Global Lamb and Mutton Production
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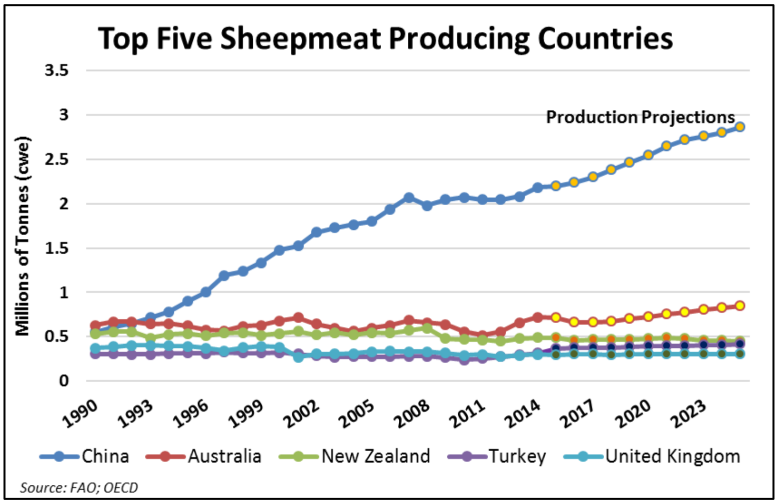
Global lamb and mutton production continues to increase, however the largest increases are taking place in African and Asian countries. Currently, complete global lamb and mutton production data from the FAO is available to 2014. Between 1990 and 2014 total production increased 27.4%.



Comparing the top five lamb and mutton producers shows very different results. Between 1990 and 2014 sheepmeat (lamb and mutton) production increased 15% in Australia, 3% in Turkey and 300% in China. However, production decreased in the UK and New Zealand by 20% and 8%, respectively. While Australia and New Zealand may account for the largest lamb and mutton exports, China has been largest producer since 1993. Between 1993 and 2016 China's lamb and mutton production has more than tripled and by 2025 is forecasted to increase a further 28% or 625,000 tonnes to 2.86 million tonnes per year. On percentage basis, Australia is forecasted to see sheepmeat production increase by 29% between 2016 and 2025, however the total production increase is 188,000 tonnes or about a third of the Chinese increase.

Additional sheepmeat production growth is possible in China as consumer demand for lamb and beef is increasing. This increased demand is in response to Chinese consumers looking for alternative protein options but increased Chinese sheepment production will not be enough to satisfy demand. China is the largest global importer at an estimated 250,000 tonnes of lamb and mutton in 2016, and imports are estimated to grow to 300,000 tonnes by 2025. One factor that may affect Chinese sheepment demand is a government policy aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a reduction in total per capita meat consumption from the current 63 kg per year to 27 kg per year by 2030.

Local Price Update
Locally, Alberta's slaughter lamb market price remains steady. The average estimated 120 lb. live slaughter lamb price for November is just over $234/head. Year to date slaughter lamb prices have averaged $236 per head, up 7% from 2016 and 28% higher than the 5-year average.

Slaughter lamb prices are being supported by stable demand, tighter supplies and lower lamb/sheep inventories.