NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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April 25, 2024   (304) 357-5126

2023 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 12.7 million pounds during 2023. This was up 20 percent from 2022 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 37 on January 1, 2024, down 2 plants from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2023 totaled 16,400 head, up 19 percent from 2022. Total live weight was 18.15 million pounds, up 20 percent from 2022. The average live weight was 1,110 pounds, up 16 pounds from 2022.

Commercial calf slaughter during 2023 totaled 100 head, unchanged from 2022. Total live weight was 26,000 pounds, down 48 percent from 2022. The average live weight was 471 pounds, down 1 pound from 2022.

Commercial hog slaughter during 2023 totaled 9,700 head, up 29 percent from 2022. Total live weight was 2.82 million pounds, up 26 percent from 2022. The average live weight was 291 pounds, down 6 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

United States - **Total red meat production** for the United States totaled 54.5 billion pounds in 2023, 2 percent lower than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 54.4 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 91.6 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 27.0 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 52.8 million pounds, down 10 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.3 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 135.1 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2022.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2023 totaled 32.8 million head, down 4 percent from 2022, with federal inspection comprising 98.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,365 pounds, down 4 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 46.8 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 31.1 percent, dairy cows 9.5 percent, other cows 10.9 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 293,600 head, 20 percent lower than a year ago with 97.3 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 280 pounds, up 27 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 128.0 million head, 2 percent higher than 2022 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from last year, at 287 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.17 million head, was up 5 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 84.8 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from 2022 at 119 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 93.6 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 1,012 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2024 compared with 946 last year. Of these, 835 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2023 with the 11 largest plants slaughtering 46 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 718 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 60 percent of the total. For calves, 2 of the 148 plants accounted for 36 percent of the total and 4 of the 601 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2023 comprised 39 percent of the total head. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2023, down 1 percent from 2022.