



Livestock Slaughter

ISSN: 0499-0544

Released November 23, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

All-Time Monthly Record High Pork Production in October

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.58 billion pounds in October, up 7 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2011.

Beef production, at 2.34 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.95 million head, up 3 percent from October 2011. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,318 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.3 million pounds, 2 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,900 head, up slightly from October 2011. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from last year, at 242 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.86 million head, up 10 percent from October 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 274 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 21 percent from October 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,100 head, 18 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2012 commercial red meat production was 41.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

October 2011 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

October 2012 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

This page intentionally left blank.

Contents

Commercial Red Meat Production – United States	4
Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States.....	4
Livestock Slaughter, Number of Head and Average Live Weight – United States	5
Commercial Red Meat Production – States and United States	6
Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012.....	7
Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012	8
Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012	9
Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012.....	10
Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection, By Class – United States.....	11
Federally Inspected Slaughter, Average Dressed Weight, By Class – United States	11
Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: October 2012.....	12
Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: January to October 2012	13
Federally Inspected Slaughter, Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter – United States.....	13
Statistical Methodology	14
Terms and Definitions Used for Livestock Slaughter Estimates	15
Information Contacts	16

Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data]

Type	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	October 2012 as % of		January to October		
				October 2011	September 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,215.1	2,016.0	2,343.7	106	116	21,920.0	21,685.2	99
Veal	10.6	8.8	10.3	98	117	107.9	98.2	91
Pork	2,033.2	1,911.0	2,210.4	109	116	18,605.9	19,217.8	103
Lamb and mutton	11.7	12.5	14.2	121	113	123.6	130.9	106
Total red meat	4,270.6	3,948.4	4,578.6	107	116	40,757.5	41,132.1	101

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data]

Type	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	October 2012 as % of		January to October		
				October 2011	September 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,181.2	1,986.1	2,307.6	106	116	21,638.1	21,401.5	99
Veal	10.3	8.6	10.0	97	117	105.1	95.7	91
Pork	2,018.8	1,896.9	2,194.9	109	116	18,473.1	19,084.4	103
Lamb and mutton	11.0	11.8	13.3	120	113	117.1	124.2	106
Total red meat	4,221.3	3,903.4	4,525.8	107	116	40,333.4	40,705.7	101

Livestock Slaughter, Number of Head and Average Live Weight – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data]

Species	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	October 2012 as % of 2011	January to October		
					2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,803.7	2,497.1	2,897.4	103	28,109.3	27,185.0	97
Other 1,000	53.2	46.1	55.8	105	439.1	438.1	100
Commercial 1,000	2,856.9	2,543.3	2,953.2	103	28,548.4	27,623.1	97
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	1,292	1,314	1,322	102	1,276	1,301	102
Other pounds	1,121	1,143	1,139	102	1,129	1,139	101
Commercial pounds	1,289	1,311	1,318	102	1,274	1,298	102
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	71.5	63.2	71.6	100	695.0	625.9	90
Other 1,000	1.3	1.1	1.4	107	11.5	10.4	91
Commercial 1,000	72.7	64.3	72.9	100	706.5	636.3	90
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	250	232	238	95	262	259	99
Other pounds	426	413	426	100	420	421	100
Commercial pounds	253	235	242	96	265	262	99
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	9,822.4	9,375.6	10,769.6	110	90,120.7	92,841.6	103
Other 1,000	81.3	78.6	86.1	106	755.2	740.0	98
Commercial 1,000	9,903.8	9,454.3	10,855.7	110	90,875.8	93,581.6	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	276	271	274	99	274	275	100
Other pounds	244	250	251	103	244	249	102
Commercial pounds	275	271	274	99	274	275	100
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	160.8	160.6	189.4	118	1,661.1	1,673.3	101
Other 1,000	14.1	13.7	17.7	125	135.9	138.1	102
Commercial 1,000	175.0	174.3	207.1	118	1,797.0	1,811.4	101
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	138	148	140	102	141	149	105
Other pounds	99	110	106	107	98	99	102
Commercial pounds	134	145	137	102	138	145	105
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	51.6	44.4	52.4	102	475.3	464.9	98
Other 1,000	15.5	13.3	18.6	120	148.1	138.9	94
Commercial 1,000	67.1	57.7	71.0	106	623.4	603.8	97
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	63	64	63	101	63	63	101
Other pounds	68	63	62	91	68	68	100
Commercial pounds	64	64	63	99	64	65	101
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	3.3	3.0	3.3	101	36.6	34.2	94
Other 1,000	0.7	0.7	1.1	151	7.8	8.4	108
Commercial 1,000	4.0	3.8	4.4	110	44.4	42.6	96

Commercial Red Meat Production – States and United States

[Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton. Totals and percentages based on unrounded data]

State	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	October 2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	1.8	0.5	0.8	46
Alaska	0.1	(Y)	0.1	67
Arizona	33.3	27.8	32.8	98
Arkansas	3.3	4.0	4.3	133
California	139.0	133.3	156.0	112
Colorado	178.2	167.7	196.7	110
Delaware-Maryland	2.9	2.4	2.6	88
Florida	10.9	10.1	11.7	108
Georgia	12.8	10.4	12.8	100
Hawaii	0.9	0.7	0.9	101
Idaho	3.5	3.5	4.2	121
Illinois	258.8	245.4	285.3	110
Indiana	155.7	146.0	168.8	108
Iowa	587.7	555.4	627.6	107
Kansas	438.6	404.6	476.0	109
Kentucky	50.3	47.3	49.1	98
Louisiana	0.5	0.4	0.5	106
Michigan	45.4	36.9	46.6	103
Minnesota	249.1	230.9	266.5	107
Mississippi	2.3	2.1	2.5	108
Missouri	157.1	140.6	162.8	104
Montana	1.8	1.1	1.9	105
Nebraska	642.2	587.8	677.6	106
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	85
New England ¹	1.8	1.7	2.2	120
New Jersey	4.6	3.6	3.9	84
New Mexico	0.5	0.3	0.4	92
New York	3.2	2.5	3.5	109
North Carolina	196.5	193.2	237.5	121
North Dakota	2.6	0.6	1.0	39
Ohio	26.0	23.4	26.2	101
Oklahoma	96.3	88.8	105.0	109
Oregon	6.2	6.0	6.9	111
Pennsylvania	111.8	101.5	117.9	105
South Carolina	20.6	19.8	22.8	111
South Dakota	98.7	91.1	107.4	109
Tennessee	23.8	23.3	27.6	116
Texas	416.2	381.5	423.9	102
Utah	43.8	38.6	47.5	108
Virginia	44.7	43.1	49.1	110
Washington	78.4	69.5	84.5	108
West Virginia	1.3	0.7	1.1	82
Wisconsin	117.1	99.3	121.8	104
Wyoming	0.2	0.4	0.3	115
United States	4,270.6	3,948.4	4,578.6	107

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama	0.6	0.7	591	659	921	947
Alaska	0.1	0.1	180	118	1,217	1,093
Arizona	46.4	46.2	58,966	58,941	1,274	1,278
Arkansas	0.8	0.6	805	608	1,001	988
California	139.9	157.9	175,856	200,029	1,274	1,275
Colorado	201.9	221.9	270,495	298,044	1,341	1,344
Delaware-Maryland	3.3	2.7	4,190	3,466	1,277	1,269
Florida	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Georgia	23.5	22.7	23,388	22,774	998	1,007
Hawaii	1.0	1.0	1,128	1,159	1,147	1,136
Idaho	2.6	3.1	2,698	3,216	1,125	1,113
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	4.2	4.8	4,393	5,127	1,052	1,065
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	518.3	549.9	679,034	732,876	1,310	1,333
Kentucky	1.6	1.5	1,541	1,456	985	982
Louisiana	0.6	0.5	411	395	729	811
Michigan	55.9	53.6	73,357	74,220	1,322	1,392
Minnesota	79.0	85.4	108,654	119,378	1,380	1,404
Mississippi	0.1	0.1	44	110	566	776
Missouri	5.7	5.7	6,092	6,096	1,074	1,062
Montana	2.4	2.5	2,721	2,885	1,155	1,162
Nebraska	593.0	611.3	798,573	853,029	1,348	1,396
Nevada	0.1	0.1	139	107	1,034	1,027
New England ¹	1.9	2.3	1,866	2,381	973	1,017
New Jersey	3.4	3.1	3,881	3,367	1,137	1,104
New Mexico	0.6	0.5	691	520	1,249	1,053
New York	3.4	3.0	3,704	3,347	1,107	1,114
North Carolina	18.2	14.0	20,596	16,570	1,133	1,184
North Dakota	3.1	1.1	4,194	1,406	1,353	1,245
Ohio	10.5	11.2	12,165	12,887	1,158	1,162
Oklahoma	2.3	2.3	2,232	2,251	974	995
Oregon	5.2	6.2	6,101	7,338	1,197	1,205
Pennsylvania	89.2	91.1	103,920	106,978	1,169	1,179
South Carolina	12.9	15.8	14,471	18,171	1,137	1,159
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	4.8	4.3	3,798	3,792	808	898
Texas	555.6	550.4	675,451	687,892	1,220	1,253
Utah	51.4	54.4	70,637	76,186	1,375	1,403
Virginia	1.1	1.3	1,085	1,381	1,016	1,055
Washington	95.8	101.7	127,329	137,918	1,336	1,360
West Virginia	2.0	1.7	1,866	1,529	939	911
Wisconsin	148.9	150.4	191,911	197,539	1,295	1,321
Wyoming	0.3	0.3	318	365	1,144	1,151
United States	2,856.9	2,953.2	3,671,102	3,884,235	1,289	1,318

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama	0.1	0.1	25	54	477	391
Alaska	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Arizona	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
California	17.0	17.1	1,822	1,841	109	108
Colorado	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Delaware-Maryland	0.3	0.3	69	69	261	263
Florida	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Georgia	0.1	0.1	27	75	480	671
Hawaii	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Idaho	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Illinois	1.7	1.1	776	461	452	435
Indiana	(D)	0.6	(D)	157	(D)	278
Iowa	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	0.1	(Y)	46	(X)	504	(X)
Louisiana	0.5	0.4	236	213	518	539
Michigan	1.6	1.2	655	522	421	423
Minnesota	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Mississippi	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Missouri	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Montana	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nebraska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England ¹	1.2	0.8	138	111	120	141
New Jersey	6.7	5.0	2,774	2,086	416	415
New Mexico	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New York	10.2	11.7	957	1,425	101	122
North Carolina	0.1	0.1	54	29	490	469
North Dakota	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Ohio	11.5	12.8	2,346	2,308	214	181
Oklahoma	(Y)	0.1	(X)	65	(X)	461
Oregon	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Pennsylvania	8.9	10.6	3,765	4,525	421	425
South Carolina	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	0.1	0.1	39	43	467	525
Texas	1.9	0.8	592	282	315	338
Utah	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Virginia	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Washington	1.3	3.2	103	223	79	70
West Virginia	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Wisconsin	7.3	6.5	3,212	2,993	443	460
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	72.7	72.9	18,000	17,580	253	242

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama	6.3	1.6	2,662	672	423	409
Alaska	(D)	0.1	(D)	13	(D)	251
Arizona	0.2	0.2	41	44	246	247
Arkansas	9.5	13.4	4,239	6,073	448	454
California	211.2	231.8	51,054	55,213	242	238
Colorado	1.1	1.6	254	381	242	239
Delaware-Maryland	1.5	1.7	371	433	250	249
Florida	10.2	6.2	1,078	882	106	142
Georgia	7.5	7.9	1,776	1,934	237	245
Hawaii	1.1	1.2	276	304	244	256
Idaho	10.5	13.1	2,630	3,262	252	249
Illinois	946.2	1,047.2	263,338	290,505	278	277
Indiana	748.0	826.2	203,282	220,847	272	267
Iowa	2,638.9	2,907.6	728,748	790,956	276	272
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	0.9	1.3	176	238	192	189
Michigan	11.6	13.0	4,694	4,970	407	382
Minnesota	945.1	1,029.6	255,476	273,803	271	266
Mississippi	10.2	10.4	3,232	3,427	316	328
Missouri	724.3	753.1	204,427	212,060	282	282
Montana	1.2	1.2	270	300	226	242
Nebraska	715.2	742.5	196,388	199,839	275	269
Nevada	(Y)	0.1	(X)	13	(X)	261
New England ¹	2.7	2.9	713	776	260	270
New Jersey	9.0	8.4	882	762	98	91
New Mexico	0.2	0.3	56	73	267	286
New York	3.0	3.9	664	836	224	216
North Carolina	932.7	1,130.9	248,127	305,564	266	270
North Dakota	0.5	0.7	148	221	297	300
Ohio	92.0	90.4	24,522	24,343	267	270
Oklahoma	457.5	502.8	125,921	136,595	275	272
Oregon	15.1	15.8	3,810	3,926	252	248
Pennsylvania	241.3	265.6	63,464	69,883	263	263
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	446.6	483.5	119,630	129,773	268	268
Tennessee	72.7	85.1	32,086	37,822	442	445
Texas	37.6	37.4	10,903	11,722	290	314
Utah	7.0	7.7	916	1,002	132	131
Virginia	217.0	232.7	58,380	63,829	269	274
Washington	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	1.0	0.9	273	265	266	283
Wisconsin	44.6	50.9	20,039	23,047	452	454
Wyoming	0.2	0.2	43	56	263	267
United States	9,903.8	10,855.7	2,726,359	2,968,445	275	274

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: October 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	0.2	0.3	26	37	118	146
Arkansas	0.1	0.1	8	10	108	102
California	22.7	28.3	3,068	3,825	135	135
Colorado	83.1	85.9	12,697	14,277	153	167
Delaware-Maryland	3.1	3.9	298	360	96	93
Florida	0.1	0.1	7	9	71	76
Georgia	0.4	0.9	35	68	82	79
Hawaii	0.1	(Y)	7	(X)	121	(X)
Idaho	0.3	0.3	38	39	126	125
Illinois	12.4	13.6	1,717	1,778	138	131
Indiana	3.1	4.3	341	451	110	106
Iowa	0.2	0.4	32	53	136	125
Kansas	0.3	0.5	30	50	109	101
Kentucky	0.9	1.5	111	176	126	115
Louisiana	0.4	0.4	27	24	66	62
Michigan	11.8	17.8	1,505	2,293	128	129
Minnesota	0.5	0.5	60	66	127	122
Mississippi	(D)	0.3	(D)	22	(D)	87
Missouri	0.4	0.5	41	63	112	119
Montana	0.6	0.5	50	47	88	98
Nebraska	0.1	0.1	14	19	128	130
Nevada	0.1	0.1	14	14	130	118
New England ¹	2.8	4.0	244	356	88	88
New Jersey	8.3	9.3	721	793	87	85
New Mexico	0.8	1.0	115	143	141	142
New York	3.4	5.6	286	517	84	92
North Carolina	1.1	1.8	78	127	74	72
North Dakota	0.1	0.1	7	7	115	114
Ohio	1.3	1.2	134	129	105	104
Oklahoma	0.1	0.2	8	24	95	121
Oregon	2.1	3.0	280	396	132	133
Pennsylvania	3.6	6.1	354	623	98	102
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.2	0.4	26	49	117	117
Tennessee	0.7	1.1	52	78	74	74
Texas	4.2	6.8	301	688	72	102
Utah	2.1	2.5	295	324	138	127
Virginia	0.6	0.6	53	56	94	94
Washington	0.8	0.6	129	89	163	151
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	0.9	1.4	118	182	127	133
Wyoming	(Y)	0.1	(X)	11	(X)	148
United States	175.0	207.1	23,476	28,436	134	137

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection, By Class – United States

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Class	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	January to October		October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	January to October	
				2011	2012				2011	2012
	(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)
Cattle										
Steers	1,345	1,237	1,431	13,923	13,648	48.0	49.5	49.4	49.5	50.2
Heifers	809	708	804	8,205	7,787	28.8	28.4	27.7	29.2	28.6
All cows	600	506	611	5,498	5,291	21.4	20.3	21.1	19.6	19.5
Dairy cows	243	251	285	2,399	2,574	8.7	10.0	9.9	8.5	9.5
Other cows	357	255	325	3,098	2,717	12.7	10.2	11.2	11.0	10.0
Bulls	50	46	51	484	459	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Total	2,804	2,497	2,897	28,109	27,185	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	71	63	72	695	626	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	9,531	9,098	10,448	87,349	90,036	97.0	97.0	97.0	96.9	97.0
Sows	265	251	291	2,499	2,518	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
Boars	26	27	31	272	287	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	9,822	9,376	10,770	90,121	92,842	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	13	18	20	118	123	8.3	11.1	10.5	7.1	7.3
Lambs and yearlings	148	143	170	1,543	1,550	91.7	88.9	89.5	92.9	92.7
Total	161	161	189	1,661	1,673	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Federally Inspected Slaughter, Average Dressed Weight, By Class – United States

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Class	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	January to October	
				2011	2012
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	780	797	798	772	789
Steers ¹	859	871	877	838	855
Heifers ¹	791	803	805	771	789
All cows ¹	582	599	597	596	608
Bulls ¹	851	874	862	871	879
Calves and vealers	147	136	140	155	154
Hogs	206	202	204	205	206
Barrows and gilts ²	203	200	201	202	203
Sows ²	302	302	304	306	307
Boars ²	211	209	207	211	208
Sheep	69	74	70	71	74
Mature sheep ³	65	64	60	66	64
Lambs and yearlings ³	69	75	71	71	75

¹ Included in cattle average dressed weight.

² Included in hog average dressed weight.

³ Included in sheep average dressed weight.

Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: October 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions ¹	Cattle							Calves	
	Total	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls	Total	
				All	Dairy	Other			
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	
1	2.0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	
2	5.9	2.1	0.8	2.5	2.2	0.3	0.5	16.8	
3	92.8	27.8	5.8	56.4	45.1	11.3	2.8	10.9	
4	75.9	2.7	0.9	60.8	14.6	46.2	11.5	0.3	
5	364.1	152.7	37.0	163.5	94.2	69.3	10.8	21.9	
6	548.6	274.1	148.7	115.2	28.3	86.8	10.7	0.8	
7	1,203.2	667.7	459.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.1	
8	290.2	168.4	100.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)	
9	204.7	77.1	21.3	102.5	76.1	26.4	3.7	16.9	
10	109.9	57.7	28.9	21.7	16.2	5.5	1.6	3.2	
United States	2,897.4	1,431.4	803.7	610.9	285.4	325.5	51.4	71.6	
	Hogs				Sheep				
	Total	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total	Mature sheep	Lambs and yearlings		
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)		
1	2.3	2.2	(Y)	(Y)	3.7	0.1	3.6		
2	11.9	11.8	0.1	(Y)	13.3	2.1	11.2		
3	498.7	497.4	(D)	(D)	11.1	1.4	9.7		
4	1,526.0	1,421.5	(D)	(D)	5.2	1.3	3.9		
5	3,021.7	2,902.7	113.6	5.4	33.6	3.3	30.3		
6	545.7	524.1	21.3	0.3	3.6	2.3	1.3		
7	4,414.4	4,339.3	53.2	21.8	0.8	(Y)	0.8		
8	491.0	490.9	0.1	(Y)	87.9	8.8	79.1		
9	228.1	228.0	0.1	(Y)	26.8	0.4	26.4		
10	29.9	29.8	(Y)	(Y)	3.3	0.1	3.2		
United States	10,769.6	10,447.8	290.7	31.2	189.4	19.8	169.6		

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ States included in regions are as follows: 1 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; 2 - New Jersey, New York; 3 - Delaware-Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; 4 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee; 5 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin; 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas; 7 - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; 8- Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming; 9 - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada; 10 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: January to October 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions ¹	Cattle							Calves
	Total	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls	Total
				All	Dairy	Other		
(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
1	14.2	6.5	3.4	2.2	1.4	0.8	2.2	6.6
2	55.6	17.9	6.8	26.3	23.1	3.2	4.7	141.0
3	839.7	303.8	24.8	489.3	390.7	98.6	21.8	98.5
4	693.7	24.4	11.0	561.1	148.9	412.2	97.2	2.7
5	3,191.5	1,392.8	330.9	1,373.4	778.2	595.2	94.4	200.6
6	5,491.2	2,741.9	1,646.6	1,003.0	290.3	712.6	99.7	7.3
7	11,303.5	6,257.2	4,382.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.5
8	2,699.4	1,571.5	935.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)
9	1,913.1	817.0	177.2	883.5	708.5	175.0	35.4	143.4
10	983.2	514.8	269.1	187.3	148.7	38.6	12.0	25.3
United States	27,185.0	13,647.6	7,787.2	5,291.0	2,573.9	2,717.2	459.2	625.9
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total	Mature sheep	Lambs and yearlings	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	
1	17.6	17.0	0.3	0.2	25.0	1.5	23.5	
2	117.9	116.1	1.2	0.7	122.2	16.7	105.5	
3	4,428.3	4,417.7	(D)	(D)	89.0	9.5	79.6	
4	12,873.9	12,120.1	(D)	(D)	39.7	9.7	30.0	
5	25,938.8	24,790.1	1,095.0	53.6	282.4	27.1	255.3	
6	4,864.8	4,702.0	161.2	1.6	25.3	14.9	10.4	
7	38,467.7	37,742.9	530.8	194.0	6.3	0.2	6.1	
8	3,859.9	3,858.8	1.0	0.1	821.8	37.3	784.5	
9	2,002.2	2,001.5	0.6	0.1	237.4	4.8	232.6	
10	270.7	270.3	0.3	0.1	24.1	1.2	22.8	
United States	92,841.6	90,036.5	2,518.0	287.2	1,673.3	122.9	1,550.4	

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ States included in regions are as follows: 1 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; 2 - New Jersey, New York; 3 - Delaware-Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; 4 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee; 5 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin; 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas; 7 - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; 8 - Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming; 9 - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada; 10 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

Federally Inspected Slaughter, Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter – United States

Species	October 2011	September 2012	October 2012	January to October	
				2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.1	98.2	98.1	98.5	98.4
Calves	98.2	98.3	98.1	98.4	98.4
Hogs	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.2
Sheep	91.9	92.2	91.4	92.4	92.4

Statistical Methodology

Data Sources: Primary data for the *Livestock Slaughter* publication are obtained from electronic reports completed by inspectors from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA, which provide daily counts of animals slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants, in addition to total live and dressed weights. These counts are combined with data from State-administered Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) slaughter plants to derive total commercial slaughter estimates.

There are nearly 800 livestock slaughter plants in the United States operating under Federal Inspection and over 1,900 Non-Federally Inspected (State-inspected or custom-exempt) slaughter plants. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Terms and Definitions, page 15). To prevent duplication in reporting between FI and NFI plants and assure all FI plants are included, certificates prepared by FSIS identifying operating status are constantly monitored.

Revision Policy: Number of head slaughtered, live weights, and dressed weights are subject to revision the following month after the monthly release. Annual totals are published in the slaughter summary each April which includes any revisions made to current and previous year's published data. Revisions are generally the result of late reports received from slaughter plants and are usually less than one-half of one percent. No revisions will be made to the previous year's data after the publication of the annual summary in April.

Procedures and Reliability: The livestock slaughter data is obtained electronically on a daily basis and summarized approximately two weeks after the week of slaughter. A computer program compares each plant's data with the historical data for that plant. Data are checked for unusual values for head kill, patterns of kill, average weights, and dressing percent, based on each plant's past operating profile. In addition, the computer program provides a listing of missing reports for follow-up contact with FSIS. Average live and dressed weights and dressing percentages by State are compared with the previous weeks as an additional check. Fluctuations are frequently the result of plants permanently or temporarily closing and a shift in the species reported.

The FSIS District Veterinary Medical Specialists (DVMS) are contacted by e-mail or telephone for missing or potentially erroneous slaughter data. This assures that plants slaughtering a large number of head or several species are accounted for each week. Any corrections FSIS makes to the slaughter data are included in the summary.

Computer imputation may be necessary for incomplete reports. The imputation of live and dressed weights is based on the current week reported data of plants of similar size and location. Imputation for live and dressed weight data for cattle and hogs is less than 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The imputation for calves and sheep is more frequent and variable. If no data is received electronically or by other means, for plants slaughtering fewer than 50 total head weekly of only one species, data are imputed. The imputation of head for any plant is based on the historical data for that particular plant. The imputation of head slaughtered is rare but when necessary, the imputed head kill for missing plants usually is less than 1 percent of the United States head kill totals.

FI data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release. These weekly totals are published by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in **Livestock, Meat, Wool Market News**, Weekly Summary, and statistics are also available on the NASS website. NFI data are summarized monthly only.

Livestock slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants and therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications and mistakes in reporting, recording and processing the data. These errors are minimized through rigid quality controls in the computer edit program 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, as indicated with a (D), these data are still included in United States and region totals. A review of the data is made annually to determine the publishable data.

Terms and Definitions Used for Livestock Slaughter Estimates

Average Live Weight: The weight of the whole animal, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Commercial Production: Includes slaughter and meat production in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Based on packers' dressed weights.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Number of Head: Includes post-mortem condemnations.

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

Red Meat: Red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter excluding condemnation and is comprised of beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. The FI red meat production is equal to the total carcass weight after slaughter. 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.

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.

Total Live Weight: The total weight of live animals, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Wholesome Meat Act: Legislation that specifies that all meat produced for sale in the United States must be inspected. Meat that is transported interstate must be inspected in compliance with Federal (USDA) Standards.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats.....	(202) 720-4751

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.