

WOOL PRODUCTION IN STATE, NATION AT LOW POINT

North Dakota's 1949 wool crop amounted to 3,212,000 pounds, reports the federal agricultural statistician in Fargo. This is the smallest annual production of wool since 1926 and far below the clip of 8,976,000 in the peak year of 1942.

Wool prices averaged 43 cents per pound for the 1949 crop. This average price has been exceeded in only two other years, 1945 and 1948 when the price averaged 44 cents. Cash receipts from North Dakota's 1949 wool production is estimated to be \$1,381,000. This is the lowest income from wool since 1939. The record wool income was in 1943 when \$3,531,000 was realized.

NORTH DAKOTA: WOOL PRODUCTION AND INCOME, 1941-1949

Year	Sheep shorn number	Weight per fleece	Production shorn wool	Price per pound	Cash Income
	(000)	(lb.)	(000 lb.)	(cents)	(000 Dols.)
1941	954	8.9	8491	34	2887
1942	1020	8.8	8976	38	3411
1943	989	8.5	8406	42	3531
1944	871	8.7	7578	43	3259
1945	724	8.6	6226	44	2739
1946	593	8.7	5159	43	2218
1947	498	8.7	4333	41	1777
1948	434	8.4	3646	44	1604
1949	365	8.8	3212	43	1381

Wool production in the United States in 1949, shorn and pulled, amounted to 253,350,000 pounds. Production was the smallest on record for both shorn wool and pulled wool. Of the total wool produced in 1949, 216,950,000 pounds were shorn wool and 36,400,000 pounds were pulled. Production in 1948 was 280,524,000 pounds, of which 233,924,000 pounds were shorn and 46,600,000 pounds pulled. The 1938-47 average production of all wool is 407,844,000 pounds; of shorn wool, 342,784,000 pounds, and of pulled wool, 65,060,000 pounds.

The annual average price received by growers for shorn wool in 1949 was 49.3 cents per pound. This was slightly above the price of 48.8 cents received for the 1948 clip, and was the highest average since 1919. Cash receipts of growers from shorn wool production, at \$106,874,000, were about seven million dollars less than in 1948 and about 13½ million dollars below the 10-year average.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 1949 is estimated at 26,972,000 head, a decrease of about two million head from 1948. The 1949 record low number was 22 million head below the 1942 peak and about 16 million head below the 10-year average. The average weight per fleece was 8.04 pounds, slightly below 1948, but somewhat higher than the 10-year average. Pulled wool production in 1949 amounted to only 36,400,000 pounds, a drop of about 10 million pounds from 1948. The total was 44 per cent below the 10-year average and the lowest on record.