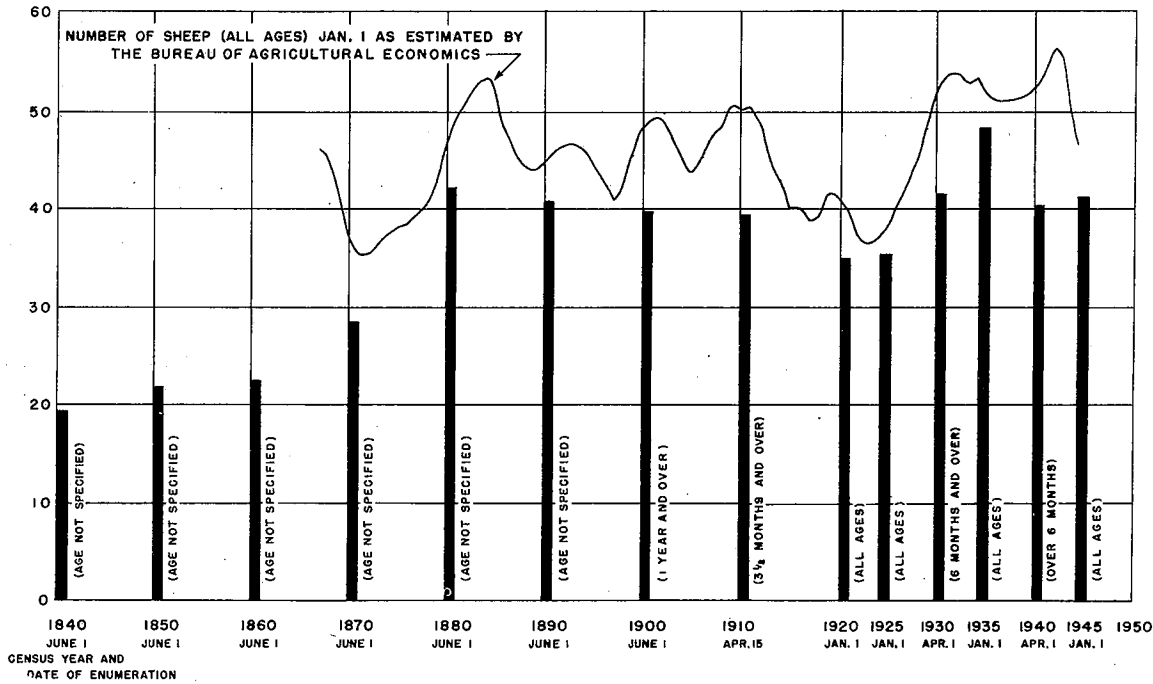


SHEEP—NUMBER SHOWN BY THE CENSUS ON SPECIFIED DATES OF ENUMERATION IN RELATION TO CYCLICAL CHANGES INDICATED BY ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES BY BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, FOR THE UNITED STATES

MILLIONS OF HEAD



Beginning with the 1940 Census, and with increased attention at the 1945 Census, effort was made in range States to enumerate sheep in the county in which the ranch headquarters (or base from which the operations were controlled and where complete records are available) was located. Under this method, the actual geographic distribution of the sheep may not be shown by the Census, but there is increased assurance that all sheep of a given operation will be included in an enumeration, also that complete information regarding wool shorn, sales, etc., can be furnished to the enumerator.

A change was made in the inquiry concerning ewes and ewe lambs for the 1945 Census. In order to obtain, as nearly as possible, a figure representing female breeding stock, the age specifications used in censuses prior to 1945 were abandoned in favor of the specification "ewes and ewe lambs kept for breeding ewes." An instruction at the bottom of the schedule page, keyed to the inquiry, was "Do not include 1944 fall lambs." By thus stating the inquiry it was believed that the number reported would not include ewes and ewe lambs being fattened for market but would include, in addition to ewes kept for lambing in 1945, any ewe lambs (except 1944 fall lambs) kept for lambing in 1946. The number of breeding ewes enumerated in 1945 is smaller than the number which would have been recorded with an inquiry based on age only as used in earlier censuses. Comparability, therefore, is affected to the extent that figures for earlier censuses included ewes and ewe lambs not kept for breeding ewes. In reviewing the reports of the 1945 Census, occasional evidence was found that some enumerators included only the ewes actually bred for lambing in 1945. The extent to which this affected the total is indeterminable.

Texas, with over one-fifth of all sheep in the United States in 1945, had almost three times the number reported for the next leading State. The five foremost States in sheep numbers were: Texas with 8,585,581; Montana with 2,906,249; Wyoming with 2,803,643; California with 2,396,086; and Colorado with 2,393,802. These five States had 19,085,361 sheep and lambs, or 46.3 percent of the total for the United States.

Wool.—The quantity of wool produced in the United States has been obtained in each census. Beginning with 35,802,114 pounds shown for 1839, each succeeding census showed a larger wool clip than the one previous until 1909, when the production was reported as 289,419,977 pounds. In the six censuses taken since that time, the amount reported has been above the 1909 production for three censuses and below for three censuses. In 1944, the production was 279,978,955 pounds.

In 1839, New York was the leading State in wool production; then for five censuses Ohio was the foremost State; in 1899, Montana led; in 1909 and 1919, Wyoming was the leading State; and since that time Texas has been in top position. In 1944, Texas reported 22.1 percent of the total wool production for the United States.

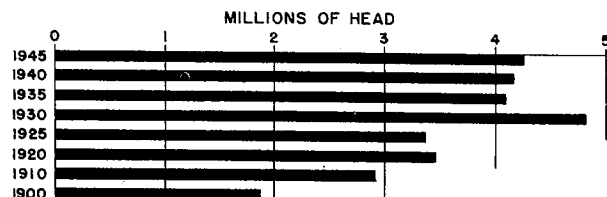
No inquiry regarding the number of sheep shorn was included in the 1945 Census.

GOATS

Only one inquiry was carried on the 1945 schedule on the number of goats. Although no inquiries were included regarding the production of mohair or of goat milk, the enumerators were instructed to include receipts from sales of mohair or goat milk under "Value of livestock, wool, mohair, meat, etc., sold or traded in 1944."

Farms reporting goats increased generally in the eastern and southern States between 1940 and 1945 and decreased in other sections of the country. However, the increases more than offset the decreases, both in farms reporting and in numbers of goats, with a net gain for the United States of 5.8 percent in farms reporting and 2.2 percent in numbers during the five-year period. The general trend in numbers has been upward, increasing from 1,870,599 in 1900, when first included in an enumeration, to 4,285,501 in 1945. Goats are kept in relatively small numbers in most States. Large flocks are found principally in Texas, with only occasional bands of considerable size in other States. Texas accounted for 70.1 percent of goats on farms in 1945.

GOATS—NUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1900-1945



SOURCE: TABLE 3