In 2019, there were 101,387 sheep farms and ranches in the United States\(^1\).

Through genetics, sheep producers in the United States tend to produce a dual-purpose animal – one that is valued for both its meat and its wool. Sheep are also raised for producing milk, some of which is processed into cheese.

Following is a ranking of the total sheep operations per state based on 2019 data\(^1\) (most current data):

1. Texas ...............\text{14,672}
2. Arizona ..................\text{7,509}
3. Ohio ......................\text{4,123}
4. New Mexico ...........\text{4,047}
5. California ..............\text{3,807}
6. Pennsylvania ...........\text{3,749}
7. Oregon ...................\text{3,263}
8. Missouri .................\text{3,103}
9. Wisconsin ..............\text{2,845}
10. Kentucky ..............\text{2,818}
11. Iowa .....................\text{2,801}
12. Virginia ...............\text{2,646}
13. Tennessee ..............\text{2,503}
14. Michigan ...............\text{2,483}
15. Indiana .................\text{2,316}
16. Washington ............\text{2,281}
17. Minnesota .............\text{2,248}
18. Oklahoma ..............\text{2,216}
19. New York ...............\text{2,113}
20. Utah ....................\text{1,898}
21. Illinois ..................\text{1,870}
22. Colorado ...............\text{1,731}
23. North Carolina .......\text{1,679}
24. Florida ..................\text{1,666}
25. Idaho ...................\text{1,447}
26. Montana ...............\text{1,383}
27. South Dakota .........\text{1,337}
28. Kansas .................\text{1,234}
29. West Virginia ........\text{1,226}
30. Georgia ...............\text{1,208}
31. Nebraska ...............\text{1,153}
32. Alabama ...............\text{1,062}
33. Arkansas ...............\text{1,053}
34. New Jersey ............\text{1,047}
35. Maryland ..............\text{925}
36. Wyoming ...............\text{859}
37. Louisiana .............\text{785}
38. Mississippi ..........\text{748}
39. Maine ..................\text{738}
40. South Carolina .......\text{738}
41. Massachusetts ........\text{728}
42. Vermont ...............\text{704}
43. North Dakota .........\text{573}
44. Hawaii ..................\text{548}
45. New Hampshire ......\text{502}
46. Connecticut ..........\text{428}
47. Nevada .................\text{328}
48. Rhode Island .........\text{108}
49. Delaware ..............\text{89}
50. Alaska ..................\text{49}

\(^1\)Source: USDA, NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture, April 11, 2019.

As of Jan. 1, 2020, there were 5.2 million head of sheep in the United States\(^2\).

Sheep are produced in all 50 states. However, the highest sheep-producing states are located west of the Mississippi River, where most of the larger sheep ranches reside. The eastern part of the country supports a greater number of smaller, pasture-based operations.

Following is a state ranking of the total number of sheep and lambs as of Jan. 1, 2020:

1. Texas ...............\text{735,000}
2. California ............\text{570,000}
3. Colorado ..............\text{425,000}
4. Wyoming ..............\text{340,000}
5. Utah ....................\text{285,000}
6. South Dakota .........\text{250,000}
7. Idaho ...................\text{230,000}
8. Montana ...............\text{200,000}
9. Oregon .................\text{165,000}
10. Iowa ....................\text{151,000}
11. Ohio ...................\text{126,000}
12. Minnesota ..........\text{115,000}
13. Arizona ...............\text{105,000}
14. Missouri ..........\text{100,000}
15. Pennsylvania .......\text{96,000}
16. New Mexico .......\text{95,000}
17. New York .............\text{87,000}
18. Michigan ............\text{85,000}
19. Wisconsin ..........\text{81,000}
20. Nebraska ..........\text{78,000}
21. North Dakota .......\text{75,000}
22. Kansas ...............\text{73,000}
23. Virginia .............\text{73,000}
24. Nevada ...............\text{65,000}
25. Kentucky ..........\text{62,000}
26. Indiana .............\text{57,000}
27. Illinois .............\text{55,000}
28. Oklahoma ..........\text{52,000}
29. Washington .......\text{50,000}
30. Tennessee ..........\text{49,000}
31. West Virginia .......\text{33,000}
32. North Carolina .......\text{30,000}
33. Other States* .......\text{155,000}
34. New England** ......\text{52,000}

* Other States includes Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland (number of sheep and lambs listing only), Mississippi, New Jersey and South Carolina. NASS does not report individual numbers for these states.

** New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.