

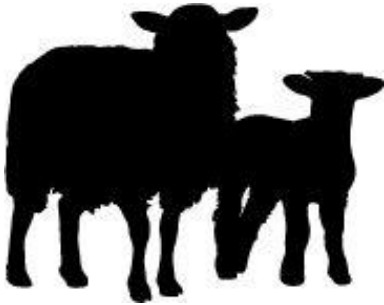


American **WOOL**

By Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland. Updated for 2024.

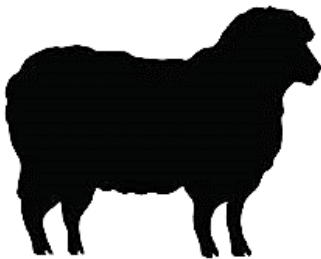
3.22 million

was the number of sheep and lambs shorn in the US in 2023.



Sheep produce

many types of wool, each with different qualities. Some sheep produce woolly fibers with very small fiber diameters (fine wool), whereas other breeds grow longer, coarser fibers. Some sheep produce dual-coated and/or multi-colored fleeces.

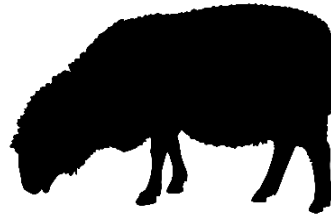


22.7 million lbs.

was the amount of shorn wool produced in the US in 2023.

Wool is grown

in all 50 states, with the majority being produced in the states of California, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. Wool festivals are popular all over the US.



Wool is sold

collectively to a warehouse or wool pool. Some growers sell their wool to dealers or brokers or directly to a mill. Adding value to the wool and/or direct marketing fleeces can increase the profitability of wool production. Wool is sold either greasy (raw) or on a clean (scoured) basis.

\$1.56 per lb.

was the average price paid for wool (raw) in the US in 2023.

Shearing

Most sheep are sheared annually, before lambing and/or the onset of hot weather. Shearing is a skilled job.



7.0 lbs.

was the average weight of a sheep's fleece in 2023.

** American Wool **

When you buy products made from American wool, you are supporting one of the backbone industries that America was built upon.

www.americanwool.org