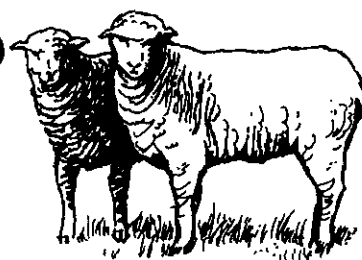


SHEEP & LAMBS ON FEED



EARLY LAMB CROP

March 1, 1965

March 12, 1965

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED IN 7 STATES

The number of sheep and lambs on feed on March 1, in 7 major feeding States was 1,175,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 16 percent below the number on feed in these States a year earlier. The number on feed on March 1, this year showed a 40 percent seasonal decline from the 1,956,000 head on feed in these States January 1, 1965. Last year the number of sheep and lambs on feed declined 36 percent between January 1 and March 1. The number of sheep and lambs on feed March 1, was below March 1, 1964, in 6 of the 7 States. The largest decreases were in South Dakota, Kansas, and Colorado, down 30 percent, 26 percent and 21 percent respectively. The decrease in Nebraska was 19 percent, Iowa, 16 percent, and California, 8 percent. Texas showed an increase of 19 percent over March 1 a year earlier. Many of the lambs in Texas were put on feed after January 1, 1965, when grazing conditions improved on small grain fields.

The number of sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States was 352,000 head, a 27 percent decrease from the corresponding period a year earlier. Fed sheep and lambs marketed during January and February totaled 1,133,000 -- a reduction of 11 percent from the number marketed during this two-month period in 1964.

Classification of sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 major feeding States by weight groups was as follows: under 60 pounds, 36,000 head compared with 35,000 head last year; 60-79 pounds, 176,000 head compared with 257,000 head a year earlier; 80-99 pounds, 712,000 head compared with 819,000 last year; and 251,000 head were over 100 pounds compared with 296,000 a year ago.

EARLY LAMB CROP 1965

The number of early lambs in the principal early lamb producing States is about 2 percent below a year earlier. Breeding ewes in these States on January 1, 1965, were 4 percent below a year earlier. Texas, California, Kansas, Missouri, Washington, Oregon, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia had fewer ewes, while ewe numbers in Arizona and Idaho were above a year earlier.

Early lambs in 3 States (Texas, California, Kansas) totaled 1,954,000 head, about the same as last year's total of 1,951,000 head born prior to March 1. The slight increase was due largely to a greater proportion of ewes lambing before March 1, than in 1964.

The early lamb crop is expected to be smaller in the remaining 8 early lamb States. There were fewer ewes 1 plus in these States at the start of the season and the percent of ewes lambing before March 1 in 5 of the 8 States was smaller than a year earlier. Feed supplies for maintaining condition of sheep and lambs are generally adequate in all early States although local shortages exist in Virginia. Early lambs are being marketed in greater volume in California than this time a year ago. Weather conditions in Oregon and Washington have been unfavorable for new born lambs but losses are reported as near average.

TEXAS: The early lamb crop in Texas is estimated at 667,000 head, 1 percent less than the 1964 early lamb crop. A greater proportion of the ewes had lambed prior to March 1 than last year, but fewer ewes were available for lambing. Ewes were in better condition this year all through the lambing season.

CALIFORNIA: The number of early lambs in California is estimated at 1,100,000 head, approximately the same as a year earlier. Total number of ewes on hand January 1, 1965, was slightly below the January 1, 1964, total. However, the lambing percentage for 1965 was greater than last year despite losses in northern California due to snow, rain, and floods in late December and early January. Weather conditions were better for lambing after early January. The proportion of early lambs of slaughter quality being marketed from southern California areas by March 1, was higher than last year.

KANSAS: An early lamb crop of 187,000 lambs is expected in Kansas for 1965 which is 3 percent greater than last year. The lambing percentage is unchanged but the proportion of ewes lambing before March 1 was greater than last year. Generally, feed conditions have been satisfactory.

MISSOURI: Despite the variable winter weather and the two snow storms during February, ewes are in good condition. Feed supplies are ample for the State. A larger percentage of ewes lambed before March 1, than a year ago. The expected early lamb crop is slightly greater than last year.

ARIZONA: Lambing has been earlier than usual this year with lambing percentage slightly below last year. Death loss of lambs was heavier than usual on the Indian Reservation because of the cold, wet weather during the

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Number Early Lambs March 1 ^{1/}			
State	1964	1965	1965 as percent of 1964
	1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Kansas	181	187	103
Texas	671	667	99
California	1,099	1,100	100
Total 3 States	1,951	1,954	100

^{1/} Early lambs are lambs born between October 1 and March 1 and expected to be marketed by early summer.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed March 1, 1964, January 1, 1965
and March 1, 1965 with comparisons 1/

State	March 1	January 1	March 1	March 1, 1965
	1964	1965	1965	as % of March 1, 1964
	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	head	Percent
Iowa	290	400	243	84
South Dakota	155	254	108	70
Nebraska	242	319	195	81
Kansas	137	132	102	74
Texas	124	128	148	119
Colorado	330	476	260	79
California	129	247	119	92
Total 7 States ...	1,407	1,956	1,175	84

1/ Sheep and lambs on feed are considered to be animals intended for slaughter that are being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates or are being run on succulent pastures and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

Sheep and lambs: Placements and marketings 1964-65 1/

State	Number placed on feed			Number marketed		
	During January	1965	1965	During January	1965	1965
	and February	as % of	1964	and February	as % of	1964
	1964	1965	1964	1964	1965	1964
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	Percent	head	head	Percent
Iowa	139	82	59	261	239	92
South Dakota	70	54	77	188	200	106
Nebraska	62	41	66	171	165	96
Kansas	17	14	82	103	44	43
Texas	73	89	122	121	69	57
Colorado	90	60	67	285	276	97
California	32	12	38	144	140	97
Total 7 States ...	483	352	73	1,273	1,133	89

1/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

Sheep and lambs: Inventories, marketings and placements,
January 1 to February 28

Item	7 States 1/		
	1964	1965	% of 1964
	Number	Number	% of 1964
	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	Percent
Sheep and lambs on feed January 1	2,197	1,956	89
Sheep and lambs placed on feed January 1-February 28 2/	483	352	73
Sheep and lambs marketed January 1-February 28 2/	1,273	1,133	89
Sheep and lambs on feed March 1	1,407	1,175	84

1/ 7 States listed in table above.

2/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1, 1965.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed by Weight Groups, March 1 and January 1, 1965
and March 1, 1964

State	Under 60 pounds			60-79 pounds		
	March 1, 1964	Jan. 1, 1965	March 1, 1965	March 1, 1964	Jan. 1, 1965	March 1, 1965
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa	6	8	7	70	75	53
South Dakota	4	5	6	19	45	11
Nebraska	11	5	2	46	108	14
Kansas	2	6	4	28	55	19
Texas	7	14	9	72	72	58
Colorado	5	11	8	16	91	13
California	---	8	---	6	46	8
Total 7 States	35	57	36	257	492	176

March 1, 1965 as percent of March 1, 1964 and January 1, 1965

Under 60 pounds		60-79 pounds	
Percent of March 1, 1964	Percent of Jan. 1, 1965	Percent of March 1, 1964	Percent of Jan. 1, 1965
103	63	68	36

State	80-99 pounds			100 pounds and over		
	March 1, 1964	Jan. 1, 1965	March 1, 1965	March 1, 1964	Jan. 1, 1965	March 1, 1965
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa	182	269	151	32	48	32
South Dakota	103	159	59	29	45	32
Nebraska	152	180	139	33	26	40
Kansas	68	68	65	39	3	14
Texas	44	37	74	1	5	7
Colorado	207	334	173	102	40	66
California	63	158	51	60	35	60
Total 7 States	819	1,205	712	296	202	251

March 1, 1965 as percent of March 1, 1964 and January 1, 1965

80-99 pounds		100 pounds and over	
Percent of March 1, 1964	Percent of Jan. 1, 1965	Percent of March 1, 1964	Percent of Jan. 1, 1965
87	59	85	124

earlier lambing. Nearly all of the lambs in the Salt River Valley and Yuma areas have been dropped but some ewes remain to lamb in the northern part of the State. Total early lamb crop is expected well above last year's early crop.

IDAHO: The 1965 early lamb crop is progressing favorably under near ideal weather conditions. Wet weather and localized flooding in December and early January were unfavorable for lambing during part of the season but did not result in significant losses for the State. A higher proportion of twins was reported and lambing percentages have been above last year. The larger number of ewes and higher percent of ewes lambing early caused an increase from last year in number of early lambs.

WASHINGTON: Despite cold, wet weather during December and early January after the beginning of lambing season, losses have been light. The early lamb crop is smaller than last year because of a later lambing season. The lambing percentage is, however, above last year.

OREGON: Some loss of early lambs was due to cold wet weather at lambing time and some losses due to floods. The percent of ewes lambed out prior to March 1, was slightly below last year. Total early lamb crop was down from last year.

KENTUCKY: Ewes were in good condition at the time of lambing and winter weather was not too severe. The lambing percentage was higher but the percent of ewes lambing early was below last year. With fewer ewes on hand January 1, a reduction in the number of early lambs for 1965 is expected.

TENNESSEE: Ewes are in good condition with ample grain and hay supplies. Wet weather and several snows limited grazing of permanent pastures but supplemental pasture was furnished by good small grain growth. The lambing percentage was higher than last year but has been offset by fewer ewes than a year ago and a smaller percentage of the ewes lambing before March 1. This yielded a smaller lamb crop than a year earlier.

VIRGINIA: A smaller early lamb crop occurred because of fewer ewes on hand and a smaller percentage of the ewes lambing before March than a year ago. The number of lambs dropped per 100 ewes was greater but not enough to offset fewer ewes. Supplemental feeding has been necessary due to cold weather and snow cover.



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