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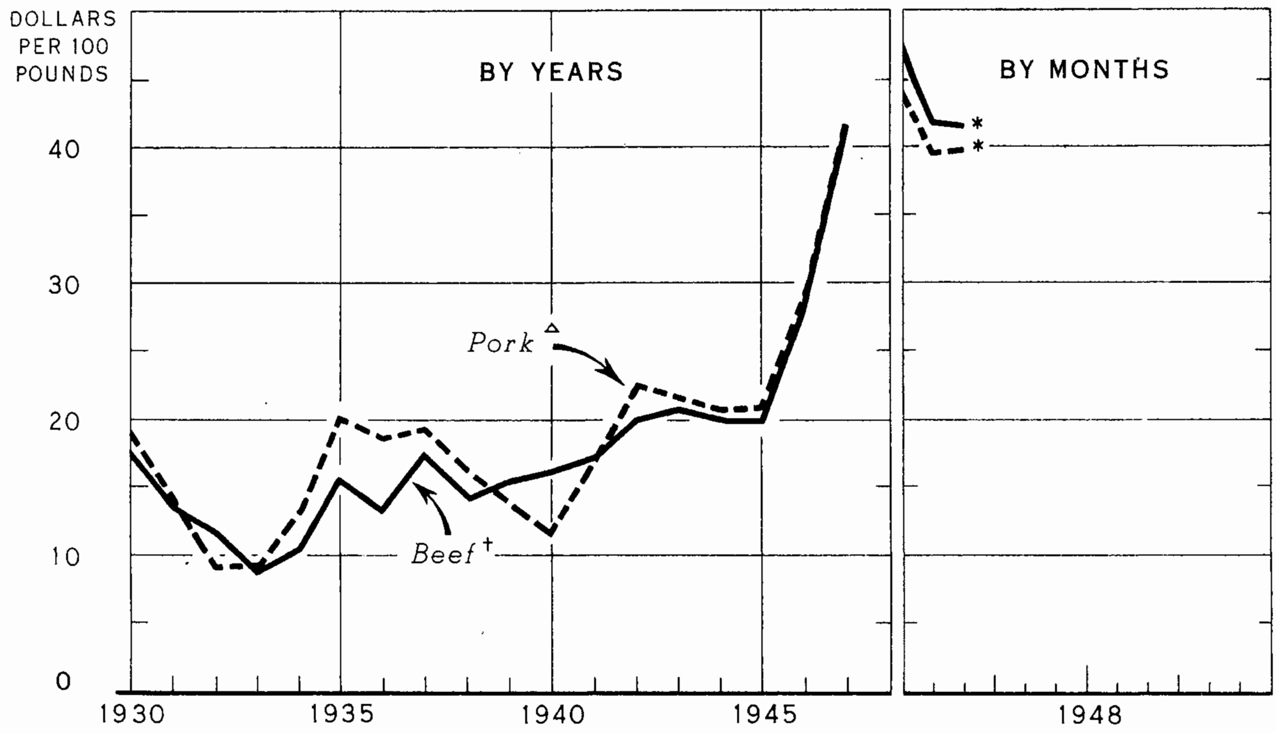
THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-13 BAE MARCH 1948

In this issue: Early spring lamb crop
Canned meat production and distribution
Causes of slaughter condemnations

WHOLESALE PRICES OF GOOD GRADE BEEF AND OF HOG PRODUCTS, CHICAGO, 1930-47, AND MONTHLY 1948

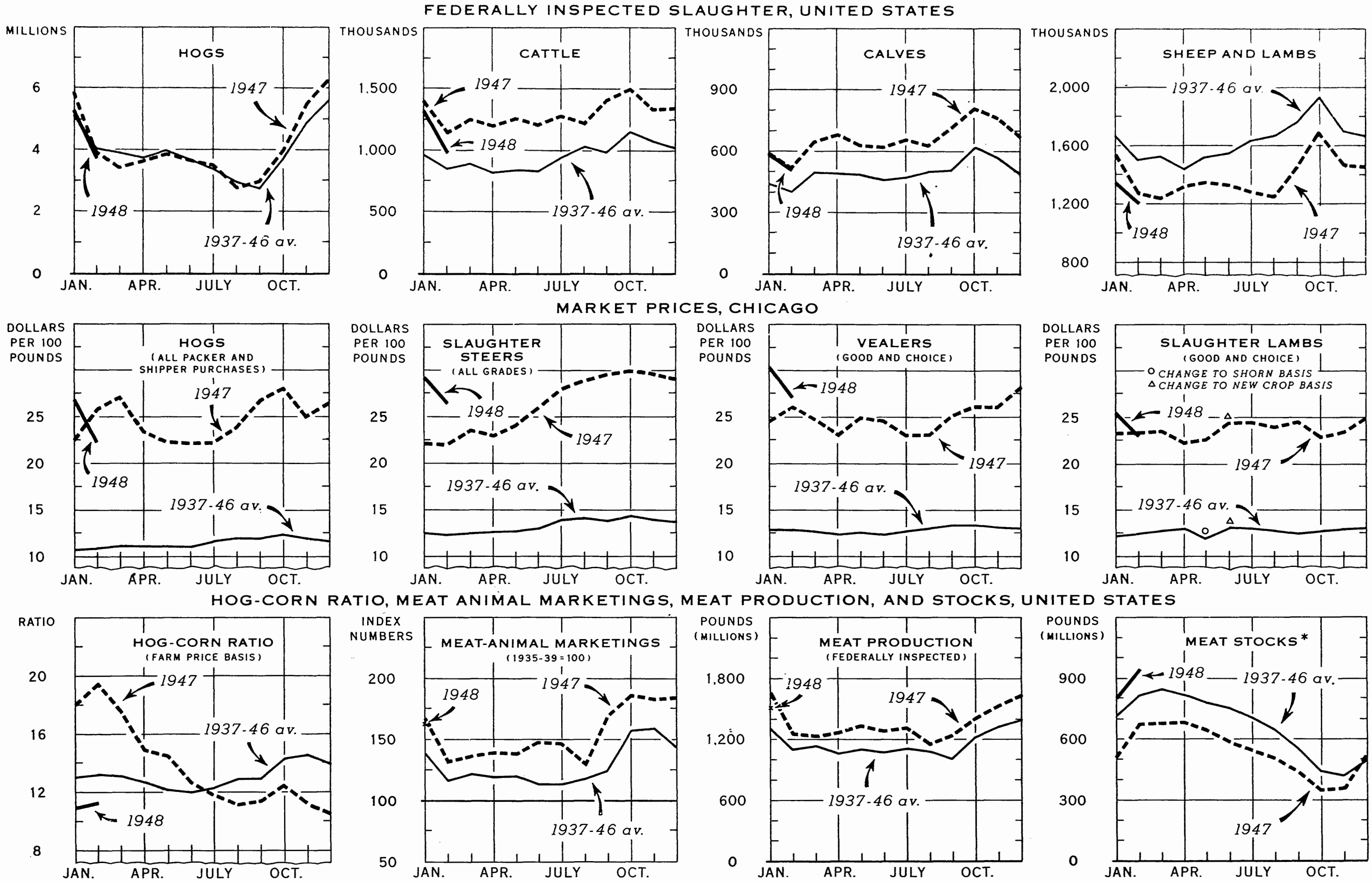


△ CALCULATED FROM COMPOSITE VALUE OF 71.32 POUNDS FRESH AND CURED HOG PRODUCTS INCLUDING LARD
† 1930-32, 550 TO 700 POUNDS; BEGINNING 1933, 500 TO 600 POUNDS
* WEEK ENDED MARCH 6

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 46692 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Wholesale meat prices in early March were about equal to their record 1947 averages despite the sharp declines of February. Prices are likely to continue high this spring and might rise again as meat supplies decline seasonally. This fall when supplies increase seasonally, prices of meat probably will decline. Any drop in demand due to a decline in business activity would of course accentuate the fall in prices.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION



* BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 46691 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 31, 1948.

SUMMARY

Prospects are that meat output will decline more than seasonally this spring and summer. If consumer incomes continue at present levels, prices of meat animals probably will remain at least as high as at present. After falling sharply in early February, meat-animal prices recovered moderately and were fairly steady in late February and early March. In late March they declined to about mid-February levels.

Meat production in each quarter of 1948 is likely to be smaller than a year earlier. In the January-March quarter, output under Federal inspection was about 10 percent below a year earlier. Meat consumption for the entire year is expected to average 143 to 146 pounds per person compared with 154 pounds in 1947 and 134 pounds in 1937-41.

Slaughter of hogs this spring is expected to be about the same as a year earlier, since the 1947 fall pig crop, from which most of the marketings will come, was slightly larger than the 1946 fall crop. In late summer and fall, however, slaughter of hogs probably will be considerably less than a year earlier, particularly if feed crops this year are large. Marketings may be delayed in order to utilize new crop feed.

According to breeding intentions reported by farmers last December, spring farrowings may be 11 percent under 1947.

Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection in February was 26 percent less than in January and 15 percent less than in February last year. The smaller slaughter reflects fewer cattle on farms this year than last as well as the smaller number on grain feed. Slaughter of fed cattle is now at a relatively low level and may continue small until at least next winter. In every month except one since April 1947, shipments of stocker and feeder cattle to feeding areas had been less than in the same month a year before.

Lamb slaughter is expected to continue less than last year. The early spring lamb crop in 10 principal States this year is 10 percent under 1947 and the lowest on record. Except in California and in the Pacific Northwest lambs were retarded in development during January and February by wet cold weather that slowed growth of green feed. Prospects are good for spring pastures, however.

In California, where the early lamb crop was 7 percent smaller than last year, range conditions in the early lambing sections of the State on March 1 were the lowest in history. But many lambs were shifted to irrigated pastures and lost little development. A much larger percentage of the California crop will be shipped as feeders this year than last. More than in recent years are likely to move to the Corn Belt and other eastern areas.

Over 1 billion pounds of canned meat (net product weight) was available to civilian consumers in 1947, more than twice the 469 million pounds in 1939. Canning facilities expanded during the war to meet large military and export requirements, and many of the facilities are now being used to supply the civilian market. Military purchases of canned meat reached 1,121 million pounds in 1944, but by 1947 had declined to 1.5 million pounds. Department of Agriculture purchases from domestic supplies for export programs amounted to 1,025 million pounds in the peak year 1943 but were only 157 millions in 1946, the last year of their operations.

OUTLOOK

Reduced Marketings of all Meat Animals this Year; Relatively Large Hog Slaughter this Spring

Federally inspected meat production in the first quarter of 1948 probably totaled 10 percent less than a year earlier. Although still large compared with prewar, it was the smallest production for the quarter since 1942. Output of all classes, was below a year earlier but beef declined most.

Livestock marketings and meat output are likely to continue less than a year earlier through 1948.

The number of hogs at the beginning of 1948 was around 2 million head less than a year before. Total slaughter in the first 9 months of 1948 is likely to be below that of the same period of 1947. Most of this reduction had occurred in the first quarter. In February, hog slaughter under Federal inspection was 4 percent below the same month of 1947. In the first two weeks of March, when shippers anticipated a strike of packinghouse workers, slaughter was 26 percent greater than last year. But in the next two weeks, after the strike began, slaughter declined sharply.

Federally inspected meat production in the third and fourth weeks of March was smaller by 44 and 38 percent respectively than in the same weeks a year earlier. Total meat output was not reduced correspondingly since the strike was confined mainly to plants operating under Federal inspection and other plants apparently increased their output. Marketings also held closer to last year's levels than did Federally inspected slaughter, as is indicated by the following figures for salable receipts at 12 leading markets:

Week of:	Cattle		Sheep and Lambs		Hogs	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
March 6	240,962	190,104	151,987	147,280	199,496	300,291
March 13	232,939	178,209	138,218	155,676	175,040	305,533
March 20	238,706	103,835	156,043	89,511	202,047	154,145
March 27	232,621	130,365	148,151	117,267	203,631	199,743

Through spring and early summer, hog slaughter is likely to be about the same as a year earlier, since the 1947 fall pig crop from which most of the marketings will come was only slightly larger than the 1946 fall crop. In the late summer and fall, however, slaughter may be considerably smaller than at the same time last year. If a larger 1948 corn crop is in prospect, the chances are that many hogs will be held from market for finishing on the new crop.

The intentions of producers as reported last fall indicate that 11 percent fewer sows will farrow this spring than last. If these intentions are carried out a somewhat similar decrease in hog slaughter would occur during October 1948-March 1949.

Fewer cattle and calves are likely to be marketed this year than last. About 3 million head, or 3 percent, less were on farms January 1, 1948 than a year before and the reduction was greater in steers and beef calves than in other classes of beef cattle.

Fed cattle for market at least through fall will be fewer than the large marketings last year. Numbers on feed at the beginning of this year were 12 percent under January 1, 1947. In addition, records of shipments of feeder and stocker cattle this year show fewer cattle moving to principal feeding areas than in the same months last year.

Marketings of grass cattle this year also are expected to be smaller than in 1947.

Cattle slaughter dropped off materially in February. February inspected slaughter of 977,000 head was 26 percent less than January, 15 percent less than February last year, and the smallest February slaughter since 1943.

The number of calves slaughtered in 1948 is expected to be large but may not equal the near-record 1947 kill. Relatively higher prices for meat animals than for dairy products and below average butterfat-feed and milk-feed price ratios will encourage slaughter of veal calves. On the other hand, there will be fewer calves for slaughter on account of the smaller number of cows on farms January 1. At the first of the year, the number of milk cows was 4 percent below January 1, 1947 while the number of beef cows was down 2-1/2 percent. During the first quarter of this year, slaughter of calves under Federal inspection was about 9 percent less than a year earlier.

Meat Animal Prices Still Near Record

Meat production is likely to remain below last year and to be relatively smallest during the summer. Prospects for meat animal prices in the next few months depend on the movement of stock to market, and on any changes in demand.

Despite the sharp declines in February, meat-animal prices are now higher than during any period before decontrol in 1946 and are still near the 1947 record yearly averages. As the seasonally low meat production of spring and summer approaches, prices of meat animals will be in a strong position. If demand continues at present levels, prices may be expected to rise moderately. Because of reduced supplies of fed cattle, prices of the better grades of steers probably will rise at least seasonally next summer and early fall. If feed prospects are average or better, prices of grass cattle may decline less than seasonally. The seasonal decrease in hog prices next fall, when the spring pig crop comes to market, may occur later than usual.

Table 1.-Wholesale price per 100 pounds of Western dressed beef and of all hog products, Chicago, and ratio of beef production to pork production United States annual 1919, 1929-47 and monthly 1947-48
(Data for cover page)

Years	Beef Steer good, 500-600 lbs. 1/	100 pounds all hog products 2/	Ratio beef production to pork production 3/
	Dollars	Dollars	
1919	4/ 22.34	29.96	79.7
1929	21.26	19.78	66.5
1930	17.45	19.00	69.8
1931	13.40	14.12	68.8
1932	11.43	9.18	64.9
1933	8.79	9.23	70.5
1934	10.38	12.86	96.7
1935	15.57	20.08	111.6
1936	13.21	18.55	98.4
1937	17.31	19.21	97.8
1938	14.39	16.12	89.9
1939	15.46	13.63	81.0
1940	16.11	11.67	71.5
1941	17.18	16.99	84.9
1942	19.98	22.41	81.3
1943	20.62	21.68	62.9
1944	19.88	20.60	68.5
1945	19.88	20.75	96.1
1946	27.81	28.56	83.9
1947	41.46	41.48	99.0
1947			5/
Jan.	36.22	36.37	83.7
Feb.	35.44	39.83	104.5
Mar.	37.11	43.80	128.4
Apr.	35.80	40.00	118.5
May	37.30	38.08	114.4
June	40.75	38.63	107.7
July	43.46	40.04	113.0
Aug.	46.40	42.86	130.1
Sept.	47.65	46.35	156.3
Oct.	45.86	45.61	127.0
Nov.	45.38	42.96	80.6
Dec.	46.19	43.09	73.3
1948			
Jan.	47.15	43.97	85.5
Feb.	41.80	39.47	92.8

1/ 1929-32, 550 to 700 pounds, beginning 1933, 500 to 600 pounds.
2/ Calculated from composite value of 71.32 pounds of fresh and cured edible hog products and by-products excluding casings, but including white grease.
3/ Computed from dressed weight of total slaughter, beef and pork (excluding lard).
4/ July-December average all weights. 5/ Ratio of monthly beef production to pork production, excluding lard, under Federal Inspection. Part of monthly variation is caused by seasonal changes in supplies.
Data from Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

Farm production and marketings of meat animals have increased greatly since prewar. As measured by the index of production for sale and for home use on farms, output in 1947 was 46 percent above the 1935-39 average. This was larger than the increase in feed grains, dairy products and several other farm products, though less than food grains, poultry products, and fruits and truck crops. Even though production of meat animals will decline somewhat in 1948, it will still be far above prewar.

Meat consumption per person was 154 pounds in 1947 and may be between 143 and 146 pounds in 1948. In 1937-41 it averaged 134 pounds. The estimate for 1948 is based on prospects for both production and exports. Exports and shipments in 1946 reached 1.2 billion pounds, dressed meat basis. In 1947, they dropped to 340 million pounds--about 1-1/2 percent of production. In 1948 they are again likely to be small. Exports are under license control.

The support price for good and choice butcher hogs at Chicago in late March was $16.50. Support prices, although varying seasonally, averaged $16.15 in the period September 1947 through March 1948. A new support schedule for April-September will be announced about April 1. Since the parity price for hogs on March 15 was $18.00, 70 cents higher than last September 15, the new schedule will average $16.84 at Chicago. Under present legislation, the hog price support will end December 31, 1948. There are no support programs for cattle or lambs.

In the last two weeks of March, weekly average prices of barrows and gilts at Chicago were $22.33 and $21.40, compared with $27.56 in mid-January. If they follow the usual seasonal pattern this year, prices of butcher hogs will not change much through June but will probably rise moderately beginning in July when marketings will be seasonally smaller.

The hog-corn price ratio continued below average in February and March. The ratio, farm basis, on March 15, was 10.3 compared with 17.6 a year earlier and the 1927-46 average of 12.8 for that month.

Prices of prime and choice and good slaughter steers at Chicago remained relatively unchanged in late February and in March. Prices of common and medium grade steers rose moderately, reflecting a strong demand for such cattle and seasonally small supplies being marketed. In February and March, prices of stockers and feeders, slaughter cows, heifers, and bulls were comparatively higher than prices of slaughter steers.

In late March, prices of good and choice slaughter ewes at Chicago were over $2.00 higher than a year earlier and only moderately lower than the records reached in late January and early February. Prices of lambs stabilized in late February and in March at around $4.00 below the peak at the first of the year. In late March, a moderate number of spring lambs moved to slaughter from the San Joaquin Valley of California at around $22.00. The average price for good and choice old crop wooled lambs at Chicago during the week ending March 27 was $21.82.

Pattern of Meat-Animal Prices in 1919-21

After the end of the first world war, prices of all meat animals rose, reaching new peaks in 1919. Within a year after the Armistice, however, they began a sharp decline. Meat animal prices started down in the fall of 1919, when marketings of cattle and sheep were increasing seasonally. Just before the decline, the index of prices received by farmers for all meat animals was about 228 (August 1909-July 1914=100). By the end of 1921, three years after the Armistice, the index was down to 90.

Prices received by farmers for cattle averaged about $11.40 per 100 pounds in April and May 1919. By October, they had gone down to $8.92. Prices then recovered and held above $9.00 until August 1920, when they again turn downward reaching a low of $4.80 in December 1921.

Prices received by farmers for hogs averaged $20.12 per 100 pounds in July 1919, the peak following World War I. Prices dropped sharply during the fall, reaching $12.39 in December, 1919. Through October 1920 prices were steady but they again declined substantially during the fall of 1920, reaching $8.50 in December of that year. During the year 1921 hog prices averaged $7.63 compared with $12.92 in 1920 and $16.39 in 1919.

From 1921 to 1924 prices received by farmers for meat animals were relatively unchanged. The index in 1924 averaged 112. In 1925, cattle prices strengthened and hog prices rose considerably. In general, meat animal prices moved slowly higher until 1929.

The decline in meat animal prices in 1919-21 was largely associated with the general price deflation. Meat animal prices started down earlier than most other prices, partly because of the seasonal increase in marketings. The Bureau of Labor Statistics wholesale price index for all commodities moved up to a peak in May 1920, when it was 167 (1926=100). By the end of the year it was 121 and in December 1921 it was down to 93. In late 1925, it had risen only to 104.

Since the end of World War II, there has been no general price recession comparable to that following the first World War. At present, there is little evidence as to whether a recession is to be expected, when it will come, or how severe it may be. The issues of European relief and military preparedness as well as trends in domestic investment are not sufficiently certain to permit an accurate appraisal. The only substantial price decline since the end of World War II occurred in February and affected only part of the farm products. By contrast the 1920 price break was general.

Early Lamb Crop 10 Percent Below 1947

The early lamb crop (lambs born before March 1) in 10 principal producing States this year is estimated at 10 percent below 1947 and the smallest of record. The smaller crop is the result of fewer breeding sheep and a smaller proportion of ewes lambing before March 1. The number of ewes over 1 year of age declined in all of the 10 early States in 1947. The decrease averaged 4 percent in both California and Texas, the principal States, and in the area as a whole. Declines were greatest in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Arizona (see table 2). The total decline in the 10 States since January 1943 has been almost 5 million head or 31 percent.

The early lamb crop in California this year is around 7 percent less than in 1946. Because of dry weather, range feed conditions in the early lambing sections of the State on March 1 were an all-time low. However, many of the lambs have grazed on irrigated pastures or have been fed liberally on grain and hay. Thus they have developed better than range conditions indicate. The movement to market started early. Many lambs will probably be sold as feeders. Because of the feed shortage in the State more than the usual number will go eastward.

In most of the other early lamb States February was cold and wet. This retarded the growth of grass and the development of lambs. Favorable weather will, of course, bring improvement.

About the normal percentage of early lambs is expected to be marketed before July 1, although the timing of shipments will still be influenced by range and feed conditions in California and elsewhere.

The late lamb crop also is likely to be smaller in 1948 than in 1947 since the number of sheep declined in the late lambing States in 1947. The number of ewes over 1 year in the 6 western late lambing States was 4 percent less this January than last, and 36 percent less than the January 1942 peak. In the 32 eastern late lambing States, the number was 7 percent less than in 1947 and 45 percent under 1942.

Table 2.- Number of breeding ewes (1 year and over) on farms January 1, selected States and regions, United States, 1942-48

States	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1948 as percentage of 1947
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Percent
Early lamb States	15,757	15,758	14,295	13,725	12,422	11,365	10,882	95.8
California	2,451	2,353	2,188	2,021	1,698	1,562	1,500	96.0
Washington	464	441	388	349	321	292	254	87.0
Oregon	1,216	1,131	1,007	886	744	662	616	93.1
Idaho	1,531	1,454	1,309	1,178	1,041	979	920	94.0
Arizona	528	499	466	404	379	359	335	93.3
Kentucky	907	889	792	704	648	654	647	98.9
Tennessee	317	323	294	268	263	260	255	98.1
Virginia	309	296	278	278	257	249	240	96.4
Missouri	1,269	1,269	1,180	1,052	947	952	935	98.2
Texas	6,765	7,103	6,393	6,585	6,124	5,396	5,180	96.0
Late lamb States								
6 Western States 1/	11,243	11,241	10,487	9,608	8,556	7,579	7,243	95.6
32 other States	10,361	10,304	9,209	7,947	6,702	6,104	5,701	93.4
Total U.S.	37,361	37,303	33,991	31,280	27,680	25,048	23,826	95.1

1/ Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Total sheep and lamb slaughter in 1948 probably will be considerably smaller than the 1947 slaughter of 18.8 million head which was the smallest since 1929. The reduction this year will show up in most and possibly all months. Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in January was 13 percent less than a year earlier and February slaughter was down 5 percent from last February. Lambs from the early crop will begin coming to market in volume in April and those from the late crop by September.

Sheepmen not only will market fewer lambs this year than in 1947, but also fewer ewes. If they should begin to increase herds this fall, marketings of ewes would probably drop considerably and more ewe lambs would also be held out of marketings. Slaughter of mature sheep under Federal inspection this January was the smallest since 1942. However, it was 10 percent of total inspected slaughter, which was much above the average percentage.

The number of yearling wethers for market from Texas this year is considerably smaller than a year earlier. This is indicated by the fact that the number of stock wether and ram lambs on ranches in Texas January 1 were 838,000 compared with 1,056,000 a year earlier. Texas yearlings usually make up a rather large share of marketings during May-July. For the United States as a whole, the number of stock wether and ram lambs on farms January 1, 1948 totaled 1,169,000 head, 18 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest since 1936.

Texas range conditions were below average in early February, but rains later in the month markedly improved prospects for spring grazing.

1947 Wool Production Smallest Since 1925; Fine Wool selling above CCC Purchase Price

Total domestic wool production, shorn and pulled, in 1947 was estimated at 310 million pounds, the smallest since 1925. The average production in 1936-45 was 427 million pounds. Domestic production was equivalent to 4 months domestic consumption of apparel wool in 1947. Production of wool in 1948 will probably be moderately smaller than last year because fewer sheep are on hand.

The Commodity Credit Corporation probably will continue to purchase most of the domestic production of medium and coarse wools in 1948, since its support prices for those grades are much higher than current market prices. During the past year, world prices of fine and half-blood wools have risen so much that many domestic producers of these grades have found it profitable to sell through commercial channels rather than the CCC. However, recent declines in prices of foreign wools have tended to reduce commercial contracting for this year's clip.

Because of the increased demand and comparatively higher prices for fine wools CCC stocks of these grades have been reduced, but their stocks of medium grades have continued to increase. CCC stocks of all wools declined from 469.6 million pounds, grease basis, at the beginning of 1947 to 333.8 million at the beginning of 1948.

Reduced tariff rates on imported wool, which went into effect at the beginning of this year, may not have any large influence on total imports of raw wool and wool textiles in 1948. The tariff rates on wool of apparel classes, which make up the bulk of our raw wool imports, were reduced 25 percent or 8-1/2 cents per clean pound (approximately 3.5 cents, grease basis). Ad valorem duties for wool textiles, previously ranging from 35 to 45 percent, were mostly lowered to 25 percent.

CAUSES OF SLAUGHTER CONDEMNATIONS

For many years a principal function of the Meat Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture has been the inspection of livestock before and during slaughter to eliminate those animals, meats and meat products affected with disease or other unwholesome conditions. Meat and meat products produced under Federal inspection and approved for food use are marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed". Animals and all products not approved for food use are condemned and go into fertilizers, inedible grease, and other nonfood uses.

During 1946-47, condemnations of live animals and whole carcasses under Federal inspection amounted to only 0.2 percent of total inspected hog slaughter; 0.5 percent of sheep and lamb slaughter; 0.5 percent of cattle slaughter; and 0.9 percent of calf slaughter.

Ante Mortem Inspection

Most of the live animals condemned are aged, sick or seriously injured. Condemnation of dying animals accounted for 1,985 of the 3,698 cattle condemned before slaughter in 1946-47, 2,262 of the 2,945 live hogs and 2,190 of the 2,329 sheep. In cattle, a second large cause of condemnation was tumors and similar conditions, for which 1,472 animals were condemned. (See table 3).

Post Mortem Inspection

The principal causes of carcass condemnations are pneumonia, pleurisy, and other inflammatory conditions. Septic conditions, primarily pyemia and septecimia, accounted for another large part of carcasses rejected for food. A third principal cause was emaciation. For calves, the principal cause in 1946-47 was immaturity. Tuberculosis in hogs and one disease of sheep (caseous lymphadenitis) were the only infectious diseases that caused large carcass condemnations. Injuries were a cause for large carcass losses for all species and arthritis of hogs resulted in a considerable number of condemnations.

In addition to live animals and whole carcasses, parts of carcasses are subject to inspection and condemnation. For example over 1.5 million cattle livers were condemned during 1946-47 or 11 percent of the total. Injuries to animals are a major cause of condemnations of products, principally of hams and shoulders of hogs. Actinomycosis (lumpy jaw) tuberculosis, abscesses and tumors are the biggest causes of condemnation of heads together with tongues, brains, and other edible parts.

Table 3.--Number of animals condemned before slaughter under Federal inspection and causes of condemnations, fiscal year 1946-47

Causes of condemnations	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep and lambs
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Dying or near death	1,985	1,302	2,262	2,190
Tumors, etc.	1,472	1	2	---
Immaturity	---	214	---	---
Pyrexia (high temperature)	72	19	249	121
Hog cholera	---	---	246	---
All other causes	169	29	186	18
Total	3,698	1,565	2,945	2,329

Compiled from annual report of Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry, 1947, p. 61.

Table 4. - Number of carcasses condemned under Federal inspection of carcasses and causes of condemnations, fiscal year 1946-47

Causes of condemnations	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep and lambs
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Pneumonia and pleurisy	13,495	8,143	23,373	21,066
Other inflammatory conditions	22,378	3,825	8,695	1,609
Septic conditions 1/	13,106	2,556	24,452	5,340
Emaciation	8,947	8,687	267	22,814
Immaturity		31,168	2	41
Tuberculosis	1,529	19	3,674	357
Hog cholera			5,229	
Swine erysipelas			2,061	
Other infectious diseases	768	52	7,350	17,241
Malignant growths (Neoplasms)	6,532	146	1,105	223
Parasitic conditions	846	11	633	1,347
Injuries	4,751	1,100	2,327	2,914
Arthritis	340	1,218	11,268	1,465
Jaundice (Icterus)	278	1,095	8,870	3,733
All other causes	801	234	8,661	1,167
Total	73,771	58,254	107,767	79,317

1/ Principally pyemia (including abscesses) and septecimia.
Compiled from annual report of Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry, 1947, page 62.

CANNED MEAT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Civilian Supply Over 1 Billion Pounds in 1947

Canned meat supplies for domestic use in 1947 were over twice as large as in 1939. More than 1 billion pounds of canned meat (net product weight) was available to civilians in 1947 compared with 469 million in 1939. In carcass weight equivalent, this was approximately 8 pounds per person compared with 5 pounds in 1939. Total civilian meat consumption was 154 pounds per person, carcass weight basis, in 1947 and 133 pounds in 1939.

Figures on production of canned meats are available for federally inspected plants. Since they omit non-federally inspected slaughter they are not entirely complete, but the error is believed small because uninspected plants produce little canned meat.

Canned meat output expanded sharply during the war to meet the needs of the military forces, lend-lease and UNRRA. Peak production was reached in 1943 when federally inspected output was over 2 billion pounds. In 1945, output had declined only slightly from the peak of two years earlier. It totaled 1.3 billion pounds in 1946 and was 1.1 billion in 1947.

Imports of canned meat during the war were reserved largely for military u Imports of canned beef, the most important of the canned meat products, were held to a low level in 1946 and the first half of 1947 by import controls. They increased after June 30, 1947 when controls were lifted but the rate in the second half of 1947 was still smaller than in the same period of most years from 1937 to 1945. Total canned beef imports for 1947 amounted to 28.7 million pounds.

Commercial exports and shipments of canned meat were relatively low during the war. Nearly all meats exported, both canned and carcass were purchased by the Department of Agriculture and were distributed under the programs of the Department and by UNRRA. USDA purchases of canned meat and rations during the war totaled over 3 billion pounds (reported as deliveries to CCC or meats officially graded for CCC). Peak purchases of over 1 billion pounds were made in 1943. Purchases declined steadily in 1944-46 and no United States meat was purchased in 1947.

Military Purchases Over 1 Billion Pounds in 1944

Military purchases of canned meat (domestic and imported) reached a peak of over 1.1 billion pounds in 1944 and totaled almost 4 billion pounds from 1941 to 1947. Some of this meat, however, was transferred to CCC during the war, and to PMA and UNRRA for their export programs at the end of the war when military stocks were very large. During 1946 and 1947 canned meat purchases by the armed forces were small. Throughout the war, a wide variety of canned meat meals and rations were developed for military feeding. Many of these are now being promoted for the civilian market. Increased incomes of consumers, which have stimulated demand for all meats, and the increases in the number of different canned meat products now available have greatly expanded the market for canned meats. Because of the new canned meat products and increased consumer acceptance, output will probably remain well above prewar.

Table 5.-Canned meat: Production and distribution, 1937-47
(net product weight)

Year	Federally inspected production 1/	Imports 2/	Total supply	Commercial exports and shipments 3/	U.S.D.A. purchases 4/	Military purchases 5/	Apparent civilian distribution 6/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1937	308.1	88.1	396.2	21.9	0	---	374.3
1938	303.5	78.6	382.1	22.8	0	---	359.3
1939	406.8	85.9	492.7	23.9	0	---	468.8
1940	530.2	61.3	591.5	20.2	0	---	571.3
1941	883.9	104.3	988.2	26.7	188.4	75.5	697.6
1942	1,926.6	91.6	2,018.2	19.8	875.6	920.5	202.3
1943	2,051.2	105.5	2,156.7	9.9	1,024.8	680.5	441.5
1944	1,930.7	87.7	2,018.4	13.2	448.6	1,121.0	435.6
1945	1,926.1	54.8	1,980.9	13.5	359.6	970.9	636.9
1946	1,342.8	3.3	1,346.1	55.3	157.1	19.2	1,114.5
1947	1,099.4	28.7	1,128.1	64.2	---	7/ 1.5	1,062.4

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup; Federally inspected production is a very large part of total production. 2/ Includes canned beef only. 3/ Department of Commerce data; for 1941-46 the figures are total exports and shipments minus lend-lease and UNRRA. 4/ Canned meats and meat food products officially graded for CCC. Does not include transfers of meat from the military to CCC or small quantities turned back to civilians, or transferred to the military. Purchases from U. S. supplies or imports. 5/ From "Statistical Yearbooks of the Quartermaster Corps" and other military records; War meat Board, and other Department of Agriculture figures. The items shown are not a complete listing of all canned meats purchased during the war years, but cover practically all of the canned meats purchased during the war for mass troop feeding. Includes imported canned meat and army rations. Includes some meat and rations later transferred to CCC and UNRRA. Purchases from U. S. supplies or imports. 6/ From federally inspected supplies and imports. 7/ Preliminary.

Table 6. - Canned meat production by class and size of product, under Federal Inspection, July-December, 1947

(net product weight)

Item	Slicing and institutional sizes - 3 lb. and over	Consumer packages or shelf sizes under 3 lb.	Total	Percentage of total: 3 lb. and over size	Under 3 lb. size	Total
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	Percent	Percent	Percent
Luncheon meat (including such items as spiced ham, chopped and pressed meats)	93,600	79,428	173,028	52.6	17.9	27.8
Canned hams (whole or fractional)	49,579	4,766	54,345	27.9	1.1	8.7
Corned beef hash	7,242	55,603	62,845	4.1	12.5	10.1
Chili con carne	4,749	40,459	45,208	2.7	9.1	7.2
Vienna sausage	556	49,479	50,035	0.3	11.1	8.0
Potted and deviled meat food products (excluding deviled ham)	-	25,476	25,476	-	5.7	4.1
Deviled ham	-	2,412	2,412	-	.5	.4
Tamales	585	14,818	15,403	.3	3.3	2.5
Sliced dried beef	79	3,475	3,554	1/	.8	.6
Liver products	-	3,397	3,397	-	.8	.5
Meat stew (all types)	1,057	24,673	25,730	.6	5.5	4.1
Spaghetti meat products (all types)	1,216	17,235	18,451	.7	3.9	3.0
Tongue (other than pickled)	1,420	3,939	5,359	.8	.9	.9
Vinegar pickled products	5,419	11,315	16,734	3.0	2.6	2.7
All other products containing 20 percent or more meat	11,587	70,387	81,974	6.5	15.8	13.2
All other products containing less than 20 percent meat (excluding canned soup)	832	37,310	38,642	.5	8.5	6.2
Total of all products	177,921	444,672	622,593	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data from Bureau of Animal Industry as reported by Livestock Branch, PMA.

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

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

PRICES

Item	Annual Av. 1937-46	January-February 1947	January-February 1948	1947 January	1947 February	1948 January	1948 February	1948 March
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Cattle and calves								
Beef steers sold out of first hands, Chicago:								
Choice and prime	14.61	27.17	33.68	28.08	26.26	36.80	30.57	
Good	13.29	23.86	28.73	23.93	23.79	30.36	27.10	
Medium	11.63	20.75	24.80	20.44	21.06	25.69	23.91	
Common	9.67	16.20	21.38	15.83	16.57	21.82	20.95	
All grades	13.22	22.05	27.80	22.18	21.94	29.16	26.43	
Good grade cows, Chicago	10.30	15.77	22.15	15.65	15.89	23.18	21.12	
Vealers: Gd. and Ch., Chicago	12.90	25.29	28.78	24.58	26.00	30.41	27.15	
Stocker and feeder steers Kansas City	10.66	18.32	25.23	17.68	18.96	26.31	24.15	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Beef cattle	9.71	16.85	20.50	16.70	17.00	21.50	19.50	20.70
Veal calves	10.99	18.50	23.70	18.00	19.00	24.40	23.00	23.40
Hogs								
Av. market price, Chicago:								
Barrows and gilts	-	24.48	24.77	22.85	26.12	27.06	22.48	
Sows	-	20.88	21.76	19.26	22.49	23.93	19.58	
All purchases	11.45	24.08	24.48	22.45	25.70	26.71	22.25	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Hogs	10.92	23.10	24.15	21.90	24.30	26.70	21.60	21.80
Corn, cents per bushel	86.1	122.0	219.0	121.0	123.0	246.0	192.0	211.0
Hog-corn price ratio, U. S. 1/	13.1	18.7	11.0	18.0	19.4	10.9	11.2	10.3
Sheep and Lambs								
Lambs, gd. and ch., Chicago	12.72	23.24	24.19	23.23	23.24	25.43	22.95	
Feeding lambs, gd. and ch., Omaha	11.21	19.82	21.11	19.45	20.18	21.78	20.44	
Ewes, gd. and ch., Chicago	5.90	8.48	12.72	8.05	8.92	12.52	12.91	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Sheep	5.33	7.71	9.28	7.64	7.78	9.32	9.25	9.40
Lambs	10.72	19.35	21.45	19.10	19.60	22.20	20.70	20.00
Meat								
Wholesale, Chicago:								
Steer beef, carcass (good. 500-600 lbs.)	18.86	35.83	44.48	36.22	35.44	47.15	41.80	
Hog products 2/	19.17	38.11	41.73	36.37	39.83	43.97	39.47	
Lamb carcasses (good, 30-40 lbs.)	21.18	39.90	43.32	39.94	39.85	44.72	41.92	
B.L.S. index retail meat prices 3/	118.7	197.8	-	199.0	196.7	237.5	-	
Index income of industrial workers 1935-39=100	205.8	308.2	-	307.7	308.8	349.9	-	

Livestock Marketing and Slaughter Statistics

Item	Unit	Annual Av. 1937-46	January-February 1947	January-February 1948	1947 January	1947 February	1948 January	1948 February
Meat-animal marketings:								
Index numbers (1935-39=100)	--	129	150	138	167	132	162	115
Stocker and Feeder shipments to 8 Corn Belt States								
Cattle and calves	Thous.	-	253	162	154	98	103	59
Sheep and Lambs	Thous.	-	368	145	171	198	81	64
Slaughter under Federal Inspection								
Numbers: 4/								
Cattle	Thous.	11,398	2,546	2,289	1,403	1,143	1,312	977
Calves	Thous.	5,946	1,112	1,097	591	521	586	511
Sheep and lambs	Thous.	19,602	2,813	2,556	1,542	1,271	1,347	1,209
Hogs	Thous.	47,781	9,741	8,969	5,844	3,897	5,223	3,746
Average live-weight:								
Cattle	lb.	939	947	947	944	951	940	957
Calves	lb.	200	191	184	202	178	192	175
Sheep and lambs	lb.	89	97	98	96	99	97	100
Hogs	lb.	243	254	254	255	252	254	255
Meat Production:								
Beef	Mil.lb.	5,689	1,273	1,131	693	581	637	493
Veal	Mil.lb.	664	116	110	65	51	61	49
Lamb and mutton	Mil.lb.	804	126	116	68	57	60	56
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil.lb.	6,700	1,383	1,277	827	555	746	531
Storage stocks end of month:								
Beef	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	180	185	176	168
Pork	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	399	399	659	701
Lamb and mutton	Mil.lb.	-			17	17	19	17
Total meat and meat products	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	731	736	996	1,035
Percent packing sows are of Federally inspected hog slaughter	Percent	-	7	8	8	7	9	8

1/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs. 2/ Calculated from value of 71.32 pounds fresh and cured hog products including lard. 3/ Meat, poultry, and fish; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1935-39=100.
4/ 1947 and 1948 slaughter excludes Hawaii and Virgin Islands.

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Table 7.- Canned meat production under Federal inspection by class of product, 1937-47 and January-February 1947-48

(net product weight)

Year and Month	Beef	Pork	Sausage	Other excluding soup	Total	Soup
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1937	91,384	115,865	31,597	69,250	308,096	232,853
1938	73,965	137,927	28,355	63,300	303,547	209,349
1939	73,864	202,735	35,982	94,252	406,833	203,353
1940	79,764	282,236	37,120	131,112	530,232	225,167
1941	107,340	462,855	92,719	221,005	883,919	277,093
1942	157,950	977,633	285,430	505,569	1,926,582	251,921
1943	109,467	1,211,601	239,985	490,143	2,051,196	218,255
1944	187,106	884,390	229,024	630,174	1,930,694	303,533
1945	268,385	850,530	151,865	655,280	1,926,060	339,860
1946	146,173	644,266	70,192	482,204	1,342,835	392,618
1947	136,452	447,471	117,976	397,479	1,099,378	419,173
1947						
Jan.	10,791	55,621	9,319	50,759	126,490	51,327
Feb.	8,251	34,191	5,745	30,683	78,870	46,700
1948						
Jan.	14,849	61,176	11,393	41,513	128,931	44,632
Feb.	14,021	49,769	8,851	38,768	111,409	39,766

Data from Bureau of Animal Industry as reported by Livestock Branch, PMA.