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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during January 2016 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from January 2015. 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 686,000 pounds live weight, down 19 percent from January 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 22 pounds from the previous year, at 1,062 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 194,000 pounds live weight, up 29 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 289 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 4.06 billion pounds in January, down 1 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in January 2015.

Beef production, at 1.95 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.36 million head, down 2 percent from January 2015. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,381 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.7 million pounds, 2 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 41,800 head, 5 percent above January 2015. The

average live weight was down 17 pounds from last year, at 274 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.08 billion pounds, 1 percent below the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.74 million head, slightly below January 2015. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.2 million pounds, was 4 percent below January 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 161,400 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from January a year ago.

January 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 5 Saturdays. January 2016 contained 21 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, 2016 totaled 390,000 head, up 20,000 head from the January 1, 2015 inventory. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 210,000 head, this is up 16,000 head from January 1, 2015.

Comparing January 1, 2016 to January 1, 2015: **beef cows** totaled 201,000 head, up 16,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 9,000 head, unchanged; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 57,000 head, unchanged; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 35,000 head, up 2,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 4,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers** totaled 18,000 head, down 2,000 head; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 36,000 head, down 8,000 head; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 15,000 head, up 2,000 head; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 72,000 head, up 10,000 head. **Cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2015.

The 2015 **calf crop** totaled 190,000 head, up 10,000 head from the 2014 calf crop.

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2016 totaled 92.0 million head. This is 3 percent above the 89.1 million head on January 1, 2015. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 39.6 million head, are 3 percent above the 38.6 million head on January 1, 2015.

Comparing January 1, 2016, to January 1, 2015: **beef cows** totaled 30.3 million head, up 4 percent; **milk cows** totaled 9.32 million head, up slightly; **all heifers** 500 pounds and over totaled 19.8 million head, up 3 percent; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 6.29 million head, up 3 percent; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 4.82 million head, up 2 percent; **other heifers** totaled 8.71 million head, up 3 percent; **steers** 500 pounds and over totaled 16.3 million head, up 4 percent; **bulls** 500 pounds and over totaled 2.14 million head, up 2 percent; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 14.1 million head, up 4 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots totaled 13.2 million head, up 1 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** (outside of feedlots) was 25.9 million head, up 5 percent.

The **2015 calf crop** in the United States was estimated at 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2015 were estimated at 24.8 million head. This is up 2 percent from the first half of 2014. The calves born during the second half of 2015 were estimated at 9.50 million head, 28 percent of the total 2015 calf crop.

SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORIES

Charleston, West Virginia - All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2016, was 36,000 head, up 3,000 head from January 1, 2015.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2016, up 3,000 head from 2015. Ewes one year old and older, at 24,000 head, were up 2,000 head from 2015. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2015. Replacement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2015.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2016 totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2015. Market sheep totaled zero head, unchanged from the previous year. Market lambs totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Of these, 3,000 were under 65 pounds, 1,000 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The **2015 lamb crop** totaled 32,000 head, up 3,000 head from 2014. The 2015 lambing rate was 145 per 100 ewes one year old and older, on hand January 1, 2015, compared to the lambing rate of 132 in 2014.

Shorn wool production during 2015 was 120,000 pounds, up 6,000 pounds from 2014. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 22,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2014. The average price paid for wool sold in 2015 was \$1.00 per pound for a total value of 120,000 dollars, up 22,000 dollars from 2014.

Sheep death loss during 2015 totaled 2,500 head, up 500 head from 2014. Lamb death loss during 2015 totaled 6,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2014.

Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2016 was estimated at 21,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2015. **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, 2016 totaled 5.32 million head, up 1 percent from 2015.

Breeding sheep inventory at 3.97 million head on January 1, 2016, increased 1 percent from 3.94 million head on January 1, 2015. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.13 million head, were slightly above last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2016 totaled 1.36 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2015. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The **2015 lamb crop** of 3.44 million head was unchanged from 2014. The 2015 lambing rate was 111 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2015, also unchanged from 2014.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2015 was 27.1 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.68 million head, unchanged from 2014. The average price paid for wool sold in 2015 was \$1.45 per pound for a total value of 39.3 million dollars, up 1 percent from 38.9 million dollars in 2014.

Sheep death loss during 2015 totaled 230 thousand head, up 5 percent from 2014. Lamb death loss increased 3 percent from 365 thousand head to 375 thousand head in 2015.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down 1 percent from 2015. Does one year old and older, at 1.61 million head, were 2 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2015 totaled 1.68 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2014.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2016, down 1 percent from 2015. Milk goat inventory was 375 thousand head, up 3 percent from January 1, 2015, while Angora goats were down 6 percent, totaling 150 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2015 was 765 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 139 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.30 per pound with a value of 4.05 million dollars.

Sheep and Goat Revisions - All sheep and goat inventory and lamb and kid crop estimates for January 1, 2015, were reviewed using official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. No revisions were made to sheep inventory or lamb crop at the United States level. A revision of 1 percent was made to goat inventory and no change was made to the kid crop. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Layer numbers during 2015 averaged 1.22 million, up 3 percent from the 2014 average of 1.19 million. The average annual production per layer was 224 eggs, down 3 eggs per layer from the 2014 total of 227 eggs per layer. Pullets for 2015 totaled 780,000, up 9 percent from the 2014 total of 715,000. Other chickens totaled 101,000 in 2015, down 1 percent from the 2014 total of 102,000.

Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2015 totaled 274 million eggs. This was 1 percent above the 2014 production of 270 million eggs.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2015 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.11 million head, up 4 percent from the 2014 total of 2.02 million.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2015 was \$16.5 million, up 2 percent from the December 1, 2014 value of \$16.2 million. The average value of \$7.80 per bird on December 1, 2015 was down \$0.20 per bird from the 2014 value.

United States - Layer numbers during 2015 averaged 350 million, down 4 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2015 was 276 eggs, down slightly from 2014.

Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2015 totaled 96.4 billion eggs, down 4 percent from 2014. Table egg production, at 83.1 billion eggs, was down 6 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.3 billion eggs, was up 4 percent from 2014.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2015 (excluding commercial broilers) was 471 million birds, down 3 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2015 was \$2.06 billion, up 3 percent from December 1, 2014. The average value increased from \$4.11 per bird on December 1, 2014, to \$4.36 per bird on December 1, 2015.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia - The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,900 in 2015, down 400 farms from 2014. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size was 172 acres, up 3 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 14,600, down 500 farms from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 110 acres, up 4 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,400, up 100 farms from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 259 acres, down 5 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 400, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 240,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 600 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 150, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 733 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 170, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 647 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 180, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 140,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 778 acres, unchanged from 2014.

United States - The number of farms in the United States for 2015 is estimated at 2.07 million, down 18 thousand farms from 2014. Total land in farms, at 912 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2014. The average farm size for 2015 is 441 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 2015 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2014 calendar year. Production or commodity price changes in 2014 resulted in the total value for most livestock and livestock products to increase while the value of most crops declined.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in 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 2015. The number of farms in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 declined while all other sales classes increased slightly. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.



Land in farms, at 912 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2014. The biggest changes for 2015 are that producers with sales below \$10,000 operated 2.92 million fewer acres and those in Sales Class \$10,000-\$99,999 operated 2.35 million fewer acres. Still, nearly 31 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales. Forty-one percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2015 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 3 acres to 441 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in all sales classes except \$100,000-\$249,000 and \$1,000,000 or more.

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