



# 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 2019 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was up 8 percent from December 2018. 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 1,343,000 pounds live weight, up 14 percent from December 2018. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 958 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 181,000 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 22 pounds from the previous year, at 300 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 4.73 billion pounds in December, up 8 percent from the 4.37 billion pounds produced in December 2018.

**Beef production**, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, up 7 percent from December 2018. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,373 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.5 million pounds, 1 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 49,800 head, down 7 percent from December 2018. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from last year, at 228 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.44 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.4 million head, up 9 percent from December 2018. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 288 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.1 million pounds, was down 8 percent from December 2018. Sheep slaughter totaled 196,500 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 123 pounds, down 8 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2019 commercial red meat production** was 55.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2018. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**December 2018** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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

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