



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's Annual Red Meat Production Increases 5 Percent in 2007

HARRISBURG, PA, Mar 7, 2008 --- Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during 2007 totaled 1,288.3 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 5 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Commercial cattle slaughter, at 945,600 head, was up 10 percent from last year. Of this number, 929,400 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Beef production, at 1,176 million pounds live weight, was up 12 percent from 2006. Average live weight per head was 1,244 pounds, an increase of 16 pounds from last year. Commercial calf slaughter, at 171,500 head, was down 4 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 67.29 million pounds live weight, was down 5 percent from a year ago. Average live weight per head decreased 6 pounds to 392 pounds per calf. Commercial hog slaughter, at 2,956,900 head, was down slightly from last year. Of this number, 2,943,000 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Pork production was 746.9 million pounds live weight, up 1 percent from 2006. Average live weight increased 4 pounds per head to 253 pounds. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 55,000 head, unchanged from last year. Of this number, 53,700 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Lamb and mutton production was 5.27 million pounds live weight, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 96 pounds. Federally inspected goat slaughter, at 30,991 head slaughtered for the year of 2007 at 43 plants across Pennsylvania. There were an estimated 245 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2008, of which 91 were under federal inspection.

Nationally, red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 48.8 billion pounds in 2007, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Beef production, at 26.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 146 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. Pork production, at 22.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 188 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2006. There were 808 slaughtering plants under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2008, compared with 795 last year. Of these, 626 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2007 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 11 largest plants accounting for 51 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 comprised about 68 percent of the total head. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of the U.S. commercial red meat production in 2007, similar to 2006.

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