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Lambs, or other sheep and lambs?

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

Official sheep tables are split into the female breeding flock, and other sheep and lambs, plus a total. “Lambs” appear in the official sentences, and they are not the same official line as “other sheep and lambs.”

United Kingdom, 1 June 2025

The official wording is that “Lambs account for the majority of other sheep & lambs and decreased by 2.9% to 14.8 million.” Other sheep and lambs, in the official table, are 15,703,976, rounded in the accompanying sentence to 15.7 million. Majority is not the whole official category. Lambs “continue to make up almost half of the total sheep population in 2025,” and, in the key findings, “account for almost half of all sheep.”

England, 1 June 2026

The official England release says the total number of sheep and lambs “decreased by 2.0%, to 13.0 million,” that the female breeding flock “fell by 3.7% to 6.2 million,” and that “Lambs also saw a fall of 0.5% to 6.5 million.” It also says: “Lambs account for half of all sheep with the female breeding flock accounting for a further 47%.” The official table’s second column, “Other sheep and lambs,” is 6,852,731. The table has no separate lambs-only line. This sheet does not treat the 6.5 million lambs sentence as a rounding of that 6,852,731 line.

How the England figures are made

Sheep figures in the England release come from the June Survey and relate to commercial holdings. Cattle figures in the same release come from the Cattle Tracing System and relate to all holdings. Commercial holdings “are defined as those with more than five hectares of agricultural land, one hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry.”

What this sheet does not do

It does not subtract the official England 2026 total from the official United Kingdom 2025 total. Those figures are for different years. It does not move the official England word “half” onto the official United Kingdom phrase “almost half.”

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: Defra, Livestock populations in the United Kingdom at 1 June 2025; Defra, Livestock populations in England at 1 June 2026. This is not a Defra publication. sheep.farmyard.im is part of the ReallyByte network, run by REALLYBYTE, based in the Isle of Man. ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless.