

## Sheep inventory told

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sheep and lamb numbers in the U.S. on January 1, 1978, totaled nearly 12.4 million head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was three per cent below a year earlier and down seven per cent from January 1, 1976. The January 1, 1978 inventory value of all sheep and lambs climbed to \$638.5 million from \$541.3 million on January 1, 1977, as the

average value per head rose to a record high of \$51.50 this year from \$42.40 a year earlier.

The inventory included 10.8 million stock sheep, down two per cent from January 1, 1977. Ewes one year old and older, accounting for 80 per cent of all stock sheep, decreased three per cent to 8.6 million head. Wethers and rams one year old and over accounted for

372,000 head, up three per cent from a year earlier. Ewe lambs, at 1.5 million head, were up six per cent while wether and ram lambs fell 15 per cent to 324,000 head.

The January 1, 1978 estimate for Nebraska includes sheep from Wyoming, Utah and Colorado that are being wintered in Nebraska.

The 1977 lamb crop of 8.6 million head was three per

cent below the previous year. Breeding ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1977, were down five per cent from a year earlier but ewe lambs were

up five per cent. The 1977 lambing rate was 97 lambs per 100 ewes, compared with 95 in 1976 and 98 in 1975.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1 for slaughter

market in the 26 major feeding states totaled 1.6 million head, down seven per cent from the preceding year and down 14 per cent from the January 1, 1976 level.

## Grant praises House of Reps.

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Allan Grant today praised members of the House of Representatives for soundly defeating proposed legislation that would have created what he termed "a giant" new federal consumer protection agency.

Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the wide margin of the "no" vote (227-189) indicates that most Americans want less control of their daily lives by big government.

"We fought hard to defeat this measure, because we do not think the government can protect every consumer in each transaction without infringing on personal freedoms," Grant said.

"Of course, consumers have the right to know all

about products, services and health hazards, but the real effect of the proposed law would have been to strangle Americans in still more federal regulations," the farm leader said.

"Consumers have the primary right to make up

their own minds and set the course of their own lives and actions", he added.

"We salute the 227 members of Congress who recognized that right with their votes against creating another federal monstrosity," Grant concluded.

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