

## Facts About North Dakota Sheep and Lambs

Compiled by  
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Few people realize how much information about important farm products and problems can be obtained from the many reports issued as press releases by the North Dakota Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. Their present address is 114 Roberts Street, P. O. Box 31, Fargo, North Dakota. The present staff consists of Mr. C. J. Heltemes, Agricultural Statistician in Charge, and Mr. Ovide E. Grenier, Agricultural Statistician. Their data are collected through the cooperation of volunteer reporters and through field studies by the statisticians themselves. Similar data are collected for all forms of livestock and poultry. They are of immense value to those who try to keep posted on market supply and demand.

### Lamb Crop—July 1, 1947

#### Breeding ewes 1 year old and older

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	699,000
1946.....	510,000
1947.....	441,000

#### Lambs saved<sup>1</sup> per 100 ewes one year old and older

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	99
1946.....	103
1947.....	102

#### Lambs saved<sup>2</sup>

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	693,000
1946.....	527,000
1947.....	448,000

### Wool Shorn—August 12, 1947

#### Wool Production

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	7,201,000 lbs.
1946.....	5,159,000 lbs.
1947.....	4,333,000 lbs.

#### Weight per fleece

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	8.7 lbs.
1946.....	8.7 lbs.
1947.....	8.7 lbs.

#### Number of sheep shorn<sup>3</sup>

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	828,000
1946.....	593,000
1947 <sup>2</sup> .....	498,000

### Average Prices Received by North Dakota Farmers in Dollars per 100 Lbs. September 2, 1947

	Sheep	Lambs
August 15, 1947.....	\$7.50	\$21.20
July 15, 1947.....	8.30	20.50
August 15, 1946.....	7.20	15.90
August 1909 to July 1914, Average.....	4.50	5.62

<sup>1</sup>"Lambs saved" are defined as lambs living June 1, or sold before June 1 in the "native" states and lambs docked or branded in the western sheep states.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary estimates.

<sup>3</sup>Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

**Range and Livestock Report—Aug. 12, 1947—Conditions on Aug. 1, 1947  
with comparisons.**

(60-69 is poor), (70-79 is fair), (80-89 is good), (90-99 is very good),  
(100 and over is excellent, unusual).

**Condition of Sheep**

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	87
August 1, 1947.....	89
July 1, 1947.....	90
August 1, 1946.....	86

**Condition of Ranges**

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	82
August 1, 1947.....	91
July 1, 1947.....	95
August 1, 1946.....	80

**Condition of Pastures (Sept. 1)**

10-year average—1936 to '45.....	67
September 1, 1947.....	84
September 1, 1946.....	61

**Comparison of North Dakota Report with United States Report**

The downward trend in sheep production is similar to the North Dakota picture; the lamb crop in 1947 was 26 percent below the 1936-45 average; similarly the 1947 wool clip is 29 percent below the 1936-45 average and the smallest since 1925. "Sheep condition" on August 1, 1947 at 89 was one point better than the average of 17 western range states on that date—with respect to prices the United States price on August 15, 1947 was \$8.56 per hundred for sheep, which was \$1.06 above the North Dakota farm price; on the other hand the United States farm price for lambs on August 15, 1947 was \$21.00 per hundred which was 20 cents below the North Dakota farm price.

**Flax Rust**

Dr. H. H. Flor, Pathologist, Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, published an article on "Inheritance of Reaction to Rust in Flax" in Vol. 74, Nos. 9 and 10 May 1 and 15, 1947 issues of the Journal of Agricultural Research.

Dr. H. H. Flor has been assigned to the North Dakota Station since 1931 during which time he has made a most thorough investigation of how resistance to flax rust is inherited. He has contributed papers to the Journal of Agricultural Research; to Phytopathology (a journal of the plant disease specialists of America) and to the Bimonthly Bulletin of this Station.

In this, his latest study of flax rust, Dr. Flor states, "At the present time, any one of fifteen or more factors (genetic) satisfactorily conditions resistance to North American races. However, because of the possibility of the development of, or the introduction of new races, the feasibility of incorporating multiple resistance factors into new varieties should be considered." His studies have revealed the possible source of these multiple resistance factors. The careful student of the genetics of flax and the present and future flax breeders, will find this latest paper by Flor an indispensable guide. (H. L. W.)