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National Agricultural  
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West Virginia Field Office  
  
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**IN THIS ISSUE**

- RED MEAT PRODUCTION**
- CATTLE ON FEED**
- 2015 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**
- FIRST QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION**
- PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS**
- NEW SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during March 2016 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was up 2 percent from March 2015. 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 644,000 pounds live weight, up 5 percent from March 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,035 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 243,000 pounds live weight, up 10 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 283 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 4.26 billion pounds in March, up 5 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in March 2015.

**Beef production**, at 2.10 billion pounds, up 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, up 6 percent from March 2015. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,370 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.4 million pounds, 8 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 35,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2015. The average live weight was up 7 pounds from last year, at 302 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.15 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.09 million head, up 2 percent from March 2015. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 284 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.3 million pounds, was down slightly from March 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 205,900 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

**January to March 2016 commercial red meat production** was 12.2 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

March 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2016 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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

**CATTLE ON FEED**

**United States - Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2015. The inventory included 7.36 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 68 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.49 million head, up 4 percent from 2015.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 1.89 million head, 5 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.83 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds

were 352,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 275,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 495,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 770,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 1.75 million head, 7 percent above 2015.

**Other disappearance** totaled 62,000 head during March, 10 percent below 2015.

## 2015 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 6.7 million pounds during 2015. This was unchanged from 2014 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 35 on January 1, 2016, up 3 plants from January 1, 2015.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2015 totaled 7,900 head, down 9 percent from 2014. Total live weight was 8.07 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2014. The average live weight was 1,020 pounds, up 28 pounds from 2014.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** during 2015 totaled 8,600 head, up 21 percent from 2014. Total live weight was 2.36 million pounds, up 27 percent from 2014. The average live weight was 275 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 48.5 billion pounds in 2015, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 48.4 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 87.8 million pounds.

**Beef production** totaled 23.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 87.8 million pounds, down 12 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 24.5 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 155.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2014.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2015 totaled 28.8 million head, down 5 percent from 2014, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,360 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 54.2 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 26.0 percent, dairy cows 10.3 percent, other cows 7.9 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 452,600 head, 20 percent lower than a year ago with 98.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 310 pounds, up 27 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 115.4 million head, 8 percent higher than 2014 with 99.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.22 million head, was down 4 percent from the previous year with 89.9 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2014 at 136 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.3 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2016 compared with 881 last year. Of these, 641 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2015 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 613 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 60 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 203 plants accounted for 42 percent of the total and 2 of the 518 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2015 comprised 43 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2015, unchanged from 2014.



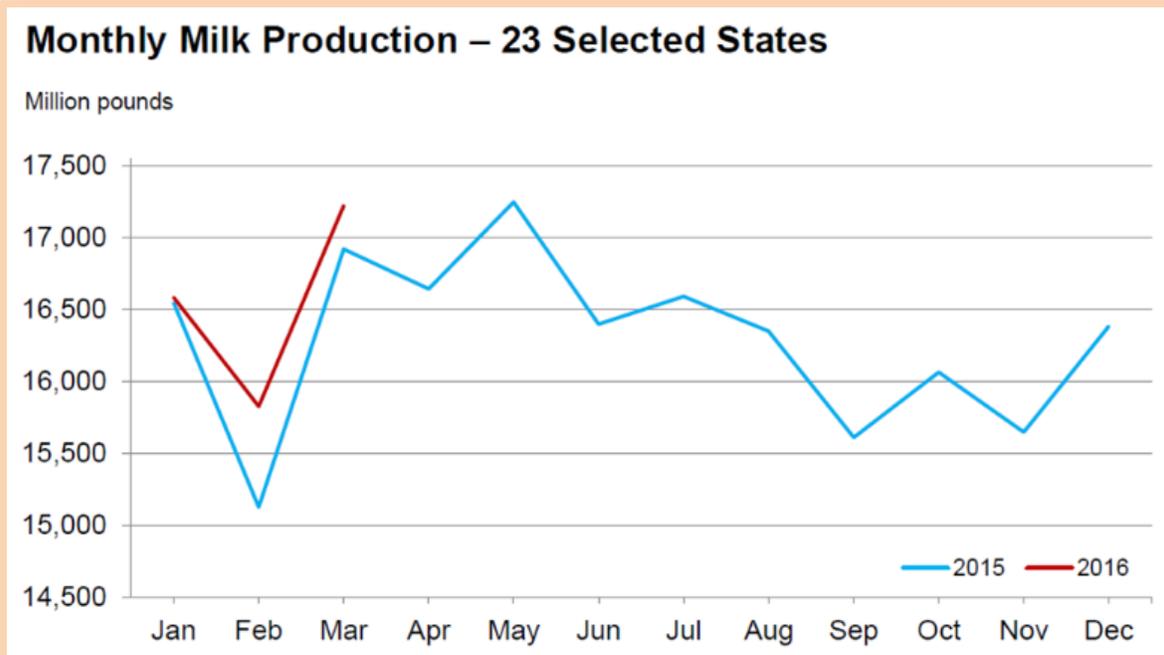
**FIRST QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia** - Milk production in West Virginia totaled 36 million pounds or 4.2 million gallons during the January - March quarter of 2016. This was unchanged from the same period in 2015, but up 2 million pounds or 233,000 gallons from the October - December 2015 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 9,000 head, unchanged from

the same period in 2015, but up 500 head from the previous quarter.

**United States** - Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 53.0 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.32 million head, 5,000 head less than the October - December 2015 quarter, but 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

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



**PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Corn** plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 50,000 acres, unchanged from acres planted in 2015, but down 2 percent or 1,000 acres from 2014.

**Winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 8,000 acres, down 11 percent or 1,000 acres from 2015, and down 20 percent or 2,000 acres from 2014.

**Soybean** planted acreage is expected to total 26,000 acres, down 4 percent or 1,000 acres from 2015, and also down 4 percent or 1,000 acres from 2014.

**All hay** acreage harvested is expected to total 620,000 acres, up 5 percent or 30,000 acres from

2015, and up less than 1 percent or 2,000 acres from 2014.

*Note: These estimates were based on results from the March 1, 2016, Agricultural Survey. Forecasted estimates may change as the survey year continues and/or planting intentions by farmers are altered.*

**UNITED STATES WITH 2015 COMPARISONS**

- Corn plantings – 93.6 million acres, up 6%.
- Oat plantings – 2.75 million acres, down 11%.
- Winter wheat planted – 36.2 million acres, down 8%.
- All tobacco for harvest – 314,450 acres, down 4%.
- Burley tobacco for harvest – 79,150 acres, up less than 1%.
- Soybean plantings – 82.2 million acres, down less than 1%.
- Sorghum plantings – 7.2 million acres, down 15%.
- Barley plantings – 3.14 million acres, down 12%.
- All hay for harvest – 54.3 million acres, down less than 1%.

### Local Food Marketing Survey

The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the 2015 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey this year. This is the first-ever survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service to produce benchmark data about local food. Information will include the number of agricultural operations in the United States that produce local foods, the value of local foods sales, and marketing practices and expenses. This census study will provide data on the production and marketing of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products, as directed under the 2014 Farm Bill. Producers chosen for the survey will be contacted during the latter part of May through August 12<sup>th</sup>.

The survey asks various questions including the value of local food sales by marketing channel, crop and livestock sales by marketing channel, and federal farm program participation.

Producers in the sample may be mailed a survey with the option to respond over the internet, or may be field enumerated for their information. Final results will be released later this year in December. This and all NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information, call the NASS West Virginia Field Office at 1-800-535-7088.

***Thank you in advance for  
your participation!***

#### NEXT ISSUE

Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income  
Poultry Production and Value  
Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

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