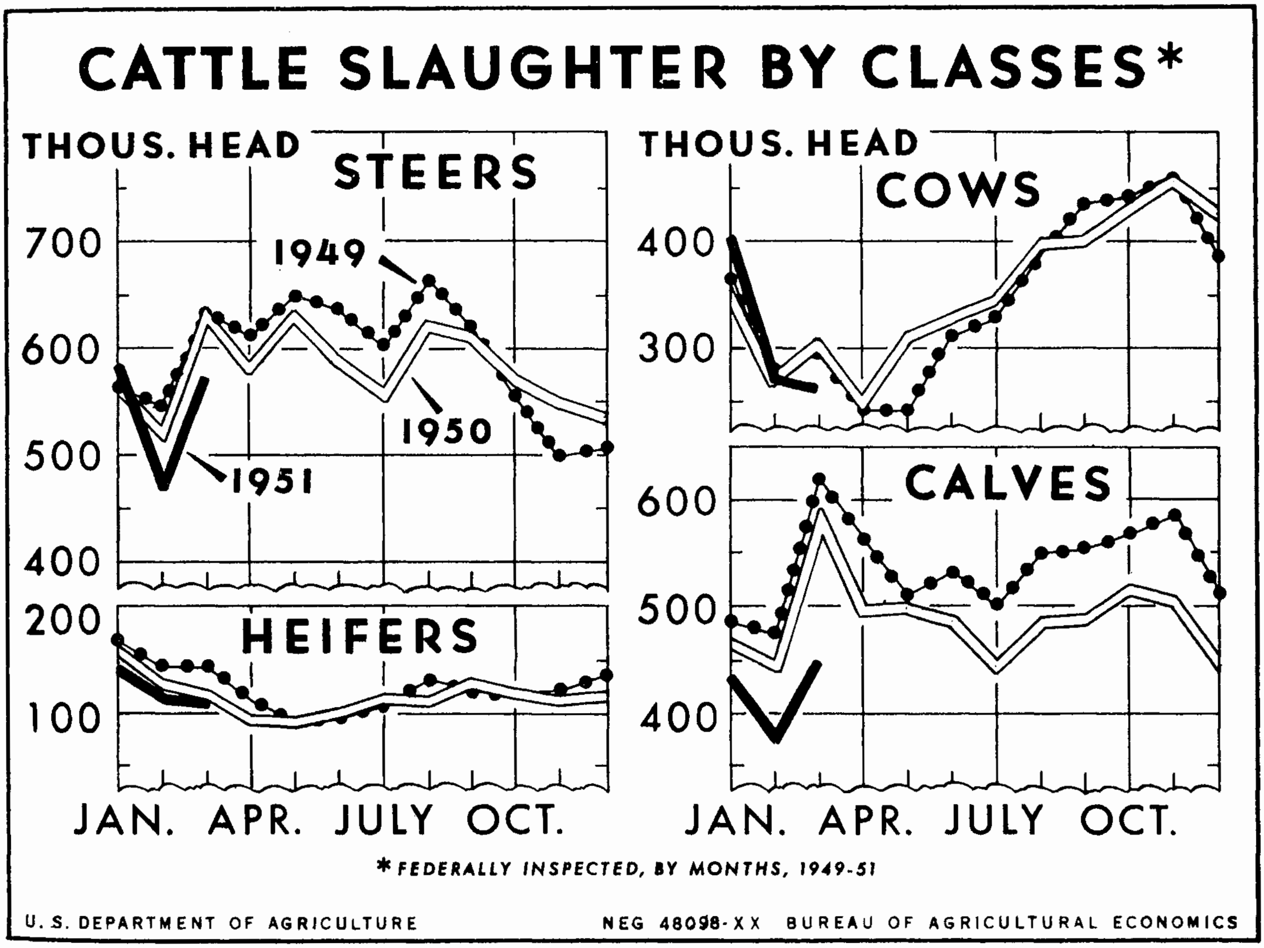
FOR RELEASE
MAY 5, A. M.

THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

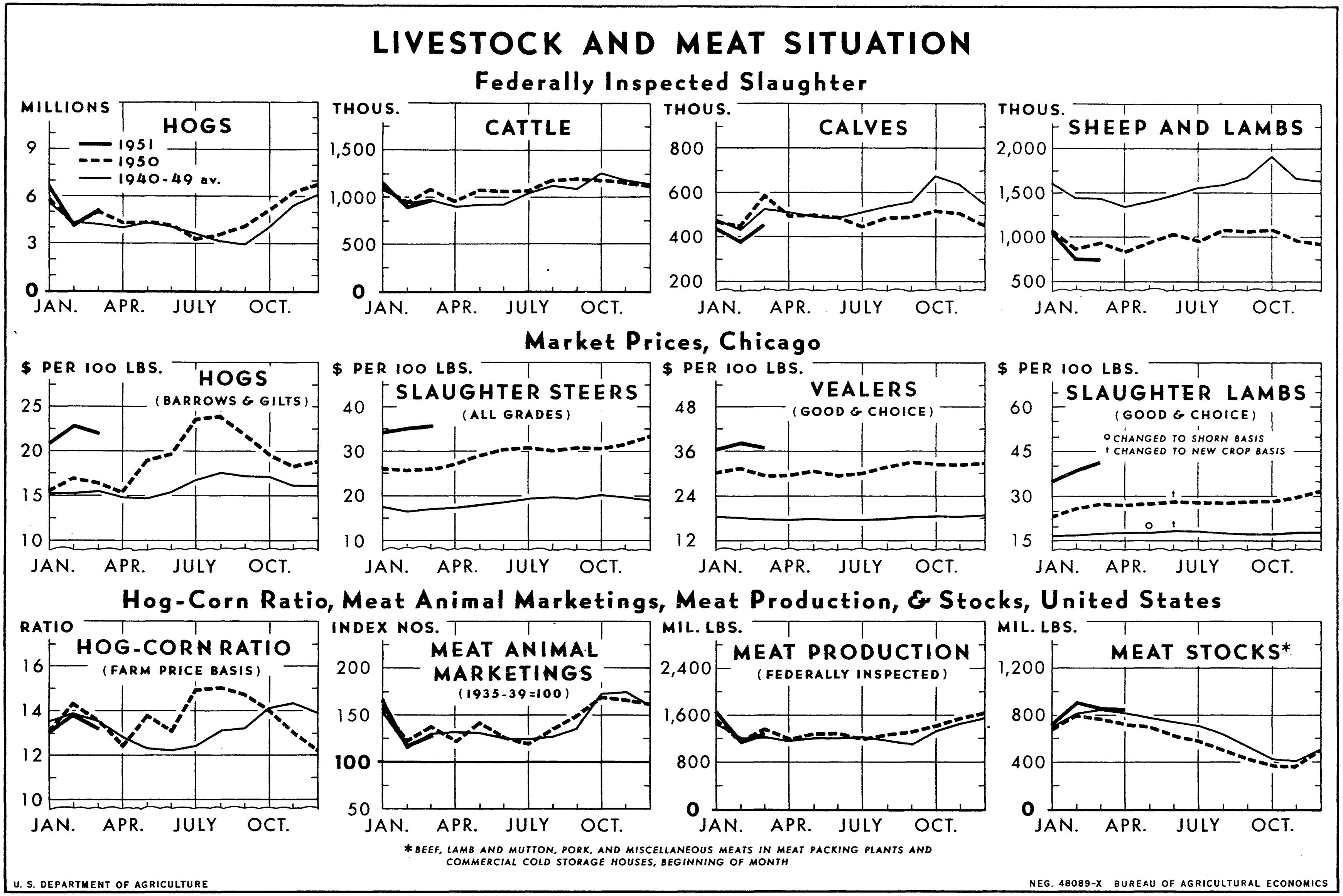
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-50 BAE APRIL 1951



Steer slaughter is due to increase seasonally in months ahead. Although below last year in February and March, it may reach last year's level sometime this summer. A seasonal rise in slaughter of cows is expected later, but prospects are that neither cow nor heifer slaughter for 1951 will often greatly exceed last year. Calf slaughter will probably be smaller than last year during most months of 1951.

Steer slaughter has been comparatively large but cow, heifer and calf slaughter comparatively smaller for more than two years, as producers have increased their cattle herds.



LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION
Federally Inspected Slaughter
MILLIONS
HOGS
1951
1950
1940-49 av.
THOUS.
CATTLE
THOUS.
CALVES
THOUS.
SHEEP AND LAMBS
Market Prices, Chicago
$ PER 100 LBS.
HOGS
(BARROWS & GILTS)
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER STEERS
(ALL GRADES)
$ PER 100 LBS.
VEALERS
(GOOD & CHOICE)
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER LAMBS
(GOOD & CHOICE)
o CHANGED TO SHORN BASIS
† CHANGED TO NEW CROP BASIS
Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States
RATIO
HOG-CORN RATIO
(FARM PRICE BASIS)
INDEX NOS.
MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS
(1935-39=100)
MIL. LBS.
MEAT PRODUCTION
(FEDERALLY INSPECTED)
MIL. LBS.
MEAT STOCKS*
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*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. 48089-X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 26, 1951

SUMMARY

Meat production during the rest of 1951 is expected to exceed last year by a greater margin than the small gain realized in the first quarter. Considerably more pork, slightly more beef, but less veal, lamb and mutton than last year are in prospect for months ahead. Meat consumption per person for the entire year may be 2 to 3 pounds larger than the 145 pounds in 1950.

Prices of cattle strengthened further but prices of lambs declined in April following increases earlier in the year. April prices probably reflected ceiling prices for beef and lamb. Prices of hogs, after rising moderately in January and early February, lost most of their gains later as marketings increased seasonally. Pork is probably pressing less against ceiling prices than are other meats.

On April 28 the Office of Price Stabilization announced dollars-and-cents ceilings on beef and ceilings on the average prices slaughterers may pay for cattle. The retail beef ceilings will go into effect May 14 at about April prices, with a gradual reduction due to begin August 1. Overall average prices packers may pay for cattle will be reduced somewhat from April prices when this control goes into force the latter part of May.

Commercial production of pork in the January-March quarter was about 6 percent larger than in the same quarter of 1950. A somewhat greater increase is in prospect for the spring and much of the summer, because hogs slaughtered in this season come from the 9 percent larger pig crop saved last fall than the previous fall. Also, slaughter weights are expected to be a few pounds heavier than last year.

Pork supplies next fall and winter will reflect the increase in the 1951 spring pig crop. Farmers reported last December that they planned a 6 percent larger spring crop than in 1950.

Beef production thus far in 1951 has been close to last year's production but a small increase over a year earlier is likely for the rest of 1951. Four percent more cattle were reported on feed in the Corn Belt April 1 than a year earlier. During some of the spring and summer, marketings of fed cattle are likely to exceed last year.

Slaughter of calves and production of veal have been considerably below last year and are expected to be below 1950 in most months of 1951. A high percentage of calves is still being retained for feeding or for adding to breeding herds.

Because more ewe lambs will probably be held this year than last to increase herds, slaughter of sheep and lambs is likely to be smaller during most of 1951 than in 1950.

Drought prevails in much of the Southern Great Plains and Southwest. Livestock there are still in fairly good condition. Because of the drought, movement of cattle to the Osage pastures of Oklahoma and the Blue Stem (Flint Hills) of Kansas was unusually large and early. The Southwestern drought and the cold stormy weather in other areas have retarded development of early spring lambs, which on April 1 were generally in about average condition.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

April Meat Production Above Last April

Meat production the first quarter of 1951 was slightly larger than in the first three months of 1950. Output was considerably above last year in January but in February it dropped more sharply than usual. Production in April was above last April, with most or all the increase in pork.

For the rest of 1951 meat output will probably exceed last year by a somewhat larger margin than in the first quarter. Consumption per person for the entire year may be 2 to 3 pounds larger than the 145 pounds for 1950.

Pork Production To Be Well Above A Year Earlier For A Few Months

Marketings of hogs have been above a year ago since early in March. They held a seasonally high level during April as more and more fall pigs were moved to slaughter. About 40.7 million pigs were saved last fall, 9 percent more than in the fall of 1949. The bulk of slaughter supplies came from this crop during April and will continue to do so in the next few months. Last year hog slaughter reached a seasonal peak the last week in March and average live weights of hogs slaughtered in that month were relatively light. This year, the fall crop is generally coming to market later and at heavier weights. Slaughter supplies will probably be maintained fairly well until early June. Throughout the rest of spring and much of the summer, the number of hogs slaughtered will be considerably larger than last year. Much of the increase during the summer is likely to be provided by slaughter of sows. Prospects for only a small increase in the fall pig crop this year point to a bigger sow slaughter this summer than last.

Beef Output Matching 1950 Level; May Exceed It Later

Commercial production of beef in the first quarter was almost the same as a year previous -- only 2 percent less. Production during April similarly held about the level of last April.

Table 1.- Commercial meat production, United States, by quarter-year 1948 to first quarter 1951

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Year
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
			All meats		
1948	5,002	4,613	4,258	5,430	19,303
1949	5,020	4,537	4,704	5,453	19,714
1950	5,069	4,737	4,764	5,646	20,216
1951	5,124				
			Beef		
1948	2,245	2,083	2,159	2,279	8,766
1949	2,270	2,233	2,399	2,240	9,142
1950	2,224	2,221	2,414	2,380	9,239
1951	2,188				
			Veal		
1948	292	316	364	351	1,323
1949	271	286	347	336	1,240
1950	263	278	312	285	1,138
1951	220				
			Lamb and mutton		
1948	185	158	182	203	728
1949	158	114	154	161	587
1950	151	139	149	143	582
1951	130				
			Pork excluding lard		
1948	2,280	2,056	1,553	2,597	8,486
1949	2,321	1,904	1,804	2,716	8,745
1950	2,431	2,099	1,889	2,838	9,257
1951	2,586				

Unusually heavy average slaughter weights have helped to hold up beef production this winter. The number of cattle slaughtered to date has been a little smaller than last year. In the first three months the number of cows slaughtered under Federal inspection totaled about the same as last year but steer and heifer slaughter was down from a year earlier. (See cover page and table 2.) A higher proportion of steers and heifers marketed this winter compared with last were well-finished. In March, 61 percent of the slaughter steers sold at three midwestern markets graded Choice or Prime, compared with 46 percent in the comparable grades in March 1950. In April, however, the proportion of Choice and Prime steers was steady and no higher than in April 1950, when it was increasing rapidly.

The small number of heifers slaughtered and the higher average finish for all cattle have largely accounted for approximately 25 pounds heavier average slaughter weights for cattle slaughtered this winter than a year earlier.

4 Percent More Cattle On Feed April 1 Than A Year Ago

During some of the spring and summer, cattle slaughter is expected to exceed the 1950 level, and the 1951 total will likely be a little larger than last year's slaughter. A good deal of the increase expected will be in fed cattle. On April 1, 4 percent more cattle and calves were on feed in 11 Corn Belt States than on the same date last year. Numbers on feed in western States were generally up from last year by a larger percentage.

In January, numbers on feed in the Corn Belt were only 2 percent larger than a year earlier. From January through March replacement cattle shipped into the Corn Belt numbered 12 percent more than last year. Marketings in the same period were about the same as a year before.

Cattle feeders who reported the month in which they expected to market fed cattle indicated that 44 percent of the cattle on feed would be marketed by July 1, a slightly larger percentage than was reported in April last year. This is in line with the 3-State (Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska) report that indicated much of the increase in numbers of cattle on feed on April 1 was in cattle weighing over 900 pounds.

Calf Slaughter Small

Slaughter of calves and production of veal so far in 1951 has been considerably below last year and, at most, is not expected to be much above last year during any part of 1951. Calf slaughter under Federal inspection in March was the second smallest for the month in the last 10 years. A high percentage of calves is still being retained for feeding or for adding to breeding herds.

Table 2.- Federally inspected slaughter of steers, heifers, cows and calves, United States, by months 1949 to date

(Cover page data)

Month	Steers			Heifers			Cows			Calves		
	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
January	563	562	583	169	158	141	368	353	401	484	465	433
February	545	517	476	146	129	115	281	269	270	476	443	374
March	634	632	572	145	117	107	294	302	261	619	586	447
April	612	583		112	95		242	249		562	494	
May	649	631		92	92		241	310		510	496	
June	637	585		94	99		311	328		533	485	
July	604	554		107	113		331	346		501	443	
August	665	619		131	111		387	398		549	484	
September	619	610		121	127		437	401		552	488	
October	557	570		117	119		442	432		568	515	
November	500	547		122	113		458	455		585	505	
December	504	534		136	117		385	426		511	445	
Year	7,090	6,944		1,492	1,390		4,178	4,267		6,449	5,850	

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

April 1 Range Conditions Below Average; Drought In Southwest

Range feed conditions in the West on April 1 were close to those of a year ago but below the 1940-49 average. Cool weather and dry soil during March prevented the usual gains in range feed. Range conditions were lower than usual in the drought-stricken Southern Great Plains States and the Southwest, particularly in parts of Colorado, Texas, Utah, Arizona and Nevada. Conditions were above average in Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and California. Cattle came through the winter in generally good condition, except in drought areas, and for the West as a whole were in average flesh. Because of the dry conditions in Texas and the Southwest, cattle have been moving into the Blue Stem-Osage pastures of Kansas and Oklahoma earlier than usual and the total in-movement is likely to be larger than last season. Pasture feed prospects in these summer pasture areas are well above last year and about average. Prices for pasture leasing were record high.

Changes in Beef, Cattle Ceilings Announced April 28; No Changes For Lamb Or Pork

On April 28 the Office of Price Stabilization announced dollars-and-cents ceilings on beef and ceilings on the average prices slaughterers may pay for cattle. The retail beef ceilings will go into effect May 14 at about April prices, with a gradual reduction due to begin August 1. Over-all average prices packers may pay for cattle will be reduced somewhat from April prices when this control goes into force the latter part of May.

No changes were made in present ceilings on lamb and pork, nor were ceilings imposed on live lambs and hogs. Under the unchanged regulations, retail lamb ceilings will probably be the main factor determining the general level of live lamb prices. With the current level of hog marketings and pork prices, present ceilings on pork may not be so uniformly important with respect to hog prices.

Cattle Prices Strengthen in April; Price Spread Between Grades Narrows

Cattle prices declined early in April and then strengthened later in the month as prices of several grades of slaughter cattle rose to levels close to or above previous high points reached late in March. Generally at this time of year the price spread between grades of slaughter cattle narrows in response to the higher proportion of highly-finished fed cattle in market receipts and the strong demand for lower grade cattle as the pasture season begins. This tendency has been evident nearly every week so far in 1951 as more and more finished cattle came to market. When prices increased, advances were usually greater for the lower grades. By the week ending April 19 Prime steers had advanced $2.56 per 100 pounds from the first week in January compared with a rise of $4.70 for Utility steers. In that April week the spread of $9.40 at Chicago between Prime and Utility steers was somewhat wider than between comparable grades in the same week last year.

Hog Prices Slip From March Level

Hog prices declined in April about $1.00 per 100 pounds below mid-March. They were about $2.00 below the high point for the season to date reached in mid-February and only a little above early January prices. Prices may remain fairly steady for the next few weeks. A seasonal rise is likely this summer.

On March 15 the average price received by farmers for hogs was $21.20 per 100 pounds, exactly the parity price without adjustment for seasonal.

Sheep and Lamb Prices Decline During April

The downward adjustment in prices during April was relatively greater for sheep and lambs than for hogs. The price of Good and Choice wooled slaughter lambs at Chicago the week ending April 21 was $38.70 per 100 pounds, $2.98 below the all-time record the week of March 24. Previously, lamb prices had advanced nearly each successive week since last October.

Prices for slaughter ewes declined somewhat less in early April than did prices for lambs. However, the percentage increase in prices since last April has been more pronounced for ewes than for lambs. The average price of Good and Choice slaughter ewes at Chicago for the week ending March 24, the high point, was $23.60 per 100 pounds, $9.55 above the average price the comparable week in 1950. Part of the increase in price is attributable to increased pelt value as prices for wool and skin increased.

Prices of sheep and lambs probably will remain close to current levels during the next few months, unless they are modified by changes in price controls. The strong demand for breeding stock probably will result in smaller than usual supplies of sheep and lambs for slaughter in relation to numbers on farms. This will temper, or possibly eliminate, the seasonal summer decline in price.

Early Lambs In Good To Fair Condition April 1

Development of early lambs was retarded somewhat during March, but their condition on April 1 was generally good. Dry weather in California, Arizona and Texas kept lambs from developing as rapidly as expected earlier. Cold stormy weather in the Pacific Northwest and in the Southwestern States held back pastures, and resulted in above average death losses in the latter area.

Marketing of early lambs from most regions promises to be somewhat later than last year because of the delayed pasture growth. In California, however, the lamb crop probably will be marketed somewhat earlier and at lighter weights.

Despite a slightly larger crop, marketings of early lambs this year may not quite equal last year because of the strong demand for breeding stock.

Total Meats In Cold Storage April 1 15 Percent Above A Year Ago

Total meats in commercial cold storage April 1 were 899 million pounds, 15 percent greater than a year earlier. Net withdrawals of 19 million pounds during March were smaller than usual, largely reflecting reduced withdrawals of pork.

Returns From Lamb Feeding Higher Than Last Winter

Average returns from lambs fed last fall and winter were exceptionally high, more than three times the average for the past five years. (See table 3.) Feeder lambs cost more, on the average, last fall than in the fall of 1949 and feed costs were also higher. But the increase in income from the sale of lambs for slaughter exceeded the increase in costs and thus resulted in greater profits from feeding than last year.

Returns to individual farmers probably varied greatly from these averages. Costs are far from uniform among feeders, and receipts vary depending upon market prices at the times the lambs are bought and sold. However, since prices for slaughter lambs trended higher through all the winter marketing season, it seems likely that a large proportion of lamb feeders realized a higher net profit from feeding operations last winter than a year earlier. Prices of Choice and Prime slaughter lambs at Chicago rose from $31.37 per 100 pounds in December to $40.93 in March.

Canned Meat Production In 1950 Substantially Above 1949

Distribution of canned meat for civilian consumption rose to a new high in 1950, about 20 percent greater than in 1949 (table 4). Federally inspected production of canned meat in 1950, which comprises most of total United States production, was 1,231 million pounds, product weight, above the previous year but still below the record output in 1942 to 1946. However, the termination of USDA purchases and smaller military purchases than in those war years made larger supplies available for civilian distribution. Imports of canned beef, although less than 10 percent of total supplies, were the second highest on record.

Class 3 Slaughterer Redefined

Effective March 31, Class 3 slaughterers were reclassified by Amendment 2 to Distribution Regulation 1 (formerly Distribution Order 1) to define as a Class 3 slaughterer a farm operator who transferred during 1950 less than 6,000 pounds of meat produced from the slaughter of livestock by him or for him by others. Previously such a farmer whose slaughtering was done by others was classed as 1A or 2A. The amendment has the effect of classifying farm slaughterers on the amount of meat transferred regardless of who does the slaughtering.

Table 3.- Average prices and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1945-46 to 1950-51

Item	1945-1946	1946-1947	1947-1948	1948-1949	1949-1950	1950-1951
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Price per 100 pounds of Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March 1/	15.12	23.34	23.83	25.72	24.33	36.35
Direct subsidy to producers, per 100 pounds	2.25	0	0	0	0	0
Price per 100 pounds of Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December	14.56	17.73	21.29	22.90	23.16	29.35
Price per bushel received by farmers for corn, North Central States, October-March	1.036	1.292	2.222	1.190	1.093	1.473
Price per ton received by farmers for alfalfa hay, baled, North Central States, October-March	2/15.93	3/23.00	3/25.00	25.25	21.68	21.98
	Total value					
Market value at Chicago of Choice and Prime 85 pound slaughter lambs 1/	12.85	19.84	20.26	21.86	20.68	30.90
Subsidy credit	1.91	0	0	0	0	0
Market cost at Omaha of 60 pound feeder lambs	8.74	10.64	12.77	13.74	13.90	17.61
Cost of 2 1/2 bushels of corn	2.59	3.23	5.56	2.98	2.73	3.68
Cost of 150 pounds of alfalfa hay	1.19	1.72	1.88	1.89	1.63	1.65
Total of cost items shown 4/	12.52	15.59	20.21	18.61	18.26	22.94
Margin of market value per lamb over total of cost items shown 4/	2.24	4.25	.05	3.25	2.42	7.96

1/ Formerly Good and Choice. New grades were effective April 30, 1951.
2/ Price received for loose alfalfa hay.
3/ Estimated from U. S. average price paid for baled alfalfa hay.
4/ 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.

Table 4.- Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1937-50

(Net product weight)

Year	Federally inspected production 1/	Imports 2/	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Commercial exports and shipments 3/	Ending stocks	USDA purchases 4/	Military purchases 5/	Apparent civilian distribution 6/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
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	17.7	448.6	1,121.0	417.9
1945	1,926.1	54.8	17.7	1,998.6	13.5	18.1	359.6	970.9	636.5
1946	1,342.8	3.3	18.1	1,364.2	55.3	22.6	157.1	19.2	1,110.0
1947	1,099.4	28.7	22.6	1,150.7	64.3	27.3	---	31.1	1,028.0
1948	1,096.0	129.1	27.3	1,252.4	35.4	28.0	---	52.8	1,136.2
1949	1,039.7	72.3	28.0	1,140.0	25.7	27.2	---	23.0	1,064.1
1950	1,231.3	124.6	27.2	1,383.1	18.5	27.3	---	50.3	1,287.0

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Bureau of Animal Industry.
2/ Canned beef only. Data from Department of Commerce.
3/ Includes shipments to Territories. Excludes shipments under lend-lease and UNRRA (1941-46) and the Civilian Supply Programs of the U.S. Department of the Army in foreign countries (1948-50). Data from Department of Commerce.
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 from imports.
5/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records. 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 and some meat and rations later transferred to CCC and UNRRA.
6/ Calculated from Federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U.S. production of canned meats.

OPS Slaughter Quotas On Cattle During April

In an amendment to Distribution Regulation 1 issued April 2, the Office of Price Stabilization postponed to April 29 the establishment of quotas on calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs. The slaughter quota on cattle during April for each slaughterer was set at 100 percent of the live weight of cattle he slaughtered during the corresponding period of 1950.

The amendment also delayed issuance of registration numbers by OPS to April 15. This means that some commercial slaughterers not Federally inspected did not have an identifying number with which to mark their meats until that date.

Changes In Federal Grades For Lamb, Mutton and Sheep Now Official

Effective April 30 Federal grades for lamb, yearling mutton, and mutton carcasses and grades for slaughter lambs and sheep were officially changed in line with revisions proposed earlier. (See The Livestock and Meat Situation, February 1951, page 15.) These changes complete revisions in Federal grades for almost all slaughter animals and carcasses except hogs and pork.

The carcass grade standards are used as the basis for Federal grading of meat, which has been a non-compulsory service utilized by many slaughterers. Meats so graded are stamped with a purple ribbon stamp.

BAI Annual Inspection Report

Meat from 987 slaughtering and meat processing establishments was Federally inspected in the fiscal year 1949-50, according to the annual report of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The major part of the BAI's inspection service covers slaughter and processing in domestic plants although other meats in interstate trade, such as meat and meat products imported into the United States, must be inspected and passed. Of the 87.7 million head of animals slaughtered under Federal inspection in fiscal 1950 an average of slightly more than three carcasses out of each 1,000 were condemned in whole or in part as unfit for human consumption.

Anglo-Argentine Meat Agreement Signed

The Argentine Government officially announced on April 23 the signing of a one-year agreement with the United Kingdom for the sale of 200,000 long tons (449 million pounds) of chilled or frozen beef and mutton and 30,000 tons (67 million pounds) of canned corn beef. Britain will pay prices ranging from 118 pounds sterling per long ton (14.75 United States cents per pound) 1/ for a stated grade of frozen beef to 146 pounds sterling (18.25 cents per pound) for chilled beef, compared to a flat 97.536 pounds sterling per ton under the 1949 agreement. The significance of the price change is not readily apparent, as Britain has devalued the pound sterling since the signing of the old agreement and the new pact calls for delivery of commodities in partial payment for the meat and also provides for settlement of financial claims between the two countries.

1/ Converted at the rate of $2.80 to one pound sterling.

Deliveries of Argentine meat to the United Kingdom had been suspended for nine months while the new treaty was being negotiated. Shipments are to be resumed immediately as Britain agreed to take all chilled meat offered during the remaining period of the 1949 agreement. The United Kingdom has also offered to buy any carcass or canned meat offered during the period of the new agreement above the quantity stated in the pact.

Cured Beef Arriving
From Mexico

Entry of canned meat and of certain cooked and cured meat products from Mexico has been permitted since the first of the year. Most of the imports to date have been cured beef. In March, according to preliminary port of entry data, about 1 1/2 million pounds of cured beef were imported from Mexico.

Cured beef entering under this authority must be reprocessed by a Federally inspected processor that has been specially approved for the purpose by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Further definitions and specifications regarding imports were made in an order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture March 30.

World Cattle Numbers
Record High

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1951 are estimated at the record level of 806.3 million head by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This estimate is about 2 percent above the number a year earlier and about 8 percent above the 1936-40 average. The number of cattle has been increasing for a number of years and a moderate increase is in prospect during 1951. However, a tightening of feed supplies in many important cattle producing areas may limit further expansion of herds.

Cattle numbers expanded during 1950 on all continents, but in Asia and South America the increase was very small. The largest numerical gains were registered in Africa and North America. Numbers of cattle are still slightly below the 1936-40 average in Europe and Asia despite increases during the past few years.

World Hog Numbers
Also Record High

World hog numbers on January 1, 1951 are estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at 297 million head, a record total. This is 6 percent above a year earlier and places current numbers above the 1936-40 average for the first time since World War II ended. A further increase in world hog numbers is in prospect during 1951.

Hog numbers increased on all continents during 1950 except in Australia and New Zealand where numbers are estimated the same as the previous year. Largest numerical gains were made in North America, Africa and Europe but numbers are still below the prewar average in the latter continent and in Asia. The USSR is estimated to have about one-fourth fewer hogs now than prewar.

Hog numbers are expected to increase moderately during 1951 but the trend by countries will be closely associated with the availability of feed. In the United States and Canada prospects for rising consumer incomes indicate demand for pork will continue high there, encouraging hog production in the coming year if feed is adequate. Further gains in hog production may be made in the countries of Europe and Asia.

World Sheep Numbers Up 4 Percent During 1950

World sheep numbers increased about 4 percent during 1950 to an estimated 762 million head, 2 percent above the 1936-40 average, according to estimates made by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. A continued rise in sheep and lamb numbers is expected in 1951 if grazing conditions are favorable.

The expansion in sheep numbers was greatest in the major producing areas, but gains in other countries were important. Despite the upward trend in numbers, such important sheep producing countries as the United States, the United Kingdom, China, India, Algeria, Tunisia and the Union of South Africa continue below prewar levels.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Tables 5 to 8 present newly released data on production, distribution, and income from meat animals in 1950, along with tabulations for several earlier years. These data revise and bring to date certain tables of the February Statistical Appendix of this *Situation*.

Table 5.- 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, January 1: All cattle	On hand, January 1: All cows 2 years +	Calves born: Percentage of cows 2 years +	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	1,406	2,292	18,371
1949	78,298	40,398	85	34,464	8,244	23,281	12,470	776	517	1,532	2,378	19,352
1950	80,052	41,321	85	35,120	9,026	23,484	11,511	741	462	1,470	2,361	20,587
1951	84,179	42,962										

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 A-5 of Statistical Appendix of The Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1951.

Table 6.- 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	58,426	37,175	541	69,806	11,549	11,413	20,190
1950	60,502	59,997	40,657	580	73,483	10,984	12,241	20,927
1951	65,028							

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 A-6 of Statistical Appendix of The Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1951.

Table 7.- 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 year +	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	790	5,224	3,432	16,990	216	280	2,939	1,878	1,310
1950	30,743	18,522	89	741	5,750	2,801	16,563	198	244	2,654	1,791	1,362
1951	31,505											

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 A-7 of Statistical Appendix of The Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1951.

Table 8.- 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: Sheep and lambs	Cash receipts: Hogs	Cash receipts: All meat animals	Gross income 2/ 3/: Cattle and calves	Gross income: Sheep and lambs	Gross income: Hogs	Gross income: 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	23,561	1,786	17,045	139	4,838	354	3,190	8,383	4,920	359	3,627	8,906
1950	23,846	1,708	17,795	142	5,716	390	3,297	9,402	5,808	395	3,697	9,900

1/ Excludes interfarm sales.
2/ Does not include Government payments.
3/ Cash receipts plus value of home consumption.
Revises and brings to date table A-16 of Statistical Appendix of The Livestock and Meat Situation for February 1951.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar. av. 1950	Jan.-Mar. av. 1951	1950 March	1951 Feb.	1951 March	1951 April
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	34.58	39.29	32.24	39.45	40.03	
Choice	do.	27.55	35.81	27.33	35.98	36.67	
Good	do.	(24.26	32.94	24.51)	33.09	33.86	
Commercial	do.		30.80		30.96	31.97	
Utility	do.	21.37	28.61	22.13	28.54	29.96	
All grades	do.	25.82	34.87	25.90	34.88	35.62	
Omaha, all grades	do.	24.39	33.79	24.74	34.19	34.42	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	24.45	33.77	24.75	34.10	34.40	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	18.80	26.46	20.21	26.88	27.86	
Utility	do.	16.50	24.46	17.42	24.86	25.46	
Canner and Cutter	do.	14.39	21.28	14.84	21.48	22.19	
Vealers, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	30.43	37.07	29.39	38.18	36.65	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	24.13	33.81	25.32	34.42	35.12	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	20.27	28.57	21.20	29.00	29.70	30.20
Veal calves	do.	24.10	32.53	24.20	33.30	33.50	33.90
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	16.66	21.35	16.17	22.04	21.16	
180-200 pounds	do.	16.90	22.18	16.59	23.05	21.89	
200-220 pounds	do.	16.89	22.23	16.72	23.02	22.12	
220-240 pounds	do.	16.63	22.11	16.70	22.90	22.11	
240-270 pounds	do.	16.21	21.82	16.51	22.58	22.02	
270-300 pounds	do.	15.80	21.44	16.21	22.16	21.76	
All weights	do.	16.27	21.79	16.41	22.65	21.94	
Seven markets 3/	do.	16.26	21.51	16.38	22.41	21.66	
Sows, Chicago	do.	13.87	18.90	14.52	19.58	19.54	
Price received by farmers	do.	15.93	21.07	16.00	22.00	21.20	20.60
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	12.4	12.3	12.3	12.5	12.4	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	13.6	13.3	13.4	13.8	13.2	12.7
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	13.08	22.00	13.99	23.05	23.21	
Price received by farmers	do.	10.28	17.30	11.10	17.70	19.00	18.10
Lambs							
Slaughter, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	25.13	38.01	26.88	38.42	40.93	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	25.12	5/ 33.62	26.59	---	---	
Price received by farmers	do.	22.70	32.77	24.00	33.30	35.00	34.30
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers							
(1910-14=100)		300	415	308	425	428	428
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	42.76	55.40	42.12	55.90	55.74	
Lamb carcass, Good, 30-40 pounds	do.	6/ 48.20	54.77	6/ 51.88	55.62	55.15	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	17.92	23.60	17.90	24.34	23.85	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	24.60	32.40	24.57	33.42	32.74	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	21.00	26.60	21.20	27.16	26.69	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	29.44	37.30	29.73	38.08	37.42	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Good grade	per pound	67.2	84.3	67.6	85.0	84.8	
Lamb	do.	64.1	74.1	65.8	74.6	73.5	
Pork, including lard	do.	36.4	45.0	37.1	45.4	45.5	
Index number meat prices (BLS)							
Wholesale (1926=100)		212.7	270.0	213.6	274.8	273.7	
Retail (1935-39=100)		220.7	269.5	224.1	271.2	271.9	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, February 1951.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, and S. St. Paul.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Price for January.
6/ Price of 45-50 pound lambs for February and March.
7/ Index of retail meat prices, new weights.

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

Item	Unit	January-March 1950	January-March 1951	1950 March	1951 February	1951 March	1951 April
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		139	137	137	116	127	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 8 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	386	433	141	121	131	
Sheep and lambs	do.	328	323	101	119	93	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	3,123	3,012	1,082	887	965	
Calves	do.	1,494	1,255	586	374	447	
Sheep and lambs	do.	2,879	2,536	939	740	738	
Hogs	do.	15,055	15,860	5,020	4,159	5,117	
Percentage sows	Percent	10	5	9	5	5	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	996	1,016	995	1,017	1,007	
Calves	do.	181	177	170	176	162	
Sheep and lambs	do.	102	103	103	103	105	
Hogs	do.	240	246	234	245	240	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	544	556	547	555	557	
Veal, per head	do.	101	99	96	100	94	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	49	49	49	50	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	135	136	132	138	134	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	56	56	56	56	56	
Lard, per head	do.	36	36	34	35	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight ..	do.	15	15	14	14	14	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	1,691	1,667	589	490	535	
Veal	do.	150	124	55	37	42	
Lamb and mutton	do.	140	123	46	36	37	
Pork 2/	do.	2,024	2,151	661	570	684	
Lard	do.	533	571	171	147	176	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000						
Cattle	head	4,281	4,102	1,479	1,221	1,301	
Calves	do.	2,571	2,173	989	654	761	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,126	2,721	1,020	790	798	
Hogs	do.	18,291	19,274	6,060	5,222	6,168	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	2,224	2,188	772	650	696	
Veal	do.	263	220	96	66	73	
Lamb and mutton	do.	151	130	50	38	39	
Pork 2/	do.	2,431	2,586	791	704	817	
Lard	do.	612	653	196	171	201	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.	---	---	113	161	149	133
Veal	do.	---	---	11	12	8	8
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	---	13	10	9	8
Pork	do.	---	---	573	668	642	638
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.	---	---	816	960	918	899

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.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

BAE-LMS-50-4/51-4800
Permit No. 1001

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300