MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during May 2021 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 56 percent from May 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 824,000 pounds live weight, down 51 percent from May 2020. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, down 700 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 1,191 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 90,000 pounds live weight, down 83 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 300 head, down 1,500 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 10 pounds from the previous year, at 310 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 4.30 billion pounds in May, up 14 percent from the 3.76 billion pounds produced in May 2020.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 19 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, up 18 percent from May 2020. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,360 pounds.

Veal production totaled 3.7 million pounds, 29 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 25,500 head, down 21 percent from May 2020. The average live weight was down 26 pounds from last year, at 248 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.07 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.65 million head, up 12 percent from May 2020. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from the previous year, at 288 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.0 million pounds, was down 13 percent from May 2020. Sheep slaughter totaled 181,300 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 121 pounds, down 8 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2021 commercial red meat production was 23.2 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2020. Accumulated beef production was up 8 percent from last year, veal was down 19 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

May 2020 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.
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Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.