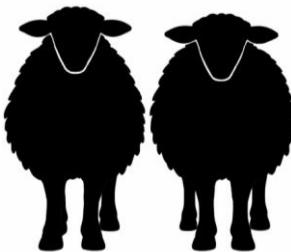


American WOOL

By Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland. Updated for 2026.

3 million

sheep and lambs were shorn in the US in 2025.



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.



20.5 million lbs.

was the amount of shorn wool produced in the US in 2025. The value was \$28.7 million.

Wool is grown

in all 50 states, with the majority being produced in the Western US, with California, Colorado, and Utah being the top producing states.

Fiber festivals are popular all over the US.



Wool is sold

collectively to warehouses or wool pools.

Some growers sell their wool to dealers or brokers or directly to a mill. Wool is sold either greasy (raw) or on a clean (scoured) basis. Adding value to wool and/or direct marketing fleeces can increase the profitability of wool production. There is a growing market for wool pellets as a fertilizer/soil amendment. Waste wool is used for this purpose.



6.8 lbs.

was the average weight of a sheep's fleece in 2025.

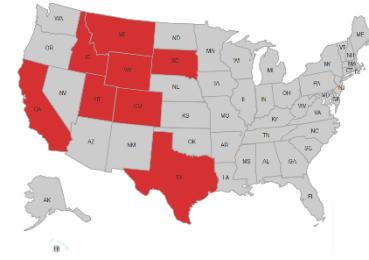
\$1.40 per lb.

was the average price paid for wool (raw) in the US in 2025.

** 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



Shearing

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