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SHEEP AND WOOL, AUSTRALIA 1989-90 PRELIMINARY

PHONE INQUIRIES

- *about these statistics*—contact Elisabeth Davis on Canberra (06) 252 6436 or any ABS State office.
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MAIL INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

Preliminary results for 1989-90 show a record total shorn wool production of 1,015 thousand tonnes, an increase of 12.9 per cent on 1988-89.

The number of sheep shorn to produce this result rose by 5.7 per cent to 207.6 million. The national sheep flock has increased by 7.1 per cent to 176.6 million.

Although there is a massive wool surplus, mating intentions for the 1990-91 season have risen in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The estimates contained in this publication are derived from three major sources:

- (i) A monthly collection of National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia in each State and presented in this publication with reference to the twelve months prior to 30 June 1990
- (ii) A monthly ABS collection of other wool brokers and dealers in each State, also presented with reference to the twelve months prior to 30 June 1990
- (iii) The annual Agricultural Census undertaken by the ABS.

These estimates are subject to possible change because further processing of Agricultural Census returns will be undertaken and, in the case of expectation data, intentions may not be realised due to climatic change or varying economic conditions.

Scope and coverage

2. (a) The national Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia collates data from member brokers and other brokers associated with the Council. The data are compiled in terms of bales received into stores and converted to wool receivals in tonnes.
- (b) ABS data from other brokers and dealers are also converted to tonnes.

Between the two collections the entire industry should be covered with respect to wool receivals.

- (c) **Agricultural Census.** The census collects data from establishments with agricultural activity. The ABS excludes from the census those establishments which make only small contributions to overall agricultural production. From 1986-87 the scope of the census is establishments undertaking agricultural activity having an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$20,000 or more. Some basic information is also available about those establishments having an EVAO of between \$5,000 and \$19,999. The scope of previous Censuses was establishments undertaking agricultural activity having a EVAO of \$2,500 or more.

Related publications

3. Further preliminary agricultural statistics will be published in:

Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary 1989-90, Agricultural Production and Farmers' Intentions for the 1990-91 season (7110.0)

4. Final sheep and wool statistics from the Agricultural Census will be published in *Livestock and Livestock Products, Australia, 1989-90* (7221.0) intended for release during the early part of 1991 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed. Final sheep and wool statistics based on receivals of taxable wool by brokers and dealers for the year 1989-90 and the forecast year 1990-91 will be published in *Sheep Numbers, Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Australia, 1990-91 Season* (7221.0) to be released in December 1990. Another preliminary estimate for the 1989-90 season and forecast for the 1990-91 season will be published in *Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Australia, Preliminary 1990-91* (7210.0).

Other forms of release

5. The ABS also has more detailed agricultural statistics on magnetic tape, microfiche, floppy disk and

CD-ROM. AgStats on floppy disk offers a wide range of data aggregated at small geographic areas than those generally available in printed publications together with an easy-to-use, menu driven interrogation facility.

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The *Catalogue and Publications Advice* are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
6. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.
7. Unless indicated otherwise, Australian totals include data for all States and both Territories.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. SHEARING, WOOL PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE CUT PER HEAD, AUSTRALIA

	Number shorn ('000)			Average cut per head (kg)			Wool production (tonnes)				
							Shorn wool			Other wool(a)	Total wool
	Sheep	Lambs	Total	Sheep	Lambs	Total	Sheep	Lambs	Total shorn		
1987-88	149,481	36,791	186,273	5.22	1.71	4.53	780,212	62,835	843,047	73,391	916,438
1988-89	158,983	37,429	196,413	5.24	1.77	4.58	832,511	66,415	898,927	60,055	958,983
1989-90 p	166,847	40,748	207,596	5.63	1.85	4.89	939,456	75,546	1,015,002	65,321	1,080,324

(a) Comprises dead and fellmongered wool and wool on or shorn off skins.

TABLE 2. SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION (tonnes)

Year	Australia	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
1987-88	843,047	285,073	162,835	75,144	114,169	184,219	21,152
1988-89	898,927	318,103	173,681	73,632	111,896	200,449	20,634
1989-90 p	1,015,002	365,000	197,000	83,276	119,940	225,947	23,364

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED SHEEP NUMBERS, ACTUAL MATINGS AND LAMBS MARKED AT 31 MARCH (a) ('000)

	Australia			1990p					
	1988	1989	1990 p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
Sheep Numbers									
Sheep	120,065	127,670	135,449	50,709	24,000	13,122	14,582	28,847	4,109
Lambs	36,541	37,218	41,175	15,381	6,868	3,392	4,482	9,508	1,525
Total	156,607	164,888	176,624	66,090	30,868	16,514	19,064	38,355	5,634
Lambing									
Actual matings	62,581	62,797	66,857	25,113	11,843	5,414	7,681	14,640	2,131
Lambs marked	50,627	50,646	55,820	21,804	10,166	3,674	6,571	11,632	1,939

(a) The estimated sheep and lamb numbers are derived from the Agricultural Census; however, they have been adjusted upwards to accord more closely with the scope of the brokers and dealers wool production data (see Explanatory Notes) and therefore are not directly comparable with sheep and lamb numbers presented in Agricultural Census publications.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED MATING INTENTIONS AT START OF SEASON (1 APRIL — 31 MARCH)(a) ('000)

	Australia			1990p					
	1989	1990	1991 p	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.
Intended matings(b)	66,481	69,063	70,853	27,819	12,485	5,643	8,141	14,523	2,200

(a) See footnote (a) Table 3. (b) Intended matings of ewes are based on reported intentions of farmers for the following season. The preliminary expectation for the year 1990-91 shown in this table.

