March 2021 Red Meat Production

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during March 2021 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 6 percent from March 2020. 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 1,196,000 pounds live weight, down 7 percent from March 2020. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 71 pounds from the previous year, at 1,123 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 153,000 pounds live weight, down 25 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 312 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 5.05 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 5.00 billion pounds produced in March 2020.

Beef production, at 2.48 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, up 3 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,372 pounds.

Veal production totaled 4.9 million pounds, 15 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 31,600 head, down 27 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.55 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.7 million head, down 2 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.9 million pounds, was up 13 percent from March 2020. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,700 head, 14 percent above last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2021 commercial red meat production was 14.2 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2020. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 18 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

March 2020 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2021 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.