

Timeline of Montana Cattle & Sheep Facts

1882 President Cleveland repeals wool tariff, most sheep men broke by 1883.
1883 Montana Wool Growers established in Ft. Benton, MT, Paris Gibson 1st Pres.
1883 Montana cattlemen plagued with rustlers and overgrazing.
1884 Montana Stockgrowers established in 1884 in Helena, Granville Stewart 1st Pres.
1889 Montana became 41st state.
1890-2,228,000 sheep, 667,755 beef cows
1893 Montana State University and Montana Ag Experiment Station established.
1899 First MAES Bulletin published on sheep research.
1900-4,504,000 sheep, 923,351 cows.
1908 Beginning of 10-year homestead boom
1910-5,279,000 sheep, 943,147 cows
1918 WWI ends
1920-2,450,000 sheep, 1,268,516 cattle and calves.
1922 US Sheep Experiment Station established in Dubious, ID.
1923 Dr. Marsh first isolates Ovine Progressive Pneumonia in MT.
1926 First wool research published in MT.
1930-4,120,000 sheep, 1,290,353 cattle and calves
1931 National Animal Damage Control Act
1940-3,747,000 sheep, 1,039,669 cattle and calves
1941 America enters WWII
1942 Peak US Sheep numbers 56,000,000
1946 WWII over
1947 Wool Lab building dedicated at MSU.
1950-1,584,000 sheep, 1,758,243 cattle and calves.
1954 Wool Act.
1960-1,872,000 sheep, 2,400,000 cattle and calves.
1970-1,113,000 sheep, 2,800,000 cattle and calves.
1972 Widespread use of 1080 banned.
1973 Endangered species act passed.
1975 Grizzly bears listed. Peak US beef cow numbers 45,700,000.
1980-574,000 sheep, 2,400,000 cattle and calves.
1990-663,000 sheep, 2,600,000 cattle and calves.
1995 Wool Act phased out.
1995 Grey wolf reintroduced to MT.
2000-370,000 sheep, 2,400,000 cattle and calves.
2009 Montana's wolf hunting allowed again.
2010 255,000 sheep, 2,550,000 cattle and calves.
2020 200,000 sheep, 2,500,000 cattle and calves.
2025 5,030,000 US sheep, 28,000,000 US beef cows.