



# FAST FACTS

## ABOUT SHEEP PRODUCTION

In 2012, there were 88,338 sheep farms and ranches in the United States<sup>1</sup>.

Through genetics, sheep producers in the United States tend to produce a dual-purpose animal – one that is valued for both its meat and its wool. Sheep are also raised for producing milk, some of which is processed into cheese.

Following is a ranking of the **total sheep operations per state** based on 2012 data<sup>1</sup>:

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Texas .....10,674       | 26. North Carolina ....1,311 |
| 2. Arizona ..... 7,447     | 27. Idaho.....1,241          |
| 3. California.....4,224    | 28. Florida.....1,161        |
| 4. Pennsylvania .....3,590 | 29. Kansas.....1,160         |
| 5. Ohio .....3,568         | 30. West Virginia .....1,043 |
| 6. New Mexico.....3,385    | 31. New Jersey .....819      |
| 7. Iowa.....2,904          | 32. Vermont.....793          |
| 8. Oregon .....2,753       | 33. Arkansas ..... 778       |
| 9. Wisconsin .....2,590    | 34. Massachusetts.....776    |
| 10. Missouri.....2,454     | 35. Wyoming ..... 771        |
| 11. Virginia .....2,315    | 36. Maine.....759            |
| 12. Michigan.....2,312     | 37. Alabama.....712          |
| 13. Minnesota .....2,171   | 38. Georgia .....688         |
| 14. Indiana ..... 2,109    | 39. Maryland .....663        |
| 15. New York.....2,017     | 40. North Dakota.....661     |
| 16. Washington ..... 1,967 | 41. Louisiana .....643       |
| 17. South Dakota.....1,798 | 42. New Hampshire .....618   |
| 18. Oklahoma .....1,779    | 43. South Carolina .....549  |
| 19. Utah.....1,755         | 44. Nevada.....508           |
| 20. Illinois .....1,751    | 45. Mississippi.....499      |
| 21. Kentucky.....1,743     | 46. Connecticut.....498      |
| 22. Colorado.....1,509     | 47. Hawaii.....353           |
| 23. Tennessee.....1,476    | 48. Rhode Island .....122    |
| 24. Nebraska.....1,464     | 49. Delaware.....69          |
| 25. Montana .....1,338     | 50. Alaska.....50            |

As of Jan. 1, 2016, there were 5.32 million head of sheep in the United States<sup>2</sup>.

Sheep are produced in all 50 states. However, the highest sheep-producing states are located west of the Mississippi River, where most of the larger sheep ranches reside. The eastern part of the country supports a greater number of smaller, pasture-based operations.

Following is a state ranking of the **total number of sheep and lambs** as of Jan. 1, 2016:

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Texas .....735,000        | 18. Nebraska.....80,000      |
| 2. California.....575,000    | 19. New York.....80,000      |
| 3. Colorado.....435,000      | 20. Wisconsin .....76,000    |
| 4. Wyoming .....355,000      | 21. Virginia .....75,000     |
| 5. Utah.....285,000          | 22. North Dakota.....73,000  |
| 6. Idaho .....255,000        | 23. Kansas.....65,000        |
| 7. South Dakota.....255,000  | 24. Nevada.....60,000        |
| 8. Montana .....230,000      | 25. Illinois .....60,000     |
| 9. Oregon.....190,000        | 26. Kentucky.....53,000      |
| 10. Iowa.....175,000         | 27. Indiana.....50,000       |
| 11. Arizona .....145,000     | 28. Washington.....50,000    |
| 12. Minnesota .....125,000   | 29. Tennessee .....48,000    |
| 13. Ohio .....120,000        | 30. Oklahoma.....46,000      |
| 14. Pennsylvania .....94,000 | 31. West Virginia.....36,000 |
| 15. New Mexico.....90,000    | 32. North Carolina...32,000  |
| 16. Missouri..... 88,000     | 33. Other States*....160,000 |
| 17. Michigan.....82,000      | 34. New England**...42,000   |

<sup>1</sup>Source: USDA, NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture, May 2, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Source: USDA, NASS, Sheep & Goats, Jan. 29, 2016.

\* Other States includes Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland (number of sheep and lambs listing only), Mississippi, New Jersey and South Carolina. NASS does not report individual numbers for these states.

\*\* New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.