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**Beef production**, at 2.51 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, up slightly from March 2021. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,384 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 4.9 million pounds, 1 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 32,600 head, up 3 percent from March 2021. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from last year, at 261 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.46 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.2 million head, down 4 percent from March 2021. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 293 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.3 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2021. Sheep slaughter totaled 187,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

**January to March 2022 commercial red meat production** was 14.0 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2021. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was down 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 11 percent.

March 2021 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2022 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during March 2022 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 5 percent from March 2021. 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 1,218,000 pounds live weight, down 8 percent from March 2021. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,153 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 151,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 324 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 4.98 billion pounds in March, down 1 percent from the 5.05 billion pounds produced in March 2021.

**2021 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 10.8 million pounds during 2021. This was down 16 percent from 2020 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter

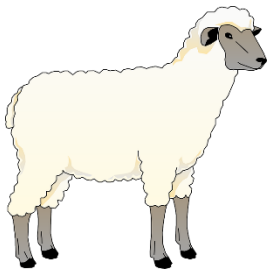
plants totaled 32 on January 1, 2022, unchanged from the previous year.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2021 totaled 14,600 head, down 14 percent from 2020. Total live weight was 15.89 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2020. The average live weight was 1,085 pounds, down 8 pounds from 2020.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** during 2021 totaled 6,800 head, down 38 percent from 2020. Total live weight was 2.08 million pounds, down 37 percent from 2020. The average live weight was 306 pounds, up 6 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 55.9 billion pounds in 2021, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.8 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 91.9 million pounds.

**Beef production** totaled 28.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 58.1 million pounds, down 16 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.7 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 143 million pounds, down slightly from 2020.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2021 totaled 33.9 million head, up 3 percent from 2020, with federal inspection comprising 98.0 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,371 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 48.7 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.6 percent, dairy cows 9.4 percent, other cows 10.7 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 391,300 head, 14 percent lower than a year ago with 98.1 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 237 pounds, down 8 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 129 million head, 2 percent lower than 2020 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 288 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.26 million head, was up 2 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 85.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from 2020 at 122 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 92.7 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 905 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2022 compared with 858 last year. Of these, 726 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2021 with the 12 largest plants slaughtering 50 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 645 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 58 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 165 plants accounted for 55 percent of the total and 1 of the 534 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2021 comprised 17 percent of the total head. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 50 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2021, up 1 percent from 2021.

## 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 2022. This was unchanged from the same period in 2021 and was unchanged from the October - December 2021 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 5,000 head, unchanged from the same period in 2021, and the previous quarter.

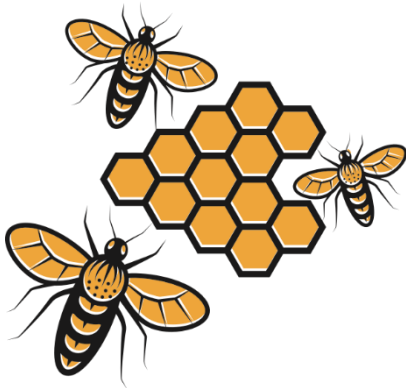
**United States – Milk production** in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 56.3 billion pounds, down 1.0 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.38 million head, unchanged from the October - December quarter, but 85,000 head less 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 2021 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 258,000 pounds, down 7 percent from 276,000 pounds in 2020. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2021, unchanged from 2020. Yield per colony averaged 43 pounds, down 7 percent from the yield per colony of 46 pounds in 2020. Honey stocks on December 15, 2021, were reported at 136,000 pounds, up 134 percent from 58,000 pounds in 2020.

**Prices** for the 2021 crop averaged \$4.80 per pound, up 26 percent from the price of \$3.81 per pound in 2020. Value of production totaled \$1,238,000, up \$186,000, or 18 percent, from \$1,052,000 in 2020.



**United States – Honey production** in 2021 totaled 126 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2020. There were 2.70 million colonies producing honey in 2021, down slightly from 2020. Yield per colony averaged 46.9 pounds, down 14 percent from the 54.5 pounds in 2020. 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 23.5 million pounds on December 15, 2021, down 41 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

**Honey prices** increased 21 percent during 2021 to \$2.54 per pound, compared to \$2.10 per pound in 2020. 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 2020 crop reflect honey sold in 2020 and 2021. Some 2020 crop honey was sold in 2021, which caused some revisions to the 2020 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2021 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$20, \$91, and \$125 respectively. Pollination income for 2021 was \$269 million, up 6 percent from 2020. Other income from honey bees in 2021 was \$102 million, up 82 percent from 2020.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

**Charleston, West Virginia – Corn plantings** in West Virginia are expected to total 49,000 acres, down 4 percent, or 2,000 acres from 2021 and 2020.

**All hay** acreage harvested is expected to total 500,000 acres, down 3 percent or 18,000 acres from 2021, and down 7 percent or 40,000 acres from 2020.

*Note:* These estimates were based on results from the March 1, 2022, Agricultural Survey. Forecasted estimates may change as the survey year continues and/or planting intentions by farmers are altered.

### United States with 2021 Comparisons

Corn plantings – 89.5 million acres, down 4%.  
Oat plantings – 2.55 million acres, down less than 1%.  
Winter wheat planted – 34.2 million acres, up 2%.  
All tobacco for harvest – 226,300 acres, up 3%.  
Burley tobacco for harvest – 41,500 acres, up 1%.  
Soybean plantings – 91.0 million acres, up 4%.  
Sorghum plantings – 6.21 million acres, down 15%.  
Barley plantings – 2.94 million acres, up 11%.  
All hay for harvest – 50.3 million acres, down 1%.



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## Census of Agriculture



**SIGN UP TO BE COUNTED IN THE  
2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**



**June 30, 2022 is the last day to sign up** for the 2022 Ag Census. If you have never received a census and are new to NASS surveys, [sign up to be counted](#) today. You do not need to sign up if you already receive NASS surveys.

### Key Dates:

- June 30, 2022 – sign up ends
- November 2022 – ag census mails out and data collection begins
- February 6, 2023 – response deadline
- 2024 (TBD) – data release

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity.

### NEXT ISSUE

Red Meat Production  
Meat Animals Production, Disposition, & Income  
2021 Poultry Production & Value  
Milk Production, Disposition, & Income