



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
**West Virginia Field Office**  
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## DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during December 2020 totaled 1,100,000 pounds. This was up 19 percent from December 2019. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 1,737,000 pounds live weight, up 27 percent from December 2019. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, up 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 83 pounds from the previous year, at 1,036 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 191,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 316 pounds.

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

**United States - Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.85 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.73 billion pounds produced in December 2019.

**Beef production**, at 2.32 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 1 percent from December 2019. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,389 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 5.6 million pounds, 14 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 40,600 head, down 19 percent from December 2019. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from last year, at 242 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.51 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.5 million head, up 1 percent from December 2019. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 294 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.0 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2019. Sheep slaughter totaled 197,800 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 121 pounds, down 2 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2020 commercial red meat production** was 55.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2019. Accumulated beef production was slightly down from last year, veal was down 14 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

**December 2019** contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**December 2020** contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*