



Telephone: 1-800-535-7088  
Email: nass-wv@nass.usda.gov



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### In This Issue

- RED MEAT PRODUCTION
- 2020 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
- FIRST QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION
- HONEY PRODUCTION
- PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
- CHICKENS AND EGGS

### Red Meat Production

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during March 2021 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 6 percent from March 2020. 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 1,196,000 pounds live weight, down 7 percent from March 2020. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 71 pounds from the previous year, at 1,123 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 153,000 pounds live weight, down 25 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 312 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 5.05 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 5.00 billion pounds produced in March 2020.

**Beef production**, at 2.48 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter

totaled 3.01 million head, up 3 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,372 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 4.9 million pounds, 15 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 31,600 head, down 27 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.55 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.7 million head, down 2 percent from March 2020. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.9 million pounds, was up 13 percent from March 2020. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,700 head, 14 percent above last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

**January to March 2021 commercial red meat production** was 14.2 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2020. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 18 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

March 2020 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2021 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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

### 2020 Commercial Livestock Slaughter

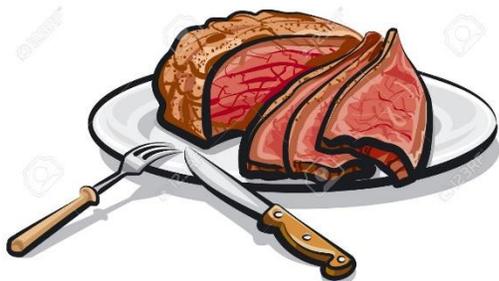
**Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production** in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 12.8 million pounds during 2020. This was up 56 percent from 2019 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 32 on January 1, 2021, down 2 plants from the previous year total of 34.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2020 totaled 16,900 head, up 56 percent from 2019. Total live weight was 18.50 million pounds, up 73 percent from 2019. The average live weight was 1,093 pounds, up 103 pounds from 2019.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** during 2020 totaled 11,000 head, up 43 percent from 2019. Total live weight was 3.31 million pounds, up 49 percent from 2019. The average live weight was 300 pounds, up 12 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 55.8 billion pounds in 2020, 1 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.7 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 94.3 million pounds.

**Beef production** totaled 27.2 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 69.3 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 28.3 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 143 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2019.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2020 totaled 32.8 million head, down 2 percent from 2019, with federal inspection comprising 98.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,373 pounds, up 29 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.4 percent, dairy cows 9.5 percent, other cows 10.2 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 456,400 head, 22 percent lower than a year ago with 97.9 percent

under federal inspection. The average live weight was 245 pounds, up 24 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 132 million head, 1 percent higher than 2019 with 99.4 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from last year, at 289 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.2 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.23 million head, was down 4 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 85.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from 2019 at 125 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.0 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 858 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2021 compared with 835 last year. Of these, 683 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2020 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 621 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 58 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 172 plants accounted for 55 percent of the total and 1 of the 522 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2020 comprised 20 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2020, unchanged from 2019.

### First Quarter Milk Production

**Charleston, West Virginia** – Milk production in West Virginia totaled 19 million pounds or 2.2 million gallons during the January - March quarter of 2021. This was down 4 million pounds from the same period in 2020, and down 2 million pounds from the October - December 2020 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 5,000 head, down 1,000 head from the same period in 2020, and the previous quarter.

**United States** – Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 56.7 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.46 million head, 29,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 80,000 head more than the same period last year.

*Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.*

## Honey Production

**Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production** in 2020 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 276,000 pounds, up 24 percent from 222,000 pounds in 2019. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2020, unchanged from 2019. Yield per colony averaged 46 pounds, up 24 percent from the yield per colony of 37 pounds in 2019. Honey stocks on December 15, 2020, were reported at 58,000 pounds, up 23 percent from 47,000 pounds in 2019.

**Prices** for the 2020 crop averaged \$3.89 per pound, down 9 percent from the price of \$4.26 per pound in 2019. Value of production totaled \$1,074,000, up \$128,000, or 14 percent, from \$946,000 in 2019.

**United States – Honey production** in 2020 totaled 148 million pounds, down 6 percent from 2019. There were 2.71 million colonies producing honey in 2020, down 4 percent from 2019. Yield per colony averaged 54.5 pounds, down 2 percent from the 55.8 pounds in 2019. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.7 million pounds on December 15, 2020, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

**Honey prices** increased 2 percent during 2020 to \$2.03 per pound, compared to \$1.99 per pound in 2019. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2019 crop reflect honey sold in 2019 and 2020. Some 2019 crop honey was sold in 2020, which caused some revisions to the 2019 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2020 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$84, and \$105 respectively. Pollination income for 2020 was \$254 million, down 18 percent from 2019. Other income from honey bees in 2020 was \$55.8 million, down 28 percent from 2019.



## Prospective Plantings

**Charleston, West Virginia – Corn plantings** in West Virginia are expected to total 53,000 acres, up 4 percent, or 2,000 acres from 2020, and up 2 percent or 1,000 acres from 2019.

**All hay** acreage harvested is expected to total 575,000 acres, up 6 percent or 35,000 acres from 2020, and up 12 percent or 60,000 acres from 2019.

### United States with 2020 Comparisons

- Corn plantings – 91.1 million acres, up less than 1%.
- Oat plantings – 2.49 million acres, down 17%.
- Winter wheat planted – 33.1 million acres, up 9%.
- All tobacco for harvest – 195,800 acres, down 1%.
- Burley tobacco for harvest – 40,850 acres, down 6%.
- Soybean plantings – 87.6 million acres, up 5%.
- Sorghum plantings – 6.94 million acres, up 18%.
- Barley plantings – 2.59 million acres, down 1%.
- All hay for harvest – 51.7 million acres, down 1%.

*Note:* These estimates were based on results from the March 1, 2021, Agricultural Survey. Forecasted estimates may change as the survey year continues and/or planting intentions by farmers are altered. Winter wheat and soybean estimates were discontinued in 2019 for West Virginia.

## Chickens And Eggs

**United States – Egg production** totaled 9.54 billion during March 2021, down slightly from last year. Production included 8.25 billion table eggs, and 1.29 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.21 billion were broiler-type and 82.8 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during March 2021 totaled

393 million, down 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,427 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2020.

**Total layers** in the United States on April 1, 2021 totaled 392 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 392 million layers consisted of 326 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 63.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.09 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2021, averaged 78.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2020.

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during March 2021 totaled 62.3 million, up 11 percent from March 2020. Eggs in incubators totaled 55.7 million on April 1, 2021, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 327 thousand during March 2021, up 2 percent from March 2020.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during March 2021 totaled 842 million, down 2 percent from March 2020. Eggs in incubators totaled 717 million on April 1, 2021, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.23 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2021, down 4 percent from March 2020.

### Thank You for Your Participation!

Data collected from surveys help shape West Virginia's farms future, shape farm programs, and boost services for West Virginia's communities and the agriculture industry.

To see additional survey results, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/wv](http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv)

### NEXT ISSUE

Red Meat Production  
Meat Animals Production, Disposition, & Income  
2020 Poultry Production & Value  
Milk Production, Disposition, & Income

KENT LEONHARDT, COMMISSIONER  
CHARMAINE WILSON, STATE STATISTICIAN

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305