Commercial Veal and Lamb and Mutton Production at Record Lows for August

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in August 2002.

August 2002 contained 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.
August 2003 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.33 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, down 2 percent from August 2002. The average live weight was down 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, a new monthly low and 15 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,700 head, down 17 percent from August 2002. The average live weight was 5 pounds above last year, at 294 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.04 million head, 6 percent below August 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.7 million pounds, was down 6 percent from August 2002 and was a new monthly low. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,200 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2003 commercial red meat production was 31.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down slightly, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.
### Commercial Red Meat Production: United States ¹

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Aug 2002</th>
<th>Jul 2003</th>
<th>Aug 2003</th>
<th>Aug 03 % of</th>
<th>Jan - Aug ²</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Million Pounds</td>
<td>Million Pounds</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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¹ Based on packers’ dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.
² Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

### Federally Inspected Red Meat Production: United States ¹

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¹ Based on packers’ dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.
² Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.
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<th>Jul 2003</th>
<th>Aug 2003</th>
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<th>2002</th>
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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.
## Commercial Red Meat Production: By State and United States

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1 Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.
2 Percentages based on unrounded data.
3 N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.
### Commercial Cattle Slaughter: By State and United States, August 2002 and 2003

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<th>Average Live Weight</th>
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1 Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

2 Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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

4 Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. States with no data printed are still included in the US total.
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1 Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.
2 Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
3 N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.
4 Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. States with no data printed are still included in the US total.
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1. Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.
2. Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.
3. N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.
4. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. States with no data printed are still included in the US total.
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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, August 2003

#### Cattle

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#### Sheep

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- AK, ID, OR, & WA.

2. Totals may not add due to rounding.
# Federally Inspected Slaughter: By Region and United States,
## January - August 2003

### Livestock Slaughter

Agricultural Statistics Board

## Standards of Federal Regions

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## US ²

| Total ² | 63,829.0 | 61,566.0 | 2,097.1 | 165.9 | 1,845.2 | 92.5 | 1,752.7 |

*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- AK, ID, OR, & WA.

2 Totals may not add due to rounding.
### Federally Inspected Slaughter: By State and United States, August 2003

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1 Totals may not add due to rounding.
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.
### Federally Inspected Slaughter: By State and United States, August 2003

#### Hogs

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<th>Stags &amp; Boars</th>
<th>Total 1</th>
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<th>Lambs &amp; Yearlings</th>
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1 Totals may not add due to rounding.
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.
### Federally Inspected Slaughter: Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter by Species, United States

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### U.S. Monthly Commercial Red Meat Production

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>3000</td>
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</table>

- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Cattle

U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Calves
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Hogs

U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Sheep
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Average Live Weight

Cattle

Pounds

1280
1260
1240
1220
1200
1180
1160
1140

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

2001
2002
2003

U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter
Average Live Weight

Hogs

Pounds

272
270
268
266
264
262
260
258
256
254

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

2001
2002
2003
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected
Average Dressed Weight
Cattle

U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected
Average Dressed Weight
Hogs
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.

Slightly under 900 plants in the U.S. are operated under Federal Inspection and over 2,300 plants under State inspection. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Types of Plants, page 98). 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 10 percent and for hogs about 3 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. **Talmedge-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) X (1 - condemnation factor) X (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 five years; running about 1.90 head per 100 head for calves, .5 per 100 for cattle, .40 per 100 for hogs and .20 per 100 for sheep. The NFI meat production formula is (NFI head kill) X (live weight) X (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 slaughtering 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 8:30 a.m. on October 24, 2003.

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The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold a public forum for open exchange between Federal agricultural statistics agencies and data users on October 20, 2003. Agency representatives will provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and will seek comments from data users. The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board, as well as the U.S. Census Bureau’s Foreign Trade Division, will also participate in the forum.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users’ Forum, see the NASS homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/ or contact Karlyn McCutcheon of NASS at (202) 690-8141 or at karlyn_mccutcheon@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users’ Forum precedes an Industry Outlook Meeting that will be held at the same location on October 21, 2003. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For more information about the outlook meeting and to register for it, contact the Livestock Marketing Information Center at (720) 544-2941 or (720) 544-2940.