

# sheep and lambs on feed



## EARLY LAMB CROP

MARCH 1, 1972

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### SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED -- UP 9 PERCENT

Sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter market in the 7 major feeding States on March 1 totaled 983,000 head, 9 percent more than a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board. There were 898,000 sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 States in the spring of 1971. Only California and South Dakota had less sheep and lambs on feed than a year ago.

In Texas many lambs on feed on fattening pastures January 1 and intended for slaughter in January-March have been moved to feedlots because small grain pasture froze off.

Sheep and lambs placed on feed during January and February in the 7 States totaled 349,000 head, down 7 percent. Marketings of fed sheep and lambs for slaughter during January and February totaled 880,000 head, down 2 percent from the same period in 1971.

The number on feed in each weight group and the change from March 1, 1971, are as follows: Under 70 pounds - 57,000 head, down 16,000 head; 70-79 pounds - 103,000, down 3,000; 80-89 pounds - 241,000, up 42,000; 90-99 pounds - 388,000, up 72,000; 100 pounds and over - 194,000 head, off 10,000.

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

I t e m	7 States 1/		
	1971	1972	1972 as % of 1971
	1,000 head		Percent
Sheep and lambs on feed, March 1	898	983	109
Weight groups, March 1			
Under 70 pounds	73	57	78
70-79 pounds	106	103	97
80-89 pounds	199	241	121
90-99 pounds	316	388	123
100 pounds and over	204	194	95
Sheep and lambs placed on feed, January 1-February 28 2/	377	349	93
Fed sheep and lambs marketed, January 1-February 28 2/	900	880	98
Sheep and lambs on feed, January 1	1,421	1,514	107

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, 1971 and 1972

State	Number on feed 1/				Placed during		Marketed during	
	March 1, 1971	January 1, 1972	March 1, 1972	Mar. 1, 1972 as % of Mar. 1, 1971	January and February 2/ 1971	January and February 2/ 1972	January and February 2/ 1971	January and February 2/ 1972
	1,000 head		Percent		1,000 head			
Iowa	104	179	109	105	52	60	127	130
S. Dak.	58	145	49	84	32	16	105	112
Nebr.	75	152	82	109	23	22	110	92
Kans.	50	97	77	154	11	3	36	23
Texas	227	399	261	115	115	15	167	153
Colo.	320	440	350	109	130	220	290	310
Calif.	64	102	55	86	14	13	65	60
Total 7 States	898	1,514	983	109	377	349	900	880

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	
	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972
	1,000 head									
Iowa	8	11	14	13	30	33	30	37	22	15
S. Dak.	3	4	8	8	12	8	20	21	15	8
Nebr.	3	7	5	10	22	15	32	32	13	18
Kans.	0	5	3	3	13	14	23	40	11	15
Texas	57	26	59	55	77	107	27	64	7	9
Colo.	1	1	15	9	38	60	160	179	106	101
Calif.	1	3	2	5	7	4	24	15	30	28
Total 7 States	73	57	106	103	199	241	316	388	204	194

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.

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The early lamb crop in Kansas, Texas and California totaled 1,833,000 head, 22 percent less than a year ago.

KANSAS: The number of early lambs in Kansas is estimated at 170,000 head, compared with 180,000 head in 1971. Light snow cover during January and February was favorable for lambing and grazing.

TEXAS: The early lamb crop in Texas this year totaled 1,012,000 head, 26 percent less than the 1,370,000 early lambs born in 1971. The January 1 inventory of ewes one year old and older was down 7 percent from a year earlier. Grain pastures were damaged by a January freeze. Lambing is reported to be later than usual.

CALIFORNIA: California's early lamb crop is estimated at 651,000 head, down 20 percent from the 813,000 head dropped a year earlier. Breeding ewes decreased 11 percent from a year ago. Lambing conditions were favorable, except in northern areas, where they were hampered by heavy snow and rain. Lamb losses were reported to be greater than usual. Grazing has been adequate in most areas.

Number Early Lambs March 1 1/

State	1971	1972	1972 as percent of 1971
	1,000 head		Percent
Kansas	180	170	94
Texas	1,370	1,012	74
California	813	651	80
Total 3 States	2,363	1,833	78

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.

