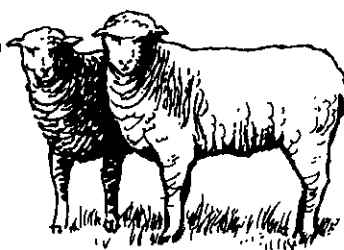


SHEEP & LAMBS ON FEED



EARLY LAMB CROP

March 1, 1967

March 14, 1967

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED IN 7 STATES

Sheep and lambs on feed on March 1, in the 7 major feeding States totaled 1,014,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 20 percent less than the number on feed in these States a year earlier. The March 1 number of sheep and lambs on feed showed a 41 percent seasonal decline from the 1,728,000 head on feed January 1, 1967. A year earlier the seasonal decline was 32 percent from January 1 to March 1. The number of sheep and lambs on feed March 1 was lower in all of these States except Texas which showed a 10 percent increase. The largest percentage decreases were in Kansas and California which were down 57 percent and 43 percent, respectively. Compared with March 1 a year earlier, Iowa decreased 33 percent; Nebraska, 17 percent; and Colorado and South Dakota, each 10 percent.

The number of sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States was 359,000 head, a 6 percent increase from the corresponding period a year earlier. Marketings of sheep and lambs fed in these States during January and February totaled 1,073,000 head, 13 percent more than the number marketed during this period in 1966. A larger number of lambs than usual were placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

Weight group classification of sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 major feeding States was as follows: under 60 pounds, 23,000 head compared with 25,000 head a year earlier; 60-79 pounds, 153,000 head compared with 116,000 head last year; 80-99 pounds, 617,000 head compared with 695,000 head a year earlier; and 221,000 head were 100 pounds and over compared with 428,000 head on March 1, 1966.

EARLY LAMB CROP 1967

Fewer early lambs were born prior to March 1, 1967 in the 10 major early lamb producing States than a year earlier. The number of breeding ewes in these States on January 1, 1967 were 2 percent less than a year earlier. A decrease in breeding ewes occurred in all States except Texas and California. Missouri and Arizona showed the largest declines in breeding ewes one year old or older dropping 14 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas and California totaled 1,891,000 head, a decrease of 3 percent from the 1,948,000 head last year. In each of the other 7 early lamb States, the number was less than the previous year. The percent of ewes lambing prior to March 1 this year was higher in 4 States, unchanged in 1, and lower in 5.

KANSAS: There were 164,000 early lambs dropped in Kansas this year compared with 176,000 last year. The number of breeding ewes on January 1, 1967 was down 7 percent, but the proportion of ewes lambing by March 1 remained unchanged. Lambing conditions were generally favorable as cold periods had been short and not too severe.

TEXAS: The Texas early lamb crop is estimated at 731,000 head, a decrease of 6 percent from last year. The number of ewes on hand January 1, 1967 was 1 percent above a year earlier. A smaller proportion of the ewes had lambed by March 1 compared with last year. Lack of rainfall causing dry range has lowered lambing conditions below the excellent conditions last year.

CALIFORNIA: The number of early lambs in California amounted to 996,000 head, slightly more than the 995,000 head in 1966.¹ A 2 percent increase in the number of ewes on hand January 1, 1967 was mostly offset by a slightly lower percentage of lambs saved prior to March 1. Lamb losses were attributed to heavy rains with high winds, and to predators which continue to be a problem. However, many producers reported a larger than usual number of ewes with twins.

OREGON: A mild, open winter limited death losses of new born lambs. The condition of sheep is above last year with continued growth of most green feeds throughout the winter. The early lamb crop was smaller than a year earlier following a decline in the number of breeding ewes.

WASHINGTON: Ideal lambing weather prevailed as one of the mildest winters of record occurred over the State. Many producers reported very low losses, mostly caused by diseases and predators. High ranges furnished better grazing than the lower ranges. Pastures were generally in poor condition last fall. The number of early lambs was down from last year, following a decline in the number of ewes and in the proportion of ewes lambing by March 1.

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State	Number Early Lambs March 1 1/			1967 as percent of 1966
	1965	1966	1967	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	head	Percent
Kansas	178	176	164	93
Texas	720	777	731	94
California	995	995	996	100
Total 3 States	1,893	1,948	1,891	97

1/ Early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between October 1 and March 1.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed March 1, 1967, January 1, 1967
and March 1, 1966, with comparisons 1/

State	March 1, 1966	January 1, 1967	March 1, 1967	March 1, 1967 as % of March 1, 1966
	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Iowa	230	285	153	67
South Dakota	118	226	106	90
Nebraska	188	289	156	83
Kansas	107	75	46	43
Texas	172	220	190	110
Colorado	328	475	294	90
California	121	158	69	57
Total 7 States ...	1,264	1,728	1,014	80

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 1966-67 1/

State	Number placed on feed			Number marketed		
	During January and February	1967	as % of	During January and February	1967	as % of
	1966	1967	1966	1966	1967	1966
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Iowa	85	58	68	200	190	95
South Dakota	53	63	119	184	183	99
Nebraska	19	22	116	125	155	124
Kansas	5	14	280	75	43	57
Texas	81	98	121	28	128	457
Colorado	88	93	106	260	274	105
California	8	11	138	75	100	133
Total 7 States ...	339	359	106	947	1,073	113

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 through February 28

Item	7 States <u>1/</u>		
	1966	1967	%
	Number	Number	% of 1966
	1,000	1,000	
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Sheep and lambs on feed January 1	1,872	1,728	92
Sheep and lambs placed on feed January 1-February 28 <u>2/</u>	339	359	106
Sheep and lambs marketed January 1-February 28 <u>2/</u>	947	1,073	113
Sheep and lambs on feed March 1	1,264	1,014	80

1/ 7 States listed in table above. 2/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1, 1967.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed by Weight Groups, March 1 and January 1, 1967
and March 1, 1966

State	Under 60 pounds			60-79 pounds		
	March 1, 1966	Jan. 1, 1967	March 1, 1967	March 1, 1966	Jan. 1, 1967	March 1, 1967
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa	9	5	6	24	70	19
South Dakota :	3	4	2	12	44	10
Nebraska	3	3	2	17	76	27
Kansas	---	2	---	7	31	5
Texas	7	11	9	41	81	70
Colorado	3	7	4	10	81	15
California ...:	---	1	---	5	12	7
Total	25	33	23	116	395	153
7 States						

March 1, 1967 as percent of March 1, 1966, and January 1, 1967

Percent of March 1, 1966	Under 60 pounds		Percent of March 1, 1966	60-79 pounds	
	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967		Percent of Jan. 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967
92	70		132	39	

State	80-99 pounds			100 pounds and over		
	March 1, 1966	Jan. 1, 1967	March 1, 1967	March 1, 1966	Jan. 1, 1967	March 1, 1967
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa	142	172	93	55	38	35
South Dakota :	66	145	62	37	33	32
Nebraska	102	193	100	66	17	27
Kansas	76	41	34	24	1	7
Texas	110	118	98	14	10	13
Colorado	148	310	208	167	77	67
California ...:	51	138	22	65	7	40
Total	695	1,117	617	428	183	221
7 States						

March 1, 1967 as percent of March 1, 1966 and January 1, 1967

Percent of March 1, 1966	80-99 pounds		Percent of March 1, 1966	100 pounds and over	
	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967		Percent of Jan. 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1967
89	55		52	121	

IDAHO: Early lambing conditions were favored by the lack of any prolonged cold or wet periods. Lambing on range lands was virtually completed by March 1 in the southwest, in the final stages in the south central and just underway in the eastern higher elevation sections. Disease and death loss problems have been held to a minimum. Ewes went into the early lambing season in below normal condition due to a lack of range forage, but recent mild weather has held supplemental feeding to a minimum. Lambing percentages were improved compared to last year, but the decline in number of ewes resulted in a smaller early lamb crop.

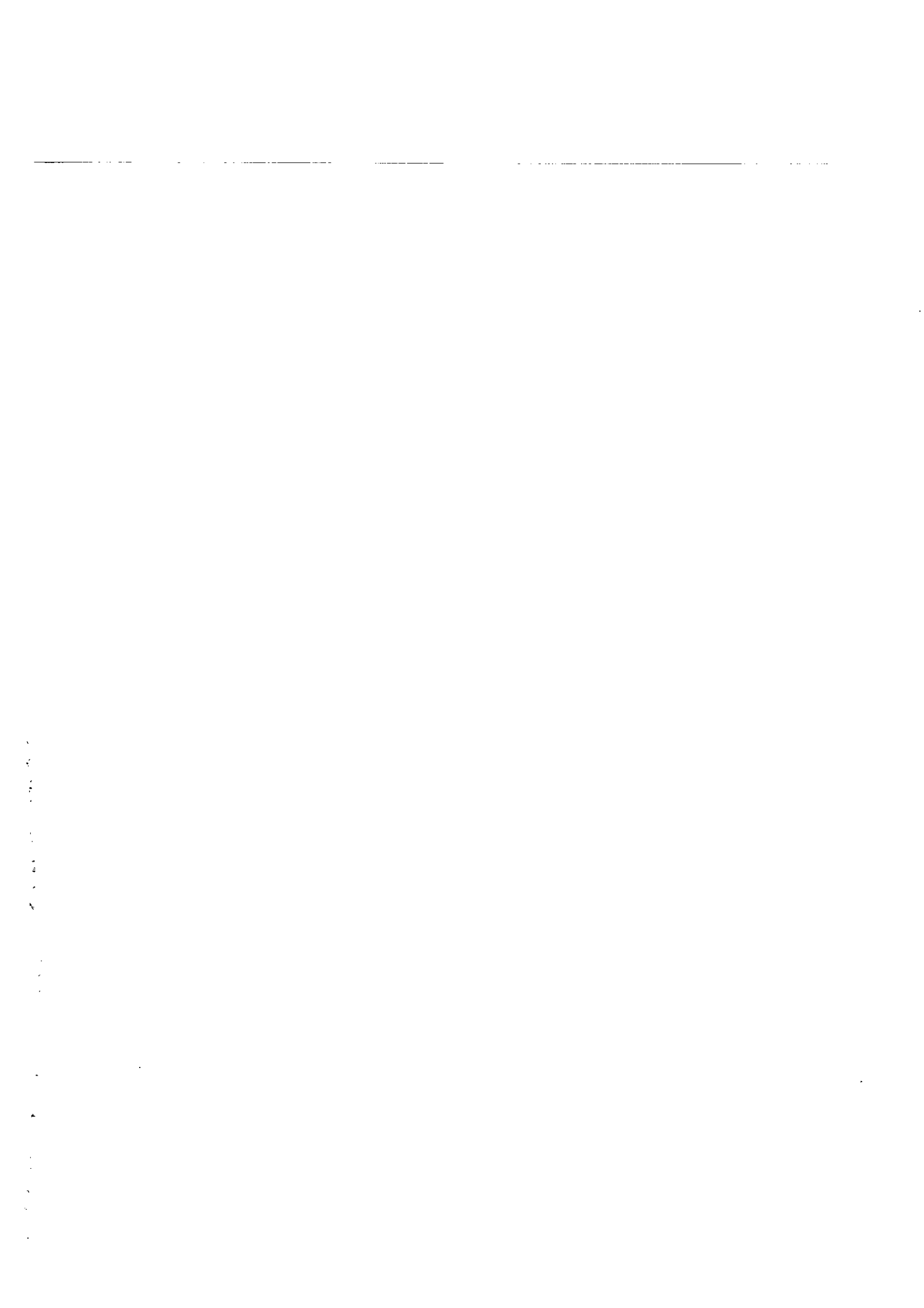
ARIZONA: A rather mild, open winter held death losses about normal and the lambing percentage was generally above last year. The early lamb crop was less than a year ago which mostly resulted from the decline in total ewes. Most lambs in the Salt River Valley were dropped before December 1.

MISSOURI: Ewes are in good condition and lambs are making good growth. Pastures are in need of rain and are in poor to average condition. The decrease in number of ewes was the major cause of the reduced early lamb crop.

KENTUCKY: Weather conditions have been very favorable for the early lamb crop. After snow in early November, the winter was very mild until the last of February. The small decrease in number of early lambs resulted from fewer ewes on farms as the proportion of ewes lambing before March 1 was above a year earlier.

VIRGINIA: Fewer early lambs were dropped before March 1 largely due to the decrease in breeding ewes. The lambing percentage dropped slightly as unfavorable weather conditions prevailed during much of January and February.

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