheep Inventory Percent by Size Group, 1992, 1993, 1994 United States



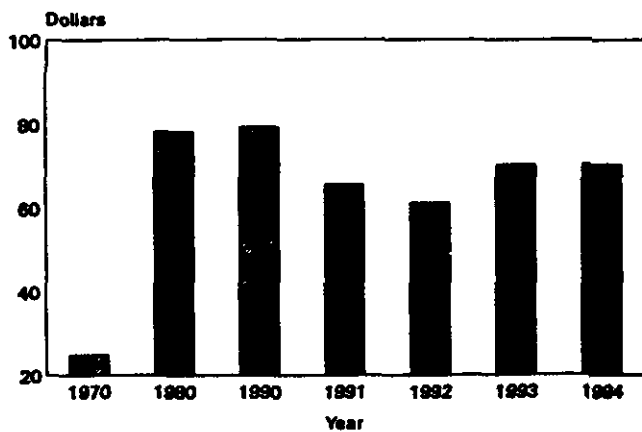
January 1 Sheep and Lambs Inventory and Stock Sheep United States



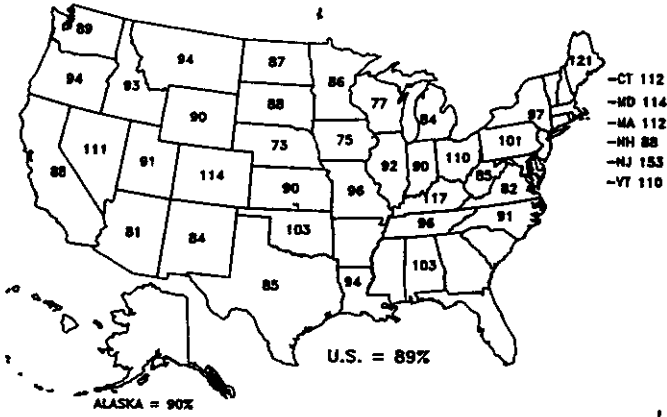
Stock Sheep and Ewes 1 + United States



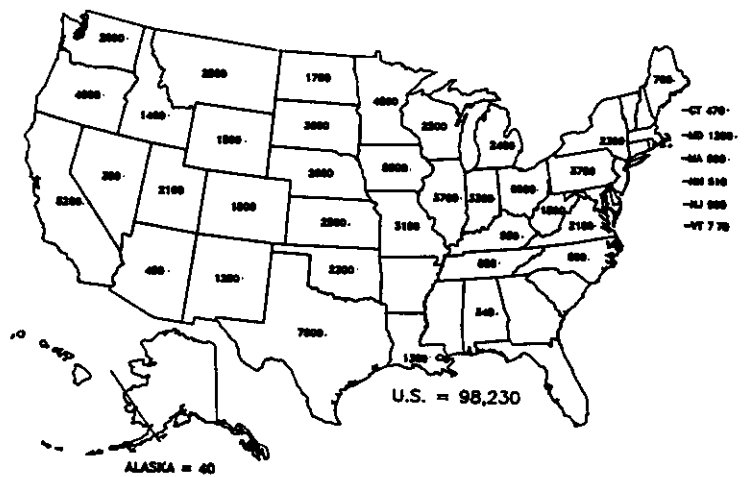
All Sheep and Lambs Average Value Per Head United States



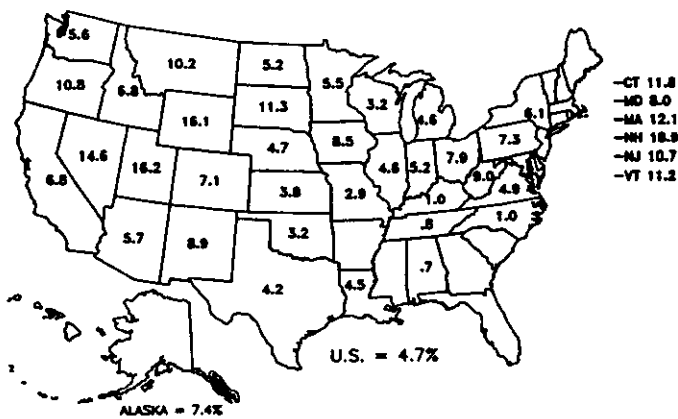
JANUARY 1, 1994 STOCK SHEEP AS % OF 1993



United States Number of Sheep Operations
January 1, 1994



1993 SHEEP OPERATIONS as % of ALL FARMS



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. About 70,000 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interview and 86 percent of the reports were usable. 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 9 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 9.1 million head by more than 1.6 percent, or about 145,300 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.0 percent, or about 272,400 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 9-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 9 years have averaged 137,700 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 three times and unchanged once in the last 9 years.

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

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 % Confidence Level	Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years		
			Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest	
	- Percent -		1,000 Head			- Number -		
All Sheep & Lambs	1.6	3.0	272.4	137.7	0	272.8	3	5
Stock Sheep	2.2	4.1	296.8	161.6	0	282.8	3	5
Breeding Ewes	3.3	6.0	347.6	174.9	0	271.2	3	5
Sheep & Lambs on Feed	8.3	8.3	155.2	41.5	0	200.0	4	4
Lamb Crop	0.9	1.7	107.4	52.8	0	119.4	3	5

^{1/} Based on data from 1985 through 1993.

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 good 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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