



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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## DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA - Commercial red meat production** during December 2011 totaled 1 million pounds. This was up 22 percent from December 2010. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 1,398,000 pounds live weight, up 18 percent from December 2010. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 983 pounds, was down 30 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 173,000 pounds live weight, up 56 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 277 pounds, was up 22 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**UNITED STATES - Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.22 billion pounds in December, down 3 percent from the 4.35 billion pounds produced in December 2010.

**Beef production**, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 6 percent from December 2010. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,297 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 10.7 million pounds, 8 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,900 head, down 6 percent from December 2010. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from last year, at 253 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.07 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.94 million head, up slightly from December 2010. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.5 million pounds, was down 16 percent from December 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 180,700 head, 16 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 1 pound from December a year ago.

**January to December 2011 commercial red meat production** was 49.2 billion pounds, up slightly from 2010. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

**December 2010** contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**December 2011** contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*