

Sheep & Goat Additional Information

Screening for Sheep and Goats differs in some states based on ownership or on the acres operated.

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MN, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, and WY only: Questions for sheep and lambs pertain to animals **owned** by the operation, regardless of location.

All other states: Questions for sheep and lambs pertain to animals **on the total acres operated**, regardless of ownership,

Animals kept as pets, 4-H projects, etc. should be recorded, even if only a few head.

Sheep

Definitions:

- Ram: Male sheep usually kept for breeding.
- Ewe: Female sheep usually kept for breeding.
- Lamb: Young sheep, less than 1 year old.
- Wether: Castrated male sheep.
- Sheep & Lambs for Breeding: Ewes and rams one year and older used for breeding; ewe and ram lambs under one year old kept for breeding replacement.
- Sheep & Lambs for Market: Sheep and lambs being raised for slaughter market.
- Ewe Age When First Bred: Usually during the first breeding season after they are one year old; but can be as young as 9 months.
- Breeding Time: Natural breeding time is late summer and fall.
- Ewes per Ram: Normally 1 ram per 25-50 ewes.
- Gestation: 142-154 days (approximately 5 months).
- Lambs Docked: Lambs with tails removed.
- Death Rate: Sheep: 1-10 percent of total adult sheep. Lambs: 2-15 percent of lamb crop.
- Sheep Shorn: Number of sheep from which wool was shorn.
- Fleece Weight: Adult sheep average pounds of wool shorn per clip are 7-12 pounds. Lamb average pounds of wool shorn per clip are 3-6 pounds.
- Tags (crutches): Wool clipped from face and crotch area.

Breeds commonly used for breeding and wool production are Merino, Rambouillet, Debouillet, Columbia, Corriedale, Panama, Targhee, Montadale, Suffolk, Hampshire, Shropshire, Dorset, Oxford, Southdown, Cheviot, Finn, Polypay, Lincoln, Cotswold, Leicester, and Romney.

Lambs generally weigh between 50 and 80 pounds when placed on feed.

Lambs fed for slaughter generally weigh between 100 and 120 pounds when slaughtered.

Deaths of sheep kept for breeding (stock sheep) in farm flocks usually fall between 1 and 4 percent of the breeding sheep inventory per year.

Normal death rates for breeding sheep (stock sheep) in range flocks range between 4 and 10 percent of the breeding sheep inventory per year.

Death rates for all lambs in farm flocks are normally between 5 and 10 percent of the lamb crop per year.

Death rates for all lambs in range flocks are normally between 10 and 15 percent of the lamb crop.

Normal death rates for feedlot sheep and lambs range between 1 and 2 percent per year.

Lambs for market must be less than one year old and be intended for slaughter market.

Sheep for slaughter market must be one year old and older.

Pounds of wool shorn from sheep and lambs should include tags and wool not sold.
(Tags or crutches are the wool shorn from face and crotch areas)

Wool prices should typically range between \$0.30 and \$2.50 per pound. Leave notes if higher prices were received for specialty wool. Only wanting the price for raw or unprocessed wool.

Value per head: Be sure the operator actually gives you the value per head and not the \$ per CWT or \$ per pound.

Slaughter for Consumption by the Operation: Be sure only animals actually consumed by the operation are reported and not animals that were sold for slaughter.

Predator Losses + Non-Predator Losses Total must equal deaths (by Lambs and Sheep) asked earlier.

Sheep/lambs that 'leave the operation' must have permanently left. Possible reasons for leaving: movement or sale of sheep or lambs to sale barns, another sheep operation, a backgrounding operation, a feedlot, a buyer/dealer, a consumer market, etc.

Goats:

Definitions:

- Doe: Female goat
- Buck or Billy: Male goat
- Mutton or Wether: Castrated male goat
- Kid: A young goat less than a year old.
- Gestation Period: Around 5 months
- Angora Goat Breed of domestic goat raised for production of its long silky hair, called mohair.
- Milk Goat: Straight-haired type of goat selected and raised for milk production.
 - Popular U.S. breeds include Saanen, Toggenburg, and Alpine.
 - Less popular breeds include LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, and Pygmy.

- Meat/Other Goat: Straight-haired type of goat raised for meat production.
 - The most popular U.S. breed is Spanish, but Angora and all Milk breeds are sometimes used for meat production.
 - Goats raised for Cashmere fiber. These goats are not for milk or meat but are considered “other”.

Goats and Kids are divided into 3 types of breed or utilization: Angora, Milk, and Meat & Other.

Angora is a specific breed, mostly used for mohair production.

Milk goats comprise several different breeds, as do Meat goats. Each breed or type can be used for different purposes.

For instance, Angora does bred to Angora bucks to produce kids for mohair production would all be classified as Angora. Angora does bred to a meat breed buck (likely Spanish) would produce kids used for meat production. In this case, all would be classified as meat.

Does are generally seasonal breeders, and kid once a year.

Does have twins often; so, the number of kids born in a year should be between 100 and 250 percent of the total doe inventory.

Total kid and goat losses should be within a range of 0 to 10 percent of the inventory.

Slaughter for Consumption by the Operation: Be sure only animals actually consumed by the operation are reported and not animals that were sold for slaughter.

Pounds of mohair produced should be recorded either as weight per fleece or total pounds produced.

Report goats and kids only once, even if they were clipped in both the Spring and Fall.

Average fleece weight per head clipped will generally range from 1.5 to 10 pounds.

Mohair value should be recorded in dollars and cents per pound. Price should generally range between \$1.50 to \$7.00.