



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 20, 2018

Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2017 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 7.9 million pounds during 2017. This was up 8 percent from 2016 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2018, up 1 plant from January 1, 2017.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2017 totaled 9,500 head, up 12 percent from 2016. Total live weight was 9.77 million pounds, up 12 percent from 2016. The average live weight was 1,027 pounds, down 2 pounds from 2016.

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

Commercial hog slaughter during 2017 totaled 9,400 head, up 2 percent from 2016. Total live weight was 2.72 million pounds, up 4 percent from 2016. The average live weight was 289 pounds, up 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 52.1 billion pounds in 2017, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 52.0 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 87.6 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.3 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 80.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 25.6 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 150.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2016.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2017 totaled 32.2 million head, up 5 percent from 2016, with federal inspection comprising 98.5 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,349 pounds, down 14 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 52.9 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 27.2 percent, dairy cows 9.4 percent, other cows 8.8 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 512,300 head, 5 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 250 pounds, down 16 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 121.3 million head, 3 percent higher than 2016 with 99.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 282 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.2 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.18 million head, was down 3 percent from the previous year with 88.9 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from 2016 at 133 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.8 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 834 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2018 compared with 814 last year. Of these, 666 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2017 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 636 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 59 percent of the total. For calves, 5 of the 190 plants accounted for 72 percent of the total and 2 of the 537 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2017 comprised 38 percent of the total head.

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2017, unchanged from 2016.