

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

2003 Annual Livestock Slaughter
Farms & Land in Farms

Louisiana Annual Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during 2003 totaled 15.1 million pounds, down 9 percent from a year earlier.

There were 14,900 head of **cattle** slaughtered during 2003, down 12 percent from 2002. Average live weight per head, at 877 pounds, was up 11 pounds from the previous year. Total live weight, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 11 percent from a year earlier.

Calves slaughtered totaled 10,400 head during 2003, up 4 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 492 pounds per head, down 5 pounds from 2002. Total live weight was 5.09 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during 2003 totaled 24,100 head, down 11 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 206 pounds per head, down 1 pound from 2002. Total live weight was 4.98 million pounds, down 12 percent from a year earlier.

Sheep slaughtered during 2003 totaled 1,900 head, down 14 percent from 2002. Live weight per head averaged 87 pounds, down 7 pounds from a year earlier. Total live weight, at 164,000 pounds, was down 19 percent from 2002.

U. S. Annual Livestock Slaughter

Red meat production for the United States totaled 46.8 billion pounds in 2003, 1 percent below 2002's record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.6 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds.

Beef production, at 26.3 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous record high set in 2002. **Veal production** totaled 201.1

million pounds, down 2 percent from last year, and a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent above 2002, a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 203.4 million pounds, down 9 percent from the previous record low set the year before.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2003 totaled 35.5 million head, down 1 percent from 2002, with federal inspection comprising 98 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,231 pounds, down 20 pounds from the year before. **Steers** comprised 49 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, **heifers** 32 percent, **dairy cows** 8 percent, **other cows** 9 percent, and **bulls** 2 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.0 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago, with 98 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 318 pounds, up 6 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2002, with 99 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, to 266 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.98 million head, was down 9 percent from 2002 with 94 percent federally inspected. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2002, to 134 pounds.

There were slightly over 850 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2004, compared with 879 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2003; 15 slaughter houses killed over 56 percent of the total cattle. Hogs were slaughtered at 662 plants, with 13 plants accounting for 58 percent of the total. Eight of the 290 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 57 percent of the total and 4 of the 505 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2003 handled 69 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas accounted for over 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2003, similar to 2002.

2003 Louisiana Livestock Slaughter¹

Month	Cattle Slaughtered		Calves Slaughtered		Hogs Slaughtered		Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered		Red Meat Production ²
	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Thousand Pounds
January	1,400	881	900	498	2,000	207	100	75	1,300
February	1,400	868	600	508	2,700	222	300	107	1,400
March	1,100	914	800	489	2,200	237	200	107	1,300
April	1,100	909	800	487	2,300	209	100	100	1,300
May	1,200	871	700	504	1,700	207	200	83	1,100
June	1,100	861	800	499	1,800	196	100	82	1,100
July	1,200	849	800	498	1,400	202	200	72	1,100
August	1,300	907	900	491	1,500	212	100	79	1,300
September	1,400	846	1,000	483	1,800	203	100	73	1,300
October	1,500	895	1,200	478	2,100	197	200	79	1,500
November	1,100	884	900	483	2,100	192	100	70	1,200
December	1,100	840	800	497	2,700	185	100	73	1,200
Year ³	14,900	877	10,400	492	24,100	206	1,900	87	15,100

¹Includes slaughter in federally inspected and other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

²Includes total beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter.

³Total may not add due to rounding.

United States Farms and Land in Farms Increase in 2003

The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000-\$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

The number of farms in 2003 declined in 20 states, remained unchanged in 28 states, and increased in two states. The largest decline in farms occurred in California which lost 1,200 places followed by Missouri with 1,000. Other notable declines were: Minnesota and Nebraska, 900; Indiana, 800; North Carolina, 700; Iowa, 600; and Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin each losing 500 farms. For the two states with increased farm numbers, Mississippi added 600 and Montana 100 places.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Size Farm: United States, 2001-2003¹

Selected States	Number of Farms			Land in Farms			Average Farm Size		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	-----Number-----			-----1,000 Acres-----			-----Acres-----		
Alabama	46,000	45,000	45,000	8,900	8,900	8,900	193	198	198
Arkansas	48,000	47,500	47,500	14,600	14,500	14,400	304	305	303
Georgia	49,200	49,300	49,300	10,850	10,800	10,800	221	219	219
Louisiana	28,000	27,500	27,200	7,910	7,900	7,850	283	287	289
Mississippi	42,000	42,200	42,800	11,130	11,110	11,110	265	263	260
Oklahoma	84,000	83,500	83,500	33,800	33,700	33,700	402	404	404
Texas	228,600	229,000	229,000	130,700	130,500	130,500	572	570	570
United States	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860	942,070	940,300	938,750	438	440	441

¹A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

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