



Press Release

PR-12-05

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On: TEXAS SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY
DOWN 3 PERCENT

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For Release: IMMEDIATELY [January 28, 2005]

AUSTIN . . . The Texas inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 1.07 million head on January 1, 2005, down 3 percent from last year's level of 1.1 million head.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the inventory of breeding sheep and lambs totaled 840,000 head, identical to the 2004 total. Breeding ewes one year old and older were down 4 percent, at 650,000 head. Replacement lambs were up 21 percent from last year at 145,000 head.

The 2004 lamb crop totaled 520,000 head, the same number of head as 2003, State Director Robin Roark reported.

Market sheep and lambs in Texas were down 12 percent from last year, totaling 230,000 head. Sheep for market totaled 10,000 head, identical to last year, while lambs for market totaled 220,000 head, down 12 percent from last year.

Lambs for market weighing less than 65 pounds totaled 100,000 head; lambs weighing 65 to 84 pounds totaled 40,000 head; lambs weighing 85 to 105 pounds totaled 50,000 head, and lambs weighing over 105 pounds totaled 30,000 head.

The January 1 Texas goat inventory was up 4 percent from last year at 1.25 million head.

Angora goats totaled 210,000 head, down 10,000 head from last year, while Spanish and other goats were up 6 percent from last year to 1.04 million head.

Nationally, the inventory of all sheep and lambs totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004.

United States breeding sheep inventory on January 1, 2005, increased 1 percent to 4.53 million head. Ewes one year and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent lower than last year.

The 2004 lamb crop was 4.10 million head, a record low, down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 1.6 million head on January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total.

Market lambs weighing less than 65 pounds accounted for 26 percent of the total; 65 to 84 pounds, 13 percent; 85 to 105 pounds, 24 percent; and more than 105 pounds, 32 percent. Market sheep account for 5 percent.

Nationally, the Angora goat inventory totaled 274,000 head compared with 300,753 head in 2002.

**SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY,
LAMB CROP AND SHEEP OPERATIONS ¹**

Item	Texas		
	January 1		2005 as percent of 2004
	2004	2005	
INVENTORY:	<u>1,000 head</u>		<u>Percent</u>
All sheep and lambs	1,100	1,070	97
Breeding sheep and lambs	840	840	100
Ewes 1 year old and older	675	650	96
Rams 1 year old and older	45	45	100
Replacement lambs under 1 year old . .	120	145	121
Market sheep and lambs	260	230	88
Sheep 1 year old and over	10	10	100
Lambs under 1 year old	250	220	88
Under 65 pounds	130	100	77
65-84 pounds	50	40	80
85-105 pounds	40	50	125
Over 105 pounds	30	30	100
All goats	1,200	1,250	104
Angora goats	220	210	95
Spanish and other goats	980	1,040	106
	2003	2004	2004 as percent of 2003
	<u>1,000</u>		<u>Percent</u>
Lamb crop	520	520	100

¹ Inventory estimates now include Barbado and all hair sheep and lambs.