

As of Jan. 31, 2023, there were 5.02 million head of sheep in the United States<sup>1</sup>.

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	25. 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 (number of sheep and lambs listing only), Mississippi, 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.

<sup>1</sup>Source: 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<sup>2</sup>.

Following is a ranking of the **total sheep operations per state** based on 2019 data<sup>1</sup> (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
5. California.....3,807	30. Georgia .....1,208
6. Pennsylvania .....3,749	31. Nebraska.....1,153
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.....2,818	35. Maryland .....925
11. Iowa.....2,801	36. Wyoming .....859
12. Virginia .....2,646	37. Louisiana .....785
13. Tennessee .....2,503	38. Mississippi.....748
14. Michigan.....2,483	39. Maine .....738
15. Indiana .....2,316	39. 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

<sup>2</sup>Source: USDA, NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture, April 11, 2019.

