

SHEEP & LAMBS ON FEED



EARLY LAMB CROP

MARCH 1, 1970

Release:
March 16, 1970
3:00 P.M. EST

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED -- UP 11 PERCENT

Sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter market in the 7 major feeding States on March 1 totaled 1,012,000 head, 11 percent more than a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board. There were more sheep and lambs on feed than a year earlier in Nebraska, Kansas, Texas and Colorado, but less in Iowa, South Dakota and California.

Sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States totaled 408,000 head, up 24 percent from a year earlier. Weather conditions last fall in Colorado delayed sugar beet harvest and availability of beet tops and pulp for feeding, resulting in a large number of sheep and lambs being placed on feed during January and February. Marketings of fed sheep and lambs for slaughter during January and February totaled 871,000 head, down 11 percent from the same period in 1969.

The number on feed in each weight group and the change from March 1, 1969 are as follows: Under 70 pounds - 32,000 head, down 20,000; 70-79 pounds - 104,000 head, up 22,000; 80-89 pounds 211,000 head, up 23,000; 90-99 pounds - 414,000 head, up 42,000 head; 100 pounds and over 251,000 head, up 34,000.

Sheep and lambs on feed: Number, weight groups, placements and marketings

Item	7 States ^{1/}		
	1969	1970	1970 as % of 1969
	- 1,000 head -		
Sheep and lambs on feed, March 1	911	1,012	111
Weight groups, March 1			Percent
Under 70 pounds	52	32	62
70-79 pounds	82	104	127
80-89 pounds	188	211	112
90-99 pounds	372	414	111
100 pounds and over	217	251	116
Sheep and lambs placed on feed, January 1-February 28 ^{2/}	330	408	124
Fed sheep and lambs marketed, January 1-February 28 ^{2/}	979	871	89
Sheep and lambs on feed, January 1 ...	1,560	1,475	95

^{1/} 7 States listed in tables on page 2.

^{2/} Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed: Number, placements and marketings, 1969 and 1970

State	Number on feed ^{1/}				Placed during		Marketed during	
	March 1, 1969	January 1, 1970	March 1, 1970	March 1, 1970 as % of March 1, 1969	January and February 2/ 1969	January and February 2/ 1970	January and February 2/ 1969	January and February 2/ 1970
	--- 1,000 head ---				Percent		--- 1,000 head ---	
Iowa	138	218	118	86	59	55	178	155
S. Dak.	65	145	62	95	35	36	158	119
Nebr.	75	154	79	105	20	21	116	96
Kans.	57	106	66	116	2	12	45	52
Texas	195	300	249	128	89	89	136	140
Colo.	307	420	365	119	100	185	273	240
Calif.	74	132	73	99	25	10	73	69
Total								
7 States ...	911	1,475	1,012	111	330	408	979	871

Sheep and Lambs on Feed: By weight groups, March 1

State	Under 70 pounds		70-79 pounds		80-89 pounds		90-99 pounds		100 pounds and over	
	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970
	--- 1,000 head ---									
Iowa	13	8	17	11	21	25	65	47	22	27
S. Dak.	4	4	4	4	14	11	29	22	14	21
Nebr.	3	2	6	6	13	14	39	43	14	14
Kans.	2	2	2	6	15	14	28	31	10	13
Texas	20	14	43	52	69	80	48	95	15	8
Colo.	9	1	9	18	36	59	144	148	109	139
Calif.	1	1	1	7	20	8	19	28	33	29
Total										
7 States ...	52	32	82	104	188	211	372	414	217	251

^{1/} Sheep and lambs on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain, other concentrates or succulent pastures and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

^{2/} Includes sheep and lambs placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 1.

EARLY LAMB CROP 1970

The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas and California totaled 2,215,000 head -- down 2 percent from last year. However, Texas early lamb crop was up slightly. Weather conditions for lambing have been generally favorable.

KANSAS: Early lambs dropped in Kansas this year amounted to 175,000 head, 15 percent less than the early lambs born in 1969. Lambing conditions have been generally favorable, with no unusual losses from the weather. In Eastern and Central areas wheat pastures are providing grazing for lambs and ewe flocks. Lambing has been later this year than a year earlier.

TEXAS: The number of early lambs born this year in Texas is estimated at 1,200,000 head compared with 1,184,000 head for 1969. In contrast, breeding ewes on hand January 1 were down 6 percent, but the proportion lambing early was up 3 points. Weather conditions were ideal for lambing with an above average number saved. Grazing conditions have been favorable and ewes entered the lambing season in good condition. Spring grazing prospects are excellent.

CALIFORNIA: California's early lamb crop totaled 840,000 head, down 5 percent from the 880,000 head dropped a year earlier. Range feed supplies were adequate and ewes entered the lambing season in good condition. Lambing conditions were generally favorable. Below average early rainfall and mild temperatures were beneficial for lambing. Some loss was reported along the northern coast during February rains, but lambing was nearly complete in southern areas.

Number Early Lambs March 1 1/

State	1969	1970	1970 as percent of 1969
	- - - <u>1,000 head</u> - - -		
			<u>Percent</u>
Kansas	207	175	85
Texas	1,184	1,200	101
California	880	840	95
Total 3 States	2,271	2,215	98

1/ In Kansas and Texas early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between October 1 and March 1. In California, early lambs are lambs living March 1 which were born between September 1 and March 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

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