



Press Release

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Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

P.O. Box 70

Austin, Texas 78767-0070

(512) 916-5581

On: TEXAS WOOL PRODUCTION IDENTICAL TO LAST YEAR;
MOHAIR PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT

For Information Contact
Derek Giesler
Charles Drain

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AUSTIN . . . The number of sheep and lambs shorn were slightly higher than a year ago, but lower average fleece weights offset any gain in total production. Mohair production decreased as the average clip per goat was down from last year.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, wool production totaled 5.6 million pounds during 2004, identical to the previous year's total. Texas producers sheared 810,000 sheep and lambs during the year, 1 percent higher than 2003. The average fleece weight was 6.9 pounds, down 0.1 pounds from last year.

Total value of the state's wool production was up 24 percent from the previous year to \$5.7 million. Price per pound averaged \$1.02, up 13 percent from the average for 2003.

Texas mohair production during 2004 totaled 1.62 million pounds, down 4 percent from a year ago. Producers clipped 210,000 Angora goats and kids with an average clip weight of 7.7 pounds. The number of Angora goats and kids clipped was the same as the previous year, and the average clip weight was down 4 percent from 2003.

Value of the state's mohair production was \$3.4 million. Price per pound averaged \$2.10, compared with the \$1.70 average a year earlier. The higher average price is reflective of the larger percentage of kid hair being sold at a higher price.

United States shorn wool production during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Sheep and lambs shorn during 2004 totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.4 pounds per head down 1 percent from 2003.

The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$.80 per pound, for a total value of \$29.9 million, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million in 2003.

Mohair production in the three major producing states, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, during 2004 was 1.79 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2003. Goats and kids clipped, at 242,000 head, were down 2 percent from 2003. Average weight per clip at 7.4 pounds, was down 3 percent from 2003. Value of mohair production was \$3.59 million, up 15 percent from 2003.