

# SHEEP & LAMBS ON FEED



March 1, 1971

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## EARLY LAMB CROP

### SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED -- DOWN 11 PERCENT

Sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter market in the 7 major feeding States on March 1 totaled 898,000 head, 11 percent less than a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board. There were less sheep and lambs on feed than a year earlier in all 7 States.

Sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States totaled 407,000 head, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Poor pasture conditions in Texas caused the sharp increase in light weight lambs being on feed in drylots. Marketings of fed sheep and lambs for slaughter during January and February totaled 938,000 head, up 7 percent from the same period in 1970.

The number on feed in each weight group and the change from March 1, 1970 are as follows: Under 70 pounds - 73,000 head, up 41,000; 70-79 pounds - 106,000 head, up 2,000; 80-89 pounds - 199,000 head, down 12,000; 90-99 pounds - 316,000 head, down 98,000; 100 pounds and over, 204,000 head, down 47,000.

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

Item	7 States 1/		
	1970	1971	1971 as % of 1970
	1,000 head		
Sheep and lambs on feed, March 1	1,012	898	89
Weight groups, March 1			
Under 70 pounds	32	73	228
70-79 pounds	104	106	102
80-89 pounds	211	199	94
90-99 pounds	414	316	76
100 pounds and over	251	204	81
Sheep and lambs placed on feed,			
January 1-February 28 2/	384	407	106
Fed sheep and lambs marketed,			
January 1-February 28 2/	875	938	107
Sheep and lambs on feed, January 1	1,503	1,429	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, 1970 and 1971

State	Number on feed 1/				Placed during		Marketed during	
	March 1, 1970	January 1, 1971	March 1, 1971	Mar. 1, 1971 as % of Mar. 1, 1970	January and February 2/	February 2/	January and February 2/	February 2/
	1,000 head			Percent	1,000 head			
Iowa	118	179	104	88	55	42	155	117
S. Dak.	62	131	58	94	36	32	119	105
Nebr.	79	170	75	95	17	23	100	118
Kans.	66	75	50	76	12	11	52	36
Texas	249	279	227	91	89	115	140	167
Colo.	365	480	320	88	165	170	240	330
Calif.	73	115	64	88	10	14	69	65
Total 7 States	1,012	1,429	898	89	384	407	875	938

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	
	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971
	1,000 head									
Iowa	8	8	11	14	25	30	47	30	27	22
S. Dak.	4	3	4	8	11	12	22	20	21	15
Nebr.	2	3	6	5	14	22	43	32	14	13
Kans.	2		6	3	14	13	31	23	13	11
Texas	14	57	52	59	80	77	95	27	8	7
Colo.	1	1	18	15	59	38	148	160	139	106
Calif.	1	1	7	2	8	7	23	24	29	30
Total 7 States	32	73	104	106	211	199	414	316	251	204

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 1971

The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas and California totaled 2,368,000 head -- up 6 percent from last year. Lambing conditions were generally favorable in the 3 States.

KANSAS: The early lamb crop in Kansas this year totaled 165,000 head, 8 percent less than the 179,000 early lambs born in 1970. The January 1 inventory of ewes, one year old and older, was down 7 percent. Wheat pasture has generally been limited this past fall. Unusually heavy amounts of snow during most of January and February in western and central areas of Kansas further limited grazing.

TEXAS: The number of early lambs born this year in Texas is estimated at 1,370,000 head compared with 1,200,000 head in 1970. Breeding ewes on hand January 1 were up 5 percent. Weather conditions were good for early lambing with an above average number saved. Spring grazing prospects are poor due to the lack of rainfall.

CALIFORNIA: California's early lamb crop totaled 833,000 head, down 3 percent from the 857,000 head dropped a year earlier. The January 1 breeding ewes were also down 3 percent. Ewes entered the lambing season in generally good condition. Lamb losses were mostly light except during brief periods of cold, wet weather. Range feed supplies are adequate.

Number Early Lambs, March 1 1/

State	1970	1971	1971 as percent of 1970
	1,000 head		Percent
Kansas	179	165	92
Texas	1,200	1,370	114
California	857	833	97
Total 3 States	2,236	2,368	106

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.

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