

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 28 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for July 2004 totaled 36.3 million pounds, down 28 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. July production was down 10 percent from June's 40.2 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-July 2004 period totaled 267 million pounds, down 23 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in July, down 8 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in July 2003. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 14 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 15 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,239 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 9 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,000 head, down 19 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 325 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, slightly below July 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was down 10 percent from July 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago. January to July 2004 commercial red meat production was 26.0 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

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