



# 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 2018 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was up 13 percent from December 2017. 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 1,182,000 pounds live weight, up 17 percent from December 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 27 pounds from the previous year, at 963 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 178,000 pounds live weight, down 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 25 pounds from the previous year, at 278 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 4.37 billion pounds in December, down 1 percent from the 4.40 billion pounds produced in December 2017.

**Beef production**, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down slightly from December 2017. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,368 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.5 million pounds, 2 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,600 head, up 16 percent from December 2017. The average live weight was down 35 pounds from last year, at 210 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.23 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down slightly from December 2017. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 201,800 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 5 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2018 commercial red meat production** was 53.4 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2017. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 5 percent.

**December 2017** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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