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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# Livestock Slaughter

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## Red Meat Production at Record High for December

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004.

**Beef production**, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2005 commercial red meat production** was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**December 2004** contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**December 2005** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**Commercial Red Meat Production: United States <sup>1</sup>**

Class	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 05 % of		Jan - Dec <sup>2</sup>		
				Dec 2004	Nov 2005	2004	2005	05 as % of 04
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Beef	2,042	2,071	2,057	101	99	24,547	24,692	101
Veal	14.9	12.4	13.5	91	109	166.8	155.8	93
Pork	1,857	1,843	1,866	100	101	20,511	20,682	101
Lamb & Mutton	17.0	15.8	16.5	97	104	194.0	187.2	96
<b>Total Red Meat</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,942</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45,418</b>	<b>45,717</b>	<b>101</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Federally Inspected Red Meat Production: United States <sup>1</sup>**

Class	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 05 % of		Jan - Dec <sup>2</sup>		
				Dec 2004	Nov 2005	2004	2005	05 as % of 04
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Beef	2,012	2,043	2,027	101	99	24,189	24,344	101
Veal	14.5	12.1	13.1	91	109	161.9	151.7	94
Pork	1,840	1,827	1,850	101	101	20,325	20,507	101
Lamb & Mutton	16.2	15.2	15.9	98	104	185.0	179.5	97
<b>Total Red Meat</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>3,897</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44,861</b>	<b>45,182</b>	<b>101</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Livestock Slaughter: Number and Average Weights, United States <sup>1</sup>**

Species	Unit	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 05 % of		Jan - Dec <sup>2</sup>		
					Dec 2004	Nov 2005	2004	2005	05 % of 04
					<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>			<i>Prcnt</i>
Cattle No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	2,641.8	2,623.0	2,619.4	99	100	32,155.5	31,831.9	99
Other	Thou	48.5	44.5	46.5	96	104	572.8	547.6	96
Comm'l. <sup>3</sup>	Thou	2,690.3	2,667.5	2,665.9	99	100	32,728.3	32,379.4	99
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	1,271	1,287	1,283	101	100	1,242	1,260	101
Other	Lbs	1,105	1,120	1,134	103	101	1,106	1,120	101
Comm'l.	Lbs	1,268	1,284	1,281	101	100	1,240	1,257	101
Calves No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	73.0	55.0	58.7	80	107	822.9	717.4	87
Other	Thou	1.6	1.4	1.4	88	101	19.5	16.9	87
Comm'l. <sup>3</sup>	Thou	74.6	56.3	60.1	81	107	842.4	734.3	87
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	332	364	367	110	100	329	352	107
Other	Lbs	413	407	430	104	106	417	409	98
Comm'l.	Lbs	334	365	370	111	101	330	353	107
Hogs No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	9,149.5	*9,037.9	9,137.6	100	101	102,360.8	102,508.1	100
Other	Thou	100.5	94.2	95.6	95	102	1,102.6	1,045.8	95
Comm'l. <sup>3</sup>	Thou	9,249.9	*9,132.1	9,233.3	100	101	103,463.4	103,553.9	100
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	270	272	272	101	100	267	269	101
Other	Lbs	229	237	227	99	96	231	232	100
Comm'l.	Lbs	270	272	272	101	100	267	269	101
Sheep&Lambs No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	228.6	213.0	218.9	96	103	2,676.3	2,554.4	95
Other	Thou	13.5	11.6	12.2	90	105	163.1	145.6	89
Comm'l. <sup>3</sup>	Thou	242.1	224.5	231.0	95	103	2,839.3	2,700.0	95
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	141	142	145	103	102	138	140	102
Other	Lbs	119	105	107	91	102	111	107	96
Comm'l.	Lbs	140	141	143	102	101	136	138	102

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes slaughter on farms.

<sup>2</sup> Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

<sup>3</sup> Totals may not equal sum of the parts due to rounding.

**Commercial Red Meat Production: By State and United States <sup>1</sup>**

State	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 05 as % of <sup>2</sup>	
				Dec 2004	Nov 2005
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	2.3	2.7	2.5	112	95
AK	0.1	0.1	0.1	78	42
AZ	29.4	33.6	34.1	116	101
AR	5.6	5.2	6.0	108	115
CA	130.2	129.9	134.6	103	104
CO	142.0	143.2	142.1	100	99
DE-MD	3.2	3.4	3.3	101	95
FL	5.3	4.6	4.4	82	95
GA	15.1	11.2	10.6	70	95
HI	0.9	0.8	0.9	97	109
ID	38.7	22.4	19.6	51	88
IL	241.4	243.9	238.2	99	98
IN	128.7	132.6	125.7	98	95
IA	575.3	584.1	585.4	102	100
KS	467.5	461.6	465.7	100	101
KY	41.2	42.1	42.3	103	100
LA	1.1	1.0	0.9	80	95
MI	33.3	33.7	35.7	107	106
MN	207.8	208.4	206.2	99	99
MS	21.5	26.6	24.2	113	91
MO	41.0	39.4	41.8	102	106
MT	1.4	1.4	1.4	100	102
NE	603.2	577.1	582.5	97	101
NV	0.1	0.1	0.1	88	47
N ENG <sup>3</sup>	1.2	1.3	1.2	97	88
NJ	4.8	4.2	4.3	90	103
NM	0.7	0.6	0.5	75	92
NY	3.6	3.6	3.7	104	105
NC	200.1	203.2	206.8	103	102
ND	2.9	2.6	2.8	97	109
OH	27.2	*23.6	25.1	92	106
OK	90.6	90.3	95.6	105	106
OR	3.5	3.9	3.8	111	99
PA	103.1	102.7	106.0	103	103
SC	21.0	22.2	20.8	99	94
SD	98.1	92.9	97.0	99	104
TN	22.1	21.0	22.5	101	107
TX	356.1	399.5	388.6	109	97
UT	33.4	44.5	42.3	127	95
VA	70.0	44.2	47.0	67	106
WA	44.1	63.2	64.7	147	102
WV	0.8	0.9	0.7	92	80
WI	110.1	108.5	110.3	100	102
WY	0.6	0.5	0.5	79	105
US	3,930.4	3,942.3	3,952.7	101	100

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

<sup>2</sup> Percentages based on unrounded data.

<sup>3</sup> N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

**Commercial Cattle Slaughter: By State and United States,  
December 2004 and 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AL	0.3	0.2	242	158	830	883
AK	0.1	0.1	102	89	1,205	1,161
AZ						
AR	1.0	0.9	876	795	915	900
CA	120.1	121.4	161,060	167,841	1,341	1,382
CO	168.2	162.9	215,580	215,751	1,282	1,325
DE-MD	3.5	3.6	4,500	4,733	1,283	1,319
FL						
GA	21.0	18.2	22,891	15,361	1,089	846
HI	0.8	0.9	813	880	1,047	1,030
ID	50.7	22.0	63,756	28,031	1,257	1,272
IL						
IN						
IA						
KS	587.0	573.5	741,918	728,973	1,264	1,271
KY	1.8	1.6	1,612	1,428	874	883
LA	1.1	0.8	1,020	755	930	913
MI	36.8	39.5	50,370	54,334	1,367	1,374
MN	66.4	61.2	92,630	84,156	1,394	1,374
MS						
MO						
MT	1.7	1.7	1,926	1,951	1,150	1,145
NE	594.2	567.3	785,272	742,215	1,322	1,308
NV						
N ENG <sup>2</sup>	1.3	1.3	1,316	1,245	990	989
NJ	2.4	2.2	2,938	2,710	1,243	1,211
NM	1.1	0.9	1,087	892	996	997
NY	4.2	2.8	4,735	3,164	1,133	1,129
NC	18.6	15.5	18,639	15,696	1,002	1,011
ND						
OH	8.2	8.1	9,051	9,080	1,110	1,115
OK	2.6	2.3	2,638	2,520	1,030	1,082
OR	1.5	1.7	1,802	2,150	1,189	1,266
PA	69.7	68.0	82,303	84,682	1,180	1,246
SC						
SD						
TN	1.4	1.4	1,294	1,301	921	901
TX	480.8	507.3	571,090	618,469	1,188	1,219
UT	44.1	53.2	52,337	66,295	1,188	1,247
VA	1.2	0.6	1,170	631	1,003	1,100
WA	56.2	80.3	71,463	105,784	1,271	1,317
WV	1.2	1.2	1,132	1,156	960	1,000
WI	133.3	132.1	177,806	179,886	1,334	1,362
WY	0.8	0.7	971	757	1,157	1,163
US <sup>3</sup>	2,690.3	2,665.9	3,410,332	3,413,978	1,268	1,281

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

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

<sup>3</sup> States with no data printed are still included in the US total, data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Calf Slaughter: By State and United States,  
December 2004 and 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AL						
AK						
AZ						
AR						
CA	7.8	4.9	1,084	905	139	186
CO						
DE-MD	0.1	0.2	38	59	321	367
FL						
GA	0.2	0.1	103	46	469	409
HI						
ID						
IL	6.5	4.2	2,938	1,782	454	429
IN	0.8	0.6	96	72	127	130
IA						
KS						
KY						
LA	0.6	0.4	300	201	491	499
MI	2.2	2.8	992	1,072	447	387
MN						
MS						
MO						
MT						
NE						
NV						
N ENG <sup>2</sup>	0.6	0.3	88	63	158	244
NJ	7.5	6.8	3,318	2,936	443	433
NM						
NY	11.3	10.6	979	2,280	86	216
NC	0.1	0.1	56	26	472	498
ND						
OH	6.4	3.7	2,559	1,477	402	399
OK		0.1		39		461
OR						
PA	16.4	12.7	5,959	5,413	363	425
SC						
SD						
TN	0.1	0.1	49	40	457	464
TX	1.2	1.0	759	569	623	579
UT						
VA						
WA						
WV						
WI	11.5	10.8	5,272	4,995	458	464
WY						
US <sup>3</sup>	74.6	60.1	24,883	22,249	334	370

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

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

<sup>3</sup> States with no data printed are still included in the US total, data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Hog Slaughter: By State and United States,  
December 2004 and 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AL	7.8	9.2	3,686	4,330	471	470
AK	0.1	0.1	18	16	186	255
AZ	0.4	0.3	45	32	109	110
AR	16.0	17.0	8,130	8,927	509	524
CA	221.6	235.9	54,625	57,104	246	242
CO	0.9	1.0	226	252	263	261
DE-MD	1.7	1.6	435	414	254	258
FL	13.1	10.7	2,190	1,162	167	109
GA	13.1	11.7	3,223	2,783	246	237
HI	3.0	2.4	596	516	202	218
ID	14.0	12.8	4,560	4,168	327	326
IL	829.4	837.1	229,808	234,043	277	280
IN	626.2	613.1	167,129	163,990	267	267
IA	2,669.6	2,675.3	725,856	732,449	272	274
KS						
KY	200.1	204.4	53,783	55,094	269	270
LA	2.7	2.4	423	401	159	164
MI	11.1	11.6	4,293	4,505	389	390
MN	813.3	821.5	215,078	218,598	264	266
MS						
MO						
MT	1.2	1.2	292	302	247	242
NE	626.0	639.2	168,690	174,396	269	273
NV						
N ENG <sup>2</sup>	2.3	2.2	474	458	203	205
NJ	13.4	11.9	1,263	1,071	95	90
NM	0.2	0.1	44	60	269	450
NY	3.1	2.9	794	638	253	223
NC	973.6	1,028.4	253,307	265,766	260	258
ND	13.5	13.0	3,242	3,213	240	248
OH	103.5	96.5	28,645	27,036	277	280
OK	421.5	433.1	118,230	124,576	281	288
OR	17.3	17.4	3,970	4,195	230	242
PA	286.1	285.6	69,256	70,702	242	248
SC						
SD	463.8	457.1	121,572	121,057	262	265
TN	65.5	66.9	31,883	32,292	487	483
TX	37.1	35.9	10,056	9,109	271	254
UT	3.8	4.1	854	937	226	230
VA	356.4	236.8	91,823	62,038	258	262
WA	1.9	2.0	484	508	254	253
WV	0.7	0.7	183	169	268	259
WI	39.1	38.9	17,523	17,251	449	444
WY	0.3	0.3	90	75	271	267
US <sup>3</sup>	9,249.9	9,233.3	2,496,228	2,510,190	270	272

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

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

<sup>3</sup> States with no data printed are still included in the US total, data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter: By State and United States,  
December 2004 and 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AL						
AK						
AZ	0.1	0.1	5	11	105	107
AR						
CA						
CO	90.7	88.9	14,108	14,317	155	161
DE-MD	3.2	2.8	326	298	102	105
FL	0.3	0.2	18	14	70	74
GA						
HI						
ID	0.3	0.3	38	35	122	128
IL	17.9	17.3	2,526	2,422	141	140
IN	2.4	2.2	262	235	109	109
IA	35.4	34.1	5,433	5,265	154	154
KS	0.2	0.2	23	18	105	103
KY	0.8	1.2	99	153	123	133
LA	0.1	0.1	7	7	82	84
MI	15.5	14.5	1,992	1,925	129	133
MN	0.3	0.4	36	44	123	127
MS						
MO	0.5	0.6	53	48	106	86
MT	0.4	0.4	43	42	118	117
NE	0.1	1.3	12	182	112	143
NV	0.1	0.1	6	7	108	108
N ENG <sup>2</sup>	2.1	2.7	190	244	92	90
NJ	9.9	9.4	811	784	82	84
NM	1.6	0.6	279	78	172	124
NY	3.3	3.5	249	305	77	86
NC	0.5	0.4	38	35	80	92
ND						
OH	0.7	0.8	82	89	114	105
OK						
OR	1.5	1.6	187	216	129	135
PA	5.6	4.4	487	406	87	92
SC						
SD	1.2	1.0	146	125	121	129
TN	0.7	0.9	53	70	77	79
TX	15.1	10.7	1,855	1,374	123	129
UT	2.4	2.6	325	363	135	137
VA	0.4	1.1	43	110	101	96
WA	0.2	0.2	37	26	157	138
WV						
WI	1.0	1.3	138	180	137	140
WY	0.2	0.1	27	15	132	140
US <sup>3</sup>	242.1	231.0	33,816	32,931	140	143

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

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

<sup>3</sup> States with no data printed are still included in the US total, data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Classification of Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection:  
United States**

Item	Dec	Nov	Dec	Jan - Dec <sup>1</sup>		Dec	Nov	Dec	Jan - Dec <sup>1</sup>	
	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>				
Class <sup>2</sup>										
Cattle										
Steers	1,289	1,336	1,351	16,192	16,796	48.8	50.9	51.6	50.4	52.8
Heifers	851	798	801	10,345	9,761	32.2	30.4	30.6	32.2	30.7
All Cows	462	448	430	5,069	4,776	17.5	17.1	16.4	15.7	15.0
Dairy Cows	225	208	200	2,363	2,252	8.5	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.1
Other Cows	237	240	230	2,706	2,524	9.0	9.2	8.8	8.4	7.9
Bulls & Stags	40	40	37	550	498	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6
Total <sup>1</sup>	2,642	2,623	2,619	32,156	31,832	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows & Gilts	8,848	8,748	8,847	98,831	99,114	96.7	96.8	96.8	96.6	96.7
Sows	276	265	266	3,271	3,114	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.0
Stags & Boars	26	24	24	259	280	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total <sup>1</sup>	9,149	9,038	9,138	102,361	102,508	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature Sheep	11	10	11	147	129	4.7	4.6	4.8	5.5	5.1
Lambs & Yrlngs	218	203	208	2,529	2,425	95.3	95.4	95.2	94.5	94.9
Total <sup>1</sup>	229	213	219	2,676	2,554	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Dressed Weight <sup>3</sup>										
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>					
Cattle	766	783	778	756	769					
Steers <sup>4</sup>	818	840	829	806	817					
Heifers <sup>4</sup>	758	775	769	740	750					
All Cows <sup>4</sup>	623	617	622	614	624					
Bulls & Stags <sup>4</sup>	876	893	901	893	906					
Calves & Vealers	203	226	227	201	216					
Hogs	202	203	203	199	201					
Barrow Gilts <sup>5</sup>	198	200	200	196	197					
Sows <sup>5</sup>	312	311	312	313	310					
Stags & Boars <sup>5</sup>	215	211	216	220	213					
Sheep	71	*72	73	69	70					
Mature Sheep <sup>6</sup>	65	69	68	66	69					
Lamb & Yrlngs <sup>6</sup>	71	72	73	69	71					

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Total and percentages based on unrounded data.

<sup>2</sup> Species totals and classification reported by meat inspectors, Inspection Operations, FSIS.

<sup>3</sup> Based on packer reports.

<sup>4</sup> Included in cattle average dressed weight.

<sup>5</sup> Included in hog average dressed weight.

<sup>6</sup> Included in sheep average dressed weight.

**Federally Inspected Slaughter: By Region and United States,  
December 2005<sup>1</sup>**

Standard Federal Regions	Cattle							Calves
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls & Stags	Total
				All	Dairy	Other		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
1	1.0	0.4	0.2					0.2
2	4.8	1.7	0.4	2.4	2.3	0.1	0.3	17.3
3	71.0	29.2		34.5	27.9	6.6		12.9
4	52.9	0.9	0.3	46.0	11.3	34.7	5.7	
5	302.6	124.6	38.6	131.8	67.1	64.7	7.6	21.8
6	506.5	281.3	154.1	61.8	10.2	51.6	9.4	0.7
7	1,187.6	663.6	462.9	53.9	1.7	52.2	7.2	
8	225.8	117.9						
9	164.3	78.1	7.8	75.2	65.8	9.3	3.3	4.6
10	102.8	53.6	38.5	10.2	8.0	2.2	0.5	
US <sup>2</sup>	2,619.4	1,351.4	800.5	430.1	199.6	230.5	37.4	58.7
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total <sup>2</sup>	Mature Sheep	Lambs & Yearlings	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	
1	1.9	1.8						
2	14.5	14.3	0.2	0.1	11.9	1.8	10.1	
3	523.0	521.4	1.5		8.2	0.3	7.9	
4	1,496.5	1,403.8	91.0	1.6	2.7	1.1	1.6	
5	2,384.8	2,283.5	98.3	3.0	31.6	4.0	27.7	
6	480.7	453.8	26.8	0.1	9.0	0.4	8.6	
7	3,505.8	3,441.3			35.9	0.6	35.3	
8	471.5	468.7	2.8		92.0	1.8	90.2	
9	227.9	227.8						
10	31.1	31.0	0.1		1.7	0.1	1.6	
US <sup>2</sup>	9,137.6	8,847.5	266.1	24.1	218.9	10.6	208.3	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Federally Inspected Slaughter: By Region and United States,  
January - December 2005 \* <sup>1</sup>**

Standard Federal Regions	Cattle							Calves
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls & Stags	Total
				All	Dairy	Other		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
1	11.1	4.5	2.1					5.1
2	61.2	19.8	3.4	34.3	32.5	1.8	3.7	184.3
3	871.5	376.7		397.5	321.2	76.3		154.6
4	665.4	12.1	3.5	560.7	125.4	435.3	89.2	
5	3,337.0	1,424.2	425.0	1,399.8	738.7	661.1	88.0	269.3
6	6,232.8	3,411.6	1,994.9	707.1	143.6	563.5	119.2	8.3
7	14,877.6	8,533.4	5,693.3	564.0	33.9	530.1	86.9	0.4
8	2,782.2	1,467.0						
9	1,823.7	915.4	82.7	785.8	691.7	94.1	39.8	82.9
10	1,169.3	631.8	335.7	181.9	113.9	68.0	20.0	
US <sup>2</sup>	31,831.9	16,796.5	9,761.2	4,775.7	2,252.1	2,523.6	498.4	717.4
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total <sup>2</sup>	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total <sup>2</sup>	Mature Sheep	Lambs & Yearlings	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	
1	16.7	16.1	0.3	0.3				
2	143.8	140.4	1.9	1.5	140.6	17.9	122.7	
3	6,213.5	6,197.3	15.7	0.5	102.8	5.8	97.0	
4	16,491.8	15,541.5	932.1	18.2	35.6	14.4	21.2	
5	27,084.5	25,797.5	1,254.9	32.0	374.6	55.0	319.6	
6	5,450.4	5,190.1	259.2	1.0	51.1	1.3	49.7	
7	39,272.3	38,453.1			420.5	3.7	416.8	
8	4,955.8	4,900.4	55.3	0.1	1,053.8	20.9	1,032.9	
9	2,520.5	2,519.4						
10	358.9	357.8	0.9	0.2	20.6	1.3	19.3	
US <sup>2</sup>	102,508.1	99,113.7	3,114.3	280.0	2,554.4	129.3	2,425.1	

\* Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

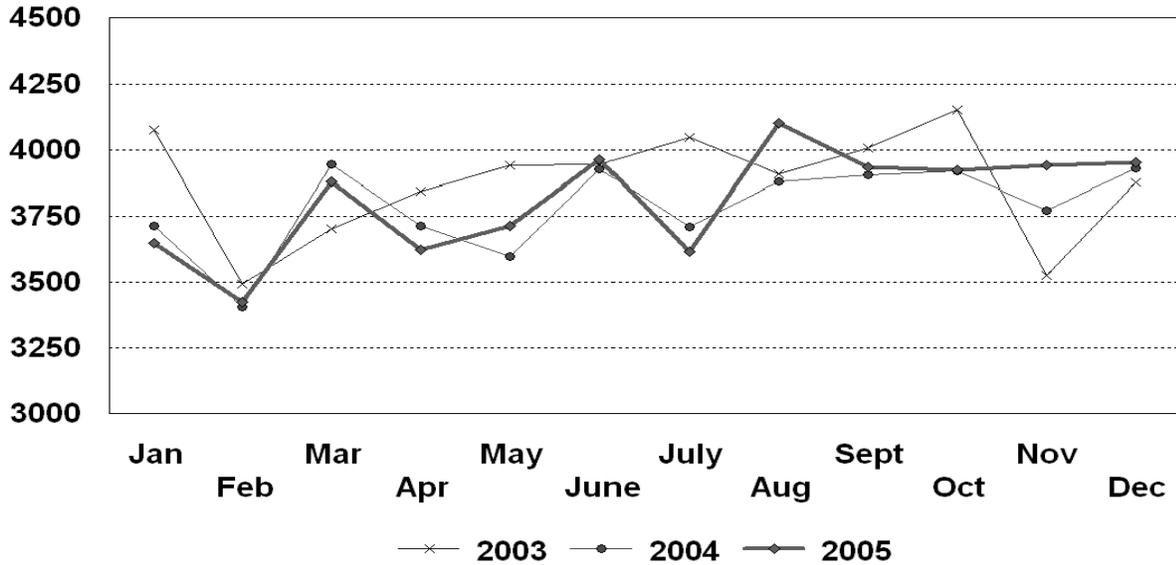
<sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Federally Inspected Slaughter: Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter by Species, United States**

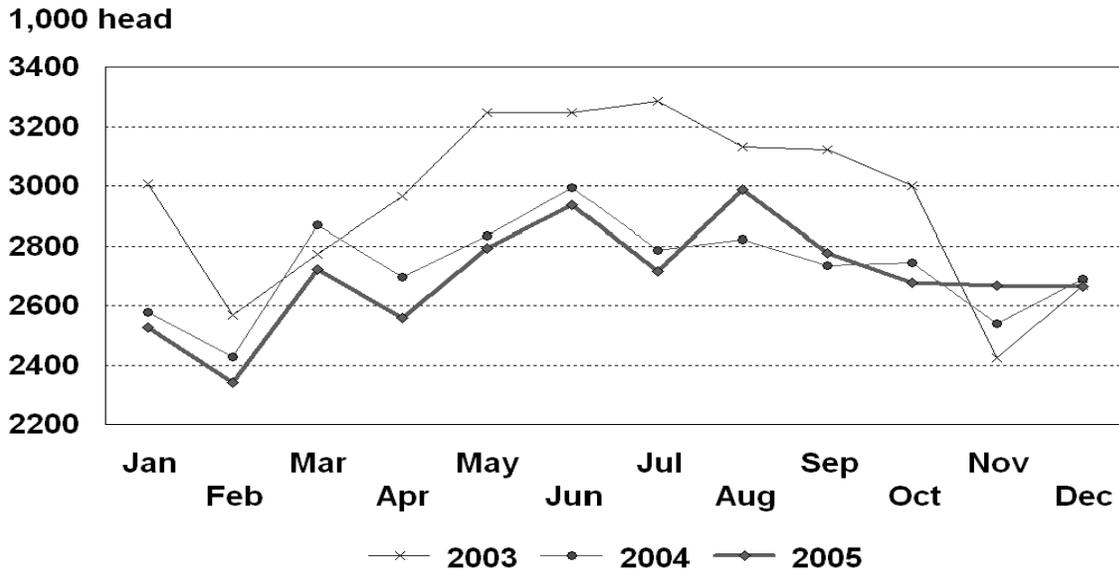
Species	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Jan - Dec	
				2004	2005
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle	98.2	98.3	98.3	98.2	98.3
Calves	97.9	97.6	97.7	97.7	97.7
Hogs	98.9	99.0	99.0	98.9	99.0
Sheep	94.4	94.9	94.7	94.3	94.6

## U.S. Monthly Commercial Red Meat Production

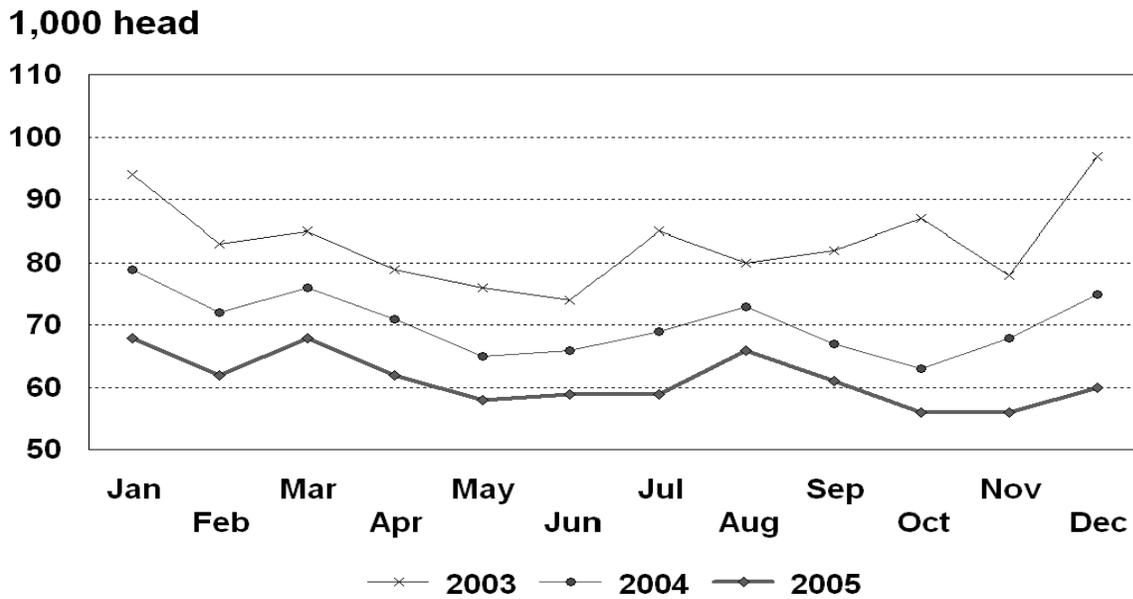
Million Pounds



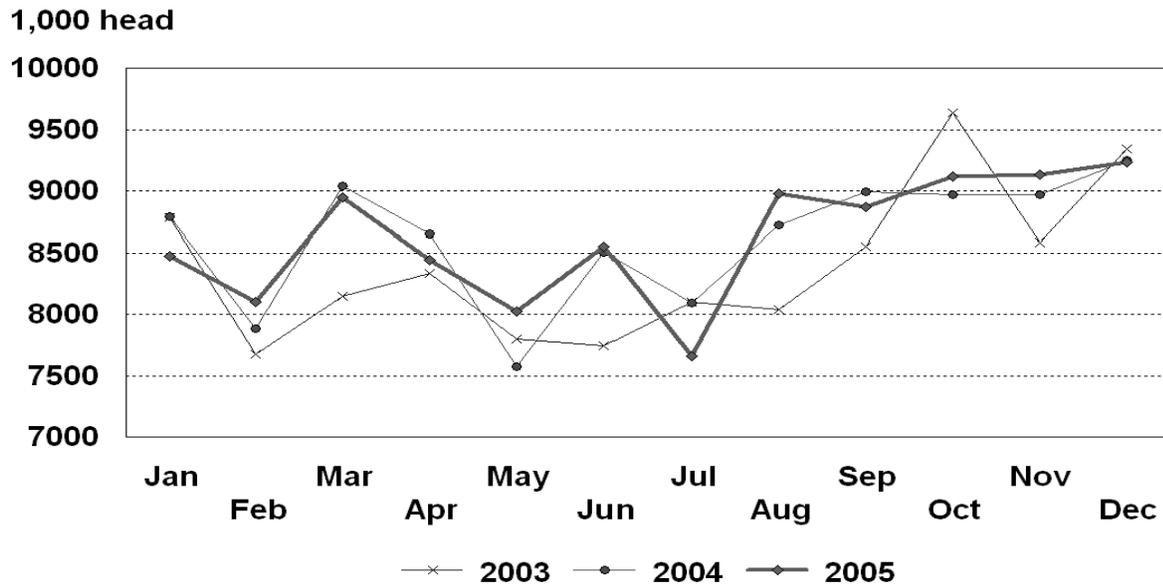
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Cattle



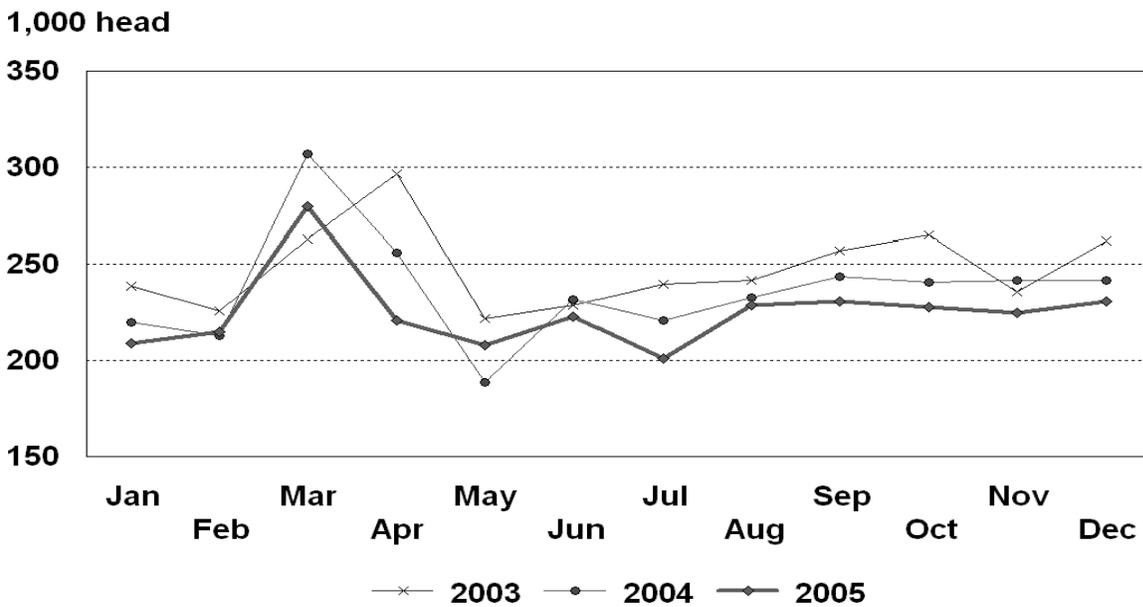
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Calves



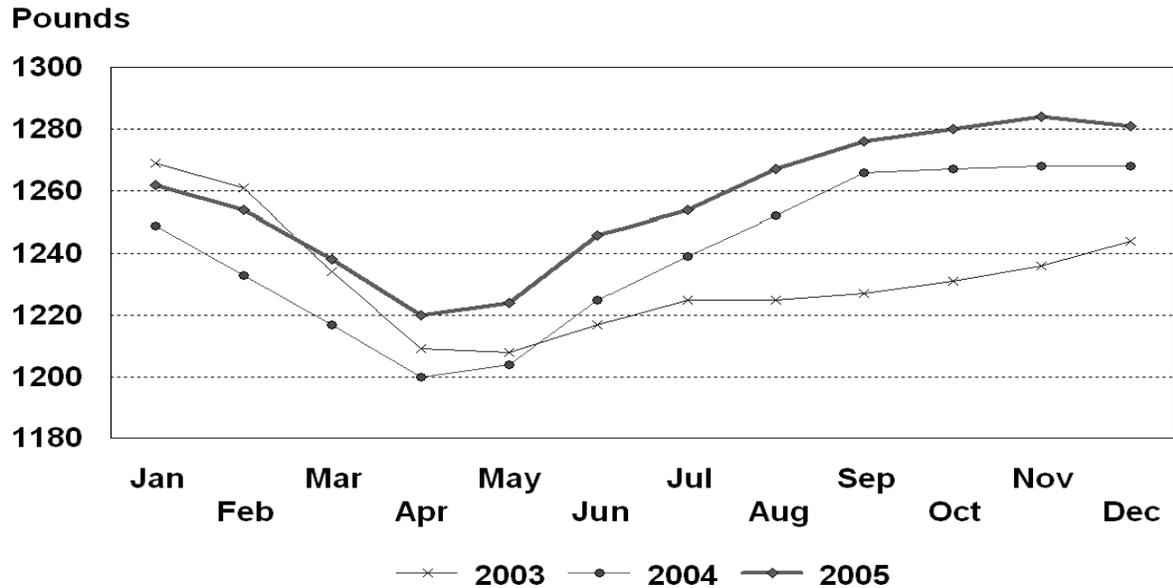
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Hogs



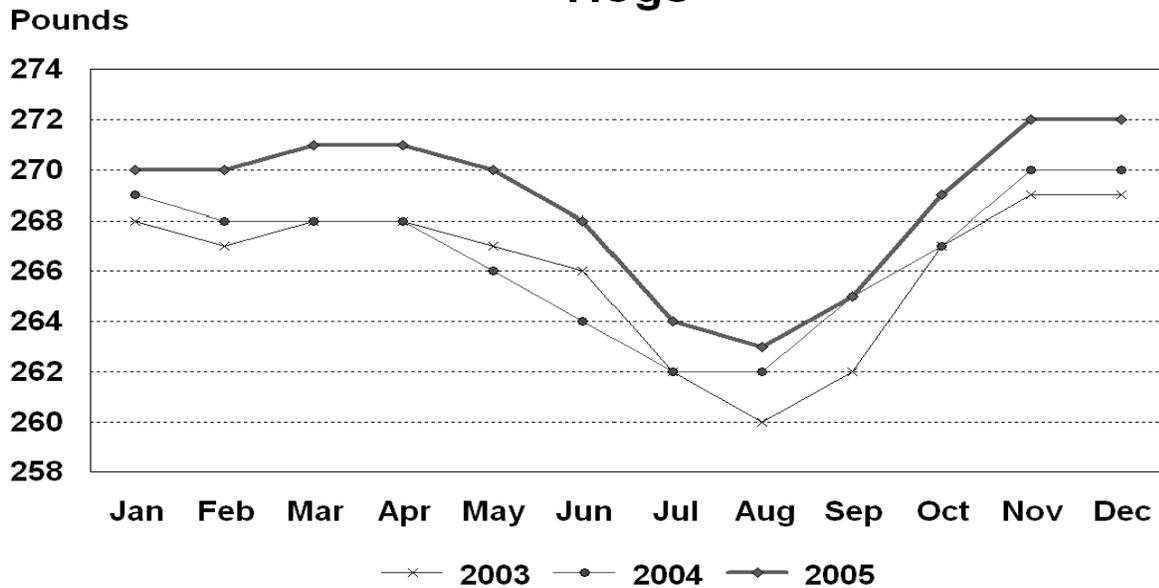
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Sheep



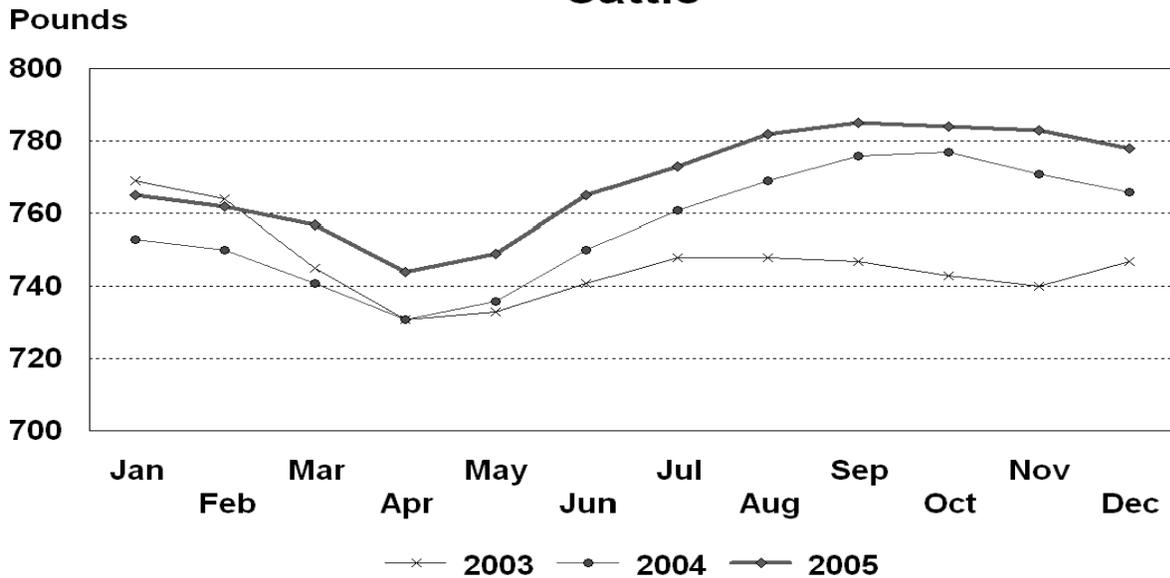
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Average Live Weight Cattle



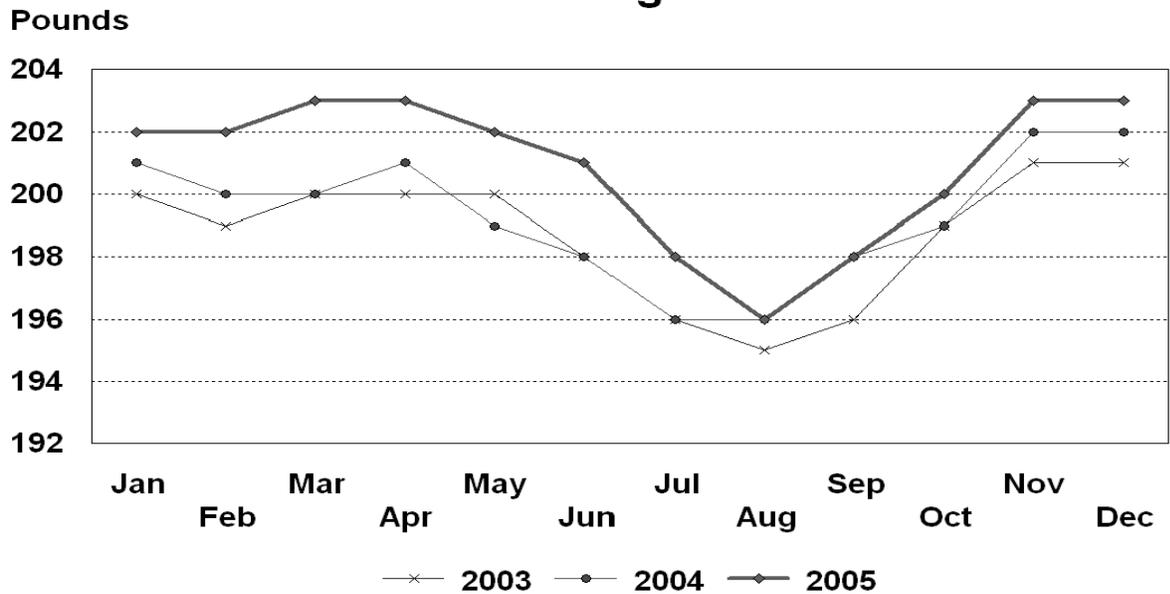
# U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Average Live Weight Hogs



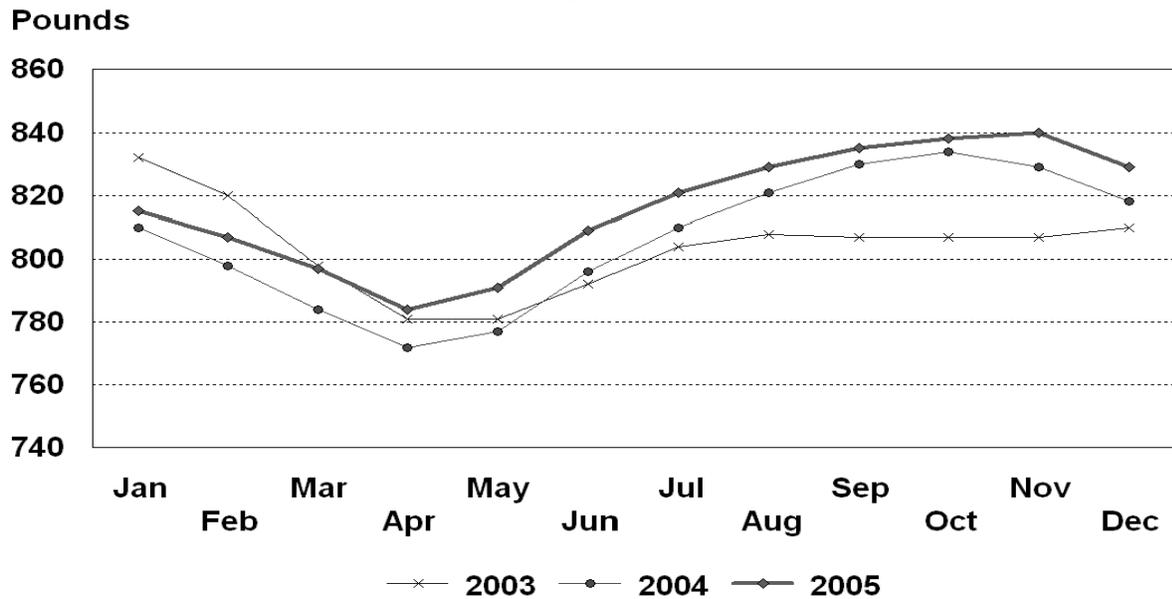
## U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Cattle



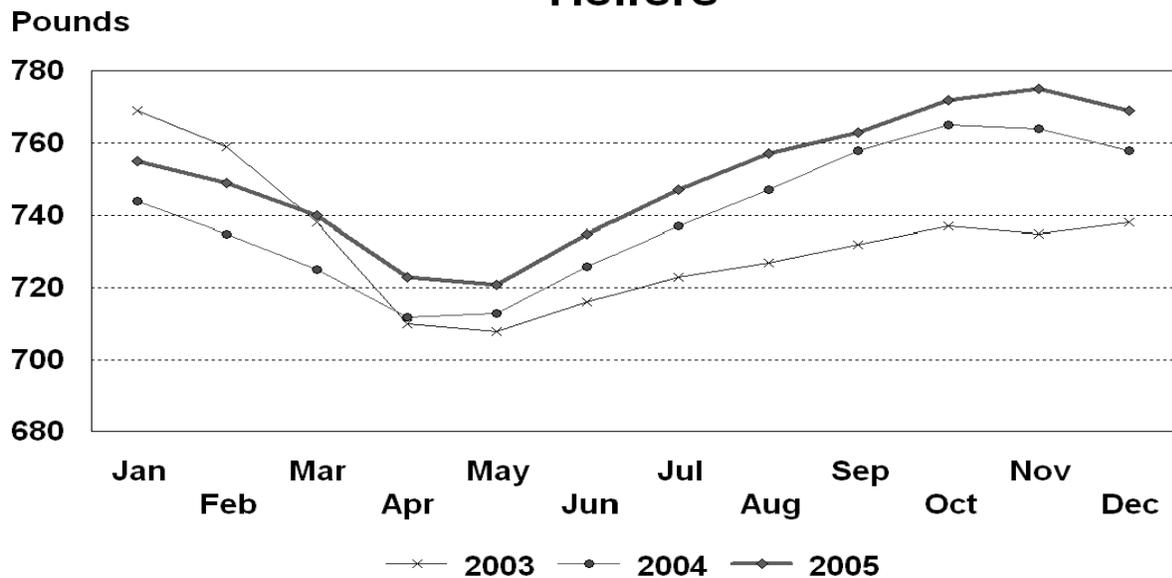
## U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Hogs



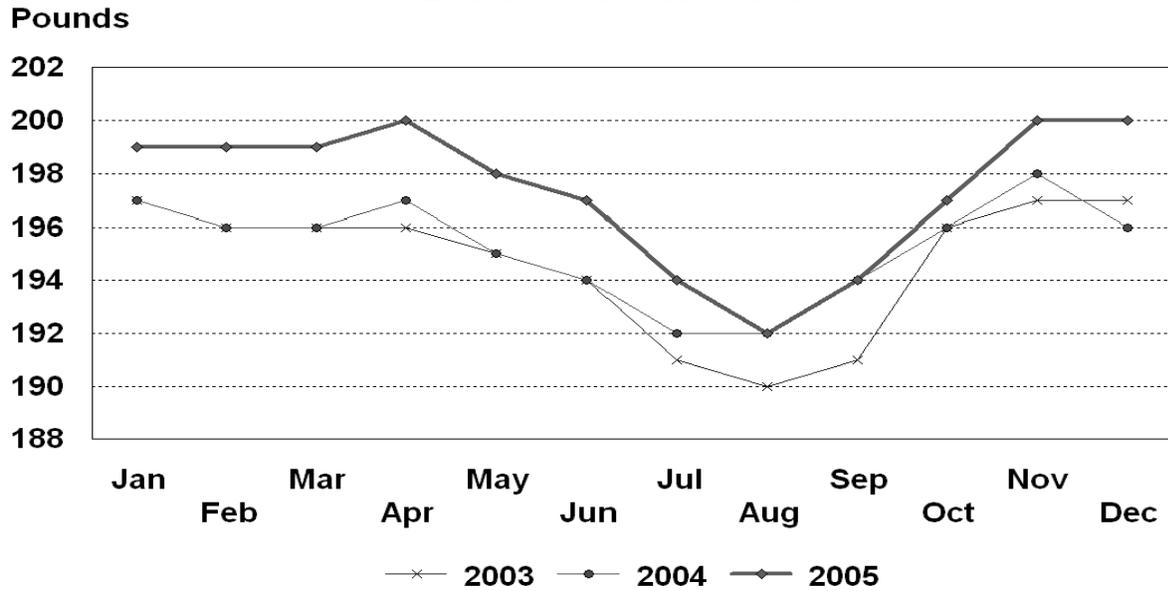
## U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Steers



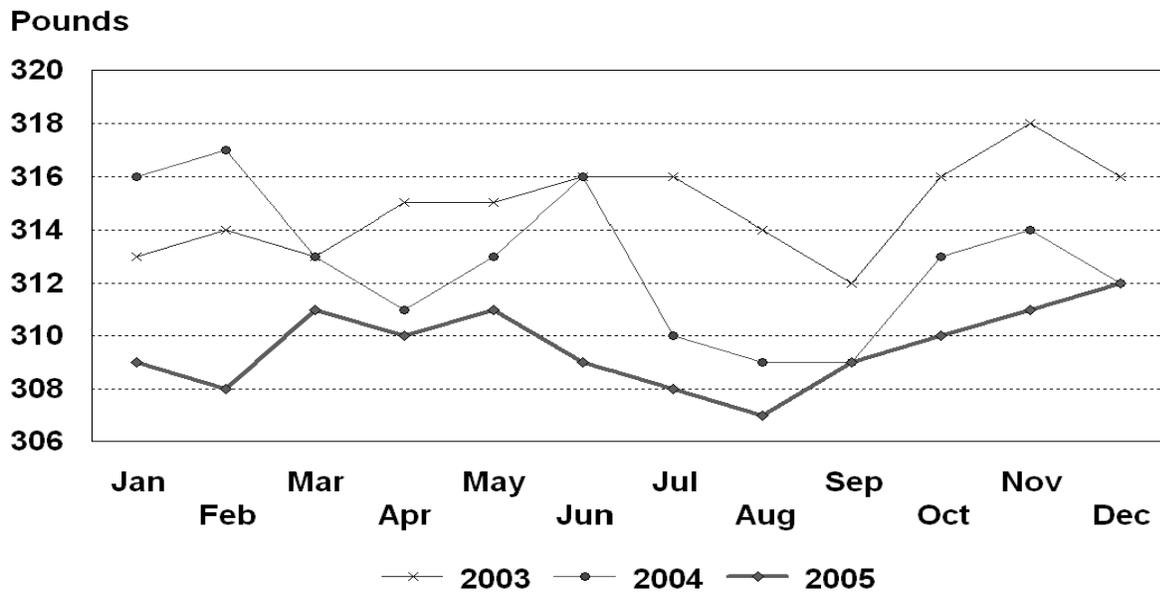
## U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Heifers



## 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. Number of head slaughtered daily under FI are recorded on the LS-149 forms by species and class. Head kill excluding animals condemned and total live and dressed weights are also given.

There are 850 plants in the U.S. operating under Federal Inspection and over 2,200 plants under State inspection. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Types of Plants, page 20). 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 LS-149 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.

If no form is received by mail or other means, data for plants slaughtering fewer than 50 total head weekly of only one species are imputed. Imputation of live and dressed weights may also be necessary on partially completed forms for any plant. The imputation is also based on the 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 usually less than 10 percent and for hogs about 7 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 weights 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 species 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.

No data are published when an individual plant's data could be divulged. If not published, these data are included in US totals. A review of the data is made annually to determine the publishable data.

### **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:** 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  $(\text{FI head kill}) \times (1 - \text{condemnation factor}) \times (\text{average dressed weight}) = \text{FI red meat production}$ . 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  $(\text{NFI head kill}) \times (\text{live weight}) \times (\text{FI dressing percentage}) = \text{NFI red meat production}$ .

**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. Meat that is transported interstate must be inspected in compliance with Federal (USDA) Standards.

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