

TOTAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION

1956

May 3, 1957

~~PERIODICAL ROOM~~

Red meat production continued upward in 1956 and reached a new all-time peak of 28 billion pounds, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Total meat production (commercial plus farm slaughter) for the year was 4 percent more than the previous record of 26.9 billion pounds in 1955. Beef production in 1956 reached a new record of 14.5 billion pounds--exceeding the 1955 record by 7 percent. Veal production totaled 1,632 million pounds--3 percent more than in 1955. Mutton and lamb production totaled 741 million pounds--2 percent less than a year earlier. Pork production totaled 11.2 billion pounds which was 2 percent more than in 1955. Beef accounted for 51 percent of the total meat produced in 1956, while pork made up 40 percent. Veal accounted for 6 percent and lamb and mutton contributed 3 percent. Lard production in 1956 totaled 2.8 billion pounds, compared with 2.7 billion pounds in 1955.

The number of cattle slaughtered in 1956 was 4 percent above 1955. Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection was up 6 percent from a year earlier, whereas other commercial slaughter was only slightly higher and farm slaughter was up 3 percent. Calf slaughter in 1956 was up 1 percent. Slaughter of calves under Federal inspection was up 5 percent, while other commercial slaughter was down 4 percent, and farm slaughter declined less than 1 percent from a year earlier. The total number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1956 was 1 percent less than in 1955. The number slaughtered under Federal inspection declined 1 percent from a year earlier--other commercial slaughter was off 4 percent and farm slaughter was down 1 percent. Total hog slaughter in 1956 was 5 percent greater than in 1955. Slaughter in Federally inspected plants was up 7 percent, while slaughter in other commercial plants was

(Continued over)

UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, 1955-56

Species and class of slaughter	1955			1956		
	: Average :		Total :	: Average:		Total
	Head	: live	: live	Head	: live	: live
	: weight	: weight		: weight	: weight	
	Thou-	Pounds	Million	Thou-	Pounds	Million
	sands		pounds	sands		pounds
CATTLE						
Federally inspected	19,055	975	18,578	20,186	989	19,973
Other commercial	6,667	843	5,623	6,676	855	5,710
Farm	865	808	699	892	817	728
Total	26,587	937	24,900	27,754	952	26,411
CALVES						
Federally inspected	7,499	218	1,632	7,843	225	1,764
Other commercial	4,878	217	1,057	4,669	220	1,027
Farm	487	325	158	485	326	158
Total	12,864	221	2,847	12,997	227	2,949
SHEEP AND LAMBS						
Federally inspected	14,383	96	1,387	14,228	96	1,363
Other commercial	1,832	92	169	1,765	92	163
Farm	338	86	29	335	87	29
Total	16,553	96	1,585	16,328	95	1,555
HOGS						
Federally inspected	61,370	241	14,778	65,748	235	15,437
Other commercial	12,846	220	2,825	12,765	219	2,792
Farm	6,842	244	1,667	6,703	242	1,621
Total	81,058	238	19,270	85,216	233	19,850

See other side for meat production estimates.

UNITED STATES MEAT PRODUCTION, 1955-56

Kind of meat and class of slaughter	1955		1956	
	Average dressed weight 1/	Total dressed weight	Average dressed weight 1/	Total dressed weight
	Pounds	Million pounds	Pounds	Million pounds
<u>BEEF</u>				
Federally inspected	537	10,195	548	11,018
Other commercial	453	3,018	460	3,072
Farm	412	356	417	372
Total	512	13,569	523	14,462
<u>VEAL</u>				
Federally inspected	121	903	125	974
Other commercial	120	584	121	567
Farm	187	91	187	91
Total	123	1,578	126	1,632
<u>LAMB AND MUTTON</u>				
Federally inspected	46	663	46	650
Other commercial	44	81	44	78
Farm	40	14	40	13
Total	46	758	46	741
<u>PORK (excluding lard)</u>				
Federally inspected	137	8,366	132	8,638
Other commercial	129	1,661	129	1,646
Farm	141	964	140	937
Total	136	10,991	132	11,221
TOTAL MEAT		26,896		28,056

1/ Excludes animals condemned under Federal inspection. For pork, the average is pork production per head excluding lard.

UNITED STATES LARD PRODUCTION, 1955-56

Class of slaughter	1955		1956	
	Lard per 100 pounds live weight	Lard production	Lard per 100 pounds live weight	Lard production
	Pounds	Million pounds	Pounds	Million pounds
<u>LARD 1/</u>				
Federally inspected	14.5	2,140	14.6	2,255
Other commercial	11.0	312	10.9	304
Farm	12.5	208	12.5	203
Total	13.8	2,660	13.9	2,762

1/ Includes rendered pork fat.

down 1 percent and farm slaughter declined 2 percent. Slaughter cattle averaged 15 pounds heavier and calves averaged 6 pounds heavier than a year earlier. The average live weight of hogs was 5 pounds less than the previous year and sheep and lambs averaged a pound lighter. Revised estimates of commercial slaughter for 1956 by States will be released May 8, 1957.