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THE

Livestock and Meat

SITUATION

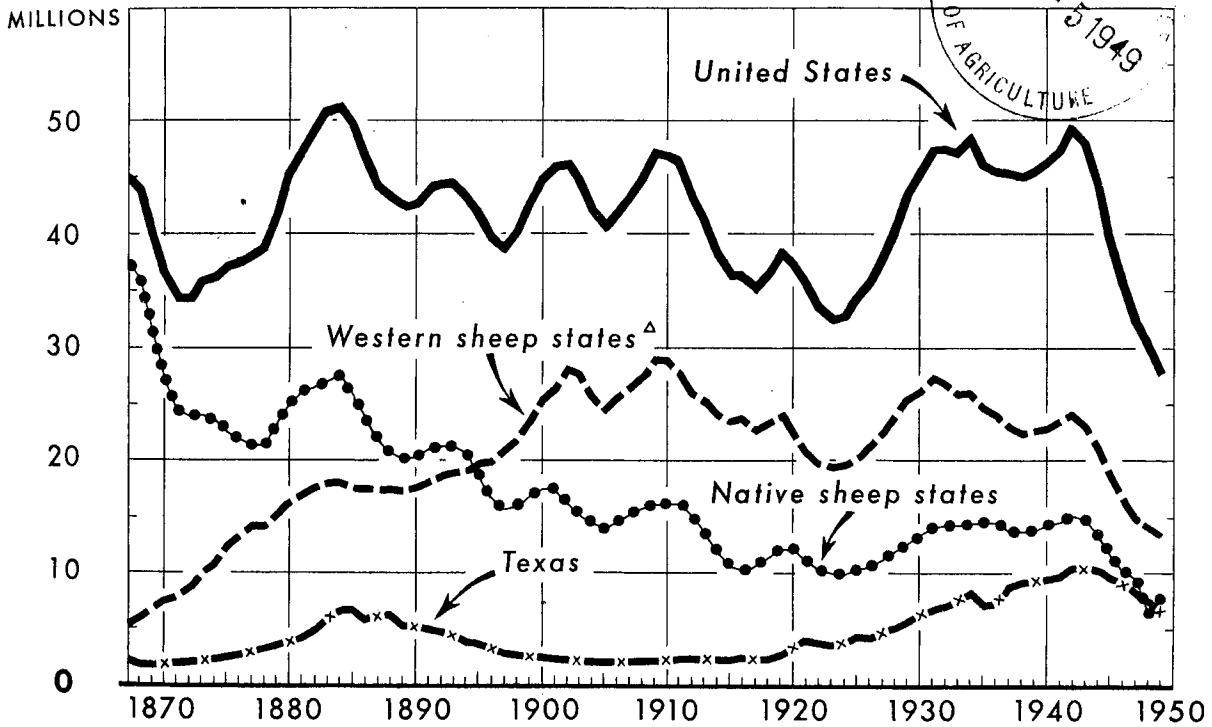
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-31



SEPTEMBER 1949

STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS



* EXCLUDES SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED FOR MARKET
^Δ INCLUDES 11 WESTERN STATES AND SOUTH DAKOTA
DATA FOR 1949 ARE PRELIMINARY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 47391-X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

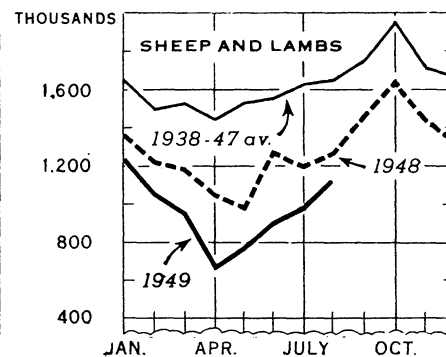
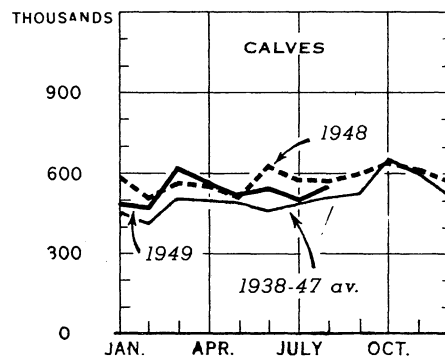
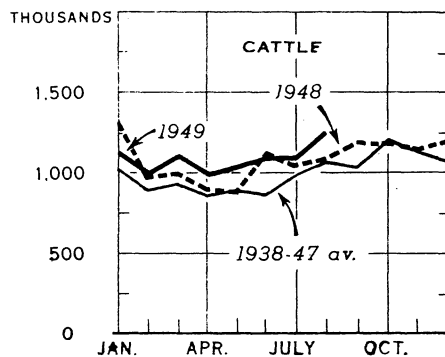
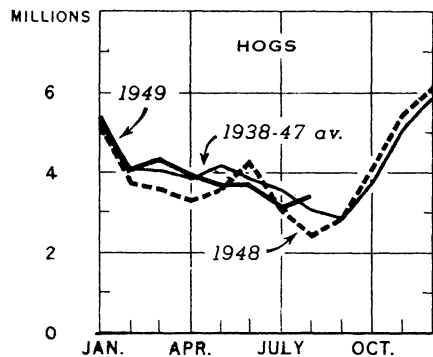
Numbers of stock sheep have fluctuated greatly since 1867. Sharpest of all swings has been the decline from 1942 to 1949, which took numbers from record high to record low in 7 years. In the expansion up to 1942, Texas played a leading role. The last of all producing areas to reach a peak, Texas in 1942 has one-fifth of all United States sheep.

Declines since 1942 have been nation-wide. They reflected lagging returns for lambs and wool compared with cattle, as well as advancing

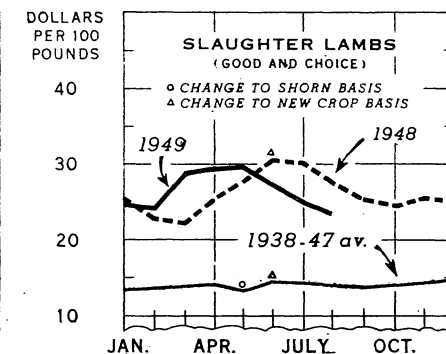
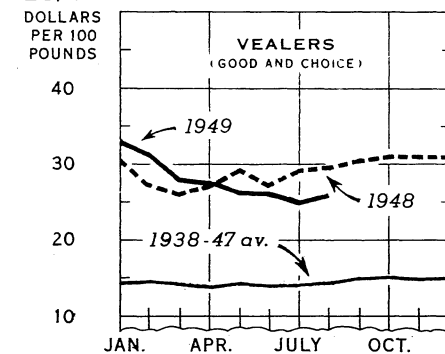
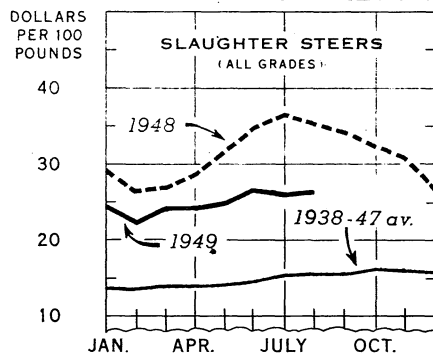
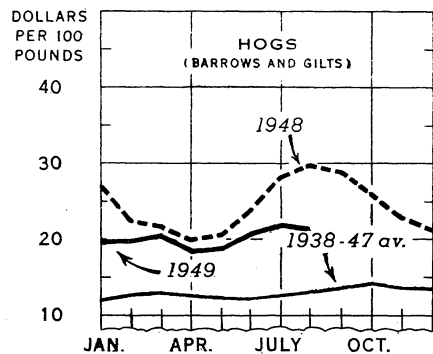
costs in sheep raising. During the decline in prices of livestock and livestock products beginning in mid-1948, prices of lambs and wool held up a little better than those of other meat animals. A change is appearing in numbers also. Sheep and lamb slaughter in 1949, the smallest in about 30 years, indicates that numbers on farms are not being reduced so much as in other recent years. Numbers at the end of 1949 may be nearly or equally as large as at the beginning.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

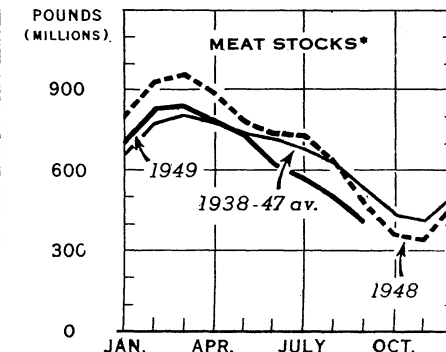
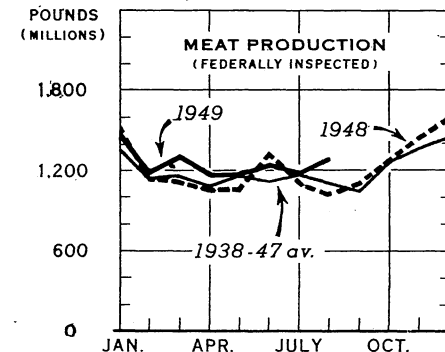
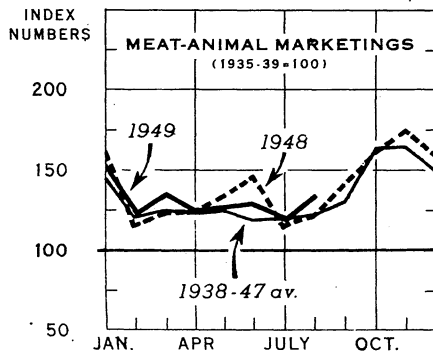
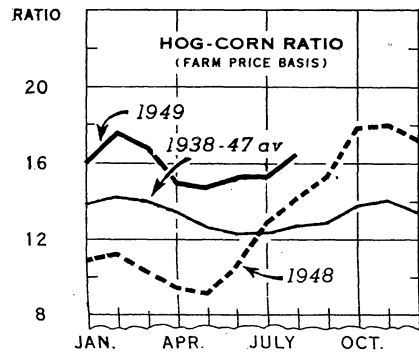
FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES



MARKET PRICES, CHICAGO



HOG-CORN RATIO, MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS, MEAT PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS, UNITED STATES



* BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, Sept. 21, 1949

SUMMARY

About one-fifth more meat was produced under Federal inspection in August and early September this year than last year. In monthly comparisons with a year earlier, this was the largest increase in output since October 1947. Slaughter of grain-fed cattle has continued high for the season, slaughter of grass cattle has been rising, and hog slaughter has expanded at a faster rate than is usual at this time of year. The number of hogs slaughtered before October 1 this year may be 1 1/2 million more than would be indicated by usual relationships to numbers saved the preceding fall.

Prices of meat animals generally showed steady to rising trends through mid-September. Primary factors in the price strength apparently were the usual seasonal gain in demand as autumn approached, and the small stocks of meat in cold storage.

Prices of grain-fed cattle may not decline until later in the year, and then only moderately. Not much change is expected in prices of lower grades of cattle. Prices of lambs are likely to go little if any lower this year and to remain high relative to prices of other meat animals. The seasonal decline in hog prices this fall may be only moderately greater than the average drop of 18 percent. The decline may be less than would be expected because the effect on prices of 15 percent more spring pigs is being eased by early marketings of many hogs, slightly lighter average slaughter weights, and prospects for a seasonal decline of cattle slaughter toward the end of the year. Pork production in the 6 months beginning in October may increase over a year earlier by only a little more than 10 percent.

Meat consumption in the July-September quarter, usually the lowest quarter in the year, is indicated at about 1 pound per person more than the 33.7 pounds consumed in the same 3 months of 1948. In the fourth quarter, when production will be seasonally larger, consumption may approach 40 pounds. This would be more than one pound above the 38.5 pounds in the same quarter last year. Rates of consumption in the first half of 1949 were below those a year earlier. Total 1949 meat consumption per person may equal or slightly exceed the 146 pounds in 1948.

Less lamb and mutton will be consumed per person this year than in any year on record, and probably less than in any year since colonial days. Little change is expected in stock sheep numbers in 1949 in contrast to sharp declines in the last 7 years. Should numbers stabilize, several years will elapse before supplies of lamb and mutton increase materially. Prices of lambs are likely to hold relatively higher than prices of other meat animals for a rather long period. Wool prices probably will stay comparatively lower than lamb prices but are likely to respond less to fluctuations in general demand.

OUTLOOK

Meat Production Up; Livestock
Prices Strong to Mid-September

About one-fifth more meat was produced under Federal inspection in August and early September this year than last. In monthly comparisons with a year earlier, this was the largest increase in output since October 1947. It came about as slaughter of grain-fed cattle continued large for the season and more cattle off grass and more hogs were marketed. The 308,000 cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection the week ended September 17 was the most since the third week in January 1948 and 5 percent above the same week of September 1948. Hog slaughter of 890,000 the week ended September 17 was 32 percent above the same week last year. However, fewer calves, sheep and lambs were slaughtered in August and early September than in the corresponding weeks of 1948.

Prices of meat animals were generally strong through mid-September. Prices of the best grades of cattle rose more than \$2.50 per 100 pounds in 6 weeks, and those of the poorer grades stabilized after declining seasonally by about \$5.00 per 100 pounds from June 1 to September 1. Prices of hogs remained near their early August top and lamb prices fluctuated in a narrow range.

Stable to rising prices probably were a response to a seasonal strengthening of demand at the beginning of autumn, and to the small holding of meat in cold storage. Last year and in many years, sizable stocks of meat were sold out of storage in August and September. This year, stocks on August 1 were 20 percent smaller than a year before. The reduction during August was 37 percent under that in August last year, and again in September less meat is likely to be sold from storage than in the comparable month of 1948.

Supplies of beef the rest of this year will be influenced on the one hand by the prospective larger number of grain-fed cattle, and on the other hand by the fewer grass cattle, that will be slaughtered this year compared with last. More cattle have been fed this year than in 1948; on August 1, the increase in the number on feed in the Corn Belt was 24 percent. Consequently, slaughter of grain-fed cattle this fall will exceed that of last year. How many grass cattle will go to slaughter will be governed mainly by the number of cattle put into feed lots, since sale of two-way cattle as feeders removes them from the immediate supply for slaughter. The most likely prospect is that cattle slaughter will have less of a seasonal peak this fall than usual and that the total number slaughtered in the last months of the year will be slightly smaller than in the same period of 1948. Since weights per head will be heavier, beef production may be as large or slightly larger than in late 1948.

Pork production will increase seasonally in the next few months as more hogs are marketed from the pig crop of last spring. That crop was 15 percent larger than the spring crop of 1948. Numbers slaughtered through the entire marketing season will be up about proportionately.

Seasonal Decline in
Hog Prices Expected

In almost every year, prices of hogs have declined during the fall months. The average reduction in prices of barrows and gilts at Chicago has been 18 percent. Cause for this seasonality is the bunching of farrowings in March and April, which results in a peak run of hogs to market about December.

The increased number of hogs to be slaughtered this fall would ordinarily result in considerably more than the average 18 percent reduction in hog prices. However, based on the factors listed below, the most likely prospect for this year is a price decline only a little more than 18 percent.

(1) Part of the increase in the pig crop has already been absorbed by unusually large marketings in late summer, a time of seasonally short meat supplies and high prices. The earlier marketings probably prevented prices of hogs from rising as much this past summer as they otherwise would, but the price decline to come will be correspondingly moderated.

Following the early farrowings last spring, market dates were moved up for sows as well as for barrows and gilts. Marketings of sows began earlier than usual, reached their peak two weeks ahead of last year, and by August declined rapidly. Market reports for late August and September have shown a smaller proportion of sows than last year. The number of barrows and gilts slaughtered under Federal inspection in August and September may total 35 percent or more over last year. Slaughter of about 5 million barrows and gilts in those two months included perhaps 1.5 million that normally would be slaughtered after October 1. Slaughter in the months beginning with October will therefore be 1.5 million short of the usual expectation based on the size of the spring pig crop.

(2) Hogs are coming to market at lighter weights this year than last. Recently, many hogs under 200 pounds have arrived at central markets, and all barrows and gilts received at 7 leading midwestern markets in early September averaged only around 210 pounds, more than 15 pounds lighter than a year earlier. The influx of light hogs may indicate that hog producers have expected a severe price drop later, and it may also represent a hedging operation in which many producers have planned to space their marketings so as to minimize losses from any price break. Apparently, more producers than usual have followed the practice this year of sorting out from their herds the first hogs to reach market weights, and sending them to an early, high-price market.

Slaughter weights of hogs are expected to increase seasonally in weeks ahead, but to remain below those of corresponding dates in 1948. The difference may narrow somewhat and average less than the 15 pounds recently prevailing, especially if the price decline for hogs this fall is moderate.

Any difference in weights will affect the total output of pork and lard, and thus will indirectly have a bearing on hog prices. Calculations can be made, for example, on an estimate that all hogs slaughtered commercially this fall and winter will average 2-3 pounds less pork yield per head than a year earlier and that slaughter of about 1.5 million head shifted to August and September. On these assumptions, pork production from October through next March would be about 11 percent larger than in the same 6 months last winter, even though 15 percent more pigs were saved in the spring of 1949 than of 1948.

(3) Some price strength has appeared in fats and oils. Sharing in it, the price of lard has advanced. Refined prime steam lard in 1-pound cartons at Chicago rose to 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per pound the week of September 10 from 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents in June. A smaller supply of soybean oil this fall and winter than last will partially offset the greater output of lard. If lard prices should hold much of their recent gain, they would be a favorable though small factor in the outlook for hog prices. Each one cent per pound of lard is equivalent to 15 cents in the value of products obtained from per 100 pounds of hogs.

(4) The reduction of cold-storage stocks of meat in late summer probably tempered the seasonal rise in hog prices. Therefore, the percentage drop in prices in ensuing months also will be less than it might have been.

(5) Production of beef is expected to decline seasonally late in the year from the relatively high levels of spring and summer.

(6) Some pick-up has recently been reported in business activity. If it should persist, consumer demand for meat will remain strong and could increase in months ahead.

These factors make it more likely that the supply of hogs expected this fall will be marketed at higher than support prices, which, on the basis of barrow and gilt prices at 7 Mid-west markets, will decline from \$18.50 for most of September to about \$14.75-\$15.00 in December. Nevertheless, it must be recognized in an outlook for hog prices that more hogs will be slaughtered this fall than in any peacetime year in history. No peacetime experience is available for gauging the capacity of demand to utilize the quantity of pork that will be produced this year.

Meat Consumption Higher in Second Half of 1949 than a Year Earlier

Meat production in the July-September quarter will total substantially larger than that of a year ago. The increase will more than offset smaller imports and will provide a somewhat higher rate of meat consumption for the slightly larger United States population. Consumption per person in those three months this year probably will total about 1 pound more than the 33.7 pounds consumed in the same months of 1948.

Consumption in the fourth quarter may be up 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds from the 38.5 pounds per person consumed in the same quarter of last year. Rates of consumption were lower in the first 6 months of this year than in 1948, but with the increases expected in the second half, total consumption per person for 1949 may equal or slightly exceed the 146 pounds consumed in 1948.

Export Controls Removed
From All Meats

All remaining export controls on meat animals and meat were removed effective August 26. Specific export licenses are no longer required for live cattle, hogs and sheep and edible meat products, which now may be sent abroad to any country under general license authority.

Changes Made in Hog
Price Support Method

Hog prices will be supported so as to maintain the United States average price received by farmers at specified monthly support levels, in case support operations should be required this fall and winter. This change was announced by the Department of Agriculture on September 13. The new method differs from the previous plan of supporting prices at weekly support levels for individual markets. Announcements of support prices will hereafter name both the national average support level for each month and weekly guides for the average of prices at 7 Midwest markets. The guides will not be considered as specific support levels, but will serve as a measure of the support operations needed from week to week to follow the seasonal pattern of support prices. The new plan will make possible a better allowance for regional variations in prices that occur from time to time. Support operations, should they become necessary, will be conducted to achieve the national average support price for each month and also, so far as practical, to hold prices by areas in the usual relation to the national average.

As before, price supports will be based on 90 percent of parity as of March 15 and September 15, and will vary seasonally in line with usual seasonal trends in prices. The national average support level for farmers' prices of hogs in September is \$17.70 per 100 pounds, and the weekly support guides for 7 Midwest markets are \$18.50 until September 24 and \$18.25 in the last week of the month. During October and November they are scheduled to decrease at about 40 cents per week. Monthly levels and weekly guides for October to March will be announced about October 1. There has been no announcement of a support program for the period after next March.

If support operations are necessary this fall and winter, they will be made through purchases of pork and pork products from federally inspected packers. Live hogs will not be purchased for price support.

Meat Exports Down, Imports
Up, in Fiscal 1949

Meat imports into the United States were doubled and exports halved in fiscal year 1948-49 compared with the preceding year. Final data show that the change took place mainly during calendar year 1948, when meat production in this country declined following the small 1947 corn crop and imports from Canada expanded fast when that nation lifted its wartime export controls.

In 1949, trends in foreign trade have again reversed, as exports have increased and imports decreased.

Data for shipments of meat were made slightly non-comparable when reports of shipments to Alaska and Hawaii were discontinued on April 1, 1948. The data of table 1 are presented so as to make it possible calculate totals with and without the Alaska-Hawaii shipments.

Table 1 .- United States foreign trade in meat, by quarter-years, fiscal years 1948 and 1949
Carcass weight equivalent

Item	Exports and shipments to territories 1/									
	1947-48					1948-49				
	July- Sept.:	Oct.- Dec.:	Jan.- Mar.:	Apr.- June:	Year	July- Sept.:	Oct.- Dec.:	Jan.- Mar.:	Apr.- June:	Year
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Beef										
Commercial exports.....	54.5	16.5	5.7	3.1	79.8:	5.6	3.7	3.6	3.9	16.8
Commercial shipments: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.....	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3	6.1:	1.0	1.9	1.2	1.4	5.5
Alaska and Hawaii.....	5.5	4.2	4.8	2/	3/14.5:	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
USDA exports and shipments.....	0	0	0	0	0:	0	0	0	0	0
Total 3/.....	61.9	22.2	11.9	4.4	100.4:	6.6	5.6	4.8	5.3	22.3
Veal										
Commercial exports.....	5.6	1.7	0.7	0.3	8.3:	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.6
Commercial shipments: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.....	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4:	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
Alaska and Hawaii.....	0.5	0.5	0.4	2/	3/1.2:	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
USDA exports and shipments.....	0	0	0	0	0:	0	0	0	0	0
Total 3/.....	6.2	2.1	1.2	0.4	9.9:	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	2.0
Lamb and mutton										
Commercial exports.....	4.3	3.0	1.6	1.3	10.2:	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.9
Commercial shipments: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.....	0.1	4/	0.1	0.1	0.3:	0.1	4/	0.1	0.1	0.3
Alaska and Hawaii.....	0.3	0.3	0.4	2/	3/1.0:	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
USDA exports and shipments.....	0	0	0	0	0:	0	0	0	0	0
Total 3/.....	4.7	3.3	2.1	1.4	11.5:	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	2.2
Pork excluding lard										
Commercial exports.....	12.6	11.1	11.1	8.8	43.6:	6.4	8.5	10.6	19.4	44.9
Commercial shipments: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.....	12.1	4.9	6.9	8.8	32.7:	5.7	9.2	8.7	9.1	32.7
Alaska and Hawaii.....	4.7	4.3	6.0	2/	3/15.0:	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
USDA exports and shipments.....	0	0	0	0	0:	0	0	0	4.4	4.4
Total 3/.....	29.4	20.3	24.0	17.6	91.3:	12.1	17.7	19.3	32.9	82.0
All meat										
Commercial exports.....	77.0	32.3	19.1	13.5	141.9:	12.4	13.8	15.0	24.0	65.2
Commercial shipments: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.....	14.2	6.5	8.5	10.3	39.5:	6.9	11.2	10.1	10.7	38.9
Alaska and Hawaii.....	11.0	9.1	11.6	2/	3/31.7:	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
USDA exports and shipments.....	0	0	0	0	0:	0	0	0	4.4	4.4
Total 3/.....	102.2	47.9	39.2	23.8	213.1:	19.3	25.0	25.1	39.1	108.5
	Imports									
Beef.....	17.3	40.8	42.1	58.1	158.3:	114.6	126.1	52.6	38.7	332.0
Veal.....	4/	4/	4/	0.1	0.1:	1.9	3.1	0.3	1.2	6.5
Lamb and mutton.....	4/	4/	0	0	4/:	1.4	1.5	0.1	0.1	3.1
Pork excluding lard.....	4/	4/	0.2	0.2	0.4:	4/	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.1
All meat.....	17.3	40.8	42.3	58.4	158.8:	117.9	131.1	53.2	40.5	342.7

1/ Does not include shipments for military civilian feeding.
 2/ Shipments to Alaska and Hawaii not reported beginning April 1948.
 3/ Beginning April 1948, total does not include shipments to Alaska and Hawaii.
 4/ Less than 50,000 pounds.

Table 2.- Number of sheep and lambs on farms January 1, number slaughtered, lamb crop, liveweight of farm production, and dressed weight of lamb and mutton produced, 1900 to date 1/

Year	Number January 1		Lambs saved		Live weight of farm production 3/		Number slaughtered 4/	Prod. of lamb and mutton (carcass weight equivalent)	
	All sheep and lambs	Ewes one year and older	Number	Percent of ewes 2/	Total	Per head on farms Jan. 1		Quantity	Per person
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	Million pounds	Pounds	1,000 head	Million pounds	Pounds
1900	48,105						12,000	493	6.5
1901	49,101						13,200	548	7.1
1902	49,236						13,700	564	7.1
1903	47,536						13,800	563	7.0
1904	45,458						13,100	538	6.6
1905	43,825						13,100	530	6.4
1906	45,525						13,800	543	6.4
1907	47,260						13,799	553	6.4
1908	48,196						14,200	559	6.3
1909	50,793				1,272	26.04	15,464	608	6.7
1910	50,239				1,160	22.89	15,332	597	6.4
1911	50,555				1,128	22.31	18,177	693	7.3
1912	47,897				1,275	26.62	19,131	735	7.6
1913	44,652				1,187	26.58	18,375	706	7.2
1914	43,089				1,271	29.50	18,035	693	7.0
1915	40,513				1,254	30.95	15,576	605	5.9
1916	40,010				1,118	27.94	15,160	585	5.7
1917	38,886				1,126	28.96	12,128	463	4.5
1918	39,664				1,238	31.21	13,220	506	4.8
1919	41,875				1,143	27.30	15,784	590	5.6
1920	40,743				926	22.73	13,984	538	5.0
1921	39,479				1,146	29.03	16,742	639	5.9
1922	36,922				1,080	29.25	14,373	553	5.0
1923	36,803				1,253	34.05	15,146	588	5.2
1924	37,139	24,982	21,763	87	1,459	39.28	15,578	597	5.2
1925	38,543	25,997	22,195	85	1,508	39.13	15,430	603	5.1
1926	40,363	26,876	23,958	89	1,609	39.86	16,444	639	5.4
1927	42,415	28,338	24,460	86	1,664	39.23	16,113	629	5.2
1928	45,258	30,206	26,559	88	1,773	39.18	17,076	663	5.5
1929	48,361	32,464	26,903	83	1,823	37.68	17,483	682	5.6
1930	51,565	34,614	29,467	85	1,965	38.11	21,125	825	6.7
1931	53,233	36,514	31,557	86	2,052	38.55	23,138	885	7.1
1932	53,902	37,095	29,986	81	1,829	33.93	23,063	884	7.0
1933	53,054	37,012	29,768	80	1,860	35.06	21,848	852	6.7
1934	53,503	37,042	30,433	82	1,911	35.72	21,800	851	6.7
1935	51,808	35,285	27,813	79	1,835	35.42	22,000	877	6.9
1936	51,136	35,555	29,762	84	1,852	36.22	21,555	854	6.6
1937	50,848	34,574	29,170	84	1,932	38.00	21,455	852	6.6
1938	51,063	34,710	30,420	88	2,038	39.91	22,423	897	6.9
1939	51,348	34,833	29,913	86	2,029	39.51	21,614	872	6.6
1940	52,107	35,707	31,082	87	2,101	40.32	21,571	876	6.6
1941	53,920	38,419	32,610	90	2,251	41.75	22,309	923	6.8
1942	56,213	37,361	32,312	86	2,313	41.15	25,585	1,042	7.7
1943	55,150	37,303	30,924	83	2,108	38.22	27,073	1,104	8.0
1944	50,782	33,991	28,642	84	1,938	38.16	25,355	1,024	7.4
1945	46,520	31,280	27,042	86	1,912	41.10	24,639	1,054	7.6
1946	42,436	27,680	24,540	89	1,763	41.54	22,814	970	6.8
1947	37,818	25,048	22,082	88	1,579	41.75	18,766	802	5.5
1948	34,827	23,408	20,011	85	1,407	40.40	17,530	753	5.1
1949 5/	31,963	21,656	18,906	87					

1/ Some series not available for all years.

2/ "Percentage crop."

3/ Live weight added to sheep and lambs on farms and ranches during year.

4/ Total slaughter (commercial and farm).

5/ Preliminary.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

1949 A New Low for Lamb
and Mutton Consumption

In the first 8 months of this year, 7.7 million sheep and lambs were slaughtered under Federal inspection. This number is small by all comparisons. It is 19 percent below the slaughter in the same 8 months of last year and scarcely more than one-half the record slaughter in the comparable period of 1943.

Even should slaughter average close to last year in the months remaining, total 1949 output of lamb and mutton (from all slaughter, including farm) probably will not exceed 600 million pounds. Last year 753 million pounds were produced, 1943 production was 1,104 millions, and output has not been as small as 600 million pounds since 1925. Since the population has grown, the rate of consumption of lamb and mutton per person this year, estimated at 4.0 pounds, will be the lowest since records began in 1899. The chances are that it is the smallest consumption since early colonial days.

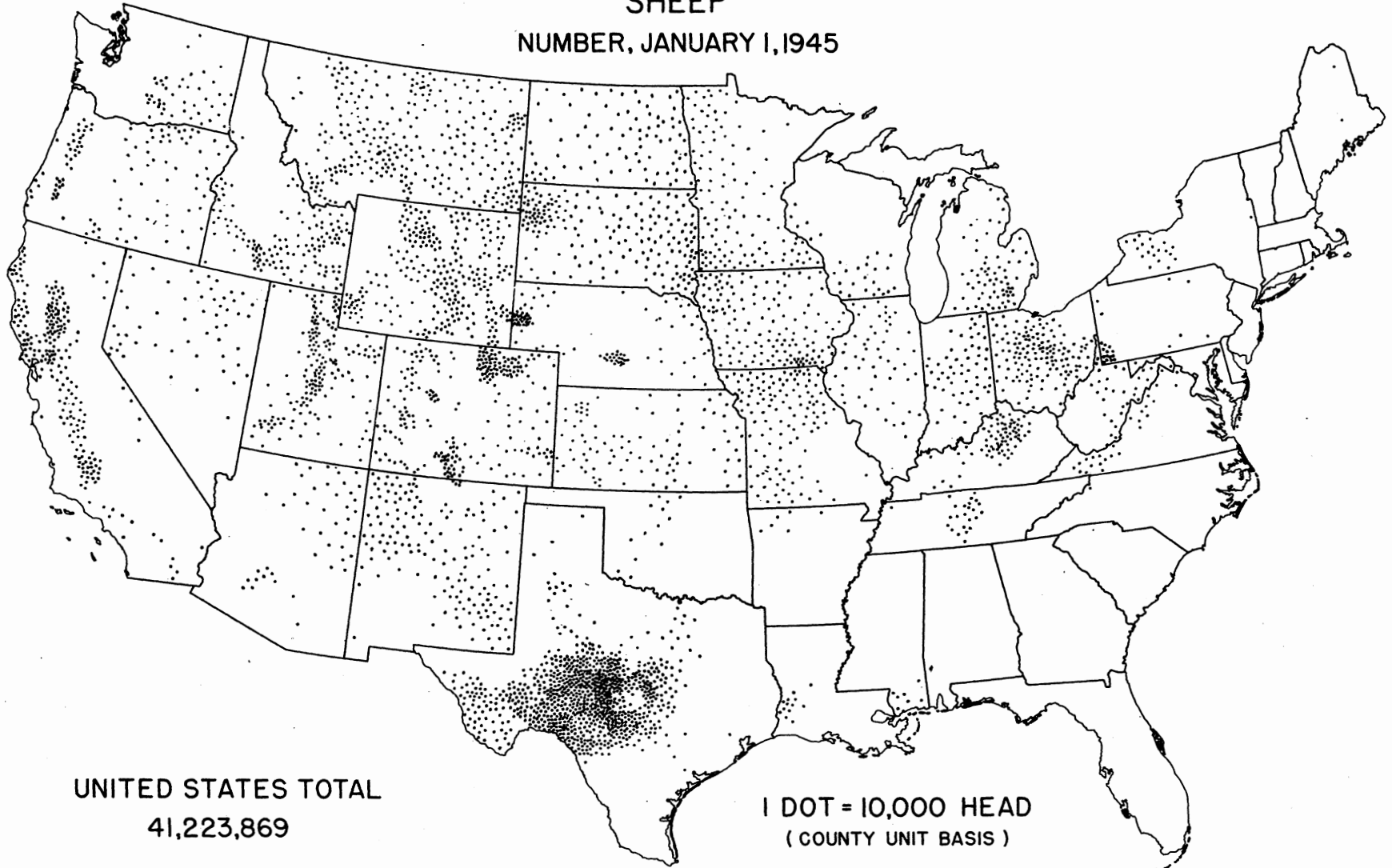
The same story of declines and new lows can be told for sheep numbers. On January 1, 1949, 32.0 million head of sheep and lambs were on farms and ranches, a number composed of 27.8 million stock sheep and 4.2 million sheep and lambs on feed for market. As recently as January 1, 1942, there were 56.2 million sheep and lambs in the country. The 1942 number was a record high, whereas this year's number was a record low. The reduction of 43 percent between the two years was the largest ever for any class of livestock in a 7-year period. In 1867, the first year of annual records, when the United States population was only 25 percent of that in 1949, there were 46.3 million sheep in the country, almost one-half more than in 1949. Stated another way, there is now only one sheep per 5 persons, whereas in 1867 there were more sheep than people. These figures raise a question as to what is the future of the sheep industry in American agriculture.

Sheep raising in the United States, as in most other countries, started as a frontier occupation. It followed the advance of the frontier, pushing westward from the Atlantic, and later eastward from the Pacific. Its movement was generally into lands that were less well adapted to other agricultural enterprises, but when other ways of using those lands were developed the industry again moved to places where there was less competition for the use of the land. Records over the 83 years commencing in 1867 show that stock sheep numbers in all States east of the Mississippi hit their peak sometime before 1870. Numbers in the three Pacific States (combined) were largest in 1877. The advancing date for highest numbers in groups of States appear in table 3; for New Mexico and Arizona, it was 1883; Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, also 1883; Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, 1909; Idaho, Utah and Nevada, 1919; North and South Dakota, 1942; and Texas, 1943.

Table 3.- Stock sheep: Numbers on farms January 1, by regions, 1867-1949

Year	North Atlantic States	Ohio Indiana	Illinois Iowa Missouri	Mich. Wis. Minn.	South Atlantic States	South Central States	N. Dak. S. Dak.	Nebr. Kans. Okla.	Texas	Mont. Wyo. Colo.	N. Mex. Ariz.	Idaho Utah Nev.	Wash. Oreg. Calif.	Total United States
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1867	9,627	11,221	5,901	4,627	2,885	3,148	5	177	2,070	171	1,382	205	3,578	44,997
1868	8,349	11,297	5,780	4,562	2,853	3,010	7	184	1,820	204	1,524	225	3,993	43,808
1869	7,155	9,323	5,238	3,877	2,737	2,950	10	205	1,727	244	1,606	248	4,572	39,892
1870	6,071	7,830	4,433	3,468	2,583	2,890	13	220	1,727	291	1,684	272	4,967	36,449
1871	5,410	6,788	3,450	3,356	2,446	2,824	15	224	1,820	388	1,693	316	5,333	34,063
1872	5,035	6,966	3,173	3,450	2,312	2,720	18	237	1,960	502	1,653	352	5,734	34,312
1873	4,932	6,951	3,145	3,681	2,243	2,667	22	254	2,100	603	1,962	407	6,815	35,782
1874	4,815	6,492	3,138	3,838	2,164	2,621	38	272	2,260	742	2,137	440	7,272	36,234
1875	4,729	6,057	2,959	3,882	2,076	2,511	55	287	2,400	899	2,340	472	8,570	37,237
1876	4,654	5,707	2,772	3,831	2,026	2,405	70	358	2,518	1,078	2,720	527	8,811	37,477
1877	4,559	5,479	2,656	3,535	2,111	2,377	77	434	2,896	1,303	3,184	616	8,920	38,147
1878	4,630	5,640	2,626	3,569	2,221	2,541	82	563	3,186	1,548	3,574	723	8,039	38,942
1879	4,842	5,981	2,771	3,778	2,385	2,679	87	713	3,505	1,880	4,323	841	7,893	41,678
1880	5,183	6,373	3,056	3,981	2,467	2,712	96	1,098	3,715	2,158	5,107	986	7,935	44,867
1881	5,391	6,693	3,210	4,149	2,569	2,702	108	1,421	4,230	2,310	5,581	1,160	7,847	47,371
1882	5,403	6,827	3,026	4,227	2,608	2,678	121	1,634	4,864	2,593	5,878	1,353	7,671	48,883
1883	5,350	7,046	2,904	4,382	2,666	2,653	143	1,884	6,200	2,806	5,890	1,490	7,521	50,935
1884	5,227	6,922	2,787	4,434	2,698	2,633	168	1,856	6,600	2,943	5,618	1,723	7,272	51,101
1885	4,875	6,843	2,523	4,293	2,596	2,564	192	1,748	6,620	3,251	5,071	1,919	7,125	49,620
1886	4,673	6,308	2,156	4,036	2,362	2,450	214	1,517	5,675	3,541	5,036	2,073	6,613	46,654
1887	4,457	6,012	2,009	3,726	2,081	2,303	235	1,168	5,150	3,712	4,797	2,247	6,320	44,217
1888	4,307	5,500	1,950	3,644	1,927	2,237	272	923	5,150	3,893	4,610	2,614	5,984	43,011
1889	4,180	5,355	1,935	3,465	1,929	2,332	325	805	5,047	4,106	4,232	2,876	5,778	42,365
1890	4,114	5,334	1,985	3,488	2,013	2,396	406	636	5,047	4,633	3,821	3,140	5,680	42,693
1891	4,140	5,504	2,232	3,679	2,162	2,361	570	628	4,900	4,780	3,876	3,305	5,745	43,882
1892	4,140	5,602	2,422	3,713	2,271	2,337	721	588	4,700	5,150	3,740	3,394	5,850	44,628
1893	3,944	5,343	2,559	3,949	2,277	2,335	735	582	4,335	5,620	3,495	3,528	5,865	44,567
1894	3,655	5,076	2,387	4,090	2,195	2,275	753	552	3,814	5,667	3,621	3,460	5,869	43,414
1895	3,159	4,406	2,048	3,665	2,111	2,204	802	499	3,738	6,159	3,611	3,490	5,935	41,827
1896	2,791	3,836	1,813	3,073	1,970	2,091	899	598	3,065	6,616	3,438	3,641	5,778	39,609
1897	2,548	3,348	1,769	2,750	1,816	2,004	846	706	2,789	7,135	3,427	4,008	5,745	38,891
1898	2,566	3,674	1,877	2,845	1,799	1,932	850	717	2,650	7,538	3,642	4,547	5,460	40,097
1899	2,760	3,982	2,094	3,065	1,814	1,945	873	772	2,544	8,438	3,989	5,156	5,256	42,688
1900	2,879	3,950	2,163	3,227	1,842	2,006	1,031	747	2,417	9,609	4,385	5,523	5,286	45,065
1901	2,998	3,989	2,269	3,322	1,817	2,033	1,156	739	2,280	10,345	4,342	5,796	5,440	46,126
1902	2,471	3,629	1,915	3,195	1,679	2,018	1,314	640	2,135	11,379	4,537	5,513	5,771	46,196
1903	2,314	3,195	1,760	2,954	1,576	1,877	1,129	627	2,100	10,950	4,408	5,651	5,895	44,436
1904	2,147	3,058	1,753	2,760	1,512	1,873	1,090	659	2,000	10,159	3,873	5,197	5,827	41,908
1905	1,998	2,958	1,749	2,545	1,507	1,851	1,112	690	2,000	9,649	3,676	5,082	5,593	40,410
1906	1,989	3,253	1,901	2,684	1,499	1,844	1,063	682	2,000	10,207	3,966	5,290	5,587	41,965
1907	2,030	3,445	2,233	2,798	1,538	1,883	937	634	2,000	10,597	4,316	5,556	5,493	43,460
1908	1,891	3,655	2,220	2,936	1,631	1,953	867	610	2,100	11,341	4,464	5,701	5,326	45,095
1909	1,755	4,000	2,657	2,931	1,707	1,958	921	603	2,200	12,634	4,509	5,753	5,470	47,098
1910	1,706	4,150	2,684	2,890	1,719	1,915	830	627	2,190	12,300	4,236	6,049	5,643	46,939
1911	1,782	3,900	2,849	2,966	1,649	1,934	771	737	2,240	11,814	4,085	5,812	5,536	46,055
1912	1,750	3,550	2,594	2,659	1,534	1,878	689	640	2,300	10,289	4,310	5,413	5,366	42,972
1913	1,549	3,195	2,112	2,289	1,471	1,845	702	612	2,200	9,727	4,513	5,208	5,121	40,544
1914	1,353	2,775	1,859	1,983	1,370	1,744	716	530	2,200	8,750	4,695	5,064	5,020	38,059
1915	1,241	2,342	1,561	1,765	1,272	1,640	675	429	2,240	8,481	4,788	5,240	4,589	36,263
1916	1,201	2,132	1,715	1,683	1,168	1,553	735	505	2,327	8,201	4,492	5,970	4,578	36,260
1917	1,213	2,165	1,842	1,613	1,130	1,530	735	589	2,200	7,291	4,288	6,025	4,630	35,246
1918	1,317	2,340	2,144	1,735	1,172	1,542	869	684	2,250	7,235	4,077	6,338	4,996	36,704
1919	1,377	2,486	2,452	1,874	1,203	1,627	1,024	623	2,600	7,552	3,802	6,340	5,400	38,360
1920	1,311	2,432	2,457	1,807	1,210	1,648	1,053	631	3,360	6,609	3,600	6,090	5,360	37,328
1921	1,194	2,279	2,257	1,587	1,218	1,604	904	559	3,850	5,874	3,515	5,580	5,005	35,426
1922	1,104	2,129	1,913	1,450	1,173	1,547	817	507	3,650	5,829	3,330	5,440	4,476	33,365
1923	1,047	2,171	1,870	1,431	1,148	1,515	802	401	3,490	5,721	3,120	5,403	4,478	32,597
1924	1,023	2,169	1,875	1,408	1,104	1,485	813	427	3,625	5,718	3,188	5,179	4,845	32,859
1925	1,033	2,255	1,906	1,543	1,097	1,474	879	454	4,014	6,052	3,264	5,305	5,193	34,469
1926	1,056	2,263	1,970	1,677	1,115	1,492	960	493	4,134	6,562	3,339	5,317	5,341	35,719
1927	1,049	2,360	2,046	1,845	1,153	1,582	1,108	550	4,607	7,268	3,369	5,574	5,556	38,067
1928	1,088	2,477	2,102	1,997	1,274	1,690	1,286	616	4,979	7,956	3,480	5,835	5,909	40,689
1929	1,084	2,518	2,362	2,119	1,354	1,721	1,335	710	5,630	8,717	3,472	6,025	6,226	43,481
1930	1,113	2,627	2,609	2,247	1,392	1,741	1,739	762	6,304	9,075	3,577	5,954	6,439	45,577
1931	1,106	2,794	2,705	2,319	1,415	1,763	1,947	767	6,749	9,543	3,865	6,145	6,602	47,720
1932	1,052	2,851	2,799	2,361	1,411	1,799	2,172	790	6,952	9,253	4,002	6,013	6,227	47,682
1933	1,032	2,897	2,802	2,349	1,389	1,843	2,112	809	7,444	9,256	3,715	5,655	6,000	47,303
1934	1,014	2,964	2,889	2,372	1,347	1,870	2,251	847	8,059	9,541	3,639	5,734	5,717	48,244
1935	958	3,023	3,085	2,381	1,305	1,951	1,960	849	7,092	8,855	3,280	5,490	5,910	46,139
1936	930	2,982	3,143	2,328	1,246	1,934	2,064	870	7,234	8,419	3,060	5,425	5,800	45,435
1937	929	2,723	2,990	2,416	1,145	1,840	1,872	816	8,750	7,779	2,990	5,210	5,791	45,251
1938	870	2,700	3,066	2,334	1,117	1,894	1,920	883	9,100	7,709	2,932	4,969	5,478	44,972
1939	808	2,570	3,153	2,260	1,083	1,938	2,019	1,073	9,191	8,260	2,944	4,770	5,394	45,463
1940	759	2,570	3,381	2,290	1,039	1,958	2,347	1,237	9,375	8,692	2,910	4,619	5,089	46,266
1941	755	2,577	3,505	2,365	1,007	1,944	2,799	1,289	9,656	8,900	2,867	4,637	5,140	47,441
1942	766	2,642	3,656	2,392	980	1,989	3,116	1,425	10,332	9,396	2,822	4,693	5,137	49,346
1943	781	2,661	3,542	2,372	945	1,938	3,061	1,400	10,539	9,055	2,760	4,324	4,818	48,196
1944	752	2,216	3,201	2,205	876	1,755	2,778	1,190	10,117	8,317	2,618	3,910	4,335	44,270
1945	624	1,938	2,812	1,879	809	1,584	2,267	968	9,611	7,237	2,374	3,594	3	

SHEEP
NUMBER, JANUARY 1, 1945



UNITED STATES TOTAL
41,223,869

1 DOT = 10,000 HEAD
(COUNTY UNIT BASIS)

The last expansion in total United States sheep numbers predominantly reflected the expansion in Texas. Numbers in that State began to increase in about 1919 when the 2.6 million head there were only 6 percent of the national total. By 1943, Texas had 10.8 million, which were 20 percent of United States numbers. As Texas numbers contracted after 1943, United States numbers also fell. However, the 1942-49 downtrend was by no means restricted to Texas. It was virtually country-wide.

The history of the migration of the sheep-raising industry was roughly similar to that of the receding frontier, as sheep shared with cattle in varying proportion each new farming and range area that was opened up. But since there are no more frontiers, the future of sheep raising will depend in large measure on how effectively sheep can compete with other enterprises for land and labor in established farming and ranching areas.

In the eastern or "native" part of the country, sheep compete with various agricultural enterprises. In many of the mountain and hill sections of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, they are an alternative choice with cattle for pasture land. In Ohio, where sheep-raising has long been an important industry, sheep are often an enterprise carried on supplementary to major activities as a way to use resources that otherwise would be wasted. Sheep in that state compete less for land than for the farmer's labor, particularly at lambing season. As a broad generalization, so long as there is a fairly strong demand for the major farm products of the east and production of those products is aided by continuous advances in mechanization, sheep will occupy a small and in some places perhaps a shrinking place in farm organization. Only a depression and low-cost farm labor would yield much incentive to an expansion in sheep raising there.

Trends in the West are by far the more significant to the United States sheep industry. It is hard to make accurate general observations on the position of sheep raising in the agriculture of that region of range, dry farming, and irrigation. For some areas, sheep have natural advantages over cattle. Traditionally, a sheep is regarded as able to fatten where a cow will starve. As a grazer of poorer, rougher, and sometimes higher lands than are acceptable for any other domestic animal except goats, sheep doubtlessly will remain in the grazing areas to which they are especially well suited. Some lands are not adapted to sheep because of wet soils or very coarse forage. Most areas, however, are satisfactory for both sheep and cattle, and over much of the west competition is great between the two.

Sheep ranching requires many acres of land for even the smaller herds. If labor requirements were very small, so that a low labor cost could accompany the use of inexpensive land, the position of the sheep industry would seldom be challenged. But sheep demand considerable care. For protection against predatory animals, shearing, lambing, dipping, and other services, sheep require much labor. In most of the West the constant attention of a sheepherder must be provided for bands which rove over wide areas, while cattle are run in fenced areas without close supervision. Only in Texas are sheep commonly grazed on fenced lands.

Cost studies indicate that cost of labor adds considerably to current operating costs in the sheep industry. Labor cost and total current costs are larger relative to investment for sheep than for cattle. In a normal year current receipts are larger too. The relatively smaller investment but larger current costs and receipts for sheep compared with cattle illustrate

the greater sensitiveness of the sheep industry to changes in wage rates and in prices of both commodities bought and products sold. 1/

A shortage of skilled labor was a partial cause of the big decline in sheep numbers after 1942. Opportunities in other farming and in industry lured many sheep holders from their lonesome and often low-paying occupation. With the wealth of resources in this country and generally high rewards to labor, it is likely that sheep holders will remain comparatively scarce except in times of economic depression.

It is not possible to say that sheep are more or less profitable than cattle, because the comparison is different for practically every local condition and every farmer or rancher. Insofar as it has been possible to measure conditions that are equally favorable to both cattle and sheep, studies have indicated that net returns over many years have averaged about the same for the two industries. A study summarizing data for Montana, in which net returns as rent to land were used as the means of comparison, reports the conclusion that "when compared for a long period, cattle and sheep ranching are able to earn almost exactly as high an income to land...". But there have been marked variations in particular periods. "Sometimes the cattleman is more prosperous and able to bid higher for range; other times the advantage is with the sheepman." 2/

In many areas during the last few years, the advantage has definitely rested with the cattelman. During the inflationary surge at the beginning of World War II and especially after its end, prices of lamb and wool advanced less than the price of beef. In 1948, Good lamb carcasses sold at wholesale at Chicago for 286 percent of the 1937-41 average, while Good steer carcasses brought 311 percent of the prewar average. This difference occurred despite the sharp reduction in output of lamb and mutton. It exemplifies, however, not a discount for lamb in the postwar period but the traditionally smaller variation in price of lamb than of other meats. One reason the price of lamb rose less after the 1930's is that it had fallen less during those depressed years, resulting in a higher base for later comparisons.

The price of wool rose substantially less in recent years than did prices of meats. The price of fine wool at Boston in 1948 was only 162 percent, and 3/8 blood 139 percent, of the prewar average. Wool is priced more largely on a world market than are most other livestock products. During the latter part of the war and later it was in abundant supply, and was not affected much by the general commodity price inflation in this country. Wool prices in the United States have usually represented the world price plus tariff or, recently, the domestic support price, whichever has been higher. 3/

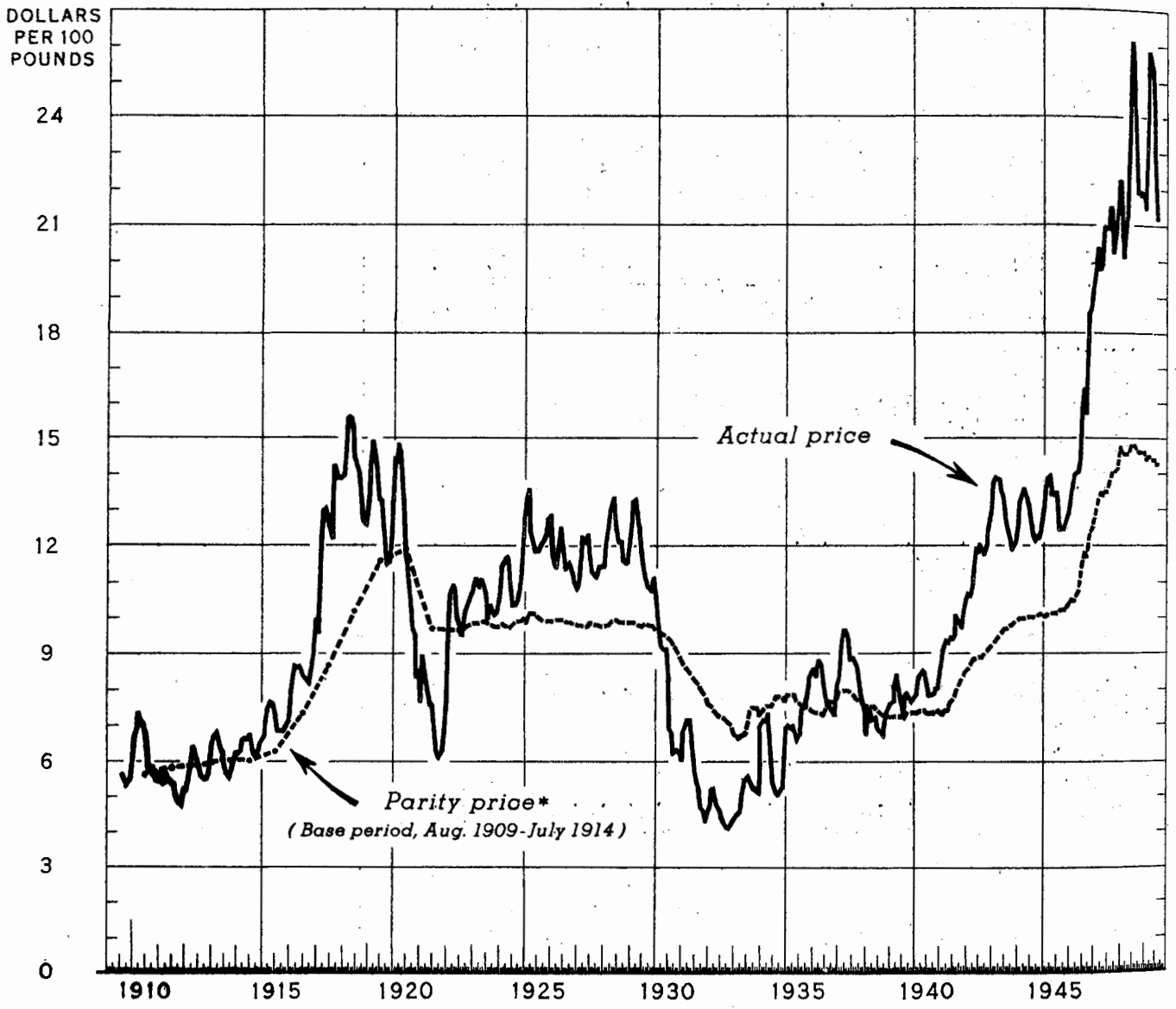
1/ For comparative cost data see M.H. Sanderson and D.W. Chittendon, "Cattle Ranching in Montana" Montana State College Agric. Exp. Stat. Bul. 341, 1937. M.H. Sanderson and Louis Vincke, "The Economics of Range Sheep Production in Montana", Montana State College Agric. Exp. Stat. Bul. 302, 1935. A.F. Vass and Harry Pearson, "Profitable Systems of Farm and Ranch Organizations for Certain Areas in Wyoming", Wyoming Agric. Ext. Ser. Cir. #60, 1925 (e.g., pp. 48 and 55). Marion Clawson, "Effect of Changing Prices upon Income to Land from Cattle and Sheep Ranching, as Illustrated by Data for Montana, 1910-1936". United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1939 (mimeo.). 2/ Clawson, Op. cit., p. 13.

3/ During the war, customary machinery for setting a world price was ineffective. The administered prices nevertheless reflected to some degree the world conditions in wool supplies and demand.

Table 4.- Price per 100 pound at Chicago for Good grade slaughter lambs and steers, 500-600 pounds Western dressed beef steer carcasses, and 30-40 pounds lamb carcasses; and Boston market price of wool, 1930 to date

Year	Good slaughter : lambs			Good slaughter : steers			Western dressed carcasses, wholesale : Steer, good 500-600 lbs.			Lamb, Good 30-40 lbs.			Wool, Boston market price, Territory scoured basis			
	Price	Pct. of 1937-41 average	Dollars	Price	Pct. of 1937-41 average	Dollars	Price	Pct. of 1937-41 average	Dollars	Price	Pct. of 1937-41 average	Dollars	Fine	Pct. of 1937-41 average	Cents	Pct. of 1937-41 average
1930	9.91	101	11.45	109	108	17.45	114	19.58	76.2	83	64.0	83	76.2	83	64.0	83
1931	7.77	79	8.63	82	83	13.40	93	16.04	63.1	69	49.9	65	63.1	69	49.9	65
1932	6.11	62	7.23	69	71	11.43	76	12.99	47.0	51	40.4	52	47.0	51	40.4	52
1933	6.63	68	5.56	53	55	8.79	71	12.25	67.0	73	60.8	79	67.0	73	60.8	79
1934	7.89	80	6.94	66	64	10.38	84	14.44	81.6	89	74.2	96	81.6	89	74.2	96
1935	8.85	90	10.79	103	97	15.57	92	15.86	74.8	81	63.6	82	74.8	81	63.6	82
1936	9.86	100	8.82	84	82	13.21	99	17.00	92.0	100	80.4	104	92.0	100	80.4	104
1937	10.59	108	11.79	112	108	17.31	104	17.61	101.9	101	87.1	113	101.9	101	87.1	113
1938	8.39	86	9.14	87	89	14.39	92	15.74	70.4	76	58.9	76	70.4	76	58.9	76
1939	9.26	94	9.81	93	96	15.46	98	16.87	82.7	90	69.3	90	82.7	90	69.3	90
1940	9.65	98	10.48	100	100	16.11	99	16.95	96.3	105	79.7	103	96.3	105	79.7	103
1941	11.19	114	11.36	108	107	17.18	107	18.41	108.8	118	91.2	118	108.8	118	91.2	118
1942	13.81	141	13.90	132	124	19.98	134	22.94	119.1	129	102.6	133	119.1	129	102.6	133
1943	14.95	152	15.34	146	128	20.62	144	24.63	117.8	128	104.2	135	117.8	128	104.2	135
1944	15.22	155	15.73	150	124	19.88	138	23.68	119.0	129	104.5	135	119.0	129	104.5	135
1945	15.48	158	16.00	152	124	19.88	138	23.68	117.7	128	103.5	134	117.7	128	103.5	134
1946	18.65	190	19.32	184	173	27.81	181	31.08	102.6	112	91.4	118	102.6	112	91.4	118
1947	23.59	240	26.22	249	258	41.46	249	42.66	121.6	132	107.0	139	121.6	132	107.0	139
1948	25.96	264	30.96	294	311	50.03	311	49.00	149.2	162	107.3	139	149.2	162	107.3	139

LAMBS: PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1909-49



* PARITY PRICE NOT AVAILABLE BY MONTHS, 1910-22

After the war, sheep raisers found that sale of sheep and lambs was more important as a source of income than it had been before, and sale of wool less so. Sales of wool were the source of 13 percent of the income of sheep producers in the native sheep States in 1948, compared with 25 percent in 1937-41. In the western States, the percentage received from wool was down to 28 percent in 1948, as against 42 percent in 1937-41. The differences from prewar came about in part from the additional sales of stock as herds were reduced, but also in part from the lower wool prices.

More recently, the prices of lamb and wool have improved relative to beef. During the general reduction of meat prices beginning in mid-1948, prices of lamb held up best and have been high relative to prices of other meats. As world and United States stocks of wool have been reduced, the prices of most grades of wool have risen and average prices received by United States producers have held above the support price of about 42 cents.

In 1948, 17.5 million sheep and lambs were slaughtered and January inventories were reduced 2.9 million head. This year, total slaughter is expected to be about 14 million head. The smaller slaughter partly represents a reduction in the lamb crop of 1.1 million head or 6 percent. However, it also shows that herds are being reduced less this year than last. It is possible, in fact, that inventories will be substantially the same at the end of 1949 as at the beginning. This outcome is most likely if a rather large proportion of sheep and lambs marketed this fall are put on feed.

Should sheep numbers increase in the next few years, several years would elapse before any material increase in production of lamb and mutton could occur. Lamb and mutton will continue relatively scarce. Prices of lambs probably will remain high compared to other meat animals. Also, if there should be major fluctuations in general average prices of meat animals due to changes in demand, the experience of the 1930's indicates that prices of lambs would change less than those of other livestock. In such event, the price of wool also would probably fluctuate less than meat prices. Present support legislation probably would prevent any great reduction. The sheep industry is not a source of big returns during a boom, but neither is it always as sensitive to recession.

Future levels of sheep numbers cannot be foretold with accuracy. If the bottom to the past decline is reached this year, a slow expansion may occur in 1950 and later years. Any improvement in comparative costs or returns will encourage its growth. Nevertheless, there is little possibility of a return to the numbers of 1942. An intensive examination of the competitive position of sheep and cattle in various western areas, especially where the range is best adapted to sheep, is necessary before an adequate appraisal of prospects for sheep numbers can be made. ^{4/}

^{4/} Such a study has been in progress under the research program of Research and Marketing Act.

Table 5 .- Average price per 100 pounds received by farmers for lambs, United States, by months, August 1909 to date

Year	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 15	May 15	June 15	July 15	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 15	Wtd. ave. 1/ Dol.
1909	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.63	5.48	5.29	5.34	5.50	-
1910	6.13	6.58	6.86	7.32	7.07	7.03	6.57	5.76	5.81	5.84	5.46	5.41	6.16
1911	5.62	5.37	5.32	6.62	5.65	5.47	5.35	5.35	5.01	4.76	4.68	4.92	5.17
1912	5.19	5.19	5.43	6.03	6.39	6.13	5.88	5.67	5.52	5.42	5.45	5.76	5.62
1913	6.13	6.46	6.68	6.73	6.57	6.33	6.11	5.73	5.60	5.52	5.75	5.90	5.99
1914	6.24	6.22	6.35	6.57	6.58	6.57	6.70	6.43	6.28	6.08	6.29	6.48	6.36
1915	6.58	6.69	7.06	7.47	7.63	7.57	7.28	6.79	6.82	6.77	6.86	7.06	6.98
1916	7.39	7.92	8.35	8.70	8.61	8.63	8.35	8.31	8.26	8.19	8.55	9.05	8.34
1917	9.99	9.57	11.64	12.32	13.01	13.04	12.51	12.24	13.26	14.25	13.89	13.88	12.71
1918	13.91	13.97	14.27	15.60	15.57	15.22	14.44	14.25	14.10	13.24	12.69	12.57	13.96
1919	12.91	13.37	14.34	14.91	14.47	14.02	13.25	13.19	12.36	11.49	11.53	12.07	12.83
1920	13.25	14.50	14.49	14.89	14.61	13.13	11.81	10.84	10.34	9.69	9.44	8.38	11.64
1921	8.53	7.68	7.94	7.50	7.95	7.66	7.46	6.99	6.23	6.06	6.19	6.74	7.13
1922	7.62	9.19	10.59	10.94	10.76	9.96	9.74	9.45	9.65	10.15	10.42	10.60	9.90
1923	10.75	10.94	11.14	10.81	11.09	10.88	10.69	9.98	10.33	10.22	10.03	10.11	10.52
1924	10.33	10.75	11.43	11.63	11.66	11.46	10.74	10.33	10.34	10.51	10.76	11.23	10.80
1925	12.89	13.31	13.58	12.32	12.11	11.85	11.85	11.93	12.03	12.14	12.32	12.74	12.43
1926	12.88	12.21	11.65	11.42	11.98	12.54	11.85	11.35	11.49	11.45	11.22	10.92	11.66
1927	10.77	10.99	11.71	12.20	12.08	12.28	11.62	11.23	11.05	11.24	11.44	11.45	11.46
1928	11.40	12.01	12.46	12.96	13.19	13.37	12.45	12.04	12.08	11.58	11.54	11.54	12.21
1929	12.25	12.64	13.21	13.28	12.69	12.47	11.96	11.42	11.14	10.86	10.72	10.81	11.88
1930	11.10	10.51	9.76	9.20	9.07	9.10	8.21	6.86	6.75	6.24	6.26	6.25	7.74
1931	6.01	6.81	6.93	7.17	7.17	6.60	5.79	5.42	5.18	4.70	4.58	4.28	5.64
1932	4.51	4.72	5.18	5.27	4.87	4.65	4.57	4.34	4.29	4.12	4.10	4.15	4.46
1933	4.30	4.37	4.42	4.51	4.97	5.43	5.47	5.57	5.34	5.21	5.18	5.13	5.05
1934	5.78	6.93	7.16	7.16	7.34	6.77	6.04	5.35	5.12	5.04	5.11	5.30	5.90
1935	6.77	6.98	6.99	6.92	6.95	6.88	6.54	6.71	7.45	7.58	7.87	8.36	7.28
1936	8.53	8.55	8.36	8.69	8.85	8.70	8.21	7.87	7.67	7.50	7.44	7.26	8.05
1937	8.14	8.37	9.21	9.61	9.61	9.32	8.80	8.89	8.83	8.64	8.09	7.69	8.87
1938	7.39	6.77	7.55	7.40	7.10	7.16	7.17	6.87	6.76	6.65	7.06	7.31	7.05
1939	7.58	7.63	7.70	8.18	8.37	7.91	7.64	7.21	7.84	7.86	7.74	7.62	7.70
1940	7.79	7.84	8.31	8.46	8.59	8.47	8.17	7.81	7.82	7.86	8.02	8.09	8.10
1941	8.56	8.80	9.12	9.37	9.34	9.49	9.47	9.56	10.09	9.83	9.70	10.13	9.58
1942	10.56	10.69	10.62	10.85	11.60	11.98	11.81	12.05	11.90	11.83	12.04	12.49	11.70
1943	13.03	13.76	13.97	13.87	13.82	13.50	13.30	12.80	12.50	12.20	11.90	12.10	13.00
1944	12.50	13.20	13.50	13.60	13.40	13.10	12.60	12.20	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.30	12.50
1945	12.90	13.50	13.80	13.90	13.60	13.40	13.40	12.90	12.50	12.50	12.70	12.80	13.10
1946	12.90	13.40	13.70	14.00	14.10	14.30	15.90	16.40	15.70	17.40	18.50	18.70	15.60
1947	19.10	19.60	20.30	19.80	19.90	20.90	20.90	20.90	21.50	20.30	20.80	21.30	20.50
1948	22.20	20.80	20.10	21.20	23.30	24.90	26.10	24.80	23.30	21.90	21.90	21.80	22.80
1949	21.90	21.50	23.60	25.80	25.30	24.40	22.80	21.20					

1/ Monthly United States prices weighted by receipts at public stockyards, 1910-23: Annual State average weighted by shipments and local slaughter, 1924-49.

Table 6 .- Parity price of lambs per 100 pounds, United States, by years 1910-22, by months 1923 to date ^{1/}

Year :	Jan. :	Feb. :	Mar. :	Apr. :	May :	June :	July :	Aug. :	Sept. :	Oct. :	Nov. :	Dec. :	Ave. ^{2/}
:	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
1910 :													5.64
1911 :													5.88
1912 :													5.88
1913 :													6.00
1914 :													6.00
1915 :													6.29
1916 :													7.35
1917 :													8.70
1918 :													10.20
1919 :													11.60
1920 :													11.90
1921 :													9.70
1922 :													9.64
1923 :	9.82	9.82	9.82	9.82	9.88	9.88	9.82	9.82	9.76	9.76	9.76	9.76	9.82
1924 :	9.76	9.76	9.82	9.76	9.76	9.70	9.76	9.76	9.82	9.88	9.88	9.94	9.82
1925 :	9.88	10.00	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.00	9.94	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.94
1926 :	9.88	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.82	9.82	9.88
1927 :	9.76	9.76	9.70	9.76	9.76	9.82	9.82	9.76	9.76	9.76	9.70	9.70	9.76
1928 :	9.76	9.76	9.82	9.88	9.88	9.94	9.94	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.82	9.82	9.88
1929 :	9.82	9.88	9.88	9.82	9.82	9.76	9.76	9.82	9.82	9.76	9.76	9.70	9.82
1930 :	9.64	9.64	9.58	9.53	9.53	9.47	9.41	9.35	9.29	9.17	9.06	9.00	9.41
1931 :	8.82	8.70	8.64	8.53	8.47	8.35	8.29	8.17	8.06	8.00	7.88	7.88	8.29
1932 :	7.59	7.59	7.47	7.41	7.29	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.17	7.11	7.06	7.00	7.29
1933 :	6.70	6.70	6.64	6.70	6.70	6.76	7.00	7.23	7.47	7.47	7.47	7.47	7.06
1934 :	7.29	7.41	7.47	7.47	7.53	7.53	7.53	7.70	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.59
1935 :	7.64	7.70	7.70	7.70	7.70	7.70	7.64	7.59	7.53	7.53	7.47	7.47	7.64
1936 :	7.41	7.41	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.29	7.47	7.64	7.64	7.64	7.64	7.70	7.47
1937 :	7.76	7.88	7.88	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.94	7.88	7.76	7.70	7.64	7.59	7.82
1938 :	7.59	7.59	7.53	7.53	7.53	7.47	7.41	7.35	7.29	7.29	7.29	7.29	7.41
1939 :	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.17	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.29
1940 :	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.35
1941 :	7.35	7.35	7.41	7.41	7.47	7.59	7.70	7.88	8.00	8.17	8.23	8.29	7.76
1942 :	8.41	8.53	8.70	8.76	8.82	8.82	8.82	8.82	8.88	8.94	9.00	9.11	8.82
1943 :	9.11	9.23	9.29	9.41	9.47	9.53	9.58	9.58	9.58	9.64	9.70	9.82	9.53
1944 :	9.82	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	9.94	10.00	9.94
1945 :	10.00	10.00	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.30	10.10
1946 :	10.40	10.50	10.50	10.60	10.80	11.00	11.60	11.80	11.70	12.10	12.40	12.50	11.30
1947 :	12.60	13.00	13.30	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.10	14.20	14.40	13.60
1948 :	14.80	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.70	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.70	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.70
1949 :	14.60	14.40	14.50	14.50	14.40	14.40	14.30	14.30					

^{1/} Parity price is the average price received by farmers in the base period August 1909-July 1914 (\$5.88 per 100 pounds) multiplied by the current index of prices paid by farmers including interest and tax rates.

^{2/} Simple average 12-month data.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), marketings and slaughter statistics, by species, August 1949, with comparisons

Prices

Item	Annual		Jan.-Aug.		1948		1949	
	1938-47 av	1948	1949	July	Aug.	July	Aug.	Sept.
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Cattle and calves								
Beef steers sold out of first hand:								
Chicago, Choice and Prime.....	16.19	34.32	26.92	38.72	39.48	27.02	28.01	
Good.....	14.73	31.35	25.00	36.44	36.02	25.96	26.50	
Medium.....	12.88	27.38	22.89	30.83	29.15	23.46	23.06	
Common.....	10.73	22.82	20.26	22.84	22.89	19.27	18.20	
All grades.....	14.66	31.05	24.80	36.37	35.22	25.86	26.28	
All grades, Omaha.....	---	---	23.78	---	32.99	24.95	25.18	
All grades, Sioux City.....	---	---	23.64	---	34.25	25.00	25.36	
Cows, Chicago, Good grade.....	11.41	23.96	19.34	25.78	24.56	19.60	17.95	
Cows, Chicago, Cutter and Common 1/.....	8.29	18.36	16.01	19.52	19.01	15.68	14.31	
Vealers: Good and Choice, Chicago.....	14.39	28.18	27.83	28.92	29.60	24.98	25.96	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City.....	11.97	26.61	22.33	28.25	27.40	20.62	20.06	
Average price received by farmers:								
Beef cattle.....	10.86	22.82	20.15	25.20	23.70	20.00	19.40	
Veal calves.....	12.22	24.64	23.81	26.40	26.60	22.40	22.10	
Hogs								
Average market price, Chicago:								
Barrows and gilts.....	13.07	24.08	20.14	27.97	29.56	21.51	21.41	
Sows.....	12.20	20.30	16.51	22.93	25.36	16.65	17.86	
Average price received by farmers:								
Hogs.....	12.38	23.11	19.21	25.20	26.90	19.30	19.40	
Corn, cents per bushel.....	95.3	211.6	120.4	202.0	191.0	125.0	118.0	
Hog-corn price ratio (farm basis) 2/:								
North Central Region.....	14.4	11.1	16.5	12.7	14.4	15.8	17.0	
United States.....	13.3	11.0	16.0	12.5	14.1	15.4	16.4	
Sheep and Lambs								
Lambs, Good and Choice slaugh., Chicago 3/.....	14.02	26.42	26.62	30.07	27.51	24.98	23.79	
Feeding lambs, Good and Choice, Omaha.....	12.37	4/21.99	---	---	25.97	---	22.86	
Fwes, Good and Choice, Chicago.....	6.35	12.21	11.13	11.64	12.08	9.16	8.90	
Average price received by farmers:								
Sheep.....	5.72	9.84	9.76	10.20	10.20	9.33	8.89	
Lambs.....	11.88	22.92	23.31	26.10	24.80	22.80	21.20	
Meat								
Wholesale, Chicago:								
Steer beef, carcass (Good 500-600 lb.).....	21.28	49.89	40.62	57.83	57.78	42.51	43.95	
Composite hog products (incl. lard) 5/.....	21.39	42.05	35.66	44.10	46.37	36.17	37.66	
Lamb carcasses (Good 30-40 lb.).....	23.66	49.96	51.40	56.80	51.76	46.94	49.20	
B.L.S. index retail meat prices 6/.....	124.3	241.1	---	263.0	269.3	234.4	---	
BLS index wholesale meat prices 7/.....	---	256.9	224.0	277.2	279.6	227.3	224.4	
Index income of industrial workers 1935-39 = 100.....	228.3	357.8	8/	361.2	376.7	8/	8/	

Livestock Marketing and Slaughter Statistics

Item	Unit	1935-39	1948	1949	July	Aug.	July	Aug.
Meat-animal marketings:								
Index numbers (1935-39 = 100).....	---	134	130	131	115	121	119	135
Stocker and Feeder shipments to 8:								
Corn Belt States:								
Cattle and calves.....	Thous.	---	907	1,172	138	221	164	384
Sheep and lambs.....	Thous.	---	825	1,128	61	229	144	335
Slaughter under Federal Inspection:								
Number: 9/								
Cattle.....	Thous.	11,943	8,291	8,660	1,046	1,086	1,090	1,232
Calves.....	Thous.	6,111	4,489	4,235	577	569	501	549
Sheep and lambs.....	Thous.	19,541	9,474	7,666	1,195	1,264	976	1,128
Hogs.....	Thous.	49,529	29,167	31,711	3,044	2,440	3,165	3,415
Percent sows are of hogs.....	Percent	---	14	---	32	34	40	---
Average live-weight:								
Cattle.....	Pound	942	946	10/983	925	929	964	10/967
Calves.....	Pound	202	195	10/195	225	242	223	10/240
Sheep and lambs.....	Pound	90	95	10/94	90	92	90	10/92
Hogs.....	Pound	271	259	10/257	281	371	282	10/264
Meat Production:								
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	5,972	4,143	10/4,680	605	524	576	10/657
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	687	484	10/460	72	76	62	10/74
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	807	416	10/337	50	53	41	10/48
Pork (excluding lard).....	Mil. lb.	6,983	4,272	10/4,530	478	372	495	10/512
Storage stocks first of month:								
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	83	71	74	68
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	6	6	7	7
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	8	9	7	7
Pork.....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	582	508	420	367
Total meat and meat products.....	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	779	686	612	547

1/ Common until July 1939 when changed to Cutter and Common. 2/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs. 3/ Woolled lambs until June, when quotation shifted to spring lambs. 4/ Average of prices for January, February, March, April, May and August. 5/ Calculated from value of 71.32 pounds of fresh and cured hog products including lard. 6/ 1935-39 = 100. 7/ 1926 = 100. 8/ Data for July and August 1949 not available due to revision of series. 9/ 1948-49 slaughter excludes Hawaii and Virgin Islands. 10/ Estimated from weekly data.

Table 7.- Stock sheep: Number on farms January 1, 1867-1949

Data for cover page October 1949

Year	:ll Western:				Year	:ll Western:			
	States and S. Dak.	Native States	Texas 1/	United States		States and S. Dak.	Native States	Texas 1/	United States
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head		1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1867	5,341	37,586	2,070	44,997	1910	28,770	15,979	2,190	46,939
1868	5,953	36,055	1,820	43,808	1911	27,762	16,053	2,240	46,055
1869	6,680	31,485	1,727	39,892	1912	25,842	14,830	2,300	42,972
1870	7,227	27,495	1,727	36,449	1913	25,056	13,288	2,200	40,544
1871	7,745	24,498	1,820	34,063	1914	24,050	11,809	2,200	38,059
1872	8,459	23,893	1,960	34,312	1915	23,598	10,425	2,240	36,263
1873	9,809	23,873	2,100	35,782	1916	23,776	10,157	2,327	36,260
1874	10,629	23,345	2,260	36,234	1917	22,754	10,292	2,200	35,246
1875	12,336	22,501	2,400	37,237	1918	23,270	11,184	2,250	35,704
1876	13,206	21,753	2,518	37,477	1919	23,843	11,917	2,600	38,360
1877	14,099	21,152	2,896	38,147	1920	22,173	11,795	3,360	37,328
1878	13,965	21,791	3,186	38,942	1921	20,624	10,952	3,850	35,426
1879	15,022	23,151	3,505	41,678	1922	19,689	10,026	3,650	33,365
1880	16,279	24,873	3,715	44,867	1923	19,320	9,787	3,490	32,597
1881	17,000	26,141	4,230	47,371	1924	19,508	9,726	3,625	32,859
1882	17,607	26,412	4,864	48,883	1925	20,407	10,048	4,014	34,469
1883	17,836	26,899	6,200	50,935	1926	21,165	10,420	4,134	35,719
1884	17,926	26,575	6,600	51,101	1927	22,437	11,023	4,607	38,067
1885	17,536	25,464	6,620	49,620	1928	23,942	11,768	4,979	40,689
1886	17,448	23,531	5,675	46,654	1929	25,334	12,517	5,630	43,481
1887	17,276	21,791	5,150	44,217	1930	26,024	13,249	6,304	45,577
1888	17,321	20,540	5,150	43,011	1931	27,252	13,719	6,749	47,720
1889	17,234	20,084	5,047	42,365	1932	26,702	14,028	6,952	47,682
1890	17,534	20,112	5,047	42,693	1933	25,857	14,002	7,444	47,303
1891	18,013	20,969	4,900	43,882	1934	26,001	14,184	8,059	48,244
1892	18,487	21,441	4,700	44,628	1935	24,770	14,277	7,092	46,139
1893	18,875	21,357	4,335	44,567	1936	24,022	14,179	7,234	45,435
1894	19,002	20,598	3,814	43,414	1937	22,890	13,611	8,750	45,251
1895	19,592	18,497	3,738	41,827	1938	22,256	13,616	9,100	44,972
1896	19,886	16,658	3,065	39,609	1939	22,620	13,652	9,191	45,463
1897	20,699	15,403	2,789	33,891	1940	22,787	14,104	9,375	46,266
1898	21,598	15,849	2,650	40,097	1941	23,360	14,425	9,656	47,441
1899	23,295	16,849	2,544	42,688	1942	24,112	14,902	10,332	49,346
1900	25,354	17,294	2,417	45,065	1943	22,998	14,659	10,539	48,196
1901	26,551	17,295	2,280	46,126	1944	21,060	13,093	10,117	44,270
1902	27,891	16,170	2,135	46,196	1945	18,630	11,368	9,611	39,609
1903	27,491	14,845	2,100	44,436	1946	16,440	10,029	9,130	35,599
1904	25,620	14,288	2,000	41,908	1947	14,680	9,319	8,126	32,125
1905	24,570	13,840	2,000	40,110	1948	13,899	6,186	7,395	29,976
1906	25,620	14,345	2,000	41,965	1949 2/	13,319	7,991	6,508	27,818
1907	26,475	14,935	2,000	43,460					
1908	27,360	15,635	2,100	45,095					
1909	28,931	15,967	2,200	47,098					

1/ 11 Western States, South Dakota and Texas are generally considered the Western sheep States.

2/ Preliminary.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

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