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### **SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production** during September 2004 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 32 percent from August 2004, and up 2 percent from September 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 841,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from September 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 959 pounds, was down 1 pound from a year ago.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 214,000 pounds live weight, down 0.5 of a percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 259 pounds, was up 14 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 3.91 billion pounds in September, down 3 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in September 2003.

**Beef production**, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 13 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from the previous year, at 1,266 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.0 million pounds, 15 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,300 head, down 18 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.00 million head, 5 percent above September 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,600 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

**January to September 2004 commercial red meat production** was 33.8 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

**September 2003** contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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