



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

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Montana slaughter plants produced 0.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2008, down 23 percent from May 2007 and down 6 percent from April 2008. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, 300 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,189 pounds, decreased 31 pounds from last year.

During May there were 600 hogs slaughtered, 200 head below a year ago. The average live weight, at 255 pounds, was down 7 pounds from last year. May sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, up 100 head from May 2007. The average live weight decreased 30 pounds to 94 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.22 billion pounds in May, up 4 percent from the 4.08 billion pounds produced in May 2007.

Beef production, at 2.38 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.14 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,251 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.5 million pounds, 7 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,100 head, up 21 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 74 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.06 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from May 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,400 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 146 pounds, up 4 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2008 commercial red meat production was 21.0 billion pounds, up 7 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

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