

SHEEP, LAMBS, AND WOOL: OREGON

Agricultural Statistics

1867 to 1944

Oregon by Counties
Preliminary Release

Extension Circular 440

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SHEEP, LAMBS, AND WOOL: OREGON, 1867-1944

The long-time data in the table below show that the sheep industry in Oregon has fluctuated materially over the period of record since 1867. The number of sheep and lambs on Oregon farms, estimated at 1,217,000 head on January 1, 1944, was 16 per cent less than the previous year, 41 per cent below the 1935-1939 average, and less than half of the peak numbers from 1900 to 1914 and from 1930 to 1934.

Numbers of ewes in Oregon are now the lowest of record. General trends in lamb numbers and wool production have followed the trend in number of breeding ewes. The 1944 lamb crop, estimated at 896,000 head was 1 per cent below the previous year and 33 per cent below the 1935-1939 average. Wool production in 1944 was estimated at 9,870,000 pounds, 6 per cent less than in 1943 and 39 per cent below the 1935-1939 average.

The table of county data on page 2 made available for the first time in this circular, shows that sheep are kept in all the type-of-farming districts in Oregon, although the greater number are in eastern Oregon. In 1940, eastern Oregon had 76 per cent of the total. By 1944, however, numbers had decreased in eastern Oregon and increased in western Oregon with the result that on January 1, 1944, 65 per cent of the sheep and lambs were in eastern Oregon and 35 per cent in western Oregon. Douglas County leads in numbers of sheep and lambs on farms with around 9 per cent of the state total, followed by Umatilla, Malheur, and Morrow each with around 7 per cent, and Lake County with approximately 6 per cent.

Estimates of sheep, lambs, and wool: Oregon, 1867-1944

Period	Sheep & lambs	Ewes	Lambs	Wool
	(all ages) 1/	(1 yr. & over)	saved	production
	No. on Jan. 1	No. on Jan. 1	Numbers	Pounds
Average:				
1867-1869	328,000	-----	-----	-----
1870-1879	803,000	-----	-----	-----
1880-1889	1,706,000	-----	-----	-----
1890-1899	2,078,000	-----	-----	-----
1900-1909	2,456,000	-----	-----	-----
1910-1914	2,574,000	-----	-----	16,069,000
1915-1919	2,098,000	-----	-----	13,912,000
1920-1924	2,034,000	-----	-----	16,056,000
1925-1929	2,253,000	1,627,000	1,414,000	18,654,000
1930-1934	2,557,000	1,947,000	1,695,000	20,037,000
1935-1939	2,064,000	1,573,000	1,345,000	16,279,000
Annual:				
1935	2,375,000	1,725,000	1,449,000	18,609,000
1936	2,115,000	1,655,000	1,390,000	16,555,000
1937	2,100,000	1,600,000	1,264,000	15,850,000
1938	1,882,000	1,452,000	1,350,000	15,543,000
1939	1,848,000	1,432,000	1,274,000	14,836,000
1940	1,675,000	1,320,000	1,228,000	14,016,000
1941	1,696,000	1,307,000	1,294,000	14,058,000
1942	1,637,000	1,216,000	1,070,000	12,923,000
1943	1,457,000	1,131,000	905,000	10,471,000
1944 preliminary	1,217,000	1,007,000	896,000	9,870,000

1/ Data from 1867-1919 are stock sheep and lambs (does not include sheep and lambs on feed for market); 1920-1944 all sheep and lambs (all ages).

Estimated number of sheep and ewes on farms,
in Oregon, by counties, January 1, 1940 and 1944 preliminary

County or District	Sheep and lambs, all ages		Ewes, one year old and over	
	January 1 1940	January 1 1944 p	January 1 1940	January 1 1944 p
Benton	29,000	28,500	23,500	21,000
Clackamas	13,000	15,000	10,500	11,000
Lane	36,000	37,000	29,500	29,000
Linn	61,000	65,000	49,000	51,000
Marion	34,900	36,000	26,000	28,000
Multnomah	2,500	2,300	2,000	2,000
Polk	21,000	21,500	16,500	16,000
Washington	4,100	4,100	3,000	3,000
Yamhill	18,500	20,000	15,000	15,000
District 1	220,000	229,400	175,000	176,000
Clatsop	1,100	2,700	800	2,000
Columbia	2,400	3,000	1,800	2,000
Coos	24,000	27,000	18,200	20,000
Curry	29,000	35,000	23,000	27,000
Lincoln	5,000	5,200	3,800	4,000
Tillamook	500	300	400	200
District 2	62,000	73,200	48,000	55,200
Douglas	103,000	110,000	84,000	89,000
Jackson	11,500	12,500	9,800	10,000
Josephine	1,500	1,600	1,200	1,300
District 3	116,000	124,100	95,000	100,300
Gilliam	62,000	36,000	50,000	30,000
Hood River	1,200	1,300	1,000	1,000
Morrow	118,000	80,000	98,000	68,000
Sherman	10,800	6,000	9,000	5,200
Umatilla	145,000	85,000	110,000	75,000
Wasco	75,000	48,000	62,000	43,000
Wheeler	78,000	50,000	65,000	45,000
District 4	490,000	306,300	395,000	267,200
Baker	73,000	41,000	55,000	36,000
Malheur	155,000	85,000	126,000	75,000
Union	23,000	15,000	17,000	12,500
Wallowa	75,000	54,000	61,000	47,500
District 5	326,000	195,000	259,000	171,000
Crook	52,000	28,000	43,000	24,000
Deschutes	17,000	11,000	10,000	8,300
Grant	70,000	33,000	58,000	28,000
Harney	80,000	65,000	63,000	55,000
Jefferson	40,000	22,000	32,000	19,000
Klamath	92,000	55,000	55,000	40,000
Lake	110,000	75,000	87,000	63,000
District 6	461,000	289,000	348,000	237,300
State Total	1,675,000	1,217,000	1,320,000	1,007,000

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