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April 20, 2023   (304) 357-5126

2022 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia - Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 10.6 million pounds during 2022. This was down 2 percent from 2021 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 39 on January 1, 2023, up 7 plants from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2022 totaled 13,800 head, down 5 percent from 2021. Total live weight was 15.11 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2021. The average live weight was 1,094 pounds, up 9 pounds from 2021.

Commercial calf slaughter during 2022 totaled 100 head. Total live weight was 50,000 pounds. The average live weight was 472 pounds. Data for 2021 were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter during 2022 totaled 7,500 head, up 10 percent from 2021. Total live weight was 2.24 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2021. The average live weight was 297 pounds, down 9 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Total red meat production for the United States totaled 55.6 billion pounds in 2022, 1 percent lower than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.5 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 93.3 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 28.4 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 58.7 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 136.2 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2021.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2022 totaled 34.3 million head, up 1 percent from 2021, with federal inspection comprising 98.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,369 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 47.0 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 30.6 percent, dairy cows 9.1 percent, other cows 11.7 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 369,200 head, 6 percent lower than a year ago with 98.1 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 253 pounds, up 17 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 125 million head, 3 percent lower than 2021 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 289 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.07 million head, was down 8 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 84.9 percent of the total. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from 2021 at 126 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 93.7 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 946 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2023 compared with 905 last year. Of these, 776 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2022 with the 12 largest plants slaughtering 49 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 659 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 59 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 160 plants accounted for 54 percent of the total and 1 of the 553 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2022 comprised 14 percent of the total head. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 50 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2022, unchanged from 2021.