Livestock Slaughter

Released August 23, 1996, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on “Livestock Slaughter” call Linda Simpson at (202) 720-3578, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the NASS Information Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV. Estimates refer to July 1996. The index for this report is located on page 24. The “Livestock Slaughter” U.S. Summary is available on Autofax, (202) 720-2000, report 3250. See page 25.

Red Meat and Beef production Sets Record High for July

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.58 billion pounds during July. This production was 4 percent above the previous record high in July 1992.

July 1996 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. July 1995 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Beef production at 2.19 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from the previous record high in July 1996. Head kill totaled 3.15 million head, up 7 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,164 pounds.

Veal production totaled 32.0 million pounds. This production was up 34 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 160,400 head, 41 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 20 pounds to 351 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.34 billion pounds up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.34 million head, up 4 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 251 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Slaughter totaled 326,400 head, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight remained unchanged at 125 pounds.

January - July red meat production was 25.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent, veal was up 19 percent, pork was down 3 percent and lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

Mt An 1-2 (8-96)
### Commercial Red Meat Production: United States 1/  

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1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

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* Revised.

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.
Livestock Slaughter: Number and Average Weights, United States 1/

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* Revised.
1/ Excludes slaughter on farms.
2/ Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.
3/ Totals may not equal sum of the parts due to rounding.

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

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* Revised.
1/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.
2/ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.
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* Revised.

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

2/ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

3/ States with no data printed are still included in the US total. Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Commercial Calf Slaughter: By State and United States, July 1995 and 1996 1/

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1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

2/ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

3/ States with no data printed are still included in the US total. Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Commercial Hog Slaughter: By State and United States, July 1995 and 1996 1/

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1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.
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## Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter: By State and United States, July 1995 and 1996 1/  

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* Revised.  
1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.  
2/ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.  
3/ States with no data printed are still included in the US total. Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
## Classification of Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection:
### United States

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### Average Dressed Weight 3/

| Cattle 4/         | 716            | 701            | 704            | 707            | 705            |
| Steers 4/         | 767            | 759            | 764            | 760            | 764            |
| Heifers 4/        | 698            | 698            | 700            | 698            | 705            |
| All Cows 4/       | 543            | 524            | 523            | 540            | 528            |
| Bulls & Stags4/   | 873 *848       | 851            | 863            | 845            |
| Calves & Vealers  | 216            | *214           | 204            | 225            | 213            |
| Barrow Gilts 5/   | 185            | 186            | 184            | 186            | 186            |
| Sows 5/           | 179            | 180            | 179            | 182            | 181            |
| Stags & Boars 5/  | 294            | 294            | 286            | 291            | 290            |
| Sheep             | 63             | 64             | 63             | 64             | 65             |
| Mature Sheep 6/   | 58             | 57             | 57             | 58             | 58             |
| Lamb & Yrlings 6/ | 63             | 65             | 63             | 64             | 66             |

*Revised.

1/ Total and percentages based on unrounded data.
2/ Species totals and classification reported by meat inspectors, Inspection Operations, FSIS.
3/ Based on packer reports.
4/ Included in cattle average dressed weight.
5/ Included in hog average dressed weight.
6/ Included in sheep average dressed weight.
Federally Inspected Slaughter: By Region and United States, July 1996

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US 2/:

| 7,186.6 | 6,832.2 | 298.0 | 56.4 | 312.9 | 24.2 |

1/ States included in regions are as follows: 1- CT, ME, NH, VT, MA, & RI; 2- NY & NJ; 3- DE-MD, PA, WV, & VA; 4- AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, & TN; 5- IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, & WI; 6- AR, LA, NM, OK, & TX; 7- IA, KS, MO, & NE; 8- CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, & WY; 9- AZ, CA, HI & NV; 10- ID, OR, & WA.

2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

3/ Regions 1-2, 3-4, 6-7 and 9-10 combined for calves to avoid disclosing individual operations.

4/ Regions 2-3 and 4-5 combined for cattle to avoid disclosing individual operations.

5/ Regions 3-5, 6-7 and 8-10 combined for sheep to avoid disclosing individual operations.

6/ Regions 2-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 combined for hogs to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Federally Inspected Slaughter: By Region and United States, January - July 1996 *

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| US       | : 21,206.8 | 10,700.7 | 6,143.7 | 3,958.1 | 1,716.5 | 2,241.6 | 404.4 | 967.8 |

<table>
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| : Total : Barrows : Stags & Gilts : Total : Mature : Lambs & Sheep : Yearlings |
| : 2/ : Sows : Boars : 2/ : Sheep : |
| 1        | 16.4 | 15.9 | .4 | .1 | 16.8 | 7.8 | 9.0 |
| 2        | 6/   |     |   |   |     | 101.0 | 23.6 | 77.4 |
| 3        | 6/   |     |   |   |     | 5/   |     |     |
| 4        | 12,212.8 | 11,614.8 | 585.6 | 12.3 | 369.5 | 46.3 | 323.2 |
| 5        | 6/   |     |   |   |     | 5/   |     |     |
| 6        | 14,786.1 | 13,823.5 | 820.4 | 142.2 | 453.7 | 56.8 | 396.9 |
| 7        | 6/   |     |   |   |     | 5/   |     |     |
| 8        | 23,801.8 | 22,852.0 | 695.8 | 254.0 | 5/   |     |     |
| 9        | 6/   |     |   |   |     | 5/   |     |     |
| 10       | 1,318.8 | 1,313.7 | 4.7 | .4 | 1,437.6 | 27.1 | 1,410.6 |

| US       | : 52,135.8 | 49,619.8 | 2,107.0 | 409.0 | 2,378.7 | 161.6 | 2,217.1 |

* Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.
1/ States included in regions are as follows: 1- CT, ME, NH, VT, MA, & RI; 2- NY & NJ; 3- DE-MD, PA, WV, & VA; 4- AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, & TN; 5- IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, & WI; 6- AR, LA, NM, OK, & TX; 7- IA, KS, MO, & NE; 8- CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, & WY; 9- AZ, CA, HI & NV; 10- ID, OR, & WA.
2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.
3/ Regions 1-2, 3-4, 6-7 and 9-10 combined for calves to avoid disclosing individual operations.
4/ Regions 2-3 and 4-5 combined for cattle to avoid disclosing individual operations.
5/ Regions 3-5, 6-7 and 8-10 combined for sheep to avoid disclosing individual operations.
6/ Regions 2-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 combined for hogs to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA

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1/ Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.
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Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA
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1/ Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.
2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.
3/ States with no data printed are still included in the US total. Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
Federally Inspected Slaughter: Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter by Species, United States

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U.S. Monthly Commercial Red Meat Production

Million Pounds

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Hogs

1,000 head

9,000
8,500
8,000
7,500
7,000
6,500
6,000

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Sheep

1,000 head

550
500
450
400
350
300
250

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996
Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Average Live Weight
Cattle

![Graph showing average live weight of cattle for 1993 to 1996.]

U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Average Live Weight
Hogs

![Graph showing average live weight of hogs for 1993 to 1996.]

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Cattle

U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Hogs

Livestock Slaughter
August 1996

Agricultural Statistics Board
NASS, USDA
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Steers

U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Heifers
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected
Average Dressed Weight
Barrows and Gilts

U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected
Average Dressed Weight
Sows
Livestock Slaughter Estimates

Data Sources: Primary data for the commercial livestock slaughter estimates are obtained from the Weekly Livestock Slaughter Report (LS-149) questionnaires completed by inspectors from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA, which provide actual counts of animals slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants. These counts are combined with data from State-administered Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) slaughter plants to derive total commercial slaughter estimates. Over 95 percent of the total U.S. slaughter for any species is under FI. The LS-149 forms collect number of head slaughtered daily under FI by species and class as well as head kill after condemnation and total live and dressed weights.

Approximately 1,200 plants in the U.S. are operated under Federal Inspection and 2,000 plants under State inspection. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Types of Plants, page 22). To prevent duplication in reporting between NFI and FI plants and assure all FI plants are included, certificates prepared by FSIS identifying operating status are constantly monitored.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late or corrected data and are less than one-half of 1 percent. Revisions for the previous month and the year-to-date totals are noted in each monthly release by an (*) or a footnote. Final data are published in the annual summary.

Procedures and Reliability: Individual inspectors may be contacted by telephone if the Weekly Livestock Slaughter Report questionnaire is not received by NASS in time for summarization. This assures that all plants slaughtering a large number of head or several species are accounted for each week.

All head kill data are tabulated on a weekly basis approximately two weeks after the kill week. A computer edit compares each plant’s data with the historical data for that plant. The edit provides a missing reports listing for follow-up telephone contact and imputes missing weight data. In addition, data are checked for unusual values for species, class, head kill, and pattern of kill generally, based on each plant’s past operating profile.

Usually, if no form is received by mail, data for plants slaughtering fewer than 50 total head weekly of only one species are imputed. Imputation of live and dressed weight data may also be necessary on partially completed forms for any plant. The imputation is also based on the data history of each respective plant and represents the recent operating characteristics until final data are tabulated. Imputed head kill for missing plants usually is less than 1 percent of the U.S. head kill totals. Imputation for live and dressed weight data for cattle is about 15 percent and for hogs about 10 percent. The imputation for calves and sheep is more frequent and variable.

Head kill for FI slaughter before condemnation is for the actual days of the survey month, while head kill after condemnation and live and dressed weight data are for full weeks only. Average live and dressed weight and dressing percentages by State are compared with the previous week as an additional check. Fluctuations are frequently the result of plants permanently or temporarily closing and a shift in the kind of animal reported.
FI data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release, while NFI data are summarized monthly only. These weekly totals are published by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in Livestock, Meat, Wool Market News, Weekly Summary, and Statistics.

Livestock slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants, and, therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplications and mistakes in reporting, recording and processing the data. These errors are minimized through rigid quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Generally, no data are published if less than three plants operate for a species in a State or if one plant has 60 percent or more of the total commercial slaughter for a species. These data are included in U.S. totals. A review of the reported data is made annually.

Types of Plants

There are generally four types of slaughtering plants.

1. **Federally Inspected (FI) Plants**: Plants that transport meat interstate must employ federal inspectors to assure compliance with USDA standards. Any State whose commercial plants operate entirely under federal inspection may still have custom-exempt establishments for which NFI estimates are made.

2. **Talmadge-Aiken (TA) Plants**: Slaughter plants in which USDA is responsible for inspection. However, federal inspection is carried out by State employees. These plants are considered to be federally inspected.

3. **Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) Plants**: Plants which sell and transport only intrastate. State inspectors assure compliance with individual State standards for these NFI plants. Mobile slaughtering units are excluded and are considered farm slaughter.

4. **Custom-Exempt Plants**: Plants that do not sell meat but operate on a custom basis only are custom-exempt. The animals and meat are not inspected, but the facilities must meet health standards. These are considered NFI plants and head kill is included in NFI totals.
Terms and Definitions

**Commercial Production:** Includes slaughter and meat production in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

**Dressed Weight:** The weight of a chilled animal carcass. Beef with kidney knob in; veal with hide off; lamb and mutton with pluck out; pork with leaf fat and kidneys out, jowls on and head off.

**Dressing Percent:** Is usually expressed as a percentage yield of chilled carcass in relation to the weight of the live animal on hoof. For example, a live hog that weighed 200 pounds on hoof and yielded a carcass weighing 140 pounds would have a dressing percentage of 70.

**Food and Meat Inspection:** Includes examination, checking, or testing of a carcass and/or meat against established government standards and involves checking the facility for cleanliness, health of animals, or parts of animals and quality of the meat produced.

**Live Weight:** The gross weight of a live animal when received at the slaughter plant.

**Plant, Slaughter:** An establishment where animals are killed and butchered.

**Red Meat:** Red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. It is derived using the number of head times average dressed weight for FI and NFI separately. FI head kill must be adjusted for condemnations using the factor derived from the FSIS inspection reports.

The FI meat production formula is $(FI \ head \ kill) \times (1 - \ condemnation \ factor) \times (average \ dressed \ weight) = FI \ red \ meat \ production$. The condemnation factor is the number of animals condemned as a percentage of the total kill. It has been fairly stable for the last ten years; running about 1.547 per 100 head for calves, .359 per 100 for cattle, .336 per 100 for hogs and .500 per 100 for sheep. The NFI meat production formula is $(NFI \ head \ kill) \times (live \ weight) \times (FI \ dressing \ percentage) = NFI \ red \ meat \ production$.

**Slaughter:** Killing and butchering of animals primarily for food.

**Slaughter, Farm:** Animals slaughtered on farms primarily for home consumption. Excludes custom slaughter for farmers at commercial establishments, but includes mobile slaughter on farms. These estimates appear only in the annual slaughter release.

**Wholesome Meat Act:** Legislation that specifies that all meat produced for sale in the U.S. must be inspected; and further, meat that is transported interstate must be inspected in compliance with federal (USDA) standards.
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The next "Livestock Slaughter" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on September 20, 1996.

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