



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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April 2008 Red Meat Production

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Montana slaughter plants produced 0.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2008, down 14 percent from April 2007 and 23 percent from March 2008. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, 200 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,163 pounds, decreased 23 pounds from last year.

During April, Montana plants slaughtered 700 hogs, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 263 pounds, was up 16 pounds from last year. April sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, up 100 head from April 2007. The average live weight increased 9 pounds to 101 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007.

Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.9 million pounds, 1 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73,300 head, up 29 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 70 pounds from last year, at 278 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

January to April 2008 commercial red meat production was 16.8 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 13 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

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