



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2019

Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2018 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 8.4 million pounds during 2018. This was up 6 percent from 2017 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2019, unchanged from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2018 totaled 10,500 head, up 11 percent from 2017. Total live weight was 10.72 million pounds, up 10 percent from 2017. The average live weight was 1,020 pounds, down 7 pounds from 2017.

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

Commercial hog slaughter during 2018 totaled 8,800 head, down 6 percent from 2017. Total live weight was 2.51 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2017. The average live weight was 285 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous year.

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

United States – Total red meat production for the United States totaled 53.5 billion pounds in 2018, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 53.4 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 90.2 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.9 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 80.9 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 26.3 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 158.2 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2017.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2018 totaled 33.0 million head, up 3 percent from 2017, with federal inspection comprising 98.5 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,350 pounds, up 1 pound from a year ago. Steers comprised 51.2 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 28.2 percent, dairy cows 9.7 percent, other cows 9.3 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 580,300 head, 13 percent higher than a year ago with 98.5 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 226 pounds, down 24 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 124.4 million head, 3 percent higher than 2017 with 99.4 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.26 million head, was up 4 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 88.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2017 at 135 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.7 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 837 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2019 compared with 834 last year. Of these, 663 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2018 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 630 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 57 percent of the total. For calves, 5 of the 179 plants accounted for 76 percent of the total and 3 of the 536 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2018 comprised 50 percent of the total head.

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2018, unchanged from 2017.