

## Sheep numbers increase

**HARRISBURG** — Inventory of all sheep and lambs on Pennsylvania's 4,900 sheep farms on January 1, 1984 was 104,000, up six percent from a year earlier, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Of the total, 77,000 ewes were one year and older, 7,000 head were rams and wethers one year and older, 15,000 were ewe lambs, and 5,000 were ram and wether lambs.

The inventory value of all Pennsylvania sheep and lambs was \$6.7 million, up seven percent from last year. The average value per head increased 50 cents to \$64 per head.

The 1983 Pennsylvania lamb crop was 80,000 head, the same as 1982. Breeding ewes one year and older on January 1, were 75,000 compared with 95,000 a year earlier. Lambs saved per 100 ewes one year old and older was 107 in 1983 compared with 84 in 1982.

Total inventory for the United States is estimated at 11.4 million head, down five percent from the 12 million head a year earlier. This is the lowest sheep and lamb inventory on record. The value of all sheep and lambs on hand January 1 totaled \$594 million, down five percent from a year ago. The average value per head was \$52.10, up 30 cents from last year.

United States stock sheep inventory was 9.7 million head, seven percent below January 1st 1983 and the lowest number since estimates were started in 1867. Ewes one year old and older at 7.82 million head, were down five percent. Ewe lambs declined 13

percent to 1.23 million. Wether and ram lambs were seven percent lower than last year.

Nationally, the 1983 lamb crop of 8.15 million head declined five percent from the 1982 lamb crop. Breeding ewes one year old and older on January 1 were down six percent from the previous year. The 1983 lambing rate was 99 lambs per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 98 in 1982 and 101 in 1981.

## Tools to be awarded

**SALISBURY, Md.** — Visitors at the upcoming Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference, Feb. 9 at the Wicomico Youth And Civic Center in Salisbury, Md., will have an opportunity to win one of three door prizes, with a total value exceeding \$1,000.

"Any farmer worth his salt always enjoys working with good tools," says University of Delaware extension agent Dave Woodward, a member of the conference planning committee. "In offering these prizes we're

trying to encourage growers to do preventive maintenance this winter and patch up that old equipment to make it last another season."

Prizes to be given away are: a 14-drawer portable steel tool chest worth \$410; a 200-piece tool set worth \$376; and a complete oxyacetylene cutting and welding set worth \$260. Individuals must be present in order to win. The

drawing will be held at the end of the conference, following the talk by American Farm Bureau president Robert Delano.

Theme of this year's conference is "More for '84." Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for exhibits, coffee and donuts. Free lunch tickets are available from county extension offices or ag industry representatives in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

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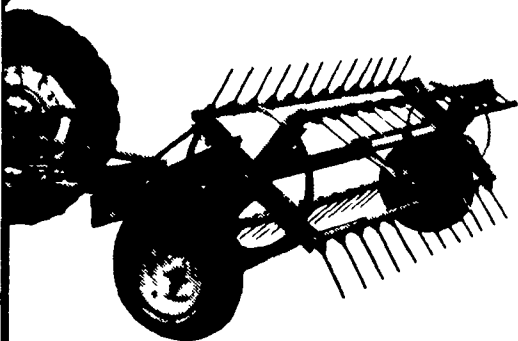
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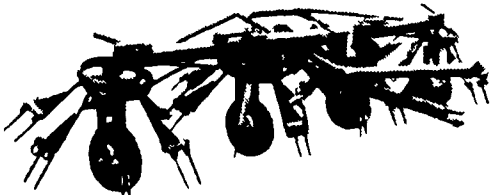
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