



Immediate Release

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2011 TOTAL U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

Commercial red meat production in **Wyoming** during 2011 totaled 6.3 million pounds, up 3 percent from the 6.1 million pounds in 2010, according to Steve Gunn with the Wyoming Field Office of USDA NASS. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

A total of 7,500 **cattle** were slaughtered in 2011, compared with 7,400 in 2010. Total live weight, at 8.63 million pounds, was down from 8.67 million pounds last year. However, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,156 pounds, down 9 pounds from 2010.

In 2011, 4,300 **hogs and pigs** were processed, compared with 4,000 in 2010. Total live weight of hogs slaughtered was 1.09 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year. The average liveweight of 253 pounds was down 7 pounds from 2010.

A total of 1,200 **sheep and lambs** were processed in 2011, compared with 1,400 last year. Total live weight, at 173,000 pounds, was 11 percent below 2010. The average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered, at 144 pounds, unchanged from last year.

UNITED STATES: Total red meat production for the United States totaled 49.4 billion pounds in 2011, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 49.2 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 127 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.3 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 138 million pounds, down 4 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 22.8 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 153 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2010.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2011 totaled 34.1 million head, down slightly from 2010, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,277 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.0 percent, dairy cows 8.7 percent, other cows 11.3 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 852,500 head, 3 percent lower than a year ago with 98.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 263 pounds, up 1 pound from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 110.9 million head, 1 percent higher than 2010 with 99.2 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year at 275 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.9 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.16 million head, was down 12 percent from the previous year with 92.4 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from 2010 at 138 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 93.0 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 867 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2012 compared with 841 last year. Of these, 633 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2011 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 55 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 604 plants, with the 12 largest plants accounting for 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 5 of the 253 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 54 percent of the total and 3 of the 507 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2011 comprised 60 percent of the total head.

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2011, similar to 2010.