



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SOUTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOATS

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. January 31, 2024 - All sheep and lamb inventory in South Dakota on January 1, 2024 totaled 210,000 head, down 20,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Breeding sheep inventory totaled 158,000 head, down 19,000 from last year. Ewes one year and older totaled 129,000 head, down 15,000 from the previous year. Rams one year and older totaled 5,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 24,000 head, down 4,000 from last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 52,000 head, down 1,000 from last year. A total of 1,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 51,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 7,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 8,000 were 65-84 pounds; 15,000 were 85-105 pounds; 21,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2023 lamb crop totaled 175,000 head, down 15,000 from 2022. The 2023 **lambing rate** was 122 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 131 in 2022.

Sheep deaths totaled 6,000 head, down 1,500 from last year. **Lamb deaths** totaled 20,000 head, down 3,000 from last year.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm totaled 1,000 head, down 500 from last year.

Shorn wool production during 2023 was 1.46 million pounds, down 230,000 from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 195,000 head, down 20,000 from 2022. **Weight per fleece** was 7.5 pounds, down 0.4 from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$1.25 per pound, compared with \$1.20 in 2022. The total value of wool produced in South Dakota was 1.83 million dollars in 2023.

South Dakota goat inventory numbers are not separately published as part of NASS's annual program. The counts are included in the "other states" category and U.S. totals each year. State-level data for those "other states" are published as part of NASS's Census of Agriculture.

Access the national report at:

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/000000018>

Access the National Livestock Executive Briefing at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2024/01-31-2024.pdf

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