



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



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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during January 2015 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 4 percent from January 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 843,000 pounds live weight, down 10 percent from January 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 54 pounds from the previous year, at 1,040 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 150,000 pounds live weight, up 42 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 274 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 4.09 billion pounds in January, down 4 percent from the 4.25 billion pounds produced in January 2014.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 8 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.42 million head, down 10 percent from January 2014. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,358 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.8 million pounds, 27 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 39,900

head, 37 percent below January 2014. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from last year, at 291 pounds.

Pork production, totaled 2.10 billion pounds, 1 percent above the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.76 million head, slightly below January 2014. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 287 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.5 million pounds, was 7 percent below January 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 165,700 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) 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, 2015 totaled 370,000 head, down 15,000 head from the January 1, 2014 inventory. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 194,000 head; this is 6,000 head less than January 1, 2014.

Comparing January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2014: **Beef cows** totaled 185,000 head, down 6,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 9,000 head, unchanged; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 57,000 head, down 7,000 head; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 32,000 head, down 3,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head; **other heifers** totaled 21,000 head, down 3,000 head; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 44,000 head, down 1,000 head; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 13,000 head, down 1,000 head; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 62,000 head, unchanged. **Cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2014.

The 2014 **calf crop** totaled 180,000 head, unchanged from the 2013 calf crop.

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2015 totaled 89.8 million head, 1 percent above the 88.5 million on January 1, 2014. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 39.0 million, were

up 2 percent from the 38.3 million on January 1, 2014.

Comparing January 1, 2015, to January 1, 2014: **Beef cows** totaled 29.7 million, up 2 percent; **milk cows** totaled 9.3 million, up 1 percent; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 19.2 million, up 1 percent; **beef replacement heifers**, 5.8 million, up 4 percent; **milk replacement heifers**, 4.6 million, up 1 percent; **other heifers**, 8.8 million, down slightly; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 15.8 million, up 1 percent; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 2.1 million, up 3 percent; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 13.7 million, up 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, totaled 13.1 million, up 1 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 25.2 million, up 1 percent.

The 2014 **calf crop** was estimated at 33.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2013. **Calves born** during the first half of 2014 were estimated at 24.6 million, up slightly from 2013.

SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia - All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2015, was 33,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2014.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 27,000 head on January 1, 2015, unchanged from 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 22,000 head, were also unchanged from 2014. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2014. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2014.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2015 totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2014. Market sheep totaled zero head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from the previous year. Of these, 2,100 were under 65 pounds, 1,900 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 1,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2014 lamb crop totaled 29,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2013. The 2014 lambing rate was 132 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2014, compared to the lambing rate of 141 in 2013.

Shorn wool production during 2014 was 114,000 pounds, up 9,000 pounds from 2013. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 20,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2013. The average price paid for wool sold in 2014 was \$0.86 per pound for a total value of 98,000 dollars, up 8,000 dollars from 2013.

Sheep death loss during 2014 totaled 2,000 head, up 500 head from 2013. Lamb death loss remained unchanged at 5,000 head in 2014.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2015 was estimated at 21,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1, 2014. **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 lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2015, totaled 5.28 million head, up 1 percent from 2014.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015, up 1 percent from 3.90 million head on January 1, 2014. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.11 million head, were 1 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2015, totaled 1.35 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2014.

Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 12 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 20 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 38 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2014 lamb crop of 3.44 million head, was up 2 percent from 2013. The 2014 lambing rate was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2014, up 4 percent from 2013.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2014 was 26.7 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2013. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.68 million head, also down 1 percent from 2013. The average price paid for wool sold in 2014 was \$1.46 per pound for a total value of 38.9 million dollars, down 1 percent from 39.2 million dollars in 2013.

Sheep death loss during 2014 totaled 220 thousand head, a decrease of 2 percent from 2013. Lamb death loss increased 1 percent from 360 thousand head in 2013 to 365 thousand head in 2014.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2015, totaled 2.68 million head, up 2 percent from 2014. **Breeding goat** inventory totaled 2.20 million head, up 2 percent from 2014. Does one year old and older, at 1.65 million head, were 3 percent above last year's number. **Market goats and kids** totaled 471 thousand head, up 2 percent from a year ago. **Kid crop** for 2014 totaled 1.71 million head for all goats, up 2 percent from 2013. **Meat and all other goats** totaled 2.15 million head on January 1, 2015, up 2 percent from 2014. **Milk goat** inventory was 365 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2014, while **Angora goats** were up 8 percent, totaling 160 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2014 was 880 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 159 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$4.85 per pound with a

value of 4.27 million dollars.

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2014 totaled 270 million eggs. This was 13 percent above the 2013 production of 238 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2014 averaged 1.19 million, up 9 percent from the 2013 average of 1.09 million. The average annual production per layer was 227 eggs, up 4 percent from the 2013 total of 219 eggs. Pullets for 2014 totaled 715,000, down 4 percent from the 2013 total of 744,000. Other chickens totaled 102,000 in 2014, down 24 percent from the 2013 total of 135,000.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2014 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.02 million head, down 2 percent from the 2013 total of 2.07 million.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2014 was \$16.2 million, up 3 percent from the December 1, 2013 value of \$15.7 million. The average value of \$8.00 per bird on December 1, 2014 was up \$0.40 from the 2013 value.

United States - Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2014 totaled 99.8 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 2013. Table egg production, at 87.0 billion eggs, was up 3 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.8 billion eggs, was up slightly from 2013.

Layer numbers during 2014 averaged 361 million, up 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2014 was 277 eggs, up 1 percent from 2013.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1,

2014 (excluding commercial broilers) was 479 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2014 was \$1.96 billion, down slightly from December 1, 2013. The average value decreased from \$4.15 per bird on December 1, 2013, to \$4.10 per bird on December 1, 2014.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia - The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 21,300 in 2014, down 100 farms from 2013. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, unchanged from 2013. The average farm size was 169 acres, up one acre from 2013.

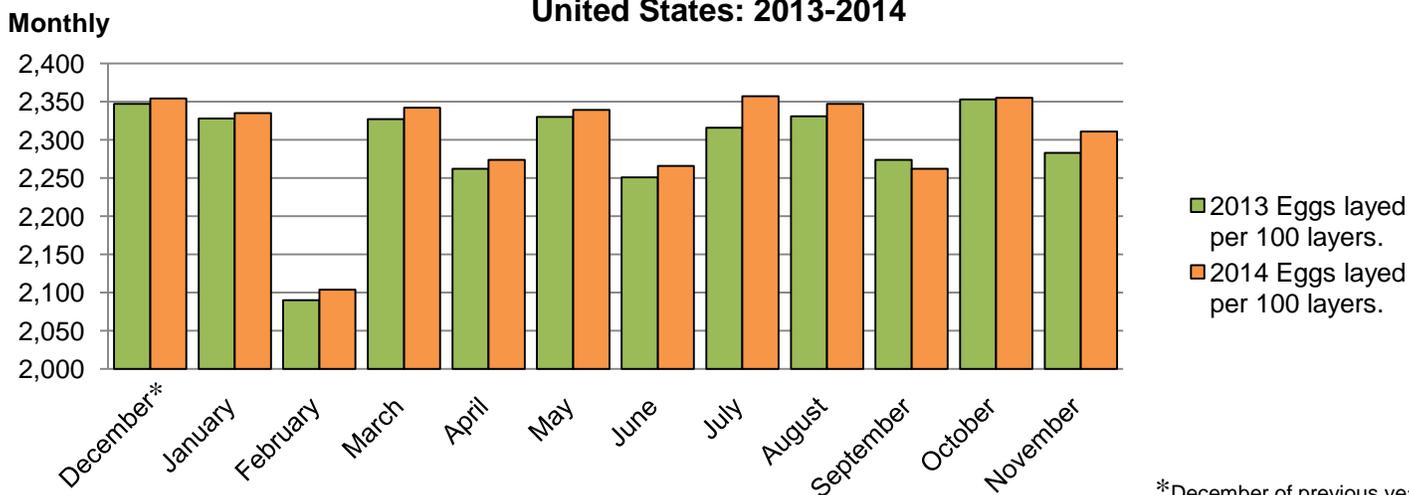
The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 15,100, down 100 farms from 2013. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2013. The average farm size for this sales class was 106 acres, up one acre from 2013.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,300, comparison data not available. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, comparison data not available. The average farm size for this sales class was 264 acres, comparison data not available.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 400, comparison data not available. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 240,000 acres, comparison data not available. The average farm size for this sales class was 600 acres, comparison data not available.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 150, comparison

**Number of Eggs Layed per 100 Layers During the Month
United States: 2013-2014**



*December of previous year.

data not available. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, comparison data not available. The average farm size for this sales class was 733 acres, comparison data not available.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 170, unchanged from 2013. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 2013. The average farm size for this sales class was 647 acres, up 59 acres from 2013.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 180, unchanged from 2013. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 140,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2013. The average farm size for this sales class was 778 acres, down 55 acres from 2013.

United States - The number of farms in the United States for 2014 is estimated at 2.08 million, down 18 thousand farms from 2013. Total land in farms, at 913 million acres, decreased 1.03 million acres from 2013. The average farm size for 2014 is 438 acres, up 3 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2014 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2013 calendar year. Production or commodity price changes in 2013 resulted in the total value for virtually all livestock and livestock products to increase while the value of most crops declined. The value of vegetable, fruit, and tobacco crops increased.

WALT HELMICK, 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

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced, but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Farm numbers decreased by 18 thousand farms during 2014. The number of farms in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 declined while all other sales classes increased slightly. Fifty-one percent of all farms have sales less than \$10,000. Eighty percent of all farms had sales less than \$100,000. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Land in farms, at 913 million acres, is down one million acres from 2013. The biggest changes for 2014 are that producers with sales below \$10,000 operated 4.3 million fewer acres while those in Sales Class \$500,000-\$999,999 operated 3.71 million more acres. The percentage of all farmland operated by farms in Sales Class \$500,000-\$999,999 is 17 percent, and for one million dollars or more is 24 percent.

The **average farm size** increased in 2014 by 3 acres to 438 acres per farm as the number of farms declined more than the land in farms. The average farm sizes declined in all but the largest sales class.