



Press Release

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: TEXAS WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT;
MOHAIR PRODUCTION DOWN 14 PERCENT

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For Release: IMMEDIATELY [January 30, 2004]

AUSTIN . . . Fewer sheep and lambs shorn than a year ago led to a decline in wool production for 2003, even though wool prices increased. Mohair production decreased as the number of Angora goats clipped continued to decline.

According to the annual report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, wool production totaled 5.6 million pounds during 2003, down 6 percent from the previous year's total. Texas producers sheared 800,000 sheep and lambs during the year, 6 percent below 2002. The average fleece weight was 7.0 pounds unchanged from last year.

Total value of the state's wool production was up 25 percent from the previous year to \$5.04 million. Price per pound averaged \$.90, up 32 percent from the average for 2002.

Texas mohair production during 2003 totaled 1.68 million pounds, down 14 percent from a year ago and the lowest production on record. Producers clipped 210,000 Angora goats and kids with an average clip weight of 8.0 pounds. The number of Angora goats and kids clipped was down 12 percent from the previous year, and the average clip weight was down 1 percent from 2002.

Value of the state's mohair production decreased to \$2.86 million. Price per pound averaged \$1.70, compared with the \$1.60 average a year earlier. The higher average price is reflective of the declining stocks on the world market even though much of the marketings were adult hair.

United States shorn wool production during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Sheep and lambs shorn during 2003 totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.5 pounds per head unchanged from 2002.

The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$.72 per pound, for a total value of \$27.4 million, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million in 2002.

Mohair production in the three major producing states, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, during 2003 was 1.88 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2002. Goats and kids clipped, at 248,000 head, were down 12 percent from 2002. Average weight per clip at 7.6 pounds, was down 1 percent from 2002. Value of mohair production was \$3.1 million, down 9 percent from 2002.