



West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics Service

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FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA— **Commercial red meat production** during February 2004 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was 11 percent below January 2004, but 38 percent above February 2003 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 821,000 pounds live weight, up 42 percent from February 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 800 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 979 pounds, was up 54 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 173,000 pounds live weight, up 24 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 258 pounds, was up 10 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES — **Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003.

Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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