

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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## IDAHO RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 31 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for August 2004 totaled 30.7 million pounds, down 31 percent from last year according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. August production was down 15 percent from July's 36.3 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January-August 2004 period totaled 298 million pounds, down 24 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in August, down 1 percent from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in August 2003. Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 8 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.82 million head, down 10 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was up 27 pounds from the previous year, at 1,252 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,800 head, down 9 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and was a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.72 million head, 8 percent above August 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from August 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 232,600 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, unchanged from August a year ago. January to August 2004 commercial red meat production was 29.9 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.