



West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics

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March 4, 2005

2004 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA – Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 7.0 million pounds during 2004. This was 1 percent below the 2003 production of 7.1 million. The number of Federally and Non Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 31 on January 1, 2005, down 3 plants from January 1, 2004.

West Virginia with 2003 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** - 9.17 million pounds, down 6 percent.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 9,600 head, down 8 percent.
- **Pork production** - 2.13 million pounds, down 2 percent.
- **Hogs slaughtered** - 8,300 head, down 6 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2004 was 953 pounds, up 14 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 256 pounds, up 7 pounds.

Sheep and Lambs and Calves information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

UNITED STATES – Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 45.4 billion pounds. **On farm** production totaled 136 million pounds.

Beef production, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 176 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year, and set a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, **heifers** 32.2 percent, **dairy cows** 7.3 percent, **other cows** 8.4 percent, and **bulls** 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 at 136 pounds.

There were 825 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2005 compared with 855 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2004 with 13 slaughtering almost 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 664 plants, with 13 accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 13 of the 234 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 83 percent of the total and 4 of the 500 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2004 comprised about 60 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for almost 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2004, similar to 2003.