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The official number 14.8 million is used for two different kinds of sheep

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

The United Kingdom release for 1 June 2025 uses the rounded number 14.8 million in more than one official sentence, for more than one official category. This sheet keeps those sentences apart.

The official table

The official United Kingdom table for sheep and lambs at 1 June 2025 is 14,779,632 in the female breeding flock, 15,703,976 other sheep and lambs, and a total of 30,483,608.

The official rounded sentences

The same release says the female breeding flock "decreased by 0.7% to 14.8 million." It also says: "Lambs account for the majority of other sheep & lambs and decreased by 2.9% to 14.8 million." The official total "decreased by 1.7% to 30.5 million." Other sheep and lambs "decreased by 2.7% to 15.7 million."

A different official rounding, for the same year

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025, a United Kingdom publication covering the same year, says the female breeding flock fell "to just under 15 million animals," that other sheep and lambs "was just under 16 million in 2025," and that "the total UK sheep and lamb population was 30 million which decreased by 1.7%." Figure 2.2b, in thousand head, is 14,780, 15,704 and 30,484. Both official roundings are kept. Neither replaces the other.

What this sheet does not do

It does not treat the two official 14.8 million sentences as one figure. It does not replace 30.5 million with 30 million, or the other way around. And it does not treat "other sheep and lambs" as the same official line as "lambs."

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: Defra, Livestock populations in the United Kingdom at 1 June 2025; Defra, Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025, Chapter 2. 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.