



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

For immediate release: April 25, 2008

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Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2008, down 9 percent from February 2008 and 9 percent below March 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,187 pounds, decreased 18 pounds from last year.

During March there were 900 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, decreased 17 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter totaled 300 head, unchanged from March 2007. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 102 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

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