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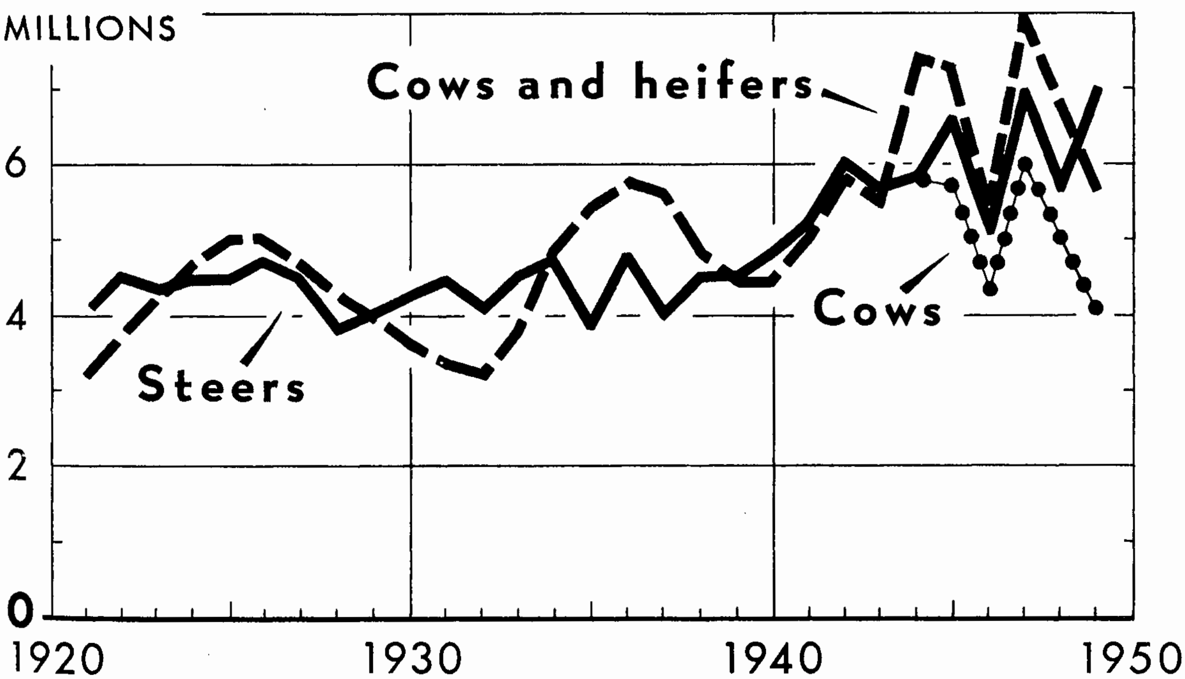
THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS- 38 APRIL 1950

SLAUGHTER OF STEERS, AND OF COWS AND HEIFERS*



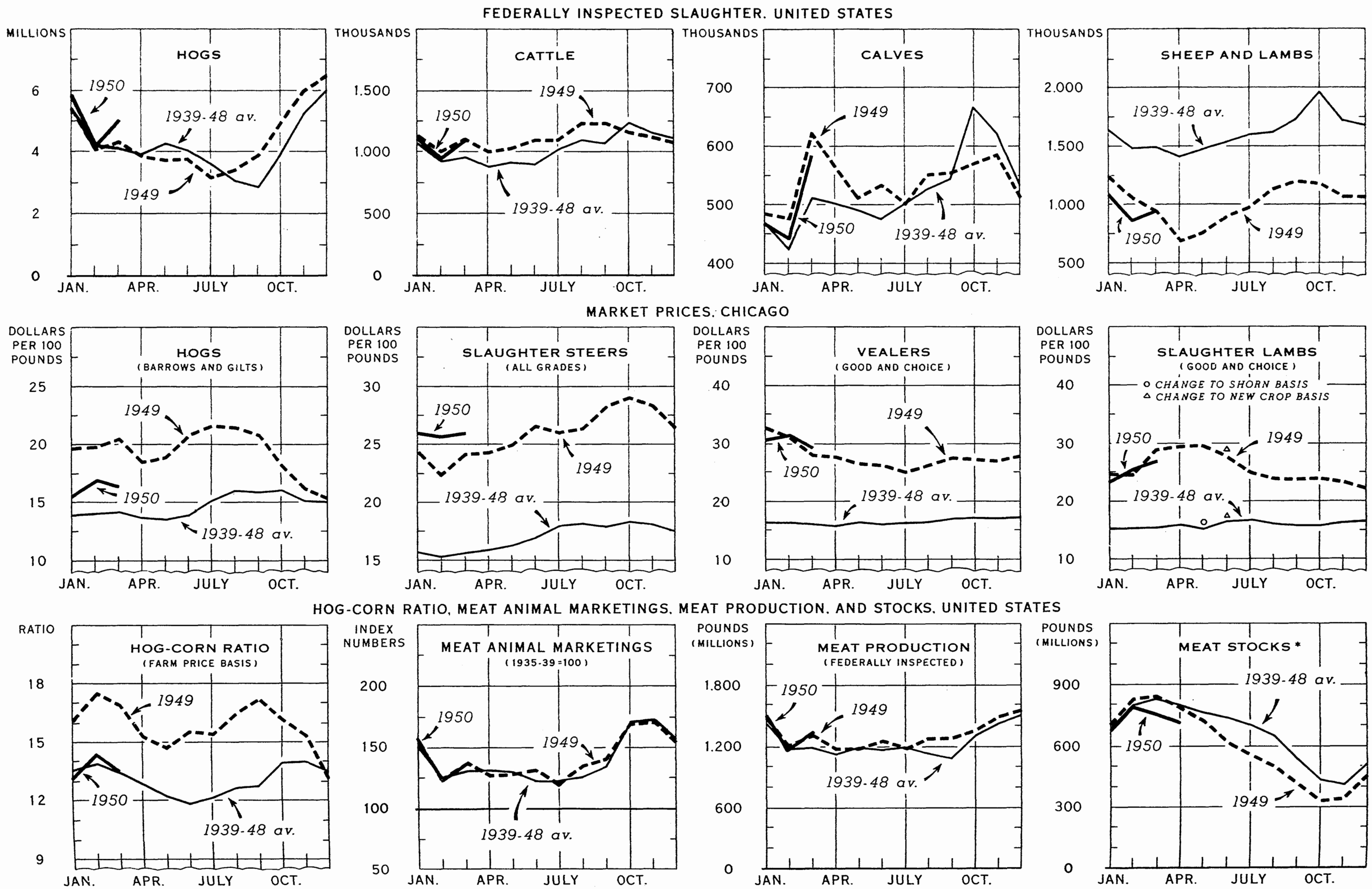
*UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION. EXCLUDES SLAUGHTER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT, 1934-36

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 47629-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The number of steers slaughtered has fluctuated rather sharply from year to year but has traced a rather steady upward trend. Slaughter of cows and heifers has shown smaller year-to-year changes but more pronounced cyclical variations. The number of breeding stock slaughtered each year is significant in cycles of total cattle numbers.

In 1949, slaughter of steers under Federal inspection was up 1.3 million from 1948, and slaughter of cows was down by 1.1 million. To date in 1950, slaughter of both classes has been slightly below the same months of 1949. Steer slaughter in 1950 may not total greatly different from 1949. Cow slaughter may also be about the same as last year, and its rather low level will make possible further increases in cattle numbers in the next few years.

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 47561 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 24, 1950

SUMMARY

Marketings of hogs were at or near their seasonal peak in late April. They are expected to decrease in May and June. Prices in April were fairly steady at around $16.00 per 100 pounds for barrows and gilts at Chicago, which was only about $1.00 below the February high. A seasonal advance is ~~likely soon.~~ Prices of barrows and gilts may rise at least as much as usual, since slaughter supplies of that class will not be much larger this summer than last. More sows, however, are likely to be slaughtered this year, since a smaller percentage than last year of the sows farrowing in the spring is likely to be carried over for fall farrowing. Prices of heavy hogs may be discounted fairly sharply.

Hog marketings were unusually large in late March, just before the 1949 price support program ended on March 31. Early marketings of hogs from the 1949 fall pig crop smoothed out somewhat the spring peak movement and moved it forward. It probably minimized the seasonal price decline.

No announcement has been made of a new price support program for hogs.

About 8 percent more cattle and calves were reported on feed in 11 Corn Belt States April 1 this year than in 1949. The increase over a year earlier was greater than that on January 1, reflecting mainly larger feeder placements since January this year. Marketings of well-finished cattle are expected to increase in the next few months, but their peak this year is likely to be later than in 1949. Prospects are that prices of top grades will continue downward until about mid-summer, then rise seasonally to a high in late summer or early fall. This pattern would be different from last year's gradual advance from February to August, capped by a sharp rise in the fall. At their peak expected in late summer or early fall, prices of top grades of cattle are likely to be higher than at the same time in 1949, but probably will not equal the best prices of 1949 which were recorded unusually late in the year.

Prices of lower grades of slaughter cattle and of stocker and feeder cattle may have about reached their highest point for the spring. They are expected to decline seasonally during the summer.

Early spring lambs were reported in generally good condition on April 1. In Texas and California, two major producing States, their further progress after that date depended on arrival of rainfall to insure good feed. Early lambs will probably be marketed somewhat earlier this year than in 1949.

Returns from lamb feeding this winter apparently averaged lower than a year earlier but about the same as the general level of recent years. Feed was cheaper this year than last, but feeding margins were narrower. For the second year in a row, lambs sold in March brought a much higher price than those sold in December.

About the same volume of meat was produced commercially in January-March this year as in the same quarter of 1949. Consumption per person apparently was nearly equal to the 37.5 pounds consumed in the January-March period last year. Production the rest of this year is expected to exceed corresponding periods of last year, but only in the fourth quarter is the increase likely to be large enough to provide a higher rate of consumption per person.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Hog Slaughter at or Near Season High; Prices Steady in April

Hog marketings picked up the middle of April after declining from their high level at the end of March. However, the slaughter of 1,044,000 the week ended April 22 did not reach the mark of 1,111,000 set the last week of March. At the end of April, slaughter was probably at or near the season high.

Producers apparently rushed many fall-born hogs to market in anticipation of the ending of price support on March 31. The early movement had the effect of spreading out and moving forward the seasonal peak of marketings and slaughter.

Early marketings probably also minimized the seasonal decline in prices of hogs. Prices of barrows and gilts at Chicago averaged around $16.00 per 100 pounds through most of April, only $1.00 below the seasonal high in February. Since marketings are likely to start declining seasonally, prices may soon begin to rise.

About 37.3 million pigs were saved last fall, 10 percent more than in the fall of 1948. A considerable part of the increase in number saved has been offset by lighter average slaughter weights. Barrows and gilts received at 7 markets in March averaged only 232 pounds, 18 pounds lighter than in March 1949. In April, however, weights increased steadily, and in the first 3 weeks of the month averaged 8 pounds lighter than a year earlier.

The effect of the lighter slaughter weights has been a smaller increase over last year in output of pork, and less reduction in prices, than would otherwise have occurred from the larger pig crop.

Most of the increase in the pig crop last fall was confined to August and September farrowings. As a result of this bunching of the additional farrowings, together with a shorter feeding period for lighter weights, the number of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection began to exceed comparable weeks last year as early as the second week in February. Slaughter of 5,020,000 head under Federal inspection in March was 16 percent larger than that in March 1949. April slaughter was above last April, and slaughter in May and early June is also expected to exceed that of the same months last year. The percentage increase over a year earlier is expected to taper off in May, and to be moderately small in June and much of the summer. The supply of barrows and gilts for slaughter this summer promises to be only slightly larger than last summer if marketings continue to be earlier than usual. However, more sows will be slaughtered this year. If prospects for only a small increase in the fall pig crop this year prove true, around 1/2 million more sows will be slaughtered this summer than last. Much of the increase in pork supplies this summer compared with last is likely to be provided from slaughter of sows.

On the basis of this outlook for slaughter supplies, prices of barrows and gilts may be expected to rise seasonally through mid-or late-summer. Their seasonal advance may be as large as average. Prices of sows will likely be weaker than usual in relation to those of barrows and gilts. The spread between medium and heavy weights of barrows and gilts, which has recently been narrow, will probably widen considerably, since prices of all heavy hogs will be affected by the large slaughter of sows.

There has been no announcement of a new program for price support on hogs.

<u>Slaughter of Finished Cattle Increases; Price Spreads Between Grades Become More Narrow</u>

Cattle slaughter to date this year has been smaller than last year, and up to the end of March an exceptionally small part was of well finished fed cattle grading Good or better. In April, the number of Good steers received at 3 Midwest markets increased substantially, but Choice and Prime steers remained scarce. As more finished cattle were marketed, price spreads between grades continued to narrow. The spread between Good and Common steers at Chicago, which was $10.00 per 100 pounds the first week of January, had closed to less than $5.00 the week ended April 20. (Table 1.)

Further narrowing of the price spread between grades is expected in the next month or two. It is possible that prices of the lower grades are near their seasonal peak, and will decline during the summer, but prices of Good and better cattle are likely to continue downward before beginning a seasonal advance sometime in midsummer.

Table 1.- Price per 100 pounds for beef steers sold at Chicago for slaughter; by grades, by weeks, January-April 1950

Week ended	Grade				
	Choice and Prime	Good	Medium	Common	All grades
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
January 5	37.59	29.18	24.25	19.23	26.55
12	37.20	28.35	24.24	20.03	26.24
19	36.60	28.11	24.37	20.86	26.21
26	35.14	27.54	23.85	20.83	25.34
February 2	35.43	27.48	24.00	20.65	25.61
9	34.78	27.26	23.79	21.16	25.55
16	35.03	27.18	24.21	21.48	25.64
23	33.10	26.95	24.14	21.37	25.42
March 2	32.97	27.30	24.38	22.09	25.61
9	32.83	27.49	24.47	22.20	25.85
16	31.89	27.31	24.44	22.07	25.68
23	31.94	27.15	24.46	21.89	25.87
30	31.71	27.40	24.79	22.51	26.29
April 6	31.37	27.44	24.81	22.66	26.47
13	31.39	27.39	25.07	22.71	26.60
20	30.20	27.18	24.92	22.48	26.60

Eight Percent More Cattle on Feed in Corn Belt April 1 This Year Than Last

On January 1, the number of cattle and calves on feed in 11 Corn Belt States was 5 percent larger than a year earlier, and the number for the entire United States was slightly larger and a new record for the date. During the January-March period, United States cattle slaughter was short of last year, because more of the cattle on feed were of light weight and due to remain on feed longer, and because slightly fewer cows were slaughtered. In the same period, shipments of feeders and stockers into the Corn Belt outnumbered those of a year earlier by the large margin of 33 percent. As a result, on April 1 the gain over last year in number on feed in 11 Corn Belt States was 8 percent. Apparently, the number for the United States also was larger this April than last.

A larger number than last April was reported on feed in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Illinois, Michigan and South Dakota showed no change, and Minnesota and Kansas indicated slightly fewer on feed this April.

In California, the number of cattle and calves on feed April 1 was estimated at 42 percent above last year. Most of these cattle were due to be marketed in April and May.

Of the cattle on feed in the Corn Belt April 1, a smaller proportion was steers this year than last -- 67 percent compared with 71 percent. Heifers comprised 11 percent of the total this year, 16 percent last year. Calves were 21 percent this year, compared with 12 percent in April 1949.

Reports for the Corn Belt indicate that of the cattle on feed there in April, 58 percent will be marketed after July 1. Last year, feeders planned to hold only 51 percent until after that date. From these reports it may be expected that the seasonal increase in marketings of fed cattle will continue to be later this year than last. Slaughter of fed cattle will probably be about equal to a year earlier this spring, and a little larger than last year during much of the summer and fall.

Prices of Good and better grades of cattle at the seasonal peak expected in late summer or early fall are likely to be higher than at the same time last year. However, they may not be equal to the best prices of late 1949. The prospective pattern of top-grade cattle prices in 1950 is distinctly different from last year's gradual advance from February to August followed by a rapid rise in the fall. Price prospects for the rest of this year are generally favorable despite the large cattle slaughter expected because of indications that supplies of other meat animals will be little larger than last year. In 1950 as in 1949, large numbers of grass cattle probably will be retained on farms and ranches for restocking, with many of the lighter weights going on grain feed early. At least until the large fall marketings begin, slaughter supplies of hogs will probably be only moderately larger than last year, and much of the increase will be in sows.

Sheep Slaughter Above Year Earlier in April

Preliminary data for the first 3 weeks indicate that the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in April was larger than in April 1949. This was the first month since September 1948 that slaughter of this species exceeded the comparable month of the previous year. The larger slaughter this April resulted from a more nearly normal seasonal pattern of marketings this spring than last. April-May marketings of sheep and lambs in 1949 were unusually small relative to the general level for that year.

Sheep and lamb marketings have been somewhat early this year. Feeding lambs were moved to feedlots early last fall, and fed lambs to market fairly early this winter. In late March and most of April, marketings were especially large from the Southwest where good condition of the sheep and lambs and the drying ranges were factors combining to step up the rate of marketings.

Sheep and lambs have been marketed at record heavy weights this year. The average weight of 103.5 pounds for Federally inspected slaughter in February was a high for all months since records began in 1921. The March average was down only slightly, to 103.1 pounds.

Despite the larger number in April, total Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs for the first four months of 1950 was about 6 percent smaller than in the same months of 1949. This percentage change is larger than the 3 percent reduction on January 1 in the number of all sheep on farms and ranches and about the same as the 7 percent reduction in sheep and lambs on feed. To date, slaughter has been reduced enough to indicate that producers are maintaining numbers better this year than in 1949. It has been expected that numbers on farms next January would be as large as in January this year, ending the reduction of the last 8 years. Sheep and lamb numbers on January 1, 1950 were down 45 percent from their peak in January 1942.

Early Lambs in Generally Good Condition April 1

Early lambs were in generally good condition on April 1, although their progress during March varied by regions. In the Southeast, weather and feed were good except for excessive rainfall that prevented maximum use of pasture in some localities. In the Pacific Northwest, cool, wet weather retarded feed development. In California, where timely March rains improved ranges, early lambs had progressed well by April 1. In Texas, dry weather reduced the feed supply but lambs were still in good to excellent condition on April 1. In both Texas and California, continued good development of lambs after April 1 depended on arrival of rainfall to insure good feed.

Early lambs were expected to be marketed earlier this year than last. The main exception is in the Pacific Northwest, where marketings will probably be delayed.

Returns from Lamb Feeding Lower This Winter

Average returns from lamb feeding apparently were smaller this winter than last, much larger than two years ago, and about equal to the average for recent years. Feeder lambs cost slightly more, on the average, last fall than in the fall of 1948, and slaughter lambs brought a little less this winter than last. However, lower feed costs offset a part of the reduction in price margin. (Table 2.)

Returns to individual farmers probably varied greatly from these averages. Costs are far from uniform among feeders. For the second year in a row returns were much larger for feeders who marketed fed lambs in February-March than in December-January. Prices of Good and Choice slaughter lambs at Chicago rose from $21.91 per 100 pounds in December to $26.88 in March, an increase that was much greater than average for the season.

Range Conditions Poorer in March

Range feed conditions were slightly below average on April 1 after having been above average in previous months. Conditions declined in March, in contrast with the usual increase. Range conditions were dry in the Southern Great Plains and the Southwest, and growth of new feed was slow in the Northern Great Plains as well as in the Northwest. Cattle and sheep came through the winter in good flesh and losses were light. They were still in average or better condition on April 1.

Table 2.- Average prices and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1944-45 to 1949-50

Item	1944-1945	1945-1946	1946-1947	1947-1948	1948-1949	1949-1950
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Price per 100 pounds of Good and Choice slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March	15.93	15.12	23.34	23.83	25.72	24.33
Direct subsidy to producers, per 100 pounds	0	2.25	0	0	0	0
Price per 100 pounds of Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December	12.44	14.56	17.73	21.29	22.90	23.16
Price per bushel received by farmers for corn, North Central States, October-March	0.993	1.036	1.292	2.222	1.190	1.093
Price per ton received by farmers for alfalfa hay, loose, North Central States, October-March	18.12	15.93	1/ 23.00	1/ 25.00	1/ 25.25	1/ 21.68
			Total value			
Market value at Chicago of Good and Choice 85 pound slaughter lambs	13.54	12.85	19.84	20.26	21.86	20.68
Subsidy credit	0	1.91	0	0	0	0
Market cost at Omaha of 60 pound feeder lambs	7.46	8.74	10.64	12.77	13.74	13.90
Cost of 2 1/2 bushels of corn	2.48	2.59	3.23	5.56	2.98	2.73
Cost of 150 pounds of alfalfa hay	1.36	1.19	1.72	1.88	1.89	1.63
Total of cost items shown 2/	11.30	12.52	15.59	20.21	18.61	18.26
Margin of market value per lamb over total of cost items shown 2/	2.24	2.24	4.25	.05	3.25	2.42

1/ Price received by farmers for alfalfa hay baled, North Central States. Prices for 1946-47 and 1947-48 estimated from price paid for baled alfalfa hay, U. S.
2/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb-feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

January-March Commercial Meat Production About Same as Last Year; Year's Total To Be Larger Than 1949

Commercial meat production of 5,072 million pounds in the first quarter of 1950 was only 12 million pounds smaller than production in the same quarter last year. Production was down 4 percent from a year earlier for beef, 4 percent for veal, and 4 percent for lamb and mutton. Pork production was up 4 percent. (Table 3.)

Commercial production in January was about equal to that of January last year. February slaughter of each of the four classes of meat animals was smaller this year than in 1949 and 3 1/2 percent less meat was produced. In March, however, production of both lamb and mutton and pork exceeded last year, and the total for all meats showed a 0.2 percent gain.

Consumption of meat per person in January-March is tentatively estimated as very nearly equal to the 37.5 pounds consumed in the same quarter of 1949.

The rise in meat production in March to a point substantially above 1949 probably signals the beginning of a slightly higher plane of meat production for the spring and summer this year than last. It is likely that about as much beef and more pork will be produced in April-June and in July-September 1950 than in the same quarters of 1949, and that consumption of all meat per person will be close to last year's averages of 35.2 pounds in the second and 34.8 pounds in the third quarter. In the fourth quarter of this year, production of both beef and pork will probably be up from last year and consumption of all meat per person may be larger by 1 pound or more than the 37.4 pounds last year. Prospects are that total 1950 consumption per person will be 1 to 2 pounds above the 145 pounds consumed in 1949.

World Cattle Numbers Increase in 1949 to Set New Record

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1950 were estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at 771 million head, 7 million or 1 percent more than in 1949 and 28 million or 4 percent more than the 1936-40 average. Largest increases in 1949 were in Asia, Europe, the Soviet Union, and North America. The combined number for Australia and New Zealand increased only a little, and numbers declined in South America and Africa. An improved feed situation and strong demand for beef and veal in most parts of the world encouraged cattle raisers to expand their herds.

The 1950 cattle numbers in North and South America are up 17 percent from their 1936-40 average, in Africa and Australia-New Zealand are respectively 10 and 8 percent larger than in that prewar period, but in Asia, Europe, and the Soviet Union are 2 to 6 percent smaller.

A moderate further increase in cattle numbers is expected in 1950.

Table 3.- Commercial meat production, United States, by quarter-years 1946 to first quarter 1950

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Year
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
			All meats		
1946	5,839	4,440	4,409	5,831	20,519
1947	5,419	5,008	4,840	5,912	21,179
1948	5,026	4,650	4,296	5,480	19,452
1949	5,084	4,573	4,731	5,472	19,860
1950	5,072				
			Beef		
1946	2,479	1,800	2,191	2,540	9,010
1947	2,542	2,481	2,493	2,580	10,096
1948	2,264	2,108	2,188	2,309	8,869
1949	2,308	2,259	2,424	2,251	9,242
1950	2,224				
			Veal		
1946	278	252	376	423	1,329
1947	310	336	421	426	1,493
1948	292	321	365	352	1,330
1949	273	287	345	335	1,240
1950	263				
			Lamb and mutton		
1946	280	223	212	231	946
1947	198	190	182	209	779
1948	185	158	183	205	731
1949	158	113	153	161	585
1950	151				
			Pork excluding lard		
1946	2,802	2,165	1,630	2,637	9,234
1947	2,369	2,001	1,744	2,697	8,811
1948	2,285	2,063	1,560	2,614	8,522
1949	2,345	1,914	1,809	2,725	8,793
1950	2,434				

World Hog Numbers Rise 7 Percent in 1949

World hog numbers were estimated at 279,400,000 head on January 1 by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The increase of 17 million head or 7 percent in 1949, the largest gain for a postwar year, brought numbers to within 4 percent of the 1936-40 average.

The largest numerical increases in hog numbers last year were in Europe, North America and the Soviet Union. The 1950 number for Europe and the Soviet Union was still less than prewar, as was that in Asia and Australia-New Zealand.

In 1950, increases in hog numbers are likely in Europe and the Soviet Union as well as in several other areas.

World Sheep Numbers Also Rise in 1949

World numbers of sheep also increased in 1949, but by a smaller percentage than did numbers of cattle and hogs. The gain of about 1 percent in 1949 brought the January 1950 world total to 730 million head, which is 2 percent below the 1936-40 average. These estimates are made by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Australia, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and India were countries reporting substantial increases last year. In Australia and the Soviet Union, as well as in New Zealand, Turkey and some smaller countries, 1950 numbers are above the 1936-40 average. Large declines in numbers took place last year in Argentina and Uruguay, where drought and competition from cattle were restrictive influences. Numbers dropped in Turkey also.

Generally favorable grazing conditions and high prices for wool, lamb and mutton encouraged an increase in sheep numbers in several major areas last year. Unless grazing conditions are poorer, world numbers are likely to rise in 1950.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Production, Marketings and Income for Meat Animals in 1949

Data released April 27 show a general increase in cattle and hog production in 1949 over 1948, and a smaller income received from marketings. The liveweight of cattle and calf production in 1949 was 6 percent larger than in 1948, and of hog production was 9' larger than in the previous year. Because their prices declined moderately from the very high 1948 level, cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves were down 8 percent. Prices of hogs fell more, and cash receipts from hog marketings were 13 percent smaller than in 1948. Both marketings and cash receipts for sheep and lambs last year were substantially smaller than in 1948.

The 1949 pig crop was 13 percent larger than the 1948 crop, and the calf crop was up 2.5 percent from 1948. The percentage calf crop was very high -- 85 percent. The lamb crop was reduced 6 percent in 1949 from 1948, primarily because the number of ewes on farms was smaller.

Summary data, which extend tables of the February 1950 Statistical Appendix to this Situation, are presented in tables 4-7.

Data on RFC and CCC Payments on Livestock

Table 8 presents, for reference purposes, summary data on the total amount of payments made on livestock in war and postwar years by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Commodity Credit Corporation. With the exception of a very small payment on hogs made to slaughterers by the CCC, all the RFC payments were to slaughterers and all the CCC payments were to livestock feeders. The latter two programs were parts of the price control measures of war and immediate postwar years. RFC payments to slaughterers began with the price roll-back of the summer of 1943, and CCC payments to feeders, intended to encourage feeding of cattle and sheep, were in effect from the summer of 1945 to June 30, 1946.

Table 8.- Subsidies on livestock paid by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Commodity Credit Corporation, fiscal years 1944-46

Fiscal year ending	Reconstruction Finance Corporation payments to slaughterers 1/	Commodity Credit Corporation payments to livestock producers 2/	
		On cattle	On sheep and lambs
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
June 30, 1944	462,226,717		
June 30, 1945	427,786,506	5,000,153	
June 30, 1946 3/	657,736,471	31,902,396	43,237,326
Total	1,547,749,694	36,902,552	43,237,326

1/ Payments made by a subsidary agency, the Defense Supplies Corporation.
2/ Feeding subsidies on cattle and sheep of certain specifications. Subsidies on cattle began May 19, 1945, and on sheep August 5, 1945. Both subsidies ended June 30, 1946. Data shown are costs to CCC as carried in accounting records. Not shown here are the payments of 330 dollars in fiscal year 1944 as bonus payments to packers who delivered up to 60 percent of their total pork production to CCC under contract. 3/ Data shown for fiscal year 1946 are corrected for delayed payments or recoveries of over-payments that took place in later years. Reported detail of accounting records are as follows:

Fiscal year ending	RFC payments to slaughterers	CCC payments to livestock producers	
		On cattle	On sheep & lambs
June 30, 1946	646,740,156	33,204,163	41,427,240
June 30, 1947	10,394,715	-1,299,861	1,810,912
June 30, 1948	601,600	-1,906	- 826

Compiled from Price Programs of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1949. USDA Misc. Pub. 683, Yearly data from agencies.

Table 4.- Number of cattle and calves on farms, calf crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1946 to date 1/

Year	On hand, Jan. 1: All cattle	On hand, Jan. 1: All cows 2 yrs. +	Calves born: Percentage of cows 2 yrs. +	Calves born: Number	Inshipments 2/	Marketings 3/: Cattle	Marketings 3/: Calves	Farm slaughter: Cattle	Farm slaughter: Calves	Deaths: Cattle	Deaths: Calves	Live weight of farm production
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1946	82,434	43,014	80	34,550	8,877	26,188	12,656	943	758	1,566	2,543	18,782
1947	81,207	42,567	83	35,234	8,281	26,995	14,117	860	682	1,473	2,469	19,055
1948	78,126	41,039	82	33,708	7,620	23,370	12,728	800	561	1,405	2,292	18,371
1949	78,298	40,398	85	34,537	8,182	23,103	12,434	776	517	1,532	2,378	19,410
1950	80,277	41,411										

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of calf crop, inshipments and on hand beginning of year.
2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals.
3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States.
Revises and brings to date table 5 of Statistical Appendix of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 5.- Number of hogs on farms, pig crops and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1946 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1	Pigs saved: Spring	Pigs saved: Fall	Inshipments 2/	Marketings 3/	Farm slaughter	Deaths	Live weight of farm production
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1946	61,301	52,392	30,548	464	64,370	13,850	9,564	19,041
1947	56,921	52,802	31,345	497	63,524	12,781	10,232	18,667
1948	55,028	51,266	33,921	457	61,750	12,267	9,527	18,739
1949	57,128	59,039	37,262	541	70,584	11,549	11,413	20,376
1950	60,424	62,500						

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketings, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of pig crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year.
2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals.
3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States.
Revises and brings to date table 6 of Statistical Appendix of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 6.- Number of sheep and lambs on farms, lamb crop and disposition, and live weight of farm production, United States, 1946 to date 1/

Year	On hand January 1: all sheep and lambs	Lambs saved: Number	Lambs saved: Percent of ewes 1 yr. +	Inshipments 2/: Sheep	Inshipments 2/: Lambs	Marketings 3/: Sheep	Marketings 3/: Lambs	Farm slaughter: Sheep	Farm slaughter: Lambs	Deaths: Sheep	Deaths: Lambs	Live weight of farm production
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds
1946	42,436	24,540	89	730	6,808	6,496	24,172	276	304	3,170	2,278	1,763
1947	37,818	22,082	88	652	6,000	5,052	21,116	257	302	2,890	2,108	1,579
1948	34,827	20,011	85	637	5,632	4,620	19,262	244	298	3,006	2,023	1,404
1949	31,654	18,810	87	763	5,338	3,419	17,019	222	274	2,949	1,885	1,313
1950	30,797											

1/ Balance sheet estimates. Total of marketing, farm slaughter, deaths, and on hand end of year equals total of lamb crop, inshipments, and on hand beginning of year.
2/ Sum of the interstate shipments and imports of feeding and breeding animals.
3/ Excludes interfarm sales within States.
Revises and brings to date table 7 of Statistical Appendix of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 7.- Live weight of marketings, cash receipts from marketings, and gross income from meat animals, by classes, 1946 to date

Year	Live weight of marketing 1/: Cattle and calves	Live weight of marketing 1/: Sheep and lambs	Live weight of marketing 1/: Hogs	Meat animal marketings, Index no., 1935-39=100	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 2/: Cattle and calves	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 2/: Sheep and lambs	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 2/: Hogs	Cash receipts from marketings 1/ 2/: All meat animals	Gross income 2/ 3/: Cattle and calves	Gross income 2/ 3/: Sheep and lambs	Gross income 2/ 3/: Hogs	Gross income 2/ 3/: All meat animals
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
1946	24,964	2,673	16,233	146	3,722	362	2,961	7,045	3,793	366	3,449	7,608
1947	25,902	2,274	16,015	147	4,932	403	4,005	9,340	5,017	408	4,635	10,060
1948	22,856	2,087	15,471	135	5,231	413	3,715	9,360	5,326	419	4,307	10,052
1949	23,430	1,790	17,237	139	4,814	355	3,225	8,395	4,896	360	3,657	8,913

1/ Excludes interfarm sales.
2/ Does not include Government payments.
3/ Cash receipts plus value of home consumption.
Revises and brings to date table 15 of Statistical Appendix of Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1950.

Table 9.- Number of steers and of cows and heifers slaughtered under Federal inspection, United States, 1921-49

(Data for cover page chart)

Year	Steers	Cows and Heifers	Cows 1/
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1921	4,108	3,220	
1922	4,533	3,819	
1923	4,397	4,392	
1924	4,456	4,747	
1925	4,466	5,055	
1926	4,769	5,065	
1927	4,482	4,684	
1928	3,846	4,291	
1929	4,049	3,942	
1930	4,239	3,623	
1931	4,444	3,380	
1932	4,141	3,211	
1933	4,506	3,812	
1934	4,763	4,838	
1935	3,856	5,412	
1936	4,798	5,727	
1937	4,037	5,626	
1938	4,517	4,861	
1939	4,588	4,446	
1940	4,866	4,481	
1941	5,459	4,992	
1942	6,019	5,854	
1943	5,737	5,516	
1944	5,860	7,392	5,824
1945	6,657	7,311	5,691
1946	5,364	5,641	4,317
1947	6,968	7,983	6,030
1948	5,751	6,762	5,279
1949	7,090	5,670	4,178

1/ Data for cows not reported separately prior to 1944.

Compiled from Livestock Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	January-March av. 1949	January-March av. 1950	1949 March	1950 February	1950 March	1950 April
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per						
Chicago, Choice and Prime	100 pounds	26.97	34.58	25.88	34.70	32.24	
Good	do.	23.97	27.55	24.19	27.19	27.33	
Medium	do.	21.83	24.26	22.58	24.13	24.51	
Common	do.	20.03	21.37	21.21	21.55	22.13	
All grades	do.	23.58	25.82	24.14	25.58	25.90	
Omaha, all grades	do.	22.50	24.39	23.31	23.97	24.74	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	22.07	24.45	23.00	24.06	24.75	
Cows, Chicago							
Good	do.	18.59	19.12	19.11	19.27	20.60	
Common	do.	2/16.03	16.50	2/15.99	16.59	17.42	
Canner and Cutter	do.	3/15.17	14.39	3/15.11	14.34	14.84	
Vealers, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	30.55	30.43	27.98	31.23	29.39	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	22.59	24.13	24.37	24.13	25.32	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	19.73	20.27	20.50	20.40	21.00	
Veal calves	do.	24.63	24.10	24.50	24.60	24.40	
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	21.28	16.66	21.39	17.30	16.17	
180-200 pounds	do.	21.41	16.90	21.53	17.53	16.59	
200-220 pounds	do.	21.26	16.89	21.48	17.56	16.72	
220-240 pounds	do.	20.80	16.63	21.21	17.25	16.70	
240-270 pounds	do.	20.10	16.21	20.65	16.78	16.51	
270-300 pounds	do.	19.35	15.80	19.93	16.32	16.21	
All weights	do.	20.00	16.27	20.49	16.85	16.41	
Seven markets 4/	do.	19.91	16.26	20.56	16.78	16.38	
Sows, Chicago	do.	16.54	13.87	16.72	14.60	14.52	
Price received by farmers	do.	19.90	15.93	20.00	16.60	16.10	
Hog-corn price ratio 5/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	14.9	12.4	15.3	13.0	12.3	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	16.8	13.6	16.9	14.3	13.5	
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	11.79	13.08	13.34	13.04	13.99	
Price received by farmers	do.	9.50	10.28	10.10	10.20	11.00	
Lambs							
Slaughter, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	25.94	25.13	28.78	25.32	26.88	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	---	25.12	---	25.12	26.59	
Price received by farmers	do.	22.33	22.70	23.60	22.80	23.70	
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers							
(1910-14=100)		320	300	327	306	308	
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Good, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	38.19	42.76	38.78	42.25	42.12	
Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds	do.	47.81	6/45.50	51.66	---	---	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	22.35	17.92	22.49	18.46	17.90	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	30.68	24.60	30.88	25.34	24.57	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	25.63	21.00	25.84	21.47	21.20	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	35.94	29.44	36.23	30.10	29.73	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Good grade	per pound	64.0	67.8	63.3	66.8	69.4	
Lamb	do.	60.6	64.1	60.9	63.6	65.8	
Pork, including lard	do.	41.6	36.3	41.4	36.4	36.8	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1926=100)		219.2	212.7	222.4	216.3	213.6	
Retail (1935-39=100)		221.0	221.0	222.5	220.5	224.5	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.
2/ Cutter and Common.
3/ Average for prices of Cutter and Common, and of Canner (Low Cutter).
4/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.
5/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
6/ Price for January only.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meats 1/

Item	Unit	January-March 1949	January-March 1950	1949 March	1950 February	1950 March	1950 April
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		137	139	135	122	137	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 8 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	291	386	126	112	141	
Sheep and lambs	do.	286	328	61	112	101	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	3,222	3,123	1,102	939	1,082	
Calves	do.	1,579	1,494	619	443	586	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,229	2,879	949	863	939	
Hogs	do.	13,771	15,055	4,315	4,191	5,020	
Percentage sows	Percent	8	10	9	10	9	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	990	996	1,000	1,000	995	
Calves	do.	181	181	165	181	170	
Sheep and lambs	do.	98	102	99	104	103	
Hogs	do.	251	240	246	239	234	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	542	544	554	546	547	
Veal, per head	do.	101	101	93	101	96	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	45	49	46	49	49	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	139	135	138	134	133	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	56	56	56	56	57	
Lard, per head	do.	38	35	37	35	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	15	15	14	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	1,739	1,691	607	510	589	
Veal	do.	158	150	57	44	55	
Lamb and mutton	do.	146	140	43	42	46	
Pork 2/	do.	1,919	2,028	594	559	665	
Lard	do.	529	530	159	147	168	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000						
Cattle	head	4,485	4,281	1,542	1,292	1,479	
Calves	do.	2,684	2,571	833	780	989	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,509	3,126	1,343	937	1,020	
Hogs	do.	17,071	18,291	6,572	5,208	6,060	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	2,308	2,224	807	674	772	
Veal	do.	273	263	98	80	96	
Lamb and mutton	do.	158	151	47	46	50	
Pork 2/	do.	2,345	2,434	730	686	794	
Lard	do.	604	609	184	172	193	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.	---	---	140	130	113	102
Veal	do.	---	---	18	13	11	10
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	---	20	14	13	11
Pork	do.	---	---	611	583	573	547
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.	---	---	903	850	816	780

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1950.
2/ Excludes lard.
3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
4/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

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