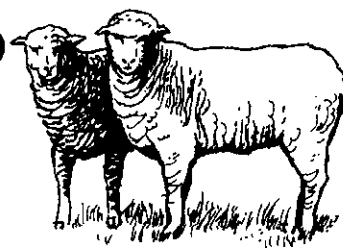


# SHEEP & LAMBS ON FEED



EARLY LAMB CROP

March 1, 1968

March 13, 1968

## SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED IN 7 STATES

Sheep and lambs on feed March 1, 1968 in the 7 major feeding States were estimated at 1,003,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 3 percent less than the number in these States a year earlier. The March 1 number shows a 40 percent seasonal decline from the 1,680,000 head on feed January 1, 1968. Last year the decline was 42 percent. The number of sheep and lambs on feed March 1 was larger in 4 States and smaller in the remaining 3. Texas led all the States with increases and had 32 percent more than a year earlier. Small grain fields in Texas are providing an abundance of succulent grazing for sheep and lambs. Other States with increases over a year earlier were Iowa at 106 percent, South Dakota and California each with 103 percent. States showing declines from a year earlier included Nebraska, down 38 percent, Kansas down 15 percent and Colorado down 12 percent.

The number of sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States was 402,000 head, an increase of 6 percent from the corresponding period a year earlier. Marketings of fed sheep and lambs in these States during January and February totaled 1,079,000 head, 5 percent less than during this time in 1967.

Weight group classification of sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 major feeding States were as follows: under 60 pounds, 18,000 head compared with 24,000 head a year earlier; 60-79 pounds, 125,000 head compared with 157,000 head last year; 80-99 pounds, 669,000 head compared with 632,000 a year earlier; and 191,000 head were 100 pounds and over compared with 226,000 head on March 1, 1967.

## EARLY LAMB CROP 1968

The number of early lambs born prior to March 1, 1968 in the 10 major early lamb producing States was virtually the same as in 1967. A decrease in breeding ewes during 1967 occurred in each State except Kansas which remained unchanged. Kentucky showed the largest percentage decline followed by Oregon and Virginia.

The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas, and California totaled 2,047,000 head, and was 2 percent above last year's total of 2,004,000 head. Three of the remaining 7 States showed slight increases while the other 4 States were down from a year earlier. The percent of ewes lambing prior to March 1 was higher than 1967 in all States except for Idaho which remained unchanged.

KANSAS: Early lambs dropped in Kansas this year amounted to 272,000 head, 4 percent less than the 283,000 early lambs born in 1967. The percent of ewes lambing prior to March 1 was up 1 point. Lambing conditions were favorable and snow storms and cold weather have not been a problem.

TEXAS: The number of early lambs born this year in Texas is estimated at 787,000 head compared with 717,000 head for 1967. The number of breeding ewes on hand January 1 was down 6 percent, but the proportion of early lambs was up 2 points. Weather conditions were ideal for lambing and spring grazing prospects are excellent. The lambing rate was up 7 lambs per 100 ewes.

CALIFORNIA: California's early lamb crop amounted to 988,000 head, 2 percent less than the 1,004,000 head born prior to March 1 in 1967. The number of breeding ewes on January 1 was 4 percent below a year earlier, but there was a 2-point increase in the proportion of early lambs. Range feed was plentiful during 1967 and ewes entered the lambing season in good condition. Favorable weather conditions have prevailed and death losses have been at a minimum.

OREGON: Weather conditions were favorable during the early lambing season in Oregon. Death losses were at a minimum, but the early lamb crop is expected to be down because of fewer breeding ewes at the start of the season.

WASHINGTON: Breeding ewes went into the lambing season in less than favorable condition because of poor fall pastures after the dry summer. Near-ideal lambing weather has helped to offset the poor ewe condition. The decline in early lambs born this year compared with last year is due to a decrease in the number of ewes.

IDAHO: Early lambing in Idaho was favored by near ideal weather conditions. No severe storms were received and temperatures remained near normal or above. Lambing was in the final stages on March 1 in southwestern and south-central areas, but progressing more slowly in the eastern higher elevation regions. Lambing percentages are improved slightly and the early lamb crop is expected to be a little larger.

(Continued on Page 5)

Number Early Lambs March 1 <sup>1/</sup>			
State	1967	1968	1968 as percent of 1967
	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	Percent
Kansas .....	2/283	272	96
Texas .....	717	787	110
California .....	1,004	988	98
Total 3 States .....	2,004	2,047	102

<sup>1/</sup> Early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between October 1 and March 1. <sup>2/</sup> March 1 early lamb crop estimates for Kansas for 1961-67 are revised as follows: 1961 - 349,000; 1962 - 357,000; 1963 - 354,000; 1964 - 317,000; 1965 - 285,000; 1966 - 292,000; 1967 - 283,000.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed March 1, 1968, January 1, 1968  
and March 1, 1967, with comparisons 1/

State	March 1, 1967	January 1, 1968	March 1, 1968	March 1, 1968 as % of March 1, 1967
	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	head	Percent
Iowa .....	153	262	162	106
South Dakota .....	106	286	109	103
Nebraska .....	175	198	109	62
Kansas .....	46	69	39	85
Texas .....	190	220	250	132
Colorado .....	300	480	263	88
California .....	69	165	71	103
Total 7 States ...	1,039	1,680	1,003	97

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 1967-68 1/

State	Number placed on feed			Number marketed		
	During January and February	1968 as % of	1967	During January and February	1968 as % of	1967
	1967	1968	1967	1967	1968	1967
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	head	head	Percent	head	head	Percent
Iowa .....	58	75	129	190	175	92
South Dakota .....	63	51	81	200	228	114
Nebraska .....	25	35	140	150	124	83
Kansas .....	14	7	50	51	37	73
Texas .....	98	146	149	128	116	91
Colorado .....	110	83	75	320	300	94
California .....	11	5	45	100	99	99
Total 7 States ...	379	402	106	1,139	1,079	95

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 29

Item	7 States 1/		
	1967	1968	% of 1967
	Number	Number	Percent
	1,000	1,000	
	head	head	Percent
Sheep and lambs on feed January 1 .....	1,799	1,680	93
Sheep and lambs placed on feed January 1-February 29 2/:	379	402	106
Sheep and lambs marketed January 1-February 29 2/ .....	1,139	1,079	95
Sheep and lambs on feed March 1 .....	1,039	1,003	97

1/ 7 States listed in table above. 2/ Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1, 1968.

**Sheep and Lambs on Feed by Weight Groups, March 1 and January 1, 1968  
and March 1, 1967**

State	Under 60 pounds			60-79 pounds		
	March 1, 1967	Jan. 1, 1968	March 1, 1968	March 1, 1967	Jan. 1, 1968	March 1, 1968
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa .....	6	5	5	19	45	13
South Dakota :	2	4	4	10	27	9
Nebraska .....	3	8	1	31	47	15
Kansas .....	-	2	1	5	15	13
Texas .....	9	7	5	70	132	58
Colorado .....	4	3	2	15	41	14
California ....:	-	1	-	7	26	3
Total	24	30	18	157	333	125
7 States .....						

March 1, 1968 as percent of March 1, 1967 and January 1, 1968

Under 60 pounds			60-79 pounds		
Percent of March 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1968
75	60	80	80	38	

State	80-99 pounds			100 pounds and over		
	March 1, 1967	Jan. 1, 1968	March 1, 1968	March 1, 1967	Jan. 1, 1968	March 1, 1968
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Iowa .....	93	186	128	35	26	16
South Dakota :	62	195	68	32	60	28
Nebraska .....	111	115	74	30	28	19
Kansas .....	34	48	21	7	4	+
Texas .....	98	79	185	13	2	2
Colorado .....	212	354	171	69	82	70
California ....:	22	128	22	40	10	46
Total	632	1,195	669	226	212	191
7 States .....						

March 1, 1968 as percent of March 1, 1967 and January 1, 1968

80-99 pounds			100 pounds and over		
Percent of March 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1967	Percent of Jan. 1, 1968	Percent of March 1, 1968
106	60	85	85	90	

ARIZONA: The great snow storm in December 1967 made the outlook for the 1968 lamb crop rather dim, especially on the Indian Reservations. Lambing percentages are down as a result of the severe snow storms. On the other hand, the percentage of lambs arriving early is up sharply, resulting in an overall increase in early lambs compared with last year.

MISSOURI: A minimal increase is expected in Missouri's early lamb crop from last year. Ewes were in good condition, feed supplies have been adequate, and a relatively mild winter account for a slight increase in the early lamb crop compared with last year.

KENTUCKY: Weather conditions were favorable for sheep in early winter, but severe winter storms occurred in late December and in January. Ewes were in excellent condition and helped prevent any severe death losses. A decline in breeding ewes and a slightly lower lambing rate were factors resulting in fewer early lambs despite an increase in the proportion of total lambs cropped prior to March 1.

VIRGINIA: Cold temperatures and snow resulted in a less favorable early lambing season than a year ago. The lambing rate dropped sharply from last year, more than offsetting an increase in the proportion of early lambs. Feed supplies have been adequate in all areas of the State.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

9-1



