



ABOUT SHEEP PRODUCTION

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According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, the U.S. sheep and lamb inventory totaled 4.99 million head on January 1, 2026, a 1.0% decline from 2025. Hair sheep and hair-wool crosses accounted for 28% of the total inventory.

Following is a state ranking of the **total number of sheep and lambs** as of Jan. 1, 2026:

1. Texas 700,000
2. California..... 505,000
3. Colorado..... 410,000
4. Wyoming..... 280,000
5. Utah..... 275,000
6. Idaho..... 220,000
7. Other States*..... 215,000
8. South Dakota..... 210,000
9. Montana 180,000
10. Iowa 161,000
11. Oregon..... 146,000
12. Ohio 138,000
13. Minnesota..... 109,000
14. Missouri..... 103,000
15. Pennsylvania..... 97,000
16. Michigan..... 85,000
17. Arizona 83,000
17. New York..... 83,000
18. Kansas..... 81,000
19. Virginia..... 77,000
20. Indiana..... 76,000
21. Wisconsin 75,000
22. Nebraska 74,000
22. Kentucky..... 74,000
23. New Mexico..... 71,000
23. Oklahoma 71,000
24. Nevada..... 65,000
25. North Dakota 58,000
26. New England** 55,000
26. Illinois..... 55,000
27. Tennessee 48,000
28. Washington..... 47,000
29. West Virginia 36,000
30. North Carolina 33,000

In 2022, there were 88,853 sheep farms and ranches in the United States².

Following is a ranking of the **total sheep operations per state** based on 2022 data¹ (most current data):

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| 1. Texas 12,344 | 26. South Dakota..... 1,233 |
| 2. Arizona 7,047 | 27. Idaho..... 1,208 |
| 3. Ohio 4,133 | 28. Arkansas..... 1,140 |
| 4. California..... 3,096 | 29. Montana 1,118 |
| 5. Pennsylvania..... 3,067 | 30. West Virginia 1,041 |
| 6. New Mexico..... 2,949 | 31. Alabama..... 1,008 |
| 7. Missouri..... 2,837 | 32. Georgia 999 |
| 8. Kentucky..... 2,744 | 33. Nebraska 953 |
| 9. Oregon..... 2,709 | 34. New Jersey 841 |
| 10. Wisconsin 2,506 | 35. Maryland 813 |
| 11. Iowa 2,482 | 36. Louisiana..... 794 |
| 12. Indiana 2,456 | 37. South Carolina..... 694 |
| 13. Michigan..... 2,362 | 38. Mississippi..... 676 |
| 14. Virginia..... 2,311 | 38. Vermont..... 676 |
| 15. Minnesota 2,137 | 40. Wyoming 637 |
| 16. Tennessee 2,083 | 41. Massachusetts..... 631 |
| 17. Oklahoma 1,976 | 42. Maine..... 530 |
| 18. Washington 1,722 | 43. New Hampshire..... 506 |
| 19. Utah..... 1,717 | 44. North Dakota 482 |
| 20. New York 1,627 | 45. Hawaii 457 |
| 21. Illinois..... 1,612 | 46. Connecticut 332 |
| 22. North Carolina 1,536 | 47. Nevada..... 281 |
| 23. Colorado 1,480 | 48. Rhode Island..... 99 |
| 24. Florida 1,358 | 49. Delaware 74 |
| 25. Kansas 1,281 | 50. Alaska..... 58 |

²Source: USDA, NASS, 2022 Census of Agriculture, Feb. 2024.

* 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.

¹Source: USDA, NASS, Sheep & Goats, Jan. 1, 2026.