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 in cooperation with
 West Virginia
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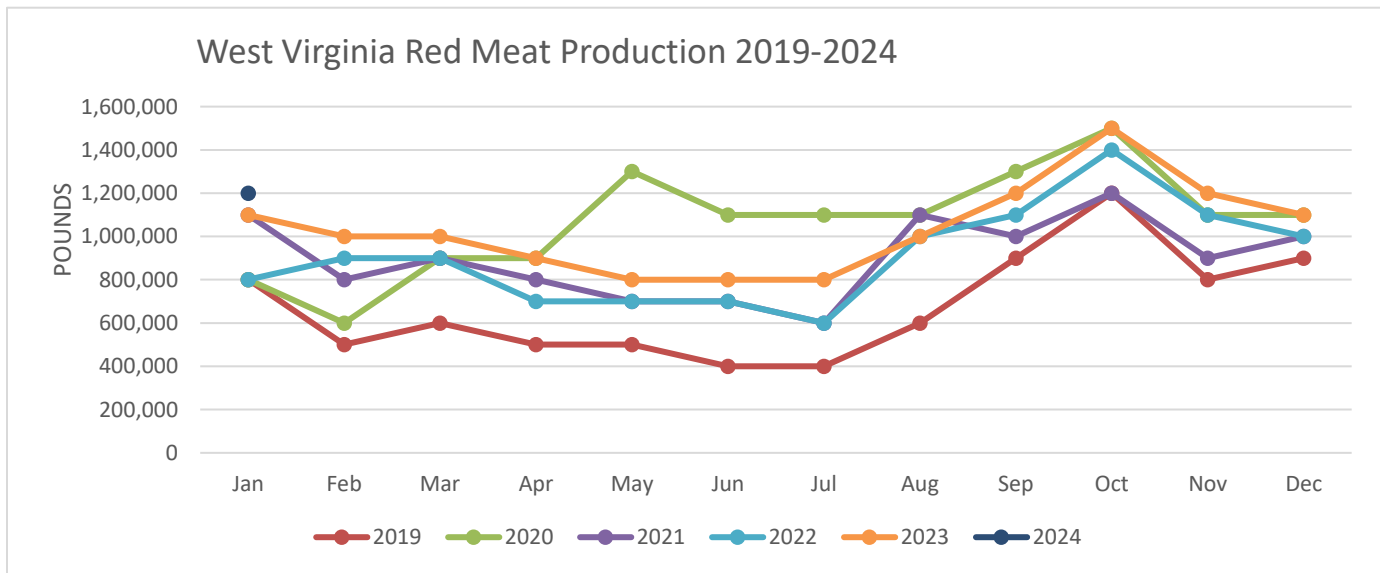
RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in West Virginia during January 2024 totaled 1.2 million pounds. This was up 12 percent from January 2023. 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 1,799,000 pounds live weight, up 15 percent from January 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,145 pounds.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 236,000 pounds live weight, up 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 299 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.77 billion pounds in January, up slightly from the 4.76 billion pounds produced in January 2023. **Beef production**, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 3.9 million pounds, 12 percent below January a year ago. **Pork production** totaled 2.47 billion pounds, 2 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 10.6 million pounds, was 4 percent above January 2023.



CATTLE INVENTORY

Cattle inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2024 totaled 370,000 head, down 5,000 head from the January 1, 2023 inventory. **All cows and heifers that have calved** totaled 192,000 head, down 4,000 head from January 1, 2023.

Comparing January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2023: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 188,000 head, down 3,000 head; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 59,000 head, up 5,000 head; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 31,000 head, up 2,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 2,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers** totaled 26,000 head, up 3,000 head; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 39,000 head, up 2,000 head; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 13,000 head, down 1,000 head; **calves under 500 pounds** totaled 67,000 head, down 7,000 head. **All cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2023.

CATTLE - January 1 Inventory ¹						
CLASS	West Virginia			UNITED STATES		
	2023	2024	Percent Change	2023	2024	Percent Change
	Thousand Head		+/-	Thousand Head		+/-
All Cattle and Calves	375	370	-1	88,841	87,157	-2
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	196	192	-2	38,337	37,580	-2
Beef Cows	191	188	-2	28,939	28,223	-2
Milk Cows	5	4	-20	9,398	9,357	0
Heifers 500 lbs. and Over	54	59	+9	18,761	18,483	-1
For Beef Cow Replacement	29	31	+7	4,930	4,858	-1
For Milk Cow Replacement	2	2	0	4,074	4,059	0
Other Heifers	23	26	+13	9,758	9,566	-2
Steers 500 lbs. and Over	37	39	+5	16,057	15,789	-2
Bulls 500 lbs. and Over	14	13	-7	2,029	2,021	0
Calves Under 500 lbs.	74	67	-9	13,658	13,285	-3
CLASS	2022	2023	Percent Change	2022	2023	Percent Change
	Thousand Head		+/-	Thousand Head		+/-
Calf Crop	191	186	-3	34,440	33,593	-2

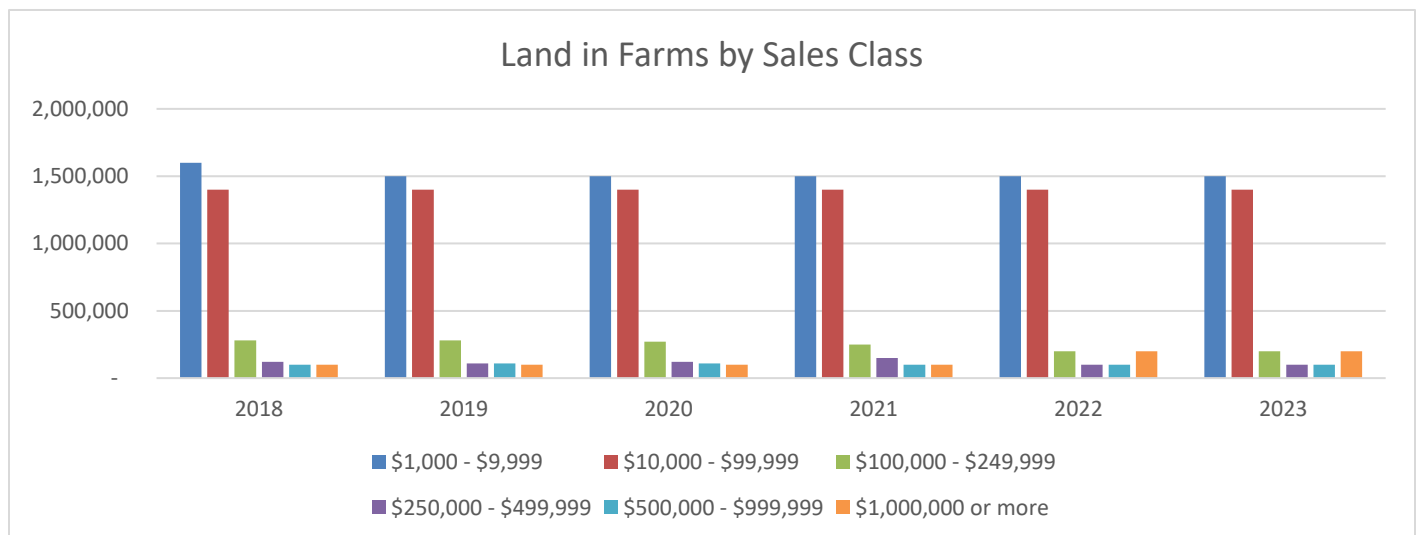
¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 22,800 in 2023, unchanged from 2022. The total land in farms was 3.50 million acres, unchanged from 2022. The average farm size was 154 acres, unchanged from 2022.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Farms in WV	23,400	22,900	22,900	22,400	22,800	22,800
Total Land in WV Farms	3,600,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
WV Average Farm Size	154	153	153	156	154	154

The number of farms in the United States for 2023 is estimated at 1,894,950, down 5,700 farms from 2022. Total land in farms, at 878,560,000 acres, decreased 1,100,000 acres from 2022. The average farm size for 2023 is 464 acres, up from 463 acres the previous year.



SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

All sheep and lambs inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2024 was 35,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2023.

Breeding sheep and lambs inventory totaled 29,000 head on January 1, 2024, up 1,000 head from 2023. Ewes totaled 24,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2023. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2023. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2023.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2024 totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2023. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 5,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 2,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,500 were over 105 pounds.

SHEEP & LAMB - January 1 Inventory ¹						
CLASS	West Virginia			UNITED STATES		
	2023	2024	Percent Change	2023	2024	Percent Change
	<i>Thousand Head</i>		+/-	<i>Thousand Head</i>		+/-
All Sheep & Lambs	34.0	35.0	+3	5,130	5,030	-2
Market Sheep & Lambs	6.0	6.0	0	1,390	1,360	-2
Lambs Under 65 lbs	2.0	2.0	0	343	350	+2
Lambs 65-84 lbs	1.0	1.0	0	188	195	+4
Lambs 85-105 lbs	0.5	0.5	0	283	269	-5
Lambs Over 105 lbs	1.5	1.5	0	490	465	-5
Sheep	1.0	1.0	0	87	81	-7
Breeding	28.0	29.0	+4	3,740	3,670	-2
Ewes	23.0	24.0	+4	2,930	2,870	-2
Rams	1.0	1.0	0	167	165	-1
Replacement Lambs	4.0	4.0	0	644	635	-1
CLASS	2022	2023	Percent Change	2022	2023	Percent Change
	<i>Thousand Head</i>		+/-	<i>Thousand Head</i>		+/-
Lamb Crop ²	27	28	+4	3,099	3,030	-2

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding. ² Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

The 2023 lamb crop totaled 28,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. The 2023 lambing rate was 122 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2023, down from the total of 123 lambs per 100 ewes in 2022.

Shorn wool production during 2023 was 80,000 pounds, up 2,000 pounds from 2022. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 15,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2022. The average price paid for wool sold in 2023 was \$1.40 per pound, down \$0.10 per pound from the average price paid in 2022. Value was 112,000 dollars, down 5,000 dollars from the value of 117,000 dollars in 2022. **Sheep death loss** during 2023 totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from 2022. **Lamb death loss** during 2023 totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2022. **Meat and other goats and kids inventory** on January 1, 2024 was estimated at 18,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1, 2023.



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NEXT ISSUE
Red Meat Production
2023 Chickens and Eggs Summary
2023 Crop Values

988 

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA Announces Application Dates
for Conservation Programs**

For consideration in the second-round of 2024 federal fiscal year funding for the NRCS programs listed below, eligible landowners must enroll by submitting their application no later than

March 15, 2024

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

For more information, visit your local USDA Service Center or visit our website at **www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov**.

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