



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Sheep and Goat Farming

***More than 50 percent of the total value of U.S. sheep and goat sales comes from the top 6 states:***

1. Texas
2. Colorado
3. California
4. Iowa
5. South Dakota
6. Wyoming

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

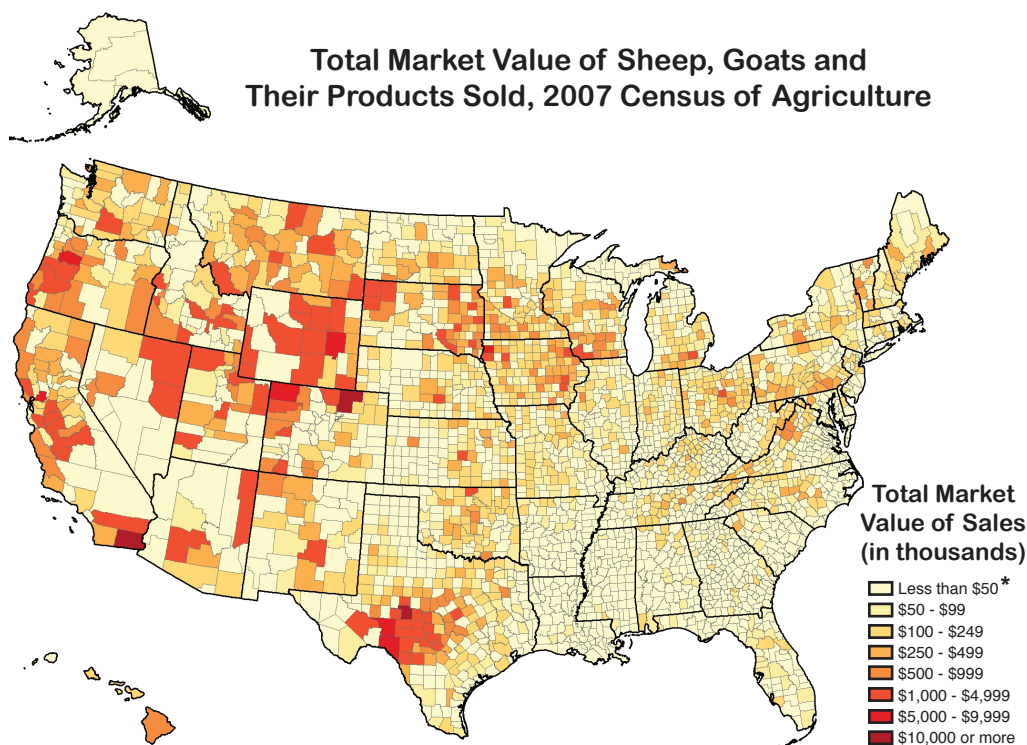
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service



### Sheep and Goat Sales

The 2007 Census of Agriculture shows an increase in the value of sales for the sheep and goat sector of U.S. agriculture. During 2007, sales of sheep and goats and their products in the United States totaled \$704.9 million, an increase of \$163.1 million, or 30 percent, from 2002. These sales accounted for 0.2 percent of all agricultural products sold in the United States during 2007. The largest increases in sales were seen in California (+\$19.5 million), Iowa (+\$16.8 million), Texas (+\$13.6 million) and Colorado (+\$12.3 million).

Weld County in Colorado was the largest single county in terms of sheep and goat sales during 2007 with \$60.9 million, or 8.6 percent of the total U.S. value.



\* Counties suppressed due to confidentiality appear in the "Less than \$50" group.

# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



***Operations classified as sheep and goat farms and ranches accounted for 53.6 percent of the total U.S. sheep and goat inventory on Dec. 31, 2007, while operations classified as beef cattle farming and ranching accounted for 22.1 percent of the total sheep and goat inventory.***

## Production Expenses

Operations classified as primarily sheep and goat farms and ranches\* spent \$957.3 million to produce sheep and goat products in 2007, an increase of \$310.5 million, or 48 percent, from 2002. The five largest expense items for sheep and goat producers were purchases of feed, livestock, supplies/repairs, property taxes and interest expenses. The steepest increases in cost were for cash rent, up 105 percent and gasoline, fuels and oils, up 98 percent. Total production expenses per sheep and goat farm decreased slightly from 2002 to 2007.

	2007	2002	% Change
<b>Total Farms</b>	67,254	43,891	+53
<b>Total Production Expenses</b>	\$957.3 million	\$646.8 million	+48
Average per Farm	\$14,234	\$14,409	-1
Feed Purchased	\$238.5 million	\$128.3 million	+86
Livestock (Purchased or Leased)	\$112.5 million	\$93.7 million	+20
Supplies, Repairs and Maintenance	\$106.0 million	\$78.6 million	+35
Property Tax Paid	\$96.7 million	\$64.1 million	+51
Interest Expense	\$88.4 million	\$55.2 million	+60

\* The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) categorizes farms by the commodities which constitute a majority of the sales of the operation. Production expenses and producer characteristics are from operations classified primarily as sheep and goat farms and ranches. These operations accounted for 53.6 percent of the total sheep and goat inventory on Dec. 31, 2007.

# Sheep and Goat Farming

## Producer Characteristics

The 2007 Census shows significant changes in the characteristics of U.S. sheep and goat producers. The number of female producers increased 4 percent from 2002. Women now account for 26.1 percent of all operations classified as sheep and goat producers. Additionally, the average age of sheep and goat producers increased by 2 years from 53 to 55. Those producers under the age of 45 decreased 5 percent from 2002, while those 65 years and older increased 5 percent.

Sheep and goat producers were more likely to derive income from non-farm sources in 2007 than in 2002. Less than half of them now list their primary occupation as farming. As a result, 91 percent of sheep and goat producers derive less than 25 percent of their income from farming while less than 2 percent obtain all of their income from farming.

	2007	2002
<b>Sex of Operator</b>		
Male	73.9%	77.7%
Female	26.1%	22.3%
<b>Age of Operator</b>		
Under 45 Years	21.7%	26.7%
45 to 64 Years	54.5%	54.5%
65 Years and Older	23.8%	18.8%
Average Age	55 years	53 years
<b>Primary Occupation</b>		
Farming	35.8%	45.1%
Other	64.2%	54.9%
<b>Percent of Income from Farming</b>		
Less than 25%	91.2%	80.8%
25% to 49%	3.3%	6.5%
50% to 74%	3.0%	5.4%
75% to 99%	1.3%	2.8%
100%	1.2%	4.5%



*There were 121,171 farms with sheep and goat sales in 2007.*

*As of Dec. 31, 2007, the number of farms with sheep inventory totaled 83,134 and the number of farms with goat inventory totaled 144,466.*

# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Concentration in Sheep and Goat Production

Census results show that 18 percent of sheep and goat operations produced slightly more than 75 percent of the total value of U.S. sales of sheep, goats and their products in 2007. The results also show that 82 percent of all operations with sheep and goats had less than 100 head of sheep and goats on Dec. 31, 2007.

Another way of looking at industry concentration is by the type of organization. Family farms make up more than 90 percent of sheep and goat operations and account for 73 percent of the inventory and 67 percent of the sales. In contrast, corporations make up 3 percent of all sheep and goat operations, but account for 13 percent of the inventory and more than 17 percent of the sales.

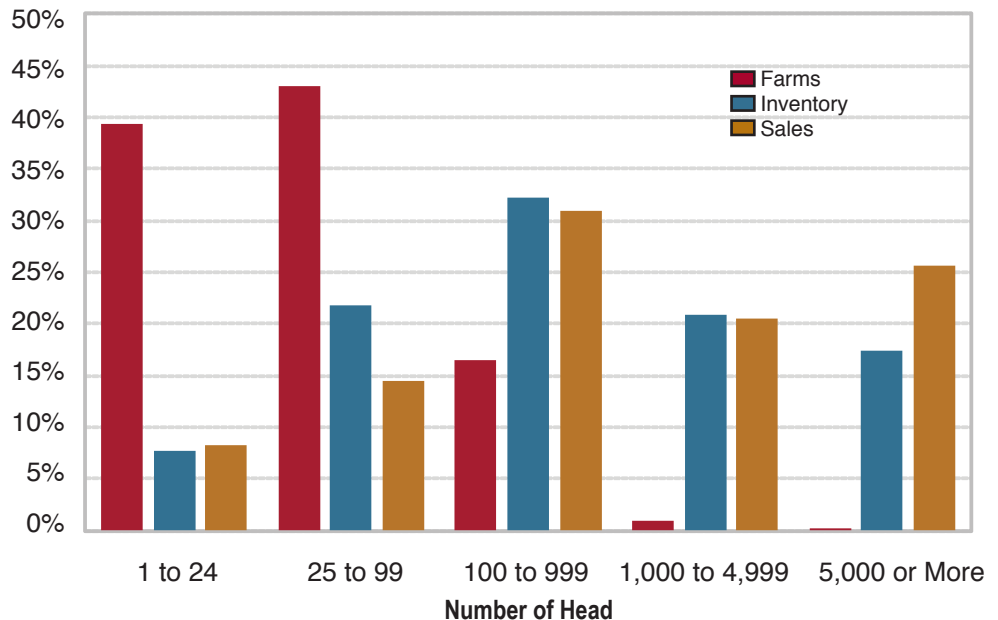
### For more information:

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

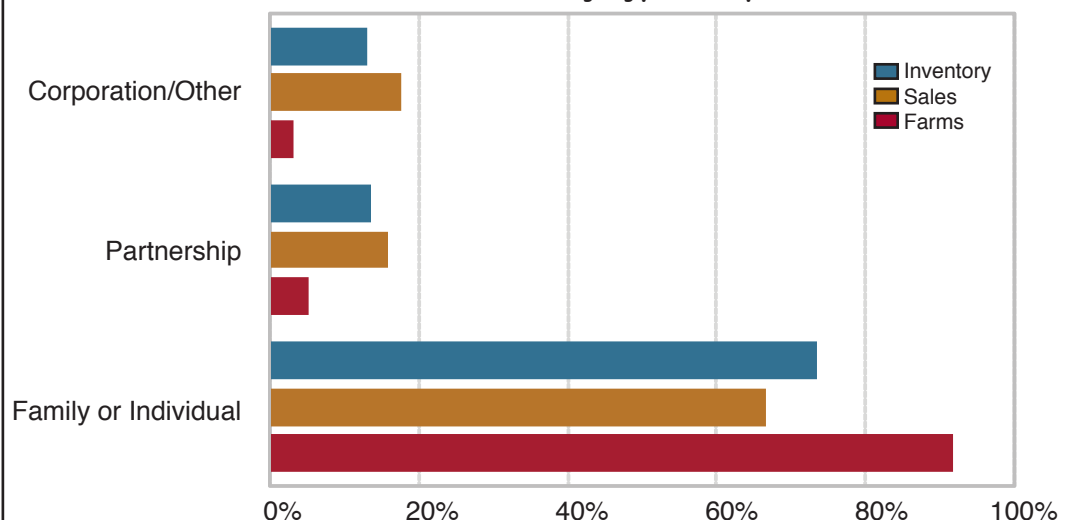
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

Agricultural Statistics Hotline  
(800) 727-9540

Percent of Sheep and Goat Farms, Inventory and Sales by Size of Operation



Sheep and Goat Farms, Inventory and Sales by Type of Operation



## Sheep and Goat Farming

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)