As of Jan. 31, 2023, there were 5.02 million head of sheep in the United States\(^1\).

Sheep are produced in all 50 states. The most prolific sheep-producing states are located west of the Mississippi River, where a majority of the larger sheep ranches reside. The eastern part of the country supports a greater number of smaller, pasture-based operations.

Following is a state ranking of the total number of sheep and lambs as of Jan. 31, 2023:

1. Texas .................675,000 18. Wisconsin ........80,000
2. California ...........550,000 19. New York ...........79,000
3. Colorado ............415,000 20. Nebraska ..........74,000
4. Wyoming ............335,000 21. Virginia ...........73,000
5. Utah ..................280,000 22. Kansas ............71,000
6. South Dakota ......250,000 23. North Dakota ....64,000
7. Idaho ..................220,000 24. Indiana ............62,000
8. Montana .............190,000 25. Nevada ............58,000
9. Iowa ....................162,000 26. Kentucky .........58,000
10. Oregon .............140,000 27. Oklahoma ........57,000
11. Ohio .................125,000 28. Illinois ..........53,000
12. Minnesota ........115,000 29. Washington ......52,000
13. Missouri ............99,000 30. Tennessee ........49,000
14. Pennsylvania .......94,000 31. West Virginia ....34,000
15. Arizona .............90,000 32. North Carolina...30,000
16. New Mexico .......85,000 33. Other States* ....165,000
17. Michigan ...........82,000 34. New England** ....54,000

* Other States includes Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey and South Carolina. NASS does not report individual numbers for these states.

** New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

1Source: USDA, NASS, Sheep & Goats, Jan. 31, 2023.

FAST FACTS
ABOUT SHEEP PRODUCTION

In 2019, there were 101,387 sheep farms and ranches in the United States\(^2\).

Following is a ranking of the total sheep operations per state based on 2019 data\(^1\) (most current data):

1. Texas ................14,672 26. Montana ...........1,383
2. Arizona ..............7,509 27. South Dakota ....1,337
3. Ohio ...................4,123 28. Kansas ............1,234
4. New Mexico ..........4,047 29. West Virginia ...1,226
7. Oregon ...............3,263 32. Alabama ........1,062
8. Missouri ...............3,103 33. Arkansas ........1,053
9. Wisconsin ...........2,845 34. New Jersey ....1,047
10. Kentucky ..........2,819 35. Maryland .......925
11. Iowa ...............2,801 36. Wyoming .......859
12. Virginia ...........2,646 37. Louisiana ....785
13. Tennessee ............2,503 38. Mississippi ....748
15. Indiana ..............2,316 40. South Carolina ...738
16. Washington .......2,281 41. Massachusetts ..728
17. Minnesota ...........2,248 42. Vermont ........704
18. Oklahoma ..........2,216 43. North Dakota ...573
19. New York ...........2,113 44. Hawaii ..........548
20. Utah ................1,898 45. New Hampshire ...502
21. Illinois .............1,870 46. Connecticut ...428
22. Colorado ...........1,731 47. Nevada ........328
23. North Carolina ...1,679 48. Rhode Island ....108
24. Florida .............1,666 49. Delaware ........89
25. Idaho ...............1,447 50. Alaska ...........49