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Livestock Slaughter

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Red Meat Production at Record High for March

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,200 head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was 42 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249,700 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2006 commercial red meat production was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

March 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

March 2006 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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Commercial Red Meat Production: United States ¹

Class	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Mar 06 % of		Jan - Mar ²		
				Mar 2005	Feb 2006	2005	2006	06 as % of 05
	<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	1,825	2,209	108	121	5,725	6,078	106
Veal	13.3	11.7	13.3	100	114	38.6	37.5	97
Pork	1,804	1,633	1,871	104	115	5,138	5,321	104
Lamb & Mutton	19.5	14.7	18.2	94	124	49.0	49.1	100
Total Red Meat	3,878	3,484	4,112	106	118	10,950	11,486	105

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

Class	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Mar 06 % of		Jan - Mar ²		
				Mar 2005	Feb 2006	2005	2006	06 as % of 05
	<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	2,010	1,796	2,179	108	121	5,633	5,987	106
Veal	12.9	11.4	13.0	100	114	37.6	36.6	97
Pork	1,788	1,620	1,856	104	115	5,095	5,279	104
Lamb & Mutton	18.8	14.1	17.7	94	125	47.1	47.2	100
Total Red Meat	3,830	3,441	4,066	106	118	10,813	11,350	105

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

Species	Unit	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Mar 06 % of		Jan - Mar ²		
					Mar 2005	Feb 2006	2005	2006	06 % of 05
					<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>			<i>Prcnt</i>
Cattle No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	2,675.4	*2,301.3	2,806.1	105	122	7,449.5	7,698.7	103
Other	Thou	49.7	44.6	46.3	93	104	146.6	141.3	96
Comm'l. ³	Thou	2,725.1	2,345.9	2,852.4	105	122	7,596.1	7,840.1	103
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	1,239	1,286	1,275	103	99	1,254	1,282	102
Other	Lbs	1,109	1,128	1,140	103	101	1,108	1,131	102
Comm'l.	Lbs	1,237	1,283	1,273	103	99	1,250	1,279	102
Calves No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	66.5	51.9	57.9	87	112	193.3	164.3	85
Other	Thou	1.5	1.1	1.3	84	117	4.3	3.5	83
Comm'l. ³	Thou	68.0	53.0	59.2	87	112	197.5	167.9	85
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	327	361	368	112	102	327	366	112
Other	Lbs	384	408	417	108	102	395	413	105
Comm'l.	Lbs	328	362	370	113	102	328	367	112
Hogs No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	8,857.7	7,977.8	9,148.0	103	115	25,290.8	25,959.9	103
Other	Thou	92.0	76.9	86.2	94	112	247.0	244.7	99
Comm'l. ³	Thou	8,949.7	8,054.7	9,234.1	103	115	25,537.8	26,204.6	103
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	271	272	272	100	100	270	273	101
Other	Lbs	239	237	240	100	101	237	238	100
Comm'l.	Lbs	271	272	272	100	100	270	272	101
Sheep&Lambs No.									
Fed. Insp.	Thou	268.1	*192.6	239.6	89	124	667.3	641.4	96
Other	Thou	12.0	9.8	10.1	84	102	36.3	34.5	95
Comm'l. ³	Thou	280.1	202.5	249.7	89	123	703.7	675.9	96
Live Wt/Hd									
Fed. Insp.	Lbs	140	146	147	105	101	141	147	104
Other	Lbs	113	117	111	98	94	107	112	105
Comm'l.	Lbs	139	145	145	105	100	139	145	104

* 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.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By State and United States ¹

State	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Mar 06 as % of ²	
				Mar 2005	Feb 2006
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	2.9	2.6	2.8	98	107
AK		0.1			
AZ	30.0	27.6	35.4	118	128
AR	4.9	4.2	5.1	102	122
CA	126.2	*115.9	144.1	114	124
CO	141.9	137.9	150.9	106	109
DE-MD	3.3	2.9	3.5	104	120
FL	4.7	*4.7	5.3	113	113
GA	11.3	9.5	11.2	100	119
HI	0.8	0.7	0.9	110	118
ID	28.7	24.0	28.7	100	120
IL	230.9	211.1	244.7	106	116
IN	126.7	115.1	136.1	107	118
IA	566.3	513.9	577.2	102	112
KS	482.5	413.5	532.1	110	129
KY	39.6	37.2	44.2	112	119
LA	1.3	0.8	0.8	60	99
MI	33.2	30.7	36.5	110	119
MN	191.6	180.0	209.4	109	116
MS	25.4	24.0	28.1	111	117
MO	43.1	55.6	70.1	163	126
MT	1.1	1.3	1.2	108	92
NE	595.0	525.7	578.1	97	110
NV	0.1	0.1	0.1	93	136
N ENG ³	0.9	0.9	0.9	101	106
NJ	4.1	3.8	4.3	103	114
NM	0.6	0.5	0.4	73	91
NY	3.0	2.6	3.3	111	127
NC	201.6	*175.5	202.6	100	115
ND	3.1	2.8	3.2	101	113
OH	24.8	21.1	24.8	100	117
OK	93.8	82.0	94.7	101	115
OR	3.8	3.7	4.0	105	109
PA	97.2	92.5	110.1	113	119
SC	21.4	19.4	21.7	102	112
SD	85.0	85.1	81.9	96	96
TN	19.2	15.3	18.2	95	119
TX	380.4	316.6	430.7	113	136
UT	35.6	39.1	44.5	125	114
VA	60.8	34.3	40.7	67	119
WA	44.3	57.1	66.3	150	116
WV	0.4	0.4	0.4	100	113
WI	105.7	92.2	111.9	106	121
WY	0.6	0.5	0.4	80	88
US	3,878.1	*3,483.9	4,111.7	106	118

* Revised.

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,
March 2005 and 2006 ¹**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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	0.6	0.5	600	427	933	946
AK		0.1		69		1,156
AZ						
AR	0.9	1.2	768	1,185	886	970
CA	117.3	130.1	151,807	182,914	1,294	1,406
CO	167.0	173.2	209,239	225,280	1,253	1,301
DE-MD	3.8	3.9	4,981	5,118	1,295	1,329
FL						
GA	19.4	19.7	16,664	16,734	861	850
HI	0.8	1.0	855	1,032	1,067	1,080
ID	35.6	33.2	45,766	42,082	1,285	1,267
IL						
IN	3.3	3.0	3,474	3,132	1,044	1,044
IA						
KS	626.6	662.5	755,621	823,676	1,206	1,243
KY	1.7	1.5	1,492	1,380	885	931
LA	1.4	0.7	1,258	550	896	805
MI	37.1	40.4	50,544	55,842	1,364	1,384
MN	53.8	56.0	77,566	80,734	1,442	1,441
MS		0.1		96		852
MO	7.8	7.2	10,049	9,550	1,290	1,324
MT	1.4	1.5	1,589	1,724	1,165	1,159
NE	595.9	557.5	762,854	735,190	1,280	1,319
NV	0.1	0.1	119	125	1,206	1,209
N ENG ²	1.0	1.0	1,062	1,045	1,039	1,042
NJ	2.2	2.3	2,715	2,711	1,238	1,201
NM	0.9	0.8	942	764	1,003	976
NY	3.3	2.4	3,850	2,882	1,172	1,188
NC	17.5	15.9	17,551	16,709	1,005	1,048
ND	1.2	1.0	1,417	1,171	1,191	1,230
OH	8.2	9.1	9,393	10,169	1,140	1,121
OK	2.5	2.8	2,767	3,242	1,094	1,143
OR	1.5	1.9	1,806	2,327	1,222	1,207
PA	68.6	77.1	83,239	97,258	1,213	1,261
SC		13.3		15,489		1,161
SD						
TN	1.3	1.4	1,216	1,306	935	942
TX	515.4	567.6	603,905	684,550	1,172	1,206
UT	47.3	57.2	55,777	70,106	1,179	1,227
VA	1.1	1.0	1,056	1,038	1,005	1,056
WA	57.5	83.9	71,012	107,810	1,236	1,285
WV	0.7	0.5	622	589	951	1,078
WI	122.0	130.1	166,235	177,848	1,363	1,368
WY	0.7	0.5	783	609	1,153	1,190
US ³	2,725.1	2,852.4	3,369,749	3,630,357	1,237	1,273

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. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Calf Slaughter: By State and United States,
March 2005 and 2006 ¹**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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	9.6	7.1	1,212	1,125	127	158
CO						
DE-MD	0.1	0.2	22	50	298	323
FL						
GA	0.1	0.1	54	57	543	446
HI						
ID						
IL	7.1	3.6	3,054	1,528	432	426
IN	0.2	0.2	27	30	143	125
IA						
KS						
KY						
LA	0.3	0.4	173	202	502	494
MI	1.9	3.0	788	1,130	414	372
MN						
MS						
MO						
MT						
NE						
NV						
N ENG ²	0.6	0.3	84	71	152	265
NJ	6.2	7.4	2,753	3,199	442	432
NM						
NY	10.4	8.5	925	1,878	89	221
NC						
ND						
OH	4.5	0.1	1,785	20	400	350
OK	0.2	0.1	68	40	418	438
OR						
PA	13.8	15.3	5,387	6,605	391	432
SC						
SD						
TN	0.1	0.1	74	36	507	431
TX	0.9	0.7	485	416	567	591
UT						
VA						
WA						
WV						
WI	11.3	11.1	5,154	5,111	456	460
WY						
US ³	68.0	59.2	22,300	21,886	328	370

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. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Hog Slaughter: By State and United States,
March 2005 and 2006 ¹**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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	9.4	9.6	4,412	4,461	467	467
AK						
AZ	0.4	0.3	82	70	197	225
AR	14.3	13.6	7,196	7,047	502	516
CA	219.8	231.2	54,086	57,167	246	247
CO	0.9	1.0	265	277	286	274
DE-MD	1.3	1.3	328	341	255	261
FL	7.3	7.5	1,058	1,053	146	141
GA	11.0	10.7	2,601	2,497	237	234
HI	2.0	1.8	416	395	206	221
ID	12.3	14.1	4,031	4,637	328	329
IL	808.4	855.1	224,670	241,468	278	282
IN	615.8	664.1	164,721	176,914	267	266
IA	2,573.7	2,626.7	701,934	718,609	273	274
KS		25.1		10,119		403
KY	191.9	214.2	51,531	57,783	269	270
LA	2.5	1.9	519	396	209	210
MI	9.9	9.6	3,704	3,641	374	381
MN	764.9	837.5	203,593	222,594	266	266
MS						
MO						
MT	1.0	1.0	255	258	261	249
NE	629.5	611.0	169,835	165,215	270	270
NV						
N ENG ²	1.3	1.1	251	255	200	222
NJ	9.1	8.6	942	884	103	103
NM	0.1	0.1	46	23	311	279
NY	2.2	3.1	507	732	228	236
NC	988.8	1,010.0	255,582	257,746	258	255
ND	14.8	14.9	3,495	3,701	236	249
OH	94.9	99.0	25,932	27,033	273	273
OK	431.7	434.3	122,568	122,271	284	282
OR	17.5	16.9	4,359	4,297	249	254
PA	248.0	265.0	60,948	65,291	246	246
SC						
SD	402.5	377.0	105,862	101,009	263	268
TN	58.0	54.2	27,797	26,256	479	484
TX	35.9	33.7	9,136	8,237	255	244
UT	4.0	3.3	988	799	249	240
VA	307.5	202.6	79,630	53,027	259	262
WA	2.0	1.9	511	479	253	255
WV	0.5	0.4	121	124	245	290
WI	45.6	45.2	20,463	20,601	449	456
WY	0.5	0.4	119	109	254	269
US ³	8,949.7	9,234.1	2,423,674	2,510,925	271	272

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. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

**Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter: By State and United States,
March 2005 and 2006 ¹**

State	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<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	0.2	0.1	30	15	129	106
AR		0.1		8		122
CA						
CO	109.6	101.9	16,985	16,155	155	159
DE-MD	2.8	2.9	302	305	107	105
FL	0.2	0.2	16	13	68	63
GA	0.1	0.2	16	25	136	127
HI						
ID	0.2	0.2	28	27	122	121
IL	19.8	15.2	2,729	2,266	138	149
IN	2.3	1.6	247	178	107	110
IA	47.5	41.5	7,055	6,530	149	158
KS	0.2	0.2	19	28	91	117
KY	1.1	0.8	141	110	126	136
LA	0.2	0.2	22	18	104	105
MI	17.0	16.5	2,182	2,303	128	140
MN	0.2	0.1	26	18	116	127
MS						
MO	0.6	0.3	47	31	82	93
MT	0.3	0.2	23	27	89	120
NE	0.1	0.5	8	69	121	147
NV						
N ENG ²	2.5	2.2	208	234	83	107
NJ	11.0	7.8	832	644	76	83
NM	1.8	0.8	223	98	125	122
NY	5.8	2.5	427	203	74	81
NC	0.4	0.4	29	33	79	88
ND						
OH	0.9	0.8	88	79	103	104
OK	0.1	0.2	7	20	126	130
OR	2.0	1.5	300	221	148	148
PA	6.6	4.2	629	412	95	98
SC						
SD	1.0	1.3	123	172	122	128
TN	0.7	0.9	63	70	88	75
TX	2.6	10.9	333	1,467	129	134
UT	3.0	2.8	400	386	135	140
VA	1.0	0.9	94	91	95	101
WA	0.2	0.1	25	7	116	133
WV						
WI	0.6	0.6	83	89	129	140
WY	0.1	0.1	12	14	137	127
US ³	280.1	249.7	38,819	36,327	139	145

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. Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

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

Item	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Jan - Mar ¹		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Jan - Mar ¹	
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total	Percent of Total
Class ²										
Cattle										
Steers	1,367	1,166	1,458	3,722	3,945	51.1	50.7	52.0	50.0	51.2
Heifers	871	733	878	2,389	2,390	32.6	31.9	31.3	32.1	31.0
All Cows	396	365	428	1,215	1,240	14.8	15.8	15.3	16.3	16.1
Dairy Cows	199	171	207	601	579	7.4	7.4	7.4	8.1	7.5
Other Cows	197	194	221	614	661	7.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	8.6
Bulls & Stags	42	37	43	124	123	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6
Total ¹	2,675	2,301	2,806	7,450	7,699	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows & Gilts	8,556	7,720	8,836	24,450	25,107	96.6	96.8	96.6	96.7	96.7
Sows	278	237	286	775	782	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
Stags & Boars	24	21	25	66	71	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total ¹	8,858	7,978	9,148	25,291	25,960	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature Sheep	11	8	9	30	26	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.1
Lambs & Yrlngs	257	185	230	637	615	96.0	96.0	96.0	95.5	95.9
Total ¹	268	193	240	667	641	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Dressed Weight ³										
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>					
Cattle										
Steers ⁴	756	784	780	761	781					
Heifers ⁴	797	828	823	807	827					
All Cows ⁴	740	774	768	748	770					
Bulls & Stags ⁴	629	*643	640	628	639					
Calves & Vealers	906	936	929	912	929					
Hogs										
Barrow Gilts ⁵	199	222	225	199	225					
Sows ⁵	203	203	203	202	204					
Stags & Boars ⁵	199	200	200	199	200					
Sheep										
Mature Sheep ⁶	311	313	311	309	311					
Lamb & Yrlngs ⁶	208	221	217	210	218					
	70	73	74	71	74					
	68	68	68	68	68					
	70	74	74	71	74					

* 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,
March 2006¹**

Standard Federal Regions	Cattle							Calves
	Total ²	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	0.9	0.3	0.2					0.3
2	4.6	1.6	0.3	2.5	2.3	0.1	0.2	15.9
3	79.6	36.3	6.6	34.5	28.7	5.7	2.3	15.5
4	57.6	1.2	0.4	47.9	11.2	36.8	8.0	
5	299.4	128.7	38.3	124.0	69.4	54.7	8.4	17.9
6	566.8	313.8	175.4	67.4	11.3	56.1	10.2	0.6
7	1,266.2	722.3	486.0	50.5	1.5	49.0	7.5	
8	239.2	107.4	116.4					
9	174.0	86.7	6.4	77.0	69.5	7.6	3.8	6.9
10	117.9	60.2	47.5	9.7	7.5	2.2	0.6	
US ²	2,806.1	1,458.2	877.6	427.1	206.6	220.5	43.2	57.9
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total ²	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total ²	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	1.0	0.9						
2	11.5	11.3	0.2		9.6	1.3	8.3	
3	467.2	466.0	1.2		7.8	0.3	7.5	
4	1,493.9	1,410.3	82.4	1.2	2.6	0.9	1.6	
5	2,479.6	2,360.7	115.5	3.4	31.7	3.2	28.5	
6	472.6	449.5	22.9	0.1	9.0	0.4	8.6	
7	3,570.7	3,491.8			42.1	0.7	41.4	
8	393.2	387.5	5.6		105.6	2.0	103.5	
9	226.7	226.6						
10	31.6	31.5	0.1		1.5	0.1	1.4	
US ²	9,148.0	8,836.2	286.4	25.4	239.6	9.5	230.1	

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 - March 2006 * ¹**

Standard Federal Regions	Cattle							Calves
	Total ²	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	2.7	1.0	0.6					0.8
2	13.6	4.7	0.9	7.3	7.0	0.3	0.7	45.3
3	214.4	92.0		98.6	80.2	18.4		43.2
4	165.1	3.3	1.1	139.0	33.7	105.3	21.7	
5	842.9	350.1	101.9	368.4	191.0	177.4	22.4	50.7
6	1,476.7	794.8	454.6	195.8	33.7	162.1	31.4	1.7
7	3,502.0	1,968.3	1,361.1	148.9	4.6	144.3	23.6	0.1
8	683.8	327.4						
9	475.2	232.3	18.2	214.7	192.1	22.5	10.0	19.9
10	322.4	171.0	121.8	28.1	21.5	6.6	1.5	
US ²	7,698.7	3,945.1	2,390.1	1,240.1	578.7	661.4	123.5	164.3
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total ²	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total ²	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	3.0	2.9	0.1					
2	31.9	31.3	0.5	0.1	26.6	3.1	23.5	
3	1,295.0	1,291.7	3.2	0.1	21.9	1.1	20.9	
4	4,257.9	4,017.2	235.7	5.0	7.7	2.7	5.1	
5	6,925.2	6,606.5	309.1	9.6	90.2	9.3	80.9	
6	1,328.5	1,265.7	62.4	0.4	25.7	0.8	24.9	
7	10,162.5	9,951.0			112.4	1.8	110.6	
8	1,239.2	1,224.7	14.4		273.9	5.6	268.2	
9	624.8	624.5						
10	92.1	91.6	0.4	0.1	4.5	0.2	4.3	
US ²	25,959.9	25,107.2	781.6	71.1	641.4	26.3	615.1	

* 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- AK, ID, OR, & WA.

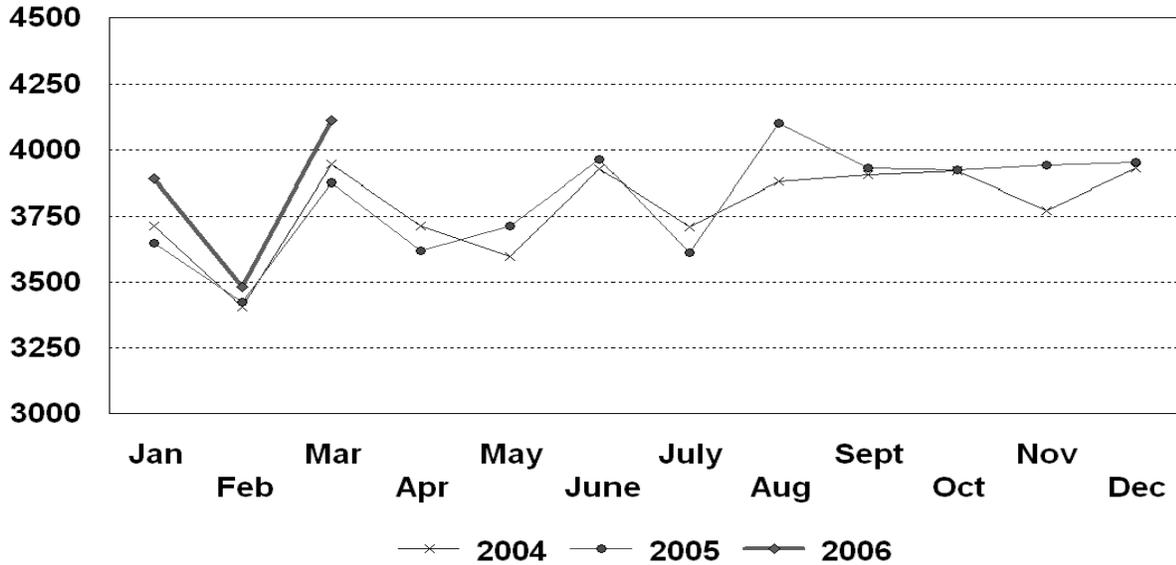
² Totals may not add due to rounding.

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

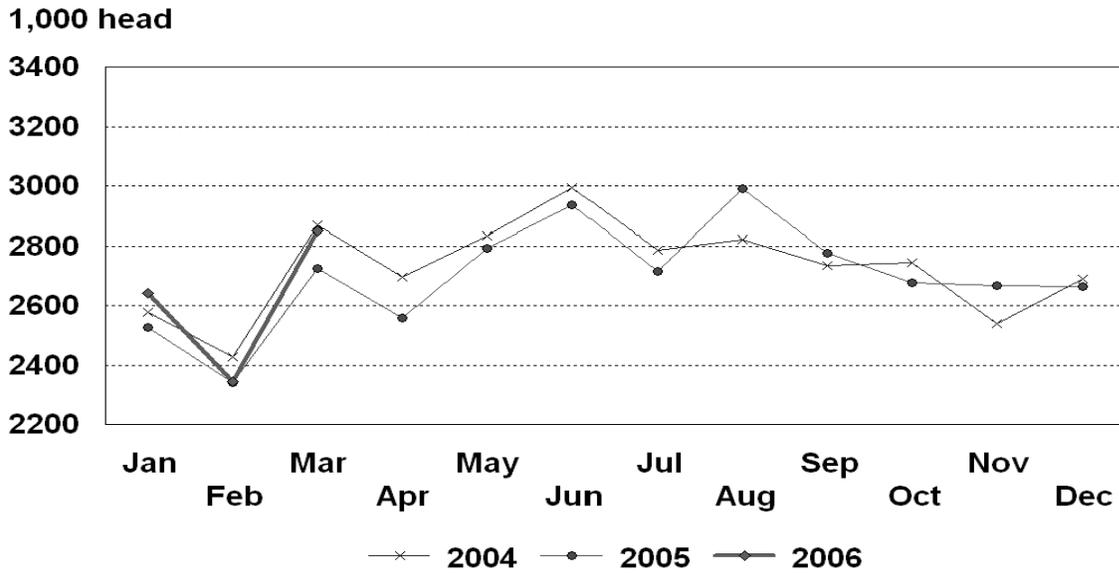
Species	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Jan - Mar	
				2005	2006
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle	98.2	98.1	98.4	98.1	98.2
Calves	97.8	98.0	97.9	97.8	97.9
Hogs	99.0	99.0	99.1	99.0	99.1
Sheep	95.7	95.1	96.0	94.8	94.9

U.S. Monthly Commercial Red Meat Production

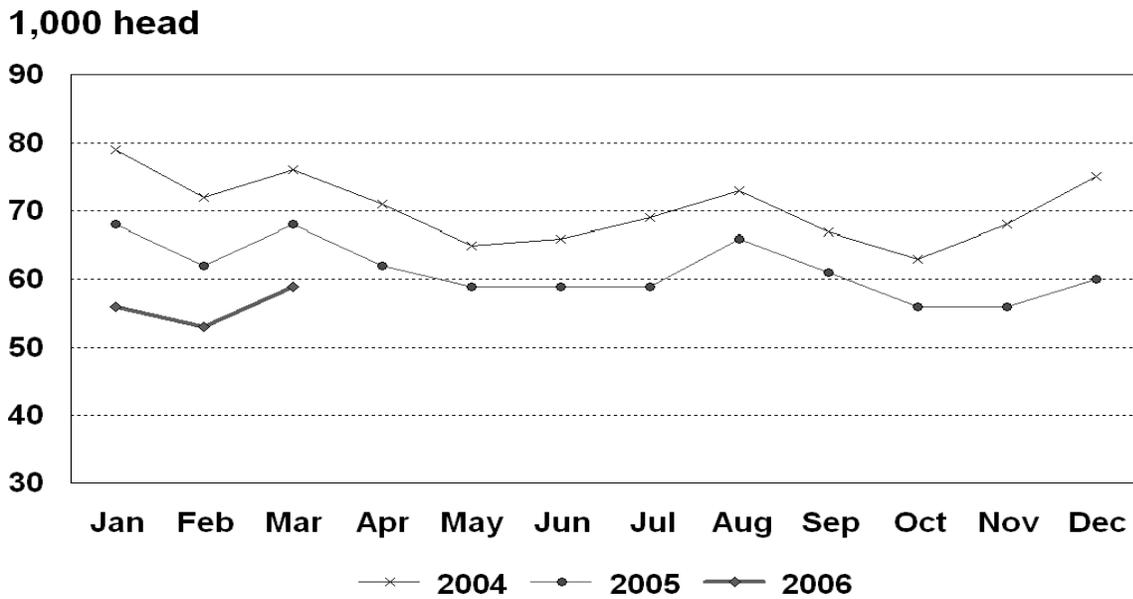
Million Pounds



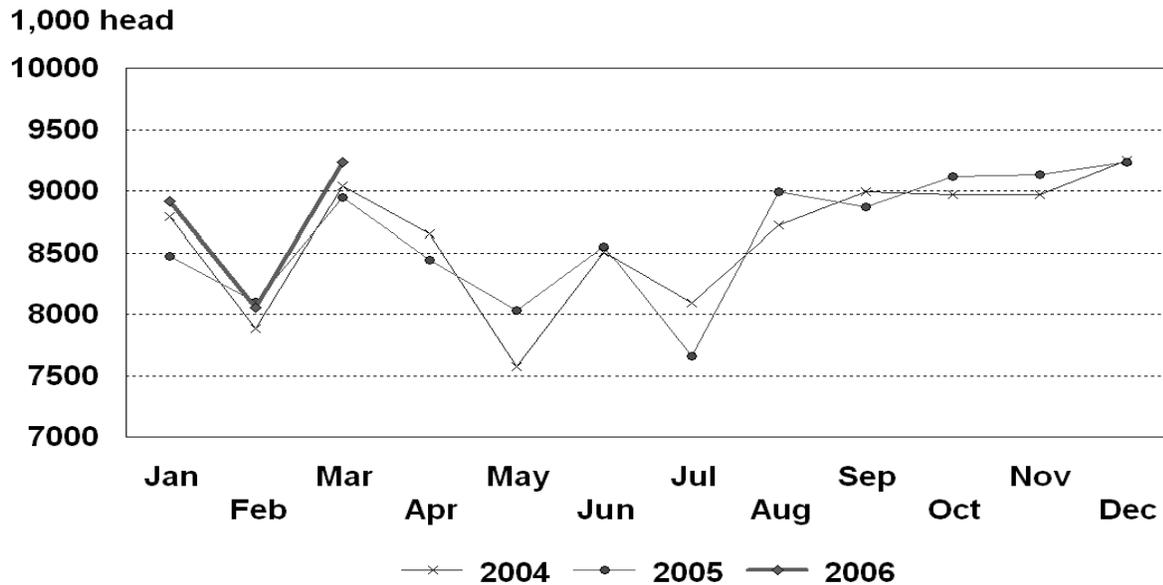
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Cattle



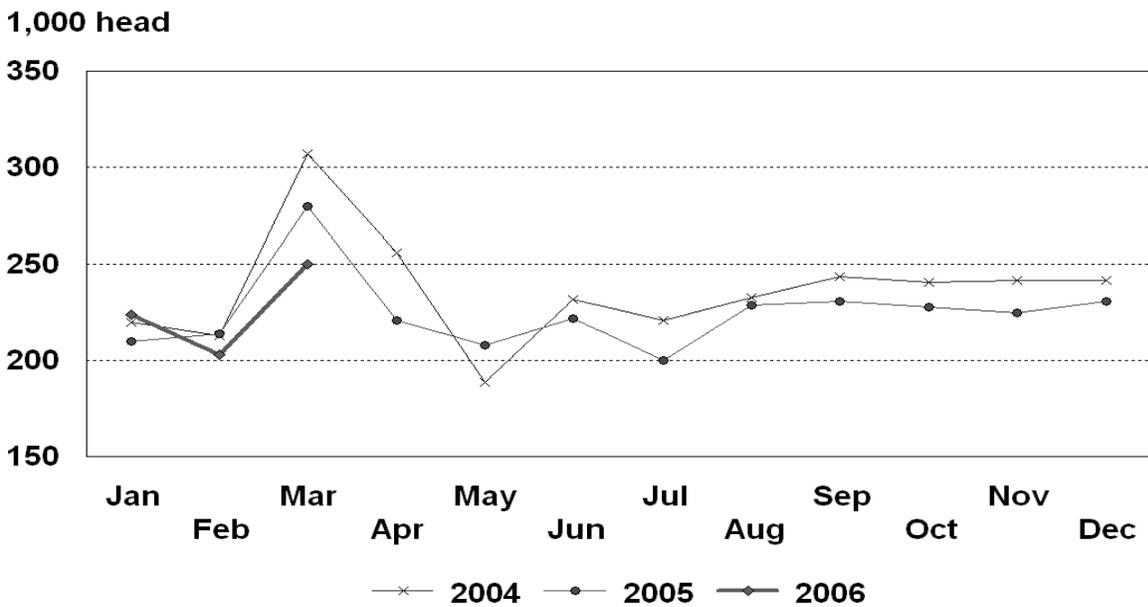
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Calves



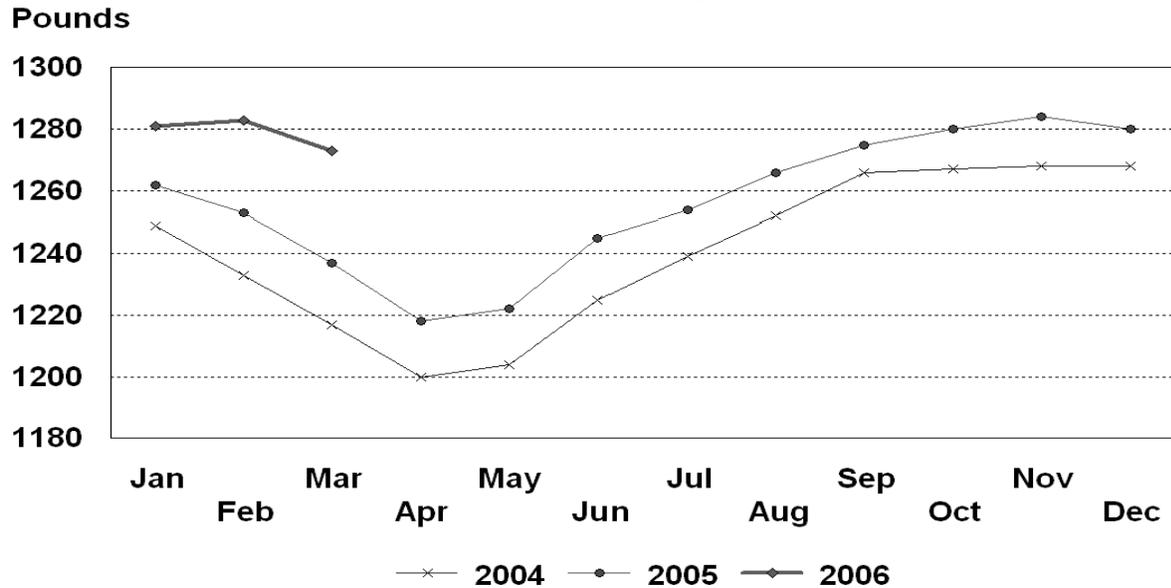
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Hogs



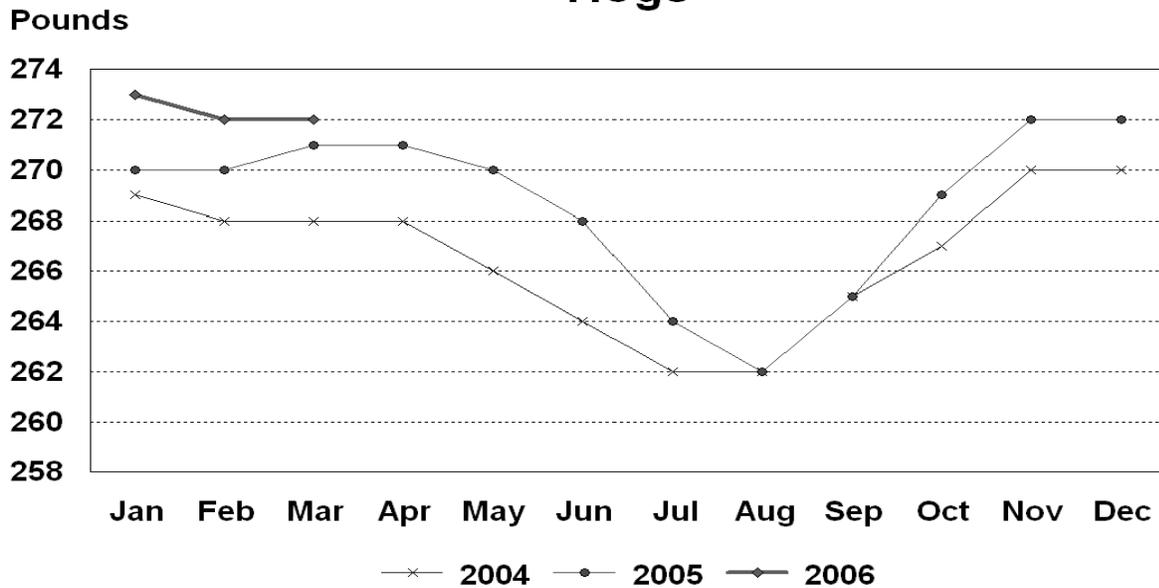
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Sheep



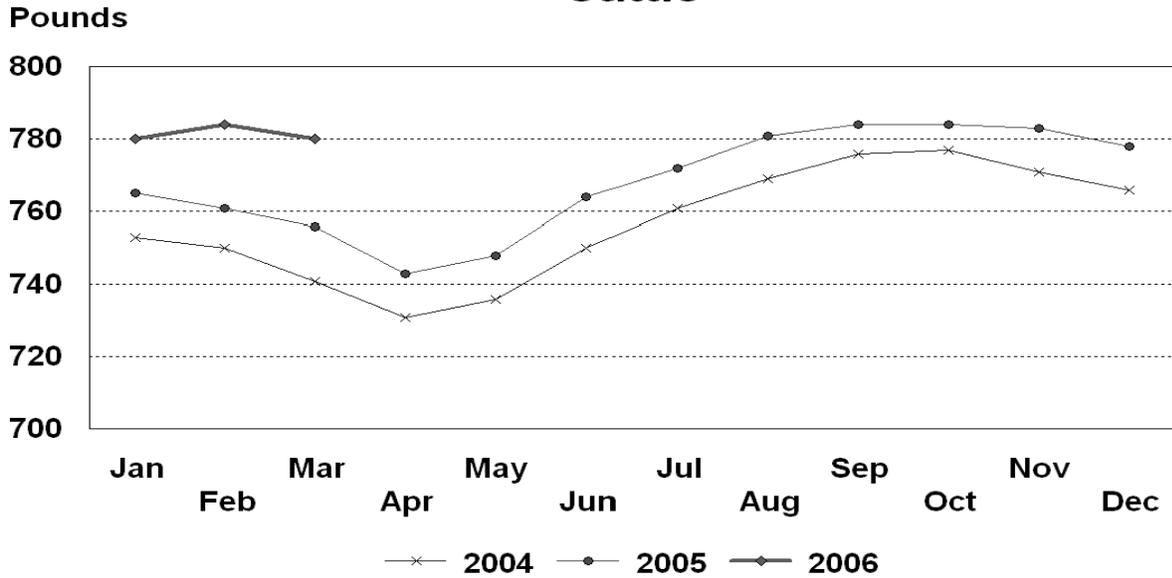
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Average Live Weight Cattle



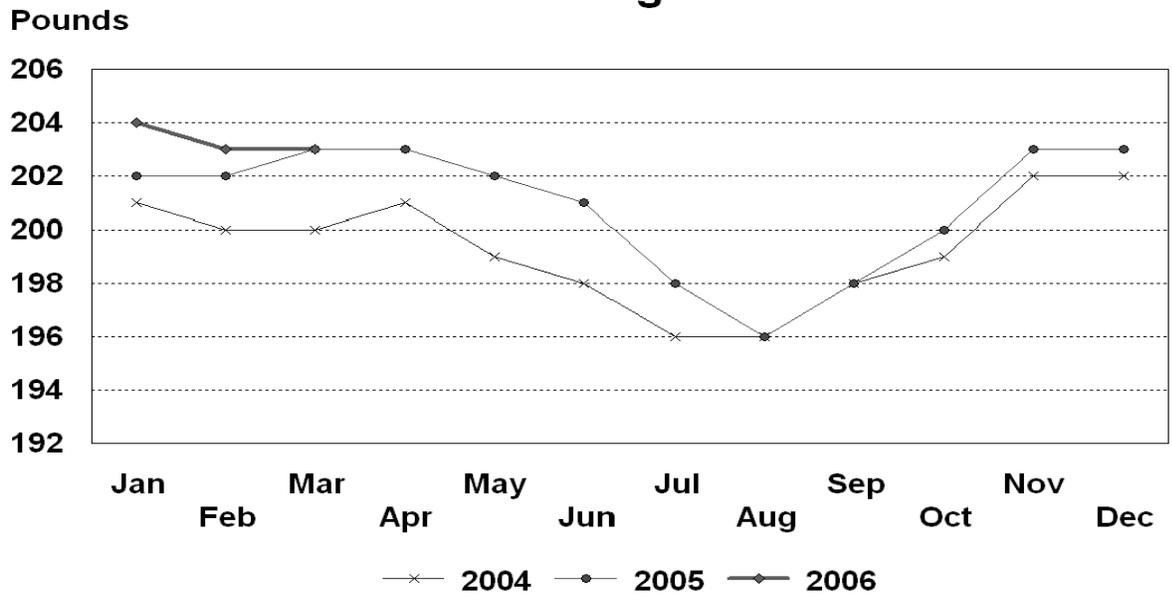
U.S. Monthly Commercial Slaughter Average Live Weight Hogs



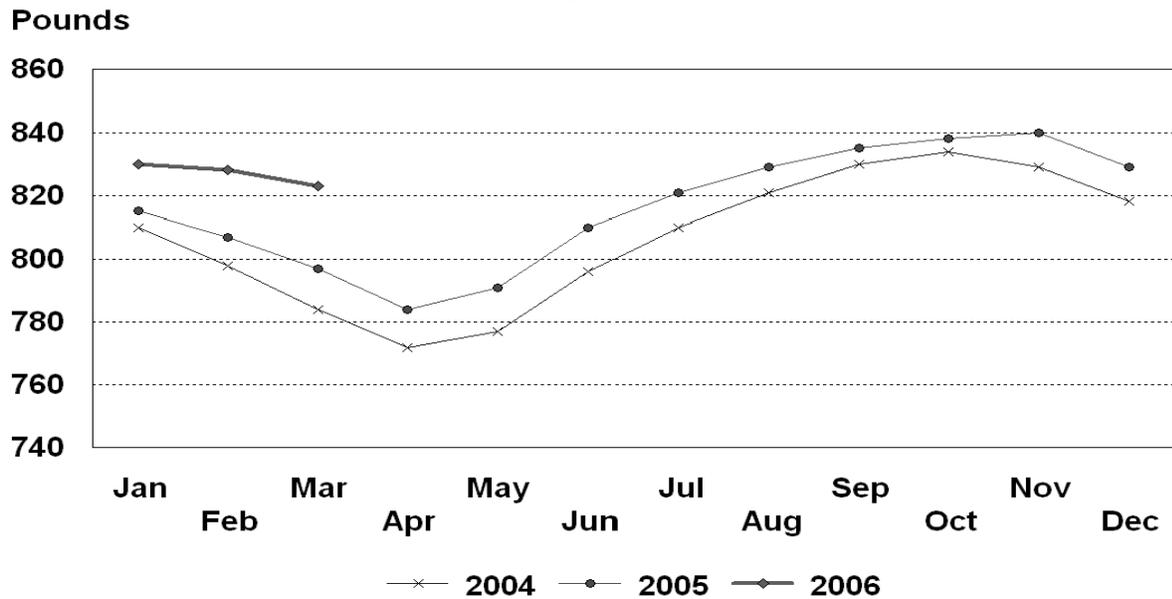
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Cattle



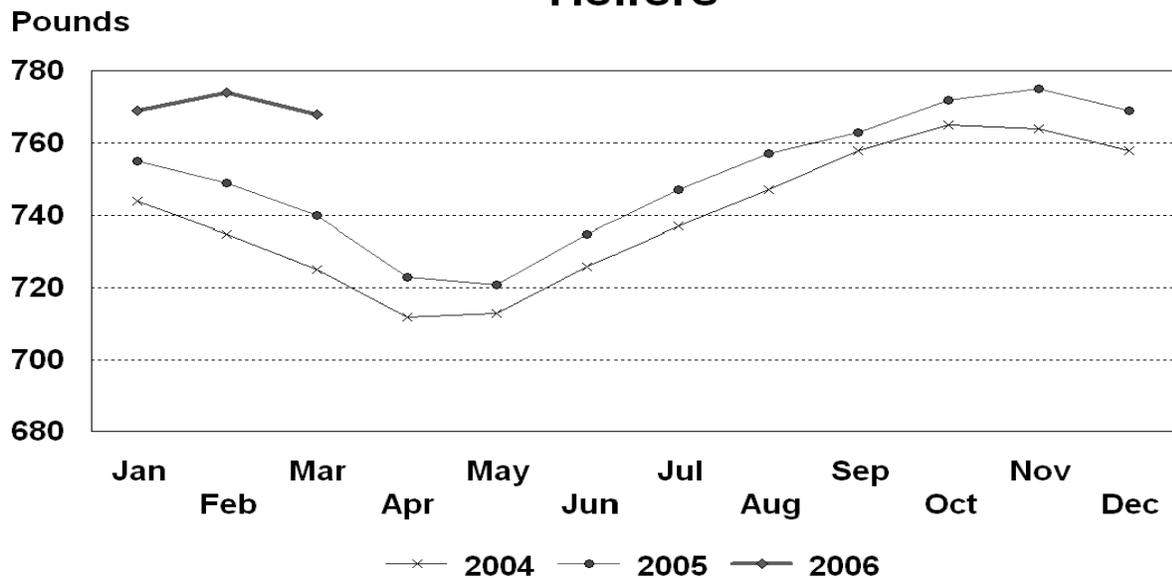
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Hogs



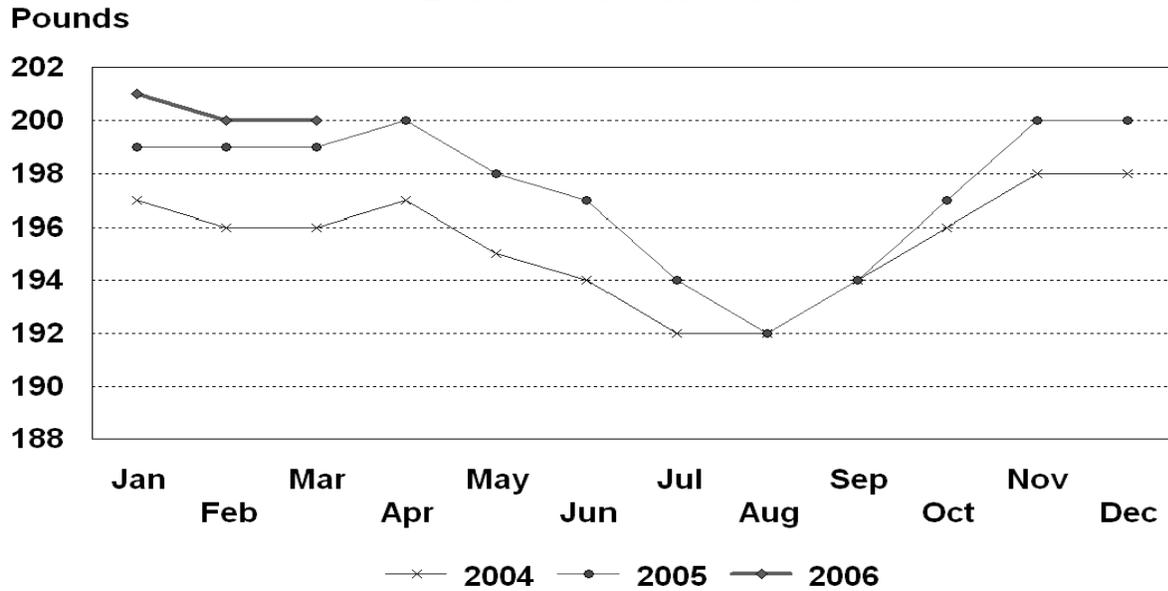
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Steers



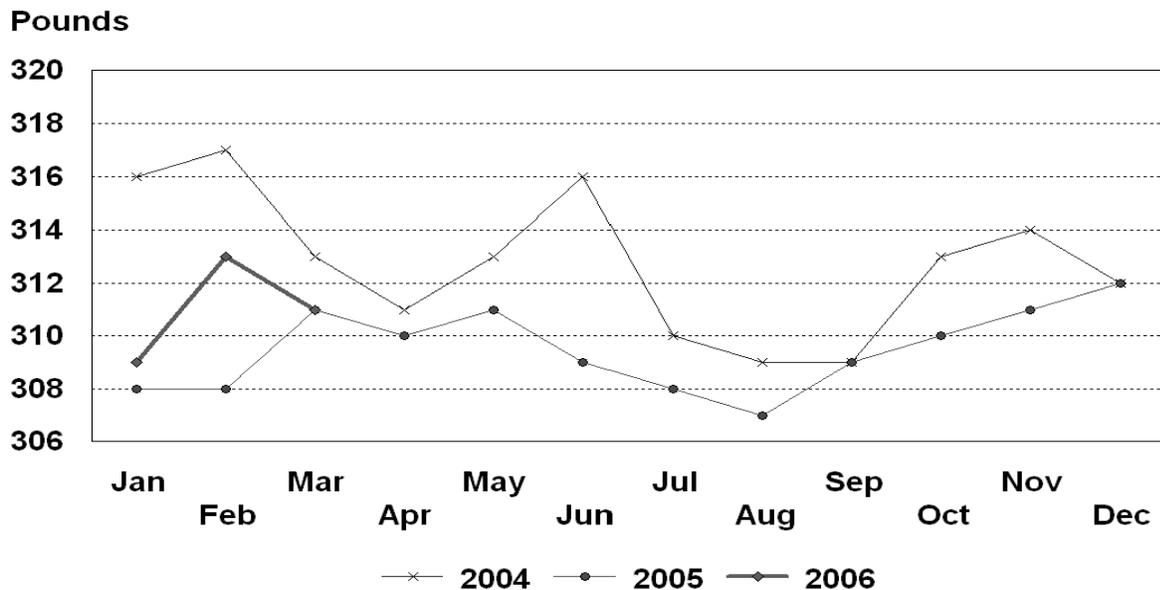
U.S. Monthly Federally Inspected Average Dressed Weight Heifers



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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