



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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## JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during January 2016 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from January 2015. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 686,000 pounds live weight, down 19 percent from January 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 22 pounds from the previous year, at 1,062 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 194,000 pounds live weight, up 29 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 289 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 4.06 billion pounds in January, down 1 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in January 2015.

**Beef production**, at 1.95 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.36 million head, down 2 percent from January 2015. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,381 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.7 million pounds, 2 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 41,800 head, 5 percent above January 2015. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from last year, at 274 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.08 billion pounds, 1 percent below the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.74 million head, slightly below January 2015. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 11.2 million pounds, was 4 percent below January 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 161,400 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from January a year ago.

**January 2015** contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

**January 2016** contained 21 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

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