

SECTOR PROFILE AT A GLANCE

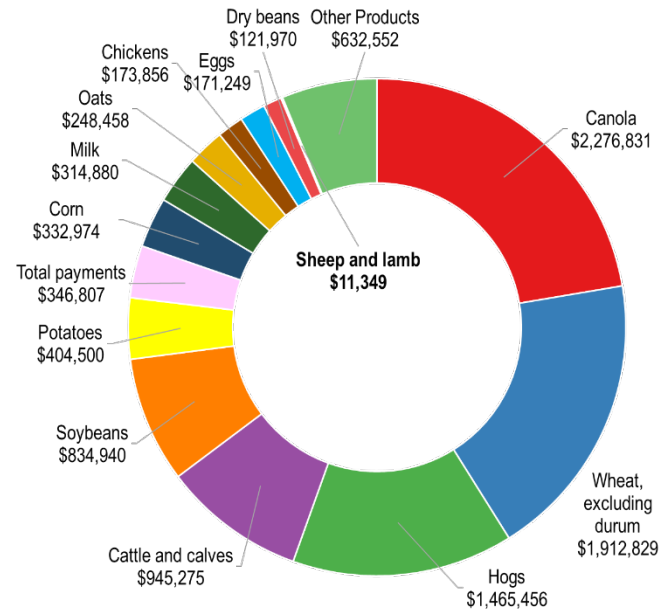
Sheep



Highlights

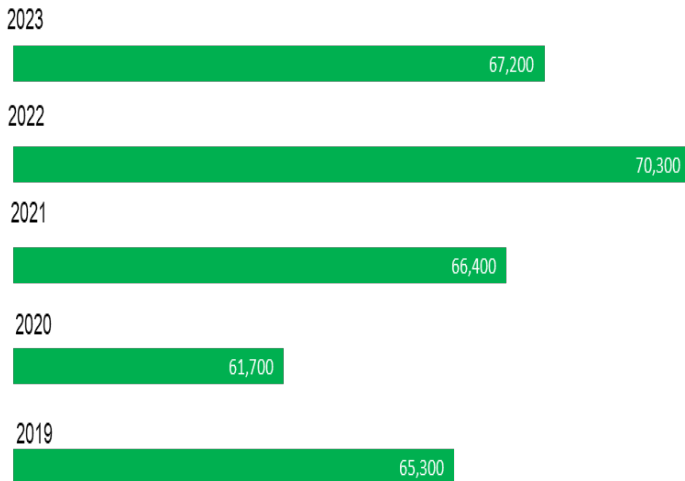
- In 2023, Manitoba sold 67,200 head, and reported \$11.3 million in cash receipts for sheep and lambs.
- Annual lamb prices averaged 6.6 per cent lower in 2023 compared to 2022, however 2023 prices surpassed 2022 prices in November and December.
- Manitoba's affordable and resourceful land provides an excellent base for sheep production. Flocks are strategically located throughout the province.
- According to the 2021 Census of Agriculture, there were 523 sheep farms in Manitoba.

Farm Cash Receipts (2023, '000 of dollars)



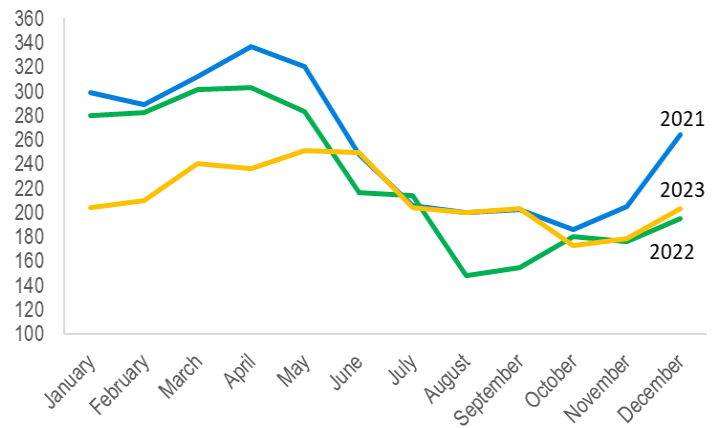
Source: Statistics Canada

Sales (head)



Source: Statistics Canada

Prices (lambs, dollars per cwt, monthly)



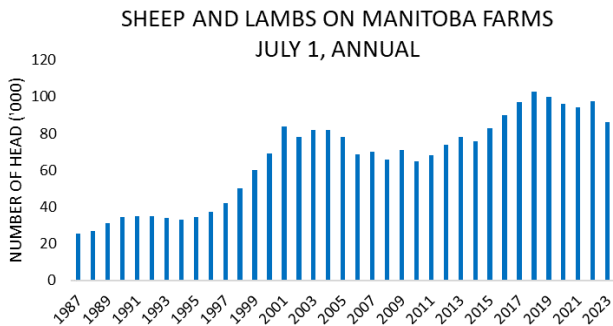
Source: Statistics Canada 32-10-0077-01

Inventory

- On July 1, 2023, there were 86,400 head of sheep and lambs on farms, a decrease of 11 per cent compared to the previous year.
- Manitoba has approximately eight per cent of the national number of sheep and lamb.

Sheep and Lamb on Farms

('000 head, July 1)



Source: Statistics Canada

Marketing, Processing and Trade

- In 2023, Manitoba sheep and lambs were sold to Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan for feeding and further processing.
- Manitoba origin sheep and lambs processed in Canada numbered 22,800 head in 2023.
- In 2023, 14 provincially licensed plants processed 5,070 sheep and lambs, representing 22 per cent of Manitoba origin harvested animals.
- There was no international imports or exports of live sheep and lamb in 2023.
- The average lamb and mutton consumption in Canada is 1.09 kilogram per capita.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sheep are known as “grazing herbivores” as they feed on plants in small increments throughout the day.
- Farmers use sheep to assist in killing off invasive plants to maintain and improve the quality of their land.
- Most of the 51,551 kg of wool produced in 2022 was sold to the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers.
- Lanolin, a waterproof fatty oil found in sheep wool, is a product highly sought by cosmetic companies, as it is a key ingredient in cosmetic products.
- The majority of lambs in Manitoba are born between April and June.
- Sheep’s milk is high in protein making it popular for health and fitness.

Updated May 2024

Contact us

- Go to manitoba.ca/agriculture and click on [Markets and Statistics](#)
- Email us at industryintelligence@gov.mb.ca
- Follow us on X @MBGovAg

