

THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

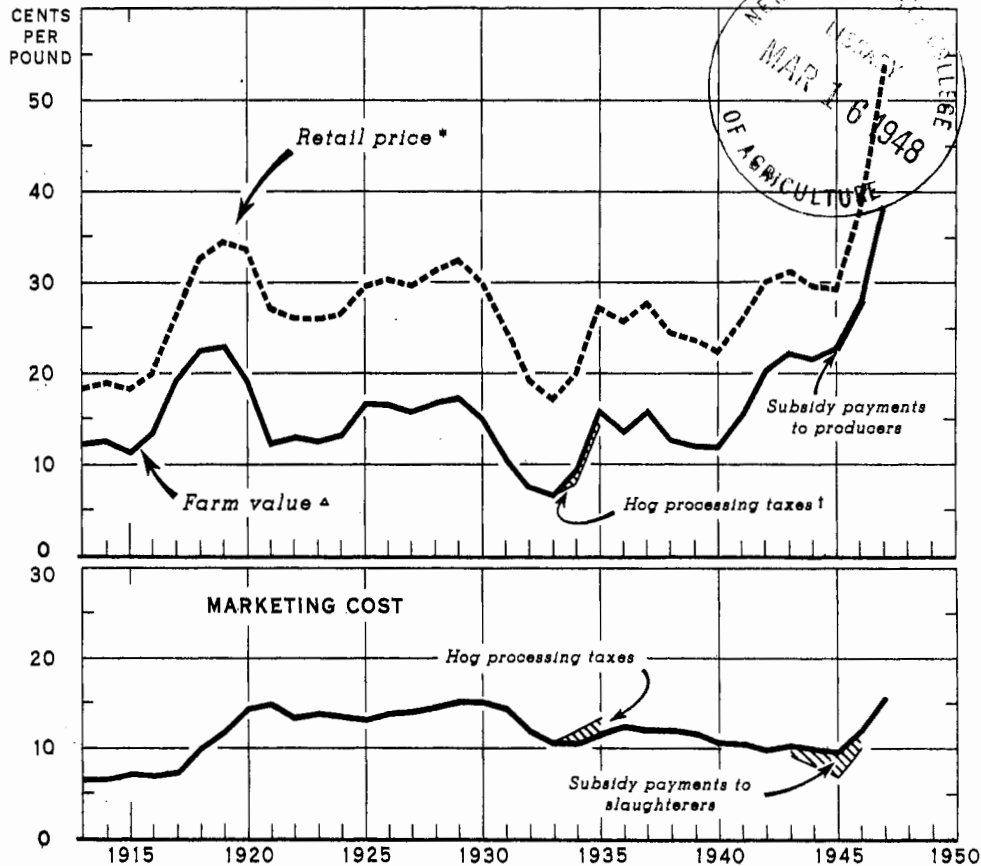
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FEBRUARY 1948

In this issue: Marketing margins for meats
Livestock on farms

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE, FARM VALUE, AND MARKETING COST, UNITED STATES, 1913-47



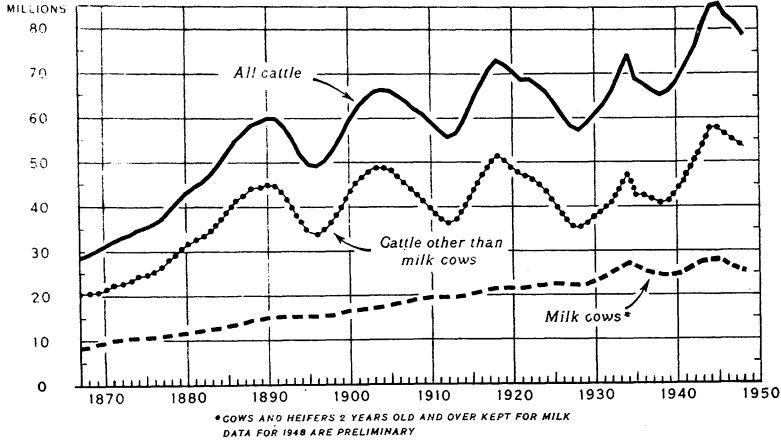
* AVERAGE RETAIL COST OF 343.2 POUNDS OF MEAT PRODUCTS "MARKET BASKET" REPORTED IN U.S.A. MISC. PUB. No. 576, AND CURRENT ISSUES OF THE MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION SITUATION
^ GROSS FARM VALUE MINUS BY-PRODUCT ALLOWANCE † EXPENDED AS AAA PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS

Unit marketing costs for meats in 1947 were record high, averaging around 15.5 cents per retail pound compared with 11.6 cents per pound in 1939. But since prices received by producers for meat animals also set new records in 1947, farmers received a larger share of the consumers meat dollar than in 1939. Marketing costs for meat and meat products have tended to be quite stable and to change less sharply than meat prices.

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ALL CATTLE: NUMBER ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1867-1948

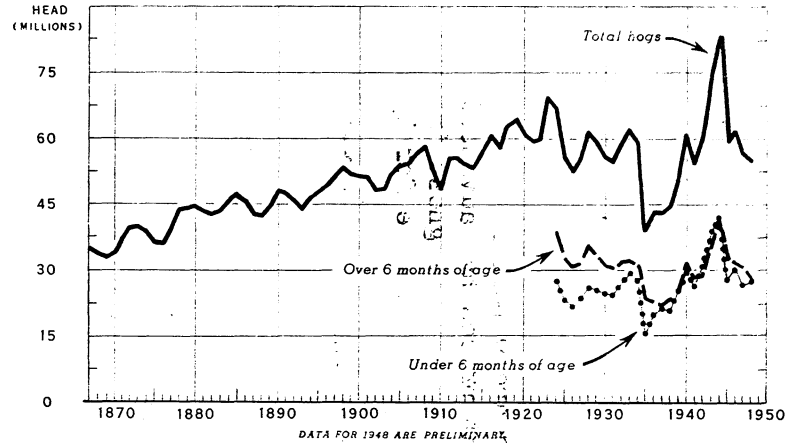


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HOGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1867-1948

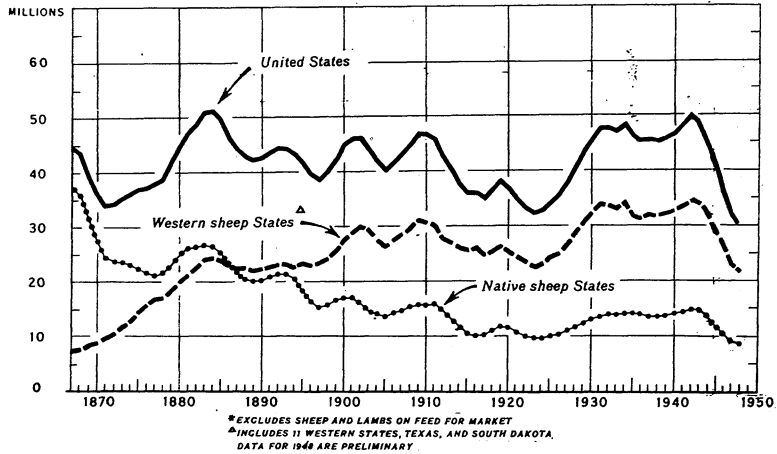


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STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1867-1948*

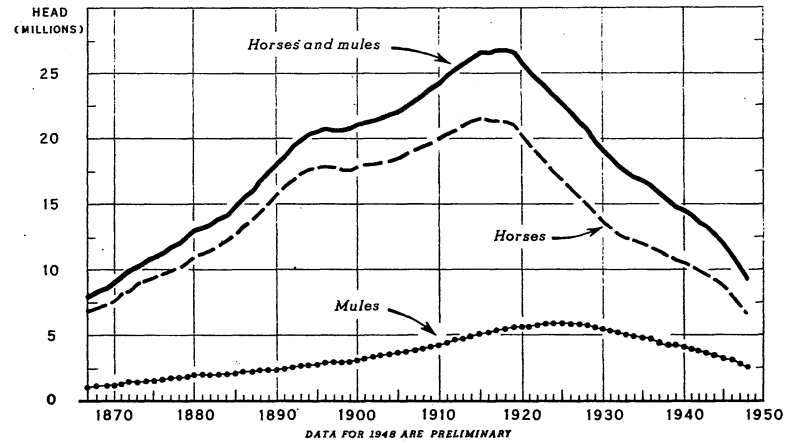


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NEG. 32250

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

HORSES AND MULES: NUMBER ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 1, 1867-1948



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 1, 1948

SUMMARY

Prices of meat animals started declining in late January and broke sharply in early February. The index of prices received by farmers for meat animals dropped 13 percent from mid-January to mid-February compared with 22 percent for food grains, 21 percent for feed grains and 9 percent for all farm products. Before the decline began, livestock and meat prices had advanced steadily for nearly two months. In mid-January they averaged the highest in history, and the lower prices in February were still near the average for 1947.

Although slaughter of cattle and calves was large in both December and January, inspected hog slaughter in January was 16 percent smaller than in December and 11 percent smaller than in January 1947. Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in January was 7 percent less than in December and 13 percent less than a year earlier.

Meat output is expected to decline more than usual this spring and summer. Hog slaughter this spring will be relatively large but probably will decline more than usual during the summer. Cattle slaughter is expected to drop more than seasonally through the summer because of smaller numbers on grain feed this season. Lamb slaughter will continue small, with fewer lambs on feed and a reduced lamb crop in prospect.

Stocks of meat in storage are larger than a year ago but not enough larger to offset reduced output this spring and summer. Meat moved into storage very fast in December but less rapidly in January. Commercial storage holdings of meat totaled over 1 billion pounds on February 1, 38 percent more than a year earlier and, except for 1944, the greatest for that date since 1937.

Farmers reduced numbers of all kinds of livestock during 1947. Hogs decreased 2 million (3 percent). A 7 percent decline during the year brought sheep and lamb numbers on January 1, 1948 to a point 37 percent under 1942 (the biggest 6-year drop ever recorded) and to the smallest number since 1871. The number of cattle declined 2.6 million head in 1947. Beef cattle and calves declined 1.5 million in 1947, and dairy animals 1.1 million.

A further decline in the number of livestock on farms is in prospect for 1948. Because of fewer stock, the downward trend in meat output is likely to continue through 1948 and most of 1949. The trend may be reversed in the fall and winter of 1949 if the 1948 corn crop is large and the 1949 spring pig crop increases over 1948. Since the current rate of cattle slaughter is greater than production it is adding to beef supplies only at the expense of future output. An upturn in beef output cannot be expected soon, and must be preceded by a considerable drop in slaughter during a period of expansion in cattle herds. Lamb and mutton output is not likely to increase greatly for several years.

Marketing costs for meat, which averaged 11.6 cents per retail pound in 1939, increased to 15.5 cents in 1947. During the same time, average retail prices of meat products rose from 24 to 54 cents per pound, and the farm value of the weight of live animals equivalent to a pound of meat at retail (roughly 1.75 pounds) jumped from 11.9 to 38.3 cents. Thus, the ratio of marketing costs to retail prices and to farm value had declined. In 1947, farmers received a near record share of the consumer's meat dollar.

The decline from 1939 to 1947 in the relative cost of marketing livestock and meat reflects the stability of marketing costs compared to meat and livestock prices. As a general rule, when prices of meats and livestock rise, the proportion of marketing costs to retail prices diminishes. The opposite is usually the case when prices are falling. However, the decline in relative costs since 1939 may also reflect some gain in the efficiency of marketing, chiefly because of the increased volume of meat handled.

OUTLOOK

Livestock Prices Sharply Lower

Meat animal prices dropped moderately in late January and sharply in early February. Except for moderate declines in April-May and in October-November last year, prices had risen steadily since October 1945. In that month, the index of prices received by farmers for meat animals was 202 (Aug. 1909 to July 1914 = 100). By September 1947, it had risen 82 percent to 367. After dropping to 338 in November, the index advanced again to a new record of 379 in January.

In the week ending February 14, prime and choice steers at Chicago averaged \$30.27, down 20 percent from their high in the week of January 10 and the lowest since last July. Good grade steers were \$26.41, 14 percent less than their peak the week of January 10 and the lowest since last July. Prices of common and medium grade steers were 11 to 12 percent below the records set the week ending January 24 and the lowest since December (see table 1). Prices of all grades of steers except choice and prime advanced slightly in late February.

Good and choice slaughter lambs (wooled) brought \$22.16 at Chicago the week ending February 21, or 15 percent less than the record average of \$26.22 for the week of January 3.

Hog prices dropped more than other livestock prices in the last month. From \$27.56 the week ending January 17, prices of all barrows and gilts at Chicago had fallen 23 percent to \$21.25 the week of February 14. The record is \$29.39 set the week of October 11, 1947. Prices rose moderately in late February. Wholesale and retail meat prices also began to decline in late January.

The price decline did not reflect changes in meat slaughter. Slaughter of cattle continued large in January and February. Hog and sheep and lamb slaughter dropped seasonally from December to January.

Table 1.-Meat animal prices per 100 pounds 1947 average, all time weekly high and recent weeks

Item	: 1947 :	All time :	Price week ended				
	: average :	weekly high :	Week :	January :	Feb. :	Feb. :	
	: price :	Price :	ended :	31 :	7 :	14 :	21 :
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
	: Dollars :	Dollars :	Dollars :	Dollars :	Dollars :	Dollars :	Dollars :
Beef Steers sold out of first hands, Chicago:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Choice and prime	: 30.64	37.75	Jan.10-48	35.49	34.73	30.27	29.87
Good	: 26.22	30.73	Jan.10-48	29.97	29.21	26.41	26.52
Medium	: 21.76	26.16	Jan.24-48	25.92	25.14	23.25	23.64
Common	: 18.04	22.36	Jan.24-48	22.22	22.07	19.35	20.32
All grades	: 25.83	30.17	Oct.4-47	28.43	28.02	25.78	25.97
Hogs: Average price, Chicago:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Barrows and gilts	: 25.21	29.39	Oct.11-47	26.28	25.11	21.25	22.49
Sows	: 21.88	28.07	Oct.18-47	23.78	22.83	18.11	18.47
All purchases	: 24.45	29.11	Oct.18-47	26.07	24.86	21.04	22.13
Lambs, gd. & ch., Chicago	: 23.59	26.22	Jan.3-48	24.99	24.68	23.44	22.16

The sharp decline in livestock and meat prices in late January and early February apparently was in part a readjustment from unusual advances occurring in December and early January when prices normally decline. The December-January rise had resulted in new all-time price peaks for cattle and lambs and had carried hog prices at the peak of the winter supply season almost to the high levels of last fall. The rise was reflected in increased retail prices for meat.

Since the decline in livestock and meat prices occurred at a time when prices of several other products also fell, the drop in livestock and meat prices probably was accentuated. Unless a downturn in general business occurs, which is not indicated by current figures, livestock and meat prices are likely to stabilize soon. They may remain high for several months when supplies will be comparatively short and rise seasonally this summer when meat output declines.

Demand for slaughter animals may have been reduced somewhat by the building up of meat storage stocks. On January 1, total stocks of meat in commercial storage were 55 percent more than the small stocks of a year earlier and the largest for the date since 1944. Pork stocks increased 73 percent in December and on January 1 were nearly twice those of a year earlier and the largest for January 1 since 1941. Storage stocks of meat increased further in January.

Cattle Marketings to Decline More Than Seasonally

Inspected slaughter of cattle in January was 1,312,051 head, slightly less than in December but 6 percent less than in January 1947. Calf slaughter of 586,269 in January was 1 percent less than the January 1947 record and 13 percent less than in December. Cattle slaughter dropped sharply in February.

Because fewer cattle are now on feed, cattle marketings in the next six months will be smaller than in the same period last year. Since farmers will tend to ship their cattle after a short feed this year, marketings will be a little earlier and total marketings will probably decline faster than usual this summer and fall.

Marketings of fed cattle this spring are expected to be somewhat less than last year, since the number on feed January 1 was a half million below a year earlier. More prime and choice steers will probably be marketed than the small number last year but the number of stockers and feeders for market early this year is expected to be somewhat less than a year ago.

Hog Slaughter To Be Relatively Large in Spring

Hog slaughter is expected to continue to decline seasonally and probably will remain below a year earlier until fall pigs begin to be marketed in volume in April. Hog slaughter under Federal inspection in January totaled 5.2 million head, a drop of 16 percent from December and 11 percent from a year earlier.

Hog slaughter during the second quarter this year is expected to be about the same as in 1947. The 1947 fall pig crop totaled 31.4 million head, slightly larger than the 30.5 million saved in the fall of 1946. The 1937-41 average crop was 30.4 million head.

The hog-corn price ratio was below average in January and continued below average in February. However, the average weights of slaughter hogs in January and February were about the same as a year before. In January, the farm price of corn was \$2.46 a bushel, or 4.4 cents a pound. The average price received by farmers for hogs was 26.7 cents a pound. Since approximately 5 pounds of corn is required to produce 1 pound of weight gain from 200 to 250 pounds, feeding out to fairly heavy weights at average January prices appears to have been profitable.

Table 2.-Livestock on farms and ranches January 1 by regions, 1935-39 average, 1940-48 1/

Year	North Central						United States
	North Atlantic	East	West	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
All cattle and calves							
1935-39 Av.	4,823	11,029	18,893	4,543	16,351	11,175	66,814
1940	4,992	11,795	19,471	4,573	16,421	11,057	68,309
1941	5,029	12,283	21,002	4,739	17,063	11,639	71,755
1942	5,027	12,705	22,445	4,911	18,359	12,578	76,025
1943	5,099	13,047	24,332	5,225	20,082	13,439	81,204
1944	5,280	13,529	25,586	5,598	20,968	14,373	85,334
1945	5,366	13,513	25,746	5,603	21,190	14,155	85,573
1946	5,239	13,102	24,000	5,502	20,625	13,966	82,434
1947	5,237	13,146	23,439	5,575	20,277	13,533	81,207
1948	5,251	12,770	22,385	5,551	19,234	13,362	78,564
Milk cows, heifers and heifer calves being kept for milk							
1935-39 Av.	4,388	8,416	9,326	2,718	7,263	3,301	35,412
1940	4,585	8,826	9,412	2,731	7,500	3,378	36,432
1941	4,619	9,098	9,736	2,793	7,608	3,529	37,383
1942	4,617	9,432	10,170	2,891	8,001	3,726	38,837
1943	4,646	9,670	10,560	3,006	8,485	3,873	40,240
1944	4,813	9,958	10,714	3,124	8,678	3,970	41,257
1945	4,903	9,979	10,352	3,084	8,622	3,909	40,849
1946	4,787	9,700	9,573	3,038	8,222	3,773	39,093
1947	4,786	9,630	9,281	3,043	8,023	3,705	38,468
1948	4,807	9,454	8,777	3,051	7,603	3,643	37,335
Other cattle and calves, including all bulls							
1935-39 Av.	435	2,613	9,567	1,825	9,088	7,874	31,402
1940	407	2,969	10,059	1,842	8,921	7,679	31,877
1941	410	3,185	11,266	1,946	9,455	8,110	34,372
1942	410	3,273	12,275	2,020	10,358	8,852	37,188
1943	453	3,377	13,772	2,219	11,577	9,566	40,964
1944	467	3,571	14,872	2,474	12,290	10,403	44,077
1945	463	3,534	15,394	2,519	12,568	10,246	44,724
1946	452	3,402	14,427	2,464	12,403	10,193	43,341
1947	451	3,516	14,158	2,532	12,254	9,828	42,739
1948	444	3,316	13,609	2,510	11,631	9,719	41,229
Hogs							
1935-39 Av.	1,206	11,587	16,106	4,608	8,377	2,048	43,932
1940	1,479	16,218	23,737	5,549	11,321	2,861	61,165
1941	1,329	15,057	20,689	5,204	9,398	2,676	54,353
1942	1,275	16,130	25,007	5,348	9,908	2,939	60,607
1943	1,520	18,381	31,783	6,076	12,333	3,788	73,881
1944	1,963	20,980	36,111	6,856	13,580	4,251	83,741
1945	1,519	15,420	24,048	5,738	10,112	2,494	59,331
1946	1,332	16,491	26,627	5,079	9,486	2,286	61,301
1947	1,254	15,585	23,551	5,373	9,155	1,993	56,921
1948	1,227	14,982	22,075	5,576	9,129	2,049	55,038
All Sheep and Lambs							
1935-39 Av.	947	5,994	8,124	1,179	10,674	24,323	51,241
1940	799	5,605	9,127	1,039	11,949	23,588	52,107
1941	809	5,634	10,406	1,007	12,146	23,918	53,920
1942	811	5,606	11,320	980	12,940	24,556	56,213
1943	830	5,543	11,634	945	13,150	23,048	55,150
1944	796	4,891	10,585	876	12,290	21,344	50,782
1945	660	4,297	9,891	809	11,650	19,213	46,520
1946	588	3,992	8,590	774	11,074	17,418	42,436
1947	531	3,513	7,758	746	10,037	15,233	37,818
1948	492	3,309	6,455	711	9,253	14,312	34,332
Horses							
1935-39 Av.	785	2,444	3,980	499	1,892	1,685	11,285
1940	729	2,229	3,496	520	1,924	1,846	10,444
1941	703	2,113	3,428	523	1,906	1,820	10,193
1942	669	1,970	3,347	524	1,861	1,802	9,873
1943	640	1,859	3,257	525	1,832	1,492	9,605
1944	610	1,718	3,103	529	1,816	1,416	9,192
1945	582	1,561	2,929	525	1,771	1,347	8,715
1946	549	1,389	2,652	516	1,692	1,295	8,053
1947	506	1,194	2,314	501	1,581	1,353	7,249
1948	461	1,023	2,074	482	1,494	1,073	6,697
Mules							
1935-39 Av.	61	220	455	998	2,620	111	4,465
1940	54	175	388	981	2,354	82	4,034
1941	52	165	381	961	2,274	78	3,911
1942	49	146	355	946	2,213	73	3,782
1943	45	135	337	925	2,117	67	3,626
1944	39	118	294	911	1,998	61	3,421
1945	33	104	270	889	1,882	57	3,235
1946	30	84	238	865	1,741	52	3,010
1947	27	64	195	840	1,599	47	2,778
1948	22	53	150	809	1,466	44	2,544

1/ 1948 data preliminary.

Table 3.-Number and Value of Livestock on farms and ranches, United States, January 1, 1935-39 Average and annually 1940-48 ^{1/}

Year	Milk Cows	Other Cattle	Hogs	Sheep and Lambs	Horses	Mules	Chickens	Turkeys	Total
Number on farms January 1 (Thousand head)									
1935-39 Av.	24,999	41,815	43,932	51,241	11,285	4,465	405,108	6,035	
1940	24,940	43,369	61,165	52,107	10,444	4,034	438,288	8,569	
1941	25,453	46,302	54,353	53,920	10,193	3,911	422,841	7,193	
1942	26,313	49,712	60,607	56,213	9,873	3,782	476,935	7,485	
1943	27,138	54,066	73,881	55,150	9,605	3,626	542,047	6,600	
1944	27,704	57,630	83,741	50,782	9,192	3,421	582,197	7,429	
1945	27,770	57,803	59,331	46,520	8,715	3,235	516,497	7,203	
1946	26,695	55,739	61,301	42,436	8,053	3,010	530,203	8,493	
1947	26,098	55,109	56,921	37,818	7,249	2,772	474,441	6,650	
1948	25,165	53,399	55,038	35,332	6,607	2,544	462,976	4,507	
Farm Value per head (Dollars)									
1935-39 Av.	47.84	23.44	10.77	5.71	89.59	118.03	.684	2.49	
1940	57.30	30.95	7.78	6.31	77.30	116.00	.605	2.14	
1941	60.90	33.52	8.34	6.73	68.20	107.00	.654	2.26	
1942	77.90	42.85	15.60	8.60	64.70	107.00	.833	3.08	
1943	99.50	54.08	22.50	9.66	79.80	127.00	1.04	4.47	
1944	102.00	52.17	17.50	8.71	78.60	143.00	1.18	5.33	
1945	99.40	51.23	20.60	8.57	64.90	134.00	1.21	5.78	
1946	112.00	58.94	23.90	9.69	57.40	133.00	1.27	5.75	
1947	145.00	74.76	36.00	12.62	59.20	141.00	1.44	6.47	
1948	164.00	94.08	42.80	15.35	55.50	133.00	1.44	6.88	
Total farm value January 1 (Million dollars)									
1935-39 Av.	1,196	980	473	293	1,011	527	277	15	4,772
1940	1,428	1,342	476	329	808	467	265	18	5,133
1941	1,550	1,553	453	363	695	419	276	16	5,326
1942	2,049	2,131	945	484	638	406	398	23	7,073
1943	2,701	2,924	1,662	533	766	462	564	30	9,643
1944	2,830	3,007	1,467	442	723	490	686	40	9,684
1945	2,761	2,961	1,224	399	565	434	626	42	9,011
1946	2,994	3,286	1,468	411	462	401	671	49	9,742
1947	3,787	4,120	2,049	477	429	390	682	43	11,978
1948	4,126	5,024	2,356	542	366	338	668	31	13,451
Value of each type as a percentage of total value (Percentage)									
1935-39 Av.	25.1	20.5	9.9	6.2	21.2	11.0	5.8	0.3	
1940	27.8	26.1	9.3	6.4	15.7	9.1	5.2	0.4	
1941	29.1	29.2	8.5	6.8	13.0	7.9	5.2	0.3	
1942	29.0	30.1	13.4	6.9	9.0	5.7	5.6	0.3	
1943	28.0	30.3	17.2	5.5	8.0	4.8	5.9	0.3	
1944	29.2	31.0	15.1	4.6	7.5	5.1	7.1	0.4	
1945	30.6	32.9	13.6	4.4	6.3	4.8	6.9	0.5	
1946	30.7	33.7	15.1	4.2	4.8	4.1	6.9	0.5	
1947	31.6	34.4	17.1	4.0	3.6	3.2	5.7	0.4	
1948	30.7	37.4	17.5	4.0	2.7	2.5	5.0	0.2	

^{1/} 1948 data preliminary.

^{2/} Total value is sum of unrounded figures.

Sheep and lamb slaughter probably will continue less than a year earlier. Reflecting principally fewer lambs on feed this year, January sheep and lamb slaughter under Federal inspection of 1.3 million head was 7 percent less than December and 13 percent less than January last year. The 1948 early lamb crop is likely to be smaller than a year earlier. This will lead to smaller lamb slaughter in the marketing season beginning in early spring. The number of breeding ewes declined again in 1947 in Texas, California and all of the other early lamb states.

Livestock Numbers Decline in 1947;
Downward Trend to Continue in 1948

Numbers of all kinds of livestock on farms declined in 1947, continuing a general down trend that began about 1945. The number of cattle dropped sharply in 1947, that of hogs moderately. Sheep numbers fell for the sixth successive year, the longest and sharpest reduction of record. Horse and mule numbers continued their long-time downward trend. The number of chickens on farms at the beginning of 1948 was slightly smaller than a year earlier.

Total grain-consuming livestock numbered 133 million units on January 1, 1948, 4 percent less than a year earlier, 23 below the peak of 172.6 million at the beginning of 1944, and the smallest since 1939. Hay-consuming animal units this year numbered 79 million, down 4 percent from a year earlier and 12 percent from the 1944 peak, and the lowest since 1940.

Smaller numbers of all kinds of livestock, except possibly sheep and lambs are in prospect for January 1, 1949. If pig crops are smaller in 1948 than in 1947, a moderate reduction in hog numbers at the end of the year is likely. Cattle are still on the downtrend of the cycle.

Yearly meat production has been decreasing since the peak year of 1944, with the exception that output in 1947 was slightly larger than in 1946 when slaughter was reduced because of price control uncertainties. The downtrend in yearly production is expected to continue through 1948 and may extend through 1949. It will be reversed then only if greater hog production is made possible by a large 1948 corn crop. The present level of cattle and calf slaughter, as in recent years, has been accompanied by a reduction in inventories and has added to current meat supplies at the expense of future output. Cattle slaughter will probably be smaller in 1948 than in 1947, and when cattlemen begin to increase cattle numbers, annual slaughter will at first be reduced further.

No increase in sheep and lamb marketings is probable in the next few years. The decline in sheep numbers must first be reversed before lamb and mutton production can rise above the 1947 level of 800 million pounds, the smallest in 18 years.

Cattle Numbers Decline
3 Million in 1947

Both beef cattle and dairy cattle numbers decreased in 1947. At the beginning of the year, 81 million cattle and calves were on farms. By January 1, 1948 this number had dropped to 79 million, 7 million or 8 percent below the

record on January 1, 1945. Beef animals on January 1, 1948 totaled 41 million, 4 percent under a year before and 8 percent under January 1, 1945. Dairy animals were 37 million, a decline of 3 percent from last year and 9 percent from 1945. Milk cows dropped 4 percent during 1947 to 25 millions on January 1, 1948, 9 percent below the high point of January 1, 1945 and the fewest since 1940. The drop in the number of milk cows is unusual. For many years prior to 1945, the number has shown small year-to-year increases. During each of the past three years the reduction in milk cow numbers has been greatest in the North Central and South Central regions.

The number of cows (both beef and milk) is rather large compared to the number of all cattle. The number on farms January 1, 1948, 41 million, was 3 percent less than the previous January and 7 below the 1945 record.

The number of beef cows dropped 3 percent during 1947, but that of beef heifers between 1 and 2 years of age fell 2 percent. The number of steers was down 5 percent. The number of heifer calves kept for milk declined 4 percent, but the number of replacement milk heifers (1-2 years) increased 1 percent.

Farmers had 2 million fewer hogs on January 1, 1948 than a year earlier despite larger pig crops in 1947 than in 1946. Pigs from the 1947 spring pig crop were marketed earlier than usual. About 2 million fewer hogs over 6 months of age were on farms January 1 this year than last, but 1/2 million more under 6 months (from the 1947 fall crop). In line with the December breeding intention report of fewer sows to farrow this spring, the number of sows and gilts on farms January 1 was estimated to be 9 million head, 10 percent less than the previous January.

Sheep Number Record Low

There were fewer sheep on farms and ranches on January 1 than on any January 1 since 1871. The number of stock sheep and lambs was reduced 5 percent in 1947, while the number on feed was reduced 16 percent. As in the past few years, the number of ewe lambs held over for herd replacement at the end of 1947 was very small. The 4.2 million was less than ewe slaughter plus sheep deaths. The number of breeding ewes one year and over on farms January 1, 1948 totaled 24 million head, 5 percent less than a year earlier.

The rate of decline in horse and mule numbers has accelerated in recent years as the number of tractors increased markedly. On January 1, the number of horses on farms was less than one-third of the 1915 record and only three-fifths of the 1940 figure. The number of mules is now only 2.5 million compared with 6 million in 1925.

Chickens on farms this year, number 463 million, only slightly fewer than a year ago but the smallest number since 1941. Turkeys on farms were 5 million, down 2 million from the previous January. Egg-feed and poultry-feed ratios are now both below average and last year, and indicate that fewer chickens and turkeys will be raised this year than last and that numbers at the end of the year will be less than on January 1. Egg producers as of February 1 reported, they intended to raise 20 percent fewer baby chicks this spring than in 1947. Because of recent developments, however, the reduction from last year probably will be only about ten percent. Farmers intentions to raise 18 percent fewer turkey poults this year than in 1947 are not likely to be changed greatly.

The total farm inventory value of meat animals, milk cows, chickens and turkeys on January 1 set a new high, estimated at 13 billion dollars. This was 12 percent above the previous record of 12 billion dollars for January 1, 1947. For cattle, hogs and sheep the average value per head was a new record. Cattle were valued at 9 billion dollars or 32 percent of the total of all livestock, with milk cows at 4 billion. Hogs were valued at 2 billion dollars or 18 percent of the total. Horses and mules were valued at only 704 million or 5 percent of the total for all livestock. As recently as 1935-39, horses and mules accounted for 32 percent of the inventory value of all livestock.

COMPARABILITY OF FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER STATISTICS

The basic source of current statistics on livestock slaughter is the information on slaughter in plants operating under Federal Meat Inspection. Records of number of animals slaughtered in these plants are compiled monthly for immediate release. In addition, records of about 75 percent of this slaughter are compiled weekly and used as a basis for estimating weekly totals. Prior to the war estimates of other slaughter were made by the Department of Agriculture yearly from sample data obtained from various sources. During the war period most of the concerns engaged in commercial slaughter were required under licensing regulations to make monthly reports on the number of animals slaughtered in their plants. A large proportion of the concerns without federal inspection continue to report their slaughter monthly to the Department on a voluntary basis and the information obtained is used for estimating total uninspected commercial slaughter. Estimates of slaughter by farmers are still made annually, and are based on reports received yearly from about 70,000 farmers.

Prior to the war, the number of slaughtering plants operating under Federal inspection changed relatively little from year to year, particularly from 1907 to 1934 inclusive, and during that period the total ranged from 304 to 347 plants. In only 3 years did the total exceed 338 plants and in only 3 other years was the total less than 312 plants. Since most of the plants taking on or discontinuing inspection during this period were of relatively small capacity, the changes in the total number of plants having inspection were not of enough significance to materially affect comparability of the slaughter statistics.

During 1935 and in the 3 years 1937-39, the number of slaughtering plants operating under Federal inspection dropped below 300, reaching a low of 284 in 1939. This decrease apparently reflected discontinuance of operations of a small number of small volume plants that went out of business because of financial difficulties or reduction in available supplies of livestock.

During the recent war period, the Fulmer Act approved June 10, 1942, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to provide meat inspection during the war emergency to meat packing plants that desired to engage in interstate commerce in meats. In 1944, the War Food Administration required that plants take on Federal inspection in connection with their cattle slaughter if they were slaughtering more than 51 cattle a week which would yield beef suitable for Army use. Many of the plants which were granted limited or full Federal inspection during the war are continuing to operate under Federal inspection, with the result that in November 1947 there were 463 slaughtering establishments having inspection compared with 298 in November 1939. Of the 1939 number, 32 plants later discontinued inspection and are not included in the 463 plants which were operating under inspection last November.

The large increase in number of plants now having inspection as compared with the pre-war years affects the comparability with pre-war records, of current slaughter data although not as much as the relative increase in number of plants would indicate. Most of the plants taking on inspection during the war were of small capacity, and the average number of animals handled by them was considerably less than that of the plants already having inspection, although greater than the average slaughter of the 32 plants which discontinued inspection after November 1939.

Slaughter in the 266 federally inspected plants that were in operation in both November 1939 and in November 1947 is given in table 4. Cattle slaughter in these plants in November 1947 was 35 percent greater than in November 1939, calf slaughter was 45 percent greater and hog slaughter was up 19 percent. November 1947 slaughter of sheep and lambs was 6 percent less than in that month of 1939.

The effect of the addition of new plants appears when slaughter for all inspected plants in the two periods is compared. Reported inspected slaughter of cattle in all plants for November 1947 was 60 percent greater than during the same month of 1939, calf slaughter was 69 percent greater, hog slaughter was 24 percent greater, while sheep and lamb slaughter in the two periods was practically the same. These percentages are all substantially larger than those for identical plants alone.

Table 4-. Slaughter in 266 identical federally inspected plants and total federally inspected slaughter United States, November 1939 and November 1947

Item	Slaughter			
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
<u>Identical plants:</u>				
November 1947 (266 estab.)	1,097	636	1,338	5,241
November 1939 (266 estab.)	813	438	1,429	4,394
<u>Total plants:</u>				
November 1947 (463 estab.)	1,337	762	1,471	5,501
November 1939 (298 estab.)	837	450	1,469	4,437
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
November 1947 as a percentage of November 1939:				
Identical plants	135	145	94	119
Total plants	160	169	100	124

MARKETING MARGINS FOR MEAT

Meat Marketing Costs Rise in 1947

Costs of marketing meat animals and meat in 1947, in cents per pound, were the highest shown on records going back to 1913. However, marketing costs were the lowest percentage of either retail prices or the farm value of meat since 1913. Farmers received a larger share of the consumers' dollar spent for meat and meat products in 1947 than at any time except the war years when retail prices were held down by Government payments to processors.

The marketing cost per pound is measured as the difference between the farm value of the pounds of live animal required for 1 pound of retail meat, and the price of one pound of meat at retail. The value of byproducts equivalent to a pound of meat is deducted from the farm value. In this way, all figures apply to values of equivalent quantities of meat at the farm and at retail.

The marketing margin calculated in this manner covers the cost of the entire marketing process, including the transportation and marketing of livestock, slaughtering and transportation of meat, and the wholesaling and retailing of meat.

In 1947, meat sold at retail averaged 53.8 cents per pound. The marketing cost averaged 15.5 cents and the farm value 38.3 cents. Thus the marketing cost was a little more than one-fourth of the retail price and two-fifths of the farm value. In 1939 the retail price for one pound of meat was 23.5 cents, the farm value 12 cents and the marketing cost 11.6 cents. The marketing cost was one half as large as the retail price and about equal to the farm value.

A breakdown of the total marketing cost is not available for 1947. In 1939 however, the margin of 11.6 cents was divided about as follows: 1.0 cents for livestock marketing, 3.5 cents for meat packing, 1.4 cents for wholesaling of meat and 5.6 cents for meat retailing (See table 5).

Table 5.- Distribution of consumer's dollar for meat and meat products, according to marketing and processing functions, United States, 1939, and 1944-47

Item	1939	1944	1945	1946	1947 ^{1/}
	<u>Cents per pound</u>				
Value at retail	23.5	29.6	29.2	37.7	53.8
Margin for retailing	5.6				
Margin for wholesaling	1.4				
Margin for meat packing	3.5				
Margin for livestock marketing	1.0				
Received by producers for livestock ^{3/}	12.0	21.6	<u>2/22.6</u>	<u>2/27.8</u>	38.3
	<u>Percent of retail value</u>				
Value at retail	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Margin for retailing	24.0				
Margin for wholesaling	5.8				
Margin for meat packing	14.9				
Margin for livestock marketing	4.3				
Received by producers for livestock ^{3/}	51.0	73.0	77.4	73.7	71.2

^{1/} Preliminary, ^{2/} Includes subsidy payments to producers of .2 cents per pound in each year. ^{3/} As derived from meat alone, without regard for byproducts.

Source: Marketing margins and costs for livestock and meat, USDA Technical Bulletin No. 932, Washington, D. C., January 1947, and data derived from current issues of the Marketing and Transportation Situation.

Table 6 presents the farm value, retail price, and marketing margins for all meat products combined and for each species since 1913. Government payments that affected costs or returns in several years are figured on the basis of the value per pound of meat. Government payments to producers in the hog programs of 1933-35 and in the wartime subsidy programs for cattle and lambs sold for slaughter are added to the farm value of meat. The marketing margin excludes processing taxes on hogs in 1933-35 but includes Government payments to slaughterers during the war.

Marketing costs tend to change less rapidly than meat prices at retail or livestock prices at the farm. Many costs in marketing, such as labor, rents, materials and supplies, taxes and interest are relatively fixed over a short period of time. Thus the ratio of marketing costs to retail prices and farm prices diminishes when prices of livestock and meats are rising and increases when prices are falling. The decreasing ratio of marketing costs to meat prices since 1939 reflects largely the general rise in meat prices. It also shows that as total output of meat increases marketing costs per unit tend to decline. Marketing margins per pound of meat have risen less since 1939 than have either industrial wage rates or wholesale commodity prices.

Because meat is perishable, receives considerable preparation and processing, requires a relatively long haul from the producer to the consumer and has a high unit value, costs of marketing per pound tend to be higher than for most other foods. Marketing margins per pound were higher for meat in October 1947 than for 31 of the 35 food items for which farm to retail price spreads were calculated. The margin for meat products in that month ranged from 13.4 cents per pound for pork and lard to 18.6 cents per pound for lamb. Marketing margins for most non-perishables were much smaller. For example, the margin for navy beans was 7.1 cents per pound and for cane sugar 5.4 cents. However, the margin for American cheese was 19.2 cents and chicken 24.9 cents.

Because meat prices are higher per pound than most other food items, marketing charges as a percent of retail price were the smallest for meat of the 35 items except butter and eggs. The margin for meats ranged from 25.9 percent of the retail price of pork and lard to 33.5 percent of that of lamb. By contrast, marketing charges were about 80 percent of the retail price of most canned vegetables.

Table 6.-Price spreads between farmers and consumers for meats, United States, 1913-47

Year	All meat products 1/					Beef (Good grade)				
	Government	Government	Government	Adjusted	Adjusted	Government	Government	Government	Adjusted	Adjusted
	retail price per pound	market taxes and payments (-) (+)	market taxes and payments (-) (+)	farm value 4/	margin (market charge) 5/	retail price per pound	market taxes and payments (-) (+)	market taxes and payments (-) (+)	farm value 4/	margin (market charge) 5/
Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	18.4			12.1	6.4	19.8			14.3	5.5
1914	18.9			12.4	6.5	20.5			15.2	5.3
1915	18.3			11.3	7.0	20.0			14.0	6.0
1916	20.0			13.3	6.8	21.3			15.1	6.2
1917	26.3			19.1	7.2	25.1			18.6	6.5
1918	32.3			22.4	9.9	31.5			22.8	8.7
1919	34.5+			22.8	11.7	32.9			22.8	10.1
1920	33.4			19.2	14.3	33.2			20.2	13.0
1921	27.1			12.2	14.9	28.5			14.0	14.5
1922	26.0			12.8	13.2	27.0			13.6	13.4
1923	26.0			12.4	13.6	28.0			15.1	12.9
1924	26.4			13.1	13.3	28.7			16.1	12.6
1925	29.5-			16.5	13.0	29.9			17.7	12.2
1926	30.2			16.5	13.7	30.6			16.2	14.4
1927	29.7			15.8	13.9	31.9			18.4	13.5
1928	31.1			16.7	14.4	36.4			21.8	14.6
1929	32.2			17.2	15.0	38.2			21.5	16.7
1930	30.0			15.0	15.0	35.2			18.5	16.7
1931	24.8			10.5	14.3	29.2			13.8	15.4
1932	19.2			7.5	11.8	24.2			11.0	13.2
1933	17.1	-.1	.1	6.6	10.5	20.9			8.4	12.5
1934	20.0	-1.5	1.5	9.5	10.5	22.7			10.7	12.0
1935	27.1	-1.6	1.6	15.6	11.5	29.6			17.2	12.4
1936	25.6			13.4	12.2	27.8			14.3	13.5
1937	27.7			15.7	12.0	31.6			19.3	12.3
1938	24.4			12.5	11.9	27.9			14.7	13.2
1939	23.5+			11.9	11.6	28.6			15.7	12.9
1940	22.3			11.8	10.6	28.7			16.9	11.8
1941	25.7			15.3	10.4	30.7			18.6	12.1
1942	30.0			20.2	9.8	34.1			23.0	11.1
1943	31.1	+1.1		22.0	10.2	35.2	+1.1		25.7	10.6
1944	29.6	+1.9		21.6	9.9	33.4	+2.0		26.3	9.1
1945	29.2	+2.8	.2	22.6	9.6	32.7	+3.9	.4	26.8	10.2
1946	37.7	+1.8	.2	27.8	11.8	41.8	+2.6	.3	33.6	11.1
1947 6/	53.8			38.3	15.5	61.1	---	---	45.1	16.0

- continued

Table 6.-Price spreads between farmers and consumers for meats, United States, 1913-47 -continued

Year	Pork, including lard					Lamb				
	Retail price per pound	Government market taxes (-) and payments (+) 2/	Government payments 3/	Adjusted just-ed farm value 4/	Adjusted margin (marketing charge) 5/	Retail price per pound	Government market taxes (-) and payments (+) 2/	Government payments 3/	Adjusted just-ed farm value 4/	Adjusted margin (marketing charge) 5/
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	17.4			10.6	6.8	16.6			10.3	6.3
1914	17.7			10.6	7.1	17.2			10.8	6.4
1915	16.7			9.1	7.6	18.2			11.4	6.8
1916	18.9			11.8	7.1	20.5			13.6	6.9
1917	27.2			19.9	7.3	27.3			18.7	8.6
1918	32.8			22.6	10.2	33.9			21.1	12.8
1919	35.7			23.2	12.5	35.6			21.3	14.3
1920	32.9			18.2	14.7	38.6			20.9	17.7
1921	25.2			10.6	14.6	32.6			13.1	19.5
1922	24.1			11.8	12.3	35.7			17.5	18.2
1923	23.2			9.7	13.5	35.8			18.0	17.8
1924	23.3			10.3	13.0	36.2			18.2	18.0
1925	28.2			15.4	12.8	37.6			21.0	16.6
1926	29.0			16.5	12.5	38.1			20.3	17.8
1927	26.8			13.4	13.4	38.2			20.2	18.0
1928	25.7			12.2	13.5	38.7			21.1	17.6
1929	26.2			13.3	12.9	39.6			21.1	18.5
1930	25.2			12.3	12.9	33.9			14.7	19.2
1931	20.7			8.1	12.6	28.1			10.6	17.5
1932	14.7			4.7	10.0	21.7			8.2	13.5
1933	13.6	-0.1	0.1	4.9	8.6	19.6			8.3	11.3
1934	17.4	-2.9	2.9	5.9	8.6	23.4			10.2	13.2
1935	25.1	-3.1	3.1	12.2	9.8	25.9			12.3	13.6
1936	23.5			13.0	10.5	27.1			13.6	13.5
1937	24.2			13.5	10.7	28.4			14.5	13.9
1938	21.1			10.8	10.3	26.4			12.3	14.1
1939	18.9			8.8	10.1	26.4			13.2	13.2
1940	16.5			7.5	9.0	26.1			13.4	12.7
1941	21.2			12.7	8.5	27.8			15.4	12.4
1942	26.2			18.2	8.0	32.4			19.2	13.2
1943	27.1	+1.0		19.2	8.9	35.9	+ .9		21.9	14.9
1944	25.6	+1.8		18.3	9.1	35.1	+1.6		21.2	15.5
1945	25.6	+2.2		19.6	8.2	35.2	+ .9	1.4	23.4	14.1
1946	33.8	+1.4		24.0	11.2	42.1	---	2.2	29.0	15.3
1947 6/	47.2	---		34.1	13.1	56.7	---	---	37.3	19.4

Table 6.- Price spreads between farmers and consumers for meats, United States, 1913-47 - Continued

1/ Calculated from a "market basket" of 343.2 pounds of meat and meat products consisting of 125.7 pounds of beef, 16.7 pounds of lamb, 176.4 pounds of pork, including lard, and 24.4 pounds of other meat products. Source: material reported in "Price Spreads between farmers and consumers for food products 1913-44", USDA, Misc. Pub. No. 576, September 1945, and current issues of the Marketing and Transportation Situation.

2/ Government marketing taxes were assessed against slaughterers of hogs during 1933-35. Almost equivalent payments were made to corn and hog producers under the AAA hog and corn reduction programs. Payments were made to slaughterers of hogs, cattle, calves, sheep and lambs beginning in June 1943 and continuing for most classes through June 1946 and again in September and the first half of October 1946. This was a cost of living or consumer subsidy.

3/ Government payments to hog producers in 1933-36 were made under the AAA hog and corn reduction programs. In 1945 and 1946 payments were made to sheep and lamb producers for sheep and lambs sold for immediate slaughter and payments previously made to processors of sheep and lambs were withdrawn. Also in 1945 and the first half of 1946 payments were made to farmers for cattle sold for immediate slaughter at weights above 800 pounds and prices above designated amounts.

4/ Farm value of live animal weight necessary to produce 1 pound of meat products at retail (roughly 1.75 pounds) minus the computed value of byproducts obtained from the live animals, other than the edible byproducts included in the average retail price of all meat products. Government producer payments have been included, but government marketing taxes have been excluded during 1933-35. It requires 2.16 pounds of cattle to produce 1 pound of beef at retail and 2.16 pounds of live lambs are required to produce 1 pound of lamb at retail. It takes 1.41 pounds live hog to produce 1 pound of pork and lard at retail.

5/ Average retail price minus adjusted farm value plus government payments to hog processors or minus government processing taxes.

6/ Preliminary

Live Animal-Wholesale Meat Spread at Chicago;
Wholesale-Retail Meat Spread at New York

The same general indications of trends in marketing margins in recent years are shown by price data for equivalent weights of live animals and of carcass at Wholesale at Chicago, and for carcass and retail cuts at New York. Such data for pork, beef and lamb are presented for additional reference in tables 7-9.

The calculated margins based upon market prices at Chicago and New York should not be interpreted as being absolute margins but probably show relative changes from year to year. But, meat prices reported during the war years probably do not include all of the sales at above ceiling prices. The data for live animal prices are more nearly equal to actual prices during the period of price controls. In the case of both cattle and lambs the value of the carcass produced from 100 pounds of live animal is less than the value of the live animals. This is due to the high value of both edible and inedible by products, principally the hides, that are obtained during slaughter. In the case of hogs the wholesale value of the quantities of products used for this comparison is also less for some years than the value of 100 pounds of live hogs. Comparable data is not available for retail values of the other edible and inedible products omitted from these figures.

Table 7.- Hogs and hog products, fresh and cured including lard; spread between live value and wholesale value of products, Chicago; and spread between wholesale and retail value, New York, 1935-47

Year	Chicago			New York		
	Wholesale market value of 53.78 lb. of products	Spread between live and whole-sale values	Whole-sale value of 53.78 lb. of products	Retail value of 52.64 lb. of products	Spread between wholesale and retail values	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1935	1/ 12.03	11.83	- 0.20	12.02	14.71	+ 2.69
1936	10.35	11.16	+ 0.81	11.33	14.35	+ 3.02
1937	10.70	11.40	+ 0.70	11.51	14.26	+ 2.75
1938	8.64	9.70	+ 1.06	10.01	12.98	+ 2.97
1939	7.08	8.22	+ 1.14	8.66	12.04	+ 3.38
1940	6.03	7.10	+ 1.07	7.59	10.65	+ 3.06
1941	9.85	10.17	+ 0.32	10.64	13.36	+ 2.72
1942	13.99	13.23	- 0.76	13.74	16.61	+ 2.87
1943	13.92	12.86	- 1.06	13.32	16.43	+ 3.11
1944	2/ 12.84	12.26	- 0.58	12.82	15.53	+ 2.71
1945	2/ 13.16	12.26	- 0.90	12.99	15.78	+ 2.79
1946	2/ 16.92	17.06	- 0.16	3/ 20.78	3/ 23.36	+ 2.58
1947	26.24	25.06	- 1.18	3/ 29.17	3/ 33.37	+ 4.20

1/ Includes processing tax of \$2.25 per 100 pounds live weight.

2/ Less subsidy payments to slaughterers of \$1.30 per 100 pounds beginning June 1943; changed to \$1.70 April 1, 1945, removed June 30, 1946 and paid during September-October 14, 1946. Such payments are estimated at 74 cents in 1943, \$1.30 in 1944, \$1.60 in 1945 and \$1.06 in 1946.

3/ Value of 62.11 pounds of wholesale products and 60.37 pounds of retail products.

Computed from data of the Livestock Branch, PMA.

Table 8.-Steers and beef: Spread between live value and value of carcass beef, Chicago; and spread between wholesale and retail values of beef, New York, 1935-47

Year	Chicago			New York		
	Average price of good and choice steers 900-1100#	Wholesale value of 60 pounds good & choice beef carcass	Spread between live and wholesale carcass values	Wholesale value of 60 pounds good and choice beef carcass	Retail value of 47.4 lb. beef cuts	Spread between wholesale and retail values
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1935	11.66	10.03	- 1.63	10.42	14.48	+ 4.06
1936	9.68	8.27	- 1.41	8.70	13.46	+ 4.76
1937	13.28	11.38	- 1.90	11.75	15.26	+ 3.51
1938	9.90	9.14	- 0.76	9.61	13.58	+ 3.97
1939	10.60	9.54	- 1.06	9.95	14.00	+ 4.05
1940	11.28	10.13	- 1.15	10.70	14.47	+ 3.77
1941	12.22	10.75	- 1.47	11.11	15.57	+ 4.46
1942	14.64	12.37	- 2.27	13.09	17.17	+ 4.08
1943	15.26	12.67	- 2.59	13.30	18.01	+ 4.71
1944	15.19	12.23	- 2.96	12.84	16.99	+ 4.15
1945	13.97	12.23	- 1.74	12.90	16.83	+ 3.93
1946	18.98	17.39	- 1.59	18.26	20.99	+ 2.73
1947	28.17	26.41	- 1.76	26.36	30.72	+ 4.36

1/ Excludes subsidy 55 cents, 1943; \$1.22, 1944; \$2.00, 1945; \$1.86, 1946.
 Computed from data of the Livestock Branch, PMA.

Table 9.- Live and dressed lamb: Spread between live value and value of carcass, Chicago; and spread between wholesale and retail value of lamb, New York, 1935-47

Year	Chicago			New York		
	Average price good and choice lambs all weights	Wholesale value 49 lbs. good and choice lamb carcass	Spread between live and wholesale carcass values	Wholesale value of 49 lb. lamb carcass	Retail value of 47.2 lb. lamb cuts	Spread between wholesale and retail values
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1935	8.85	7.94	- .91	8.22	11.51	+ 3.29
1936	9.96	8.29	-1.67	8.83	12.23	+ 3.40
1937	10.74	8.79	-1.95	9.27	12.60	+ 3.33
1938	8.47	7.74	- .73	8.40	11.71	+ 3.31
1939	9.40	8.23	-1.17	8.83	11.96	+ 3.13
1940	9.73	8.36	-1.37	8.91	12.16	+ 3.25
1941	11.32	9.15	-2.17	9.71	13.42	+ 3.71
1942	13.89	11.37	-2.52	12.07	15.74	+ 3.67
1943	<u>1</u> / 14.48	12.44	-2.04	12.93	18.28	+ 5.35
1944	<u>1</u> / 14.27	11.97	-2.30	12.57	18.01	+ 5.44
1945	<u>1</u> / 14.93	11.97	-2.96	12.62	18.43	+ 5.81
1946	18.66	15.64	-3.02	16.40	21.62	+ 5.22
1947	23.51	21.25	-2.26	21.72	26.81	+ 5.09

1/ Less subsidy payments to slaughterers of \$.95 per 100 pounds beginning July 1943 and discontinued Aug. 5, 1945. Such payments are estimated at 47 cents in 1943, 95 cents in 1944, and 55 cents in 1945.

Computed from data of the Livestock Branch, PMA.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), marketings and slaughter statistics, by species, January, 1948 with comparisons

PRICES

Item	Annual		1947		1948		
	Av. 1937-46	1946	1947	January	December	January	February
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers sold out of first hands, Chicago:							
Choice and prime	14.61	20.24	30.64	28.08	35.02	36.80	
Good	13.29	19.32	26.22	23.93	29.62	30.36	
Medium	11.63	17.36	21.76	20.44	23.67	25.69	
Common	9.67	13.75	18.04	15.83	19.51	21.82	
All grades	13.22	19.16	25.83	22.16	29.08	29.16	
Good grade cows, Chicago	10.30	15.04	18.48	15.65	20.82	23.18	
Vealers: Gd. and Ch., Chicago	12.90	16.87	24.98	24.58	28.18	30.41	
Stocker and feeder steers							
Kansas City	10.66	15.87	20.81	17.68	23.59	26.31	
Av. price received by farmers:							
Beef cattle	9.71	14.50	1/18.95	17.30	19.80	21.50	19.50
Veal calves	10.99	15.30	1/20.52	18.00	22.30	24.40	23.00
Hogs							
Av. market price, Chicago:							
Barrows and gilts	---	18.42	25.21	22.85	26.62	27.06	
Sows	---	18.31	21.88	19.26	24.09	23.93	
All purchases	11.45	18.40	24.45	22.45	26.31	26.71	
Av. price received by farmers:							
Hogs	10.92	17.50	1/24.50	21.80	24.90	26.70	21.60
Corn, cents per bushel	86.1	141.4	186.7	121.0	237.0	246.0	192.0
Hog-corn price ratio, U. S. 2/	13.1	12.5	13.7	18.0	10.5	10.9	11.2
Sheep and lambs							
Lambs, gd. and ch., Chicago	12.72	18.65	23.59	23.23	24.81	25.43	
Feeding lambs, gd. and ch., Omaha	11.21	3/16.46	3/20.76	19.45	20.53	21.78	
Ewes, gd. and ch., Chicago	5.90	8.25	9.17	8.05	9.79	12.52	
Av. price received by farmers:							
Sheep	5.33	7.49	1/8.40	7.63	8.62	9.32	9.25
Lambs	10.72	15.60	1/20.42	19.00	21.30	22.20	20.70
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago:							
Steer beef, carcass (good, 500-600 lbs.)	18.86	27.81	41.46	36.22	46.19	47.15	
Composite hog products	13.67	20.37	29.58	25.94	30.73	31.36	28.15
Lamb carcasses (good, 30-40 lbs.)	21.18	31.08	4/42.66	39.94	41.98	44.72	
B.L.S. index retail meat prices 5/	118.7	161.3	217.1	199.0	227.3	237.5	
Index income of industrial workers							
1935-39=100	205.8	268.9	6/323.0	307.7	354.7	---	

Livestock Marketing and Slaughter Statistics

Item	Unit	1946	1947	1947	1947	1948
Meat-animal marketings:						
Index numbers (1935-39=100)	---	129	141	155	167	184
Stocker and feeder shipments to:						
8 Corn Belt States						
Cattle and calves	Thous.	---	2,935	2,601	154	145
Sheep and lambs	Thous.	---	3,212	3,107	171	131
Slaughter under Federal Inspection:						
Numbers: 7/						
Cattle	Thous.	11,398	11,413	15,524	1,403	1,346
Calves	Thous.	5,946	5,842	7,933	591	673
Sheep and lambs	Thous.	19,602	19,885	16,667	1,542	1,451
Hogs	Thous.	47,781	44,394	49,116	5,844	6,254
Average live-weight:						
Cattle	lb.	939	943	928	944	929
Calves	lb.	200	199	209	202	205
Sheep and lambs	lb.	89	94	94	96	94
Hogs	lb.	243	255	254	255	242
Meat Production:						
Beef	Mil. lb.	5,689	5,666	7,535	693	636
Veal	Mil. lb.	664	642	904	65	73
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	804	850	717	68	62
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil. lb.	6,700	6,642	7,080	827	868
Storage stocks end of month:						
Beef	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	180	175
Pork	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	399	527
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	17	20
Total meat and meat products	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	731	857
Percent packing sows are of Fed-erally inspected hog slaughter:	Percent:	---	12	13	8	9

1/ Simple average for 2 months. 2/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
 3/ Average of prices for nine months of year, excluding May, June, July. 4/ Average of prices for ten months of year, excluding May and June. 5/ Meat, poultry, and fish: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1935-39=100. 6/ Preliminary estimate. 7/ 1947 and 1948 slaughter excludes Hawaii and Virgin Islands.

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