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Statistics Service  
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in cooperation with  
  
West Virginia  
Department of Agriculture

RELEASED: FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2

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

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

**CATTLE INVENTORY**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Cattle inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2019 totaled 390,000 head, down 5,000 head from the January 1, 2018 inventory. **All cows and heifers that have calved** totaled 205,000 head, this is down 5,000 head from January 1, 2018.

Comparing January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2018: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 198,000 head, down 5,000 head; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 7,000 head, unchanged; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 55,000 head, down 3,000 head; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 32,000 head, down 5,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 3,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers** totaled 20,000 head, up 2,000 head; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 42,000 head, up 1,000 head; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 14,000 head, down 1,000 head; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 74,000 head, up 3,000 head. **Cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2018.

The 2018 **calf crop** totaled 185,000 head, down 10,000 head from the 2017 calf crop.

**United States - All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2019 totaled 94.8 million head, slightly above the 94.3 million head on January 1, 2018. **All cows and heifers that have calved**, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.9 million head on January 1, 2018.

Comparing January 1, 2019, to January 1, 2018: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 31.8 million head, up 1 percent; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 9.35 million head, down 1 percent; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 20.2 million head, up slightly; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 5.92 million head, down 3 percent; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 4.70 million head, down 1 percent; **other heifers** totaled 9.60 million head, up 3 percent; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 16.6 million head, up 1 percent; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 2.26 million head, up slightly; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 14.5 million head, up 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots totaled 14.4 million head, up 2 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** (outside of feedlots) was 26.4 million head, up 1 percent.

**The 2018 calf crop** in the United States was estimated at 36.4 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2018 were estimated at 26.6 million head, up 3 percent from the first half of 2017. Calves born during the second half of 2018 were estimated at 9.80 million head, 27 percent of the total 2018 calf crop.

## SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

**Charleston, West Virginia - All sheep and lambs inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2019, was 32,000 head, down 3,000 head from January 1, 2018.

**Breeding sheep and lambs inventory** totaled 26,000 head on January 1, 2019, down 2,000 head from 2018. Ewes totaled 21,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2018. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2018. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2018.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2019 totaled 6,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2018. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, down 1,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

**The 2018 lamb crop** totaled 26,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 113 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2018, down 4 lambs per 100 ewes from 2017.

**Shorn wool production** during 2018 was 92,000 pounds, down 13,000 pounds from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 17,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2017. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.40 per pound, down \$0.05 per pound from the total of \$1.45 per pound in 2017. Value was 129,000 dollars, down 23,000 dollars from the value of 152,000 dollars in 2017.

**Sheep death loss** during 2018 totaled 2,200 head, up 200 head from 2017. Lamb death loss during 2018 totaled 4,200 head, up 200 head from 2017.

**Meat and other goats and kids inventory** on January 1, 2019 was estimated at 19,000 head, down 2,000 head from January 1, 2018. **Milk goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. **Angora goat inventory** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States - All sheep and lambs inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 5.23 million head, down 1 percent from 2018

**Breeding sheep inventory** at 3.82 million head on January 1, 2019, decreased 1 percent from 3.87 million head on January 1, 2018. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.00 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2019 totaled 1.41 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

**The 2018 lamb crop** of 3.24 million head was up slightly from 2017. The 2018 lambing rate was 107 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2018, up 1 percent from 2017.

**Shorn wool production** in the United States during 2018 was 24.4 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2017. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.37 million head, down 2 percent from 2017. The average price paid for wool sold in 2018 was \$1.75 per pound for a total value of 42.8 million dollars, up 16 percent from 36.8 million dollars in 2017.

**Sheep death loss** during 2018 totaled 216 thousand head, up 1 percent from 2017. Lamb death loss increased 6 percent from 367 thousand head to 388 thousand head in 2018.

**All goats and kids inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.15 million head, down 1 percent from 2018. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 474 thousand head, up 2 percent from a year ago.

**Kid crop** for 2018 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, up slightly from 2017.

**Meat and all other goats** totaled 2.06 million head on January 1, 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Milk goat inventory was 430 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2018, while Angora goats were down 5 percent, totaling 137 thousand head.

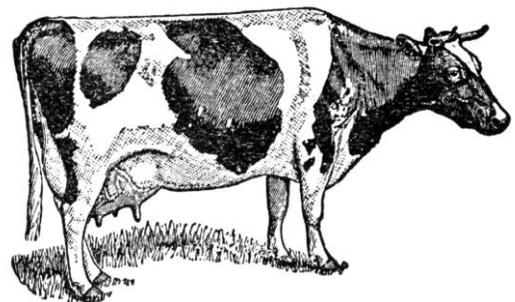
**Mohair production** in the United States during 2018 was 755 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 133 thousand head. Average weight per clip

was 5.7 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.25 per pound with a value of 3.96 million dollars.

**Sheep and Goat Revisions** - All sheep and goats inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2018, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to goats and kids inventory and kid crop at the United States level. A revision of less than 1 percent was made to sheep and lambs inventory and lamb crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

#### FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia - Milk production** in West Virginia totaled 25 million pounds or 2.9 million gallons during the October - December quarter of 2018. This was down 2 million pounds from the July - September 2018 quarter, and was 4 million pounds or 465,000 gallons less than the October - December quarter of 2017. The number of dairy cows averaged 7,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter, and unchanged from the same period in 2017.



**United States - Milk production** in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 53.3 billion pounds, up 0.5 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.36 million head, 18,000 head less than the July - September quarter, and 41,000 head less than the same period last year.

## CHICKENS AND EGGS

**United States - Egg production** totaled 9.41 billion during January 2019, up 5 percent from last year. Production included 8.23 billion table eggs, and 1.18 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.09 billion were broiler-type and 89.6 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2019 averaged 393 million, up 3 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,395 eggs, up 2 percent from January 2018.

**All layers** in the United States on February 1, 2019 totaled 392 million, up 3 percent from last year. The 392 million layers consisted of 330 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 59.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2019, averaged 77.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from February 1, 2018.

**NEXT ISSUE**

Red Meat Production  
Annual Chicken and Egg Production

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during January 2019 totaled 54.3 million, up 4 percent from January 2018. Eggs in incubators totaled 56.9 million on February 1, 2019, up 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 268 thousand during January 2019, up 16 percent from January 2018.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during January 2019 totaled 828 million, up 1 percent from January 2018. Eggs in incubators totaled 688 million on February 1, 2019, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.98 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2019, up 13 percent from January 2018.

**2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**  
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Data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture will be available April 2019.

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