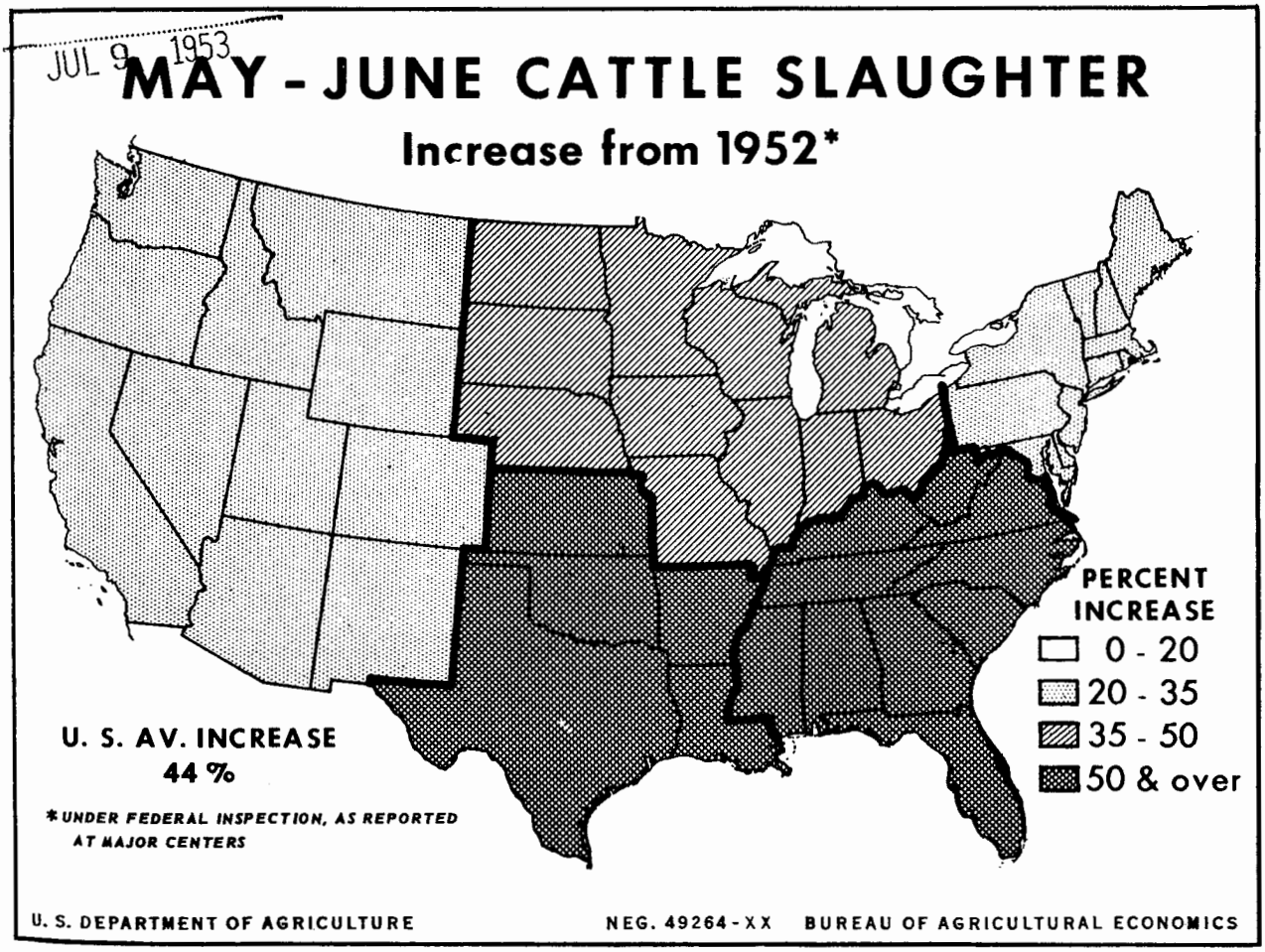
THE Livestock and Meat SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LMS-66 BAE MAY-JULY 1953

In this issue:
Changes in Demand for Pork Products

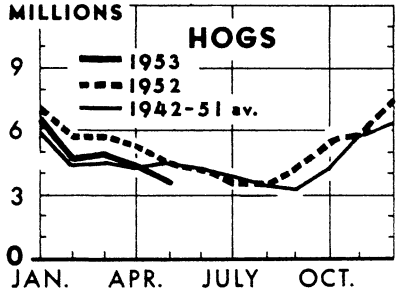


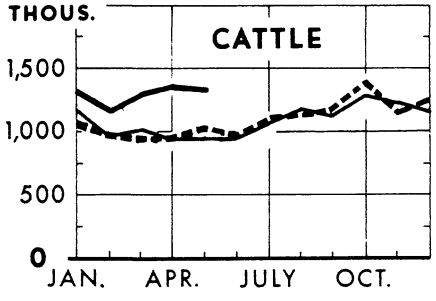
Cattle slaughter this spring has been much above last year. Increases from Corn Belt feedlot areas are large. On a percentage basis they are even greater from Southern areas, reflecting in the Southeast the rapid expansion in production there the last few years, and in the Southwest the serious drought that has sped marketings.

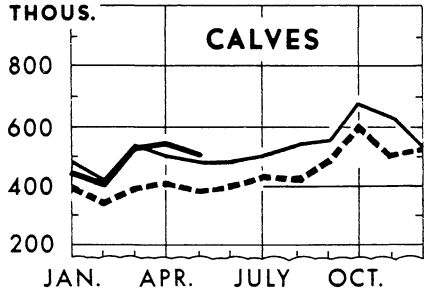
Cattle slaughter during the rest of this year will likely continue above last year but by a smaller percentage than during the spring.

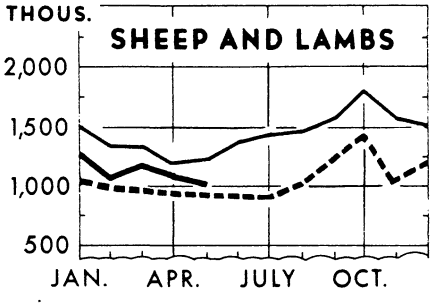
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Federally Inspected Slaughter

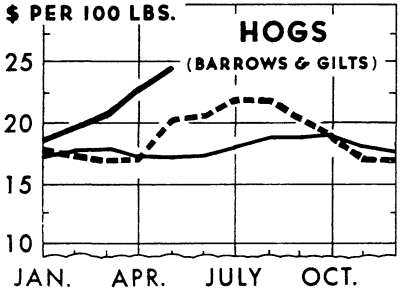


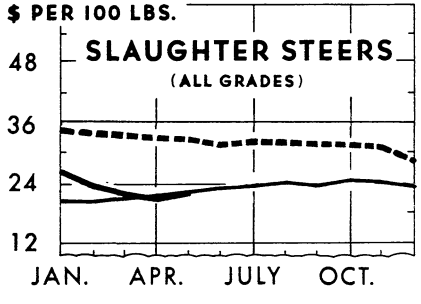


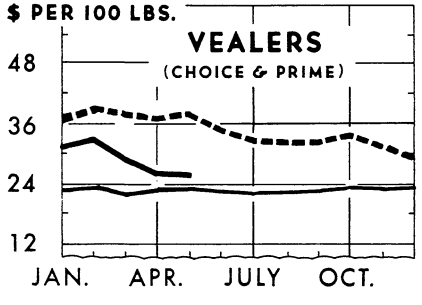


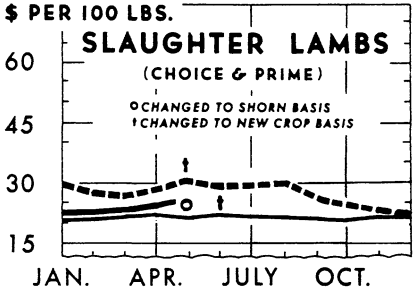


Market Prices, Chicago

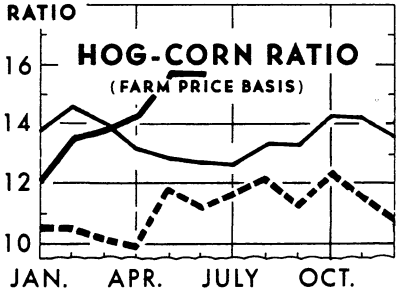


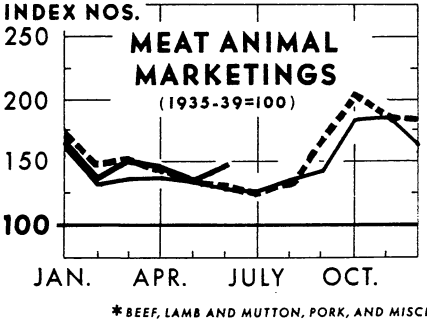


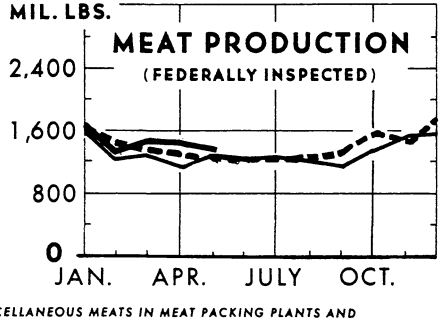


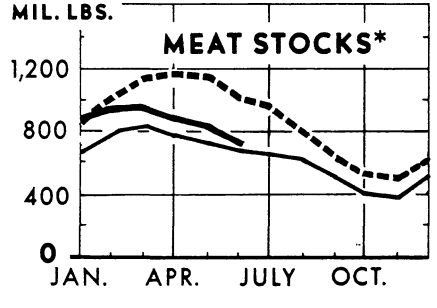


Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States









*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. 49125 HX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, June 29, 1953

SUMMARY

Cattle have moved to slaughter in record volume since February. Prices of slaughter cattle of top grades have been comparatively stable, being supported by strong consumer demand for beef. Prices of lower grades of cattle, influenced by big marketings from drought areas and by weak demand for replacement cattle, have declined materially.

The large slaughter is cutting into the inventory of cattle on farms and is bringing the cyclical expansion in cattle production close to a halt. This offers promise that cattle prices will show more stability in the next few years than previously seemed likely, provided demand for meat stays strong.

Approximately 37-40 percent more cattle were slaughtered by commercial firms in April-June this year than in the same period of 1952. For January-June, the increase averaged a little over 30 percent. Large numbers of fed steers and heifers and sizeable numbers of grass cattle have been marketed. Slaughter of cows has been up relatively less than other classes.

Heavy slaughter is lifting beef consumption per person far above last year and for all of 1953 it may reach or slightly exceed the record of 73 pounds set in 1909. Veal consumption also will be up from 1952, but consumers will have about 10 pounds less pork per person. Total meat consumption per person for 1953 may exceed last year's 144 pounds by 4 pounds.

Slaughter of fed cattle will taper off in the months just ahead but slaughter of grass cattle will increase seasonally. Total cattle slaughter will continue above last year though probably by less than in the first 6 months. However, the size of slaughter in the second half will depend on feed conditions. Under present conditions the slaughter rate in prospect would allow a small further increase in inventories. But if the drought in the Southern Plains should spread, slaughter might be large enough in the current year to end the cyclical increase in cattle inventories that began in 1949.

Some seasonal increase in prices of fed cattle seems likely in months ahead as marketings for slaughter decline.

Prices of grass cattle--both for feeding and for slaughter--have already declined considerably from their seasonal high in early spring. Prices will remain comparatively low through the summer and fall marketing season. They will probably be erratic as both sellers and buyers try to appraise the prospects for the future following the serious price adjustments of the past year. Any increase in fed cattle prices would have a strengthening effect on prices of grass cattle.

Emergency drought conditions were declared in Texas and Oklahoma on June 29. Plans are under way for providing feed from CCC stocks and other forms of assistance are under consideration.

Supplies of pork will remain small throughout this year and well into next year. Hog producers cut back their 1953 spring pig crop by 10 percent. Even though prices for hogs were higher this past winter and spring, producers plan to have 5 percent fewer sows farrow fall pigs this year than last. Producers in the Corn Belt expect to keep the same number of sows as last fall but those in areas outside the Corn Belt are planning a 17 percent reduction.

Prices of slaughter lambs increased by about $4.00 per 100 pounds since January but recently turned downward. A moderate seasonal decline is in view for the next few months.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Cattle Slaughter Rate At Record High

Cattle have been moving to slaughter at an increasing rate for nearly a year. Commercial slaughter of cattle and calves in the January-March quarter was 23 percent above last year. In April-June it was around 37-40 percent larger. For January-June the average increase was thus about 30 percent.

In each month beginning in February the number slaughtered under Federal inspection has been a new high for the month.

Fed steers and heifers have made up a large part of the slaughter this spring. On April 1 about 12 to 14 percent more cattle than a year earlier were on feed, and feedlots have since been emptied faster than last year. Fed cattle have been marketed at high quality. Most fed steers have graded Choice or Prime. Few have been sold at half finish.

While the run of fed cattle has been large, increased numbers of cattle also have gone to slaughter from range areas of the West and pasture areas of the South. Federally inspected slaughter in May-June was up 41 percent from last year in the Midwest, where most of the cattle marketed are fed cattle, but it was 74 percent above last year in the Southeast, 66 percent in the Southwest, and 28 percent in the West. (Table 1.)

More cows have been slaughtered this spring than last, but the increase has been less than in steers and heifers. Cows have been a smaller percentage of all cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection to date this year than in any of the past 10 years.

Table 1.- Number of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, by major areas, May-June 1952 and 1953

(Data for Cover Chart)

Areas	May-June totals		Percent change from 1952
	1953	1952	
	Number	Number	Percent
Northeast	139,301	105,180	+ 32
Midwest	1,197,390	848,986	+ 41
Southeast	120,572	69,387	+ 74
Southwest 1/	421,609	253,552	+ 66
Mountain and Pacific	333,669	259,904	+ 28
Total	2,212,541	1,537,009	+ 44

1/ Includes Kansas City, Wichita and St. Joseph areas as well as Oklahoma and Texas.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

Table 2.- Beef consumption per person, by quarters, 1947-1952, and forecast for 1953

Year	Quarter				Year
	Jan.-March	April-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1947	17.2	17.4	16.9	17.1	68.6
1948	16.0	15.2	15.4	15.6	62.2
1949	15.8	15.7	16.4	15.1	63.0
1950	15.4	15.4	16.0	15.6	62.5
1951	14.4	13.1	14.2	13.5	55.2
1952	14.3	14.6	16.2	16.2	61.3
1953	17.5	1/19			2/73

1/ Preliminary indication. 2/ Forecast.

Note: Data for 1947-51 are revised slightly from those published in this Situation for May-June 1952 due to revisions in population estimates.

Slaughter Will Continue High

Cattle slaughter will be large throughout 1953. The number of fed cattle marketed can be expected to decrease and to drop closer to last year's level as the big marketing season for these cattle nears its end. Until lately, cattle were moving into feedlots at a slower rate this year than last. It is likely that only moderately more cattle were on feed in the United States July 1 than a year ago. (Data on the number will be reported July 14.)

Slaughter of grass cattle, on the other hand, will increase seasonally and will be considerably larger than last year. A large share of the increased number of cattle marketed off grass will go directly to slaughter because feeders will be reluctant to buy them for feeding. Having sustained serious financial losses in cattle feeding this past winter, feeders will be cautious in their plans for feeding this coming season. They may be especially hesitant to buy early in the season, and slaughter of grass cattle at that time might be particularly large compared with usual trends.

Slaughter of all cattle, fed and grass combined, is not likely to be as much above last year in the second half of 1953 as it was in the first half. Its size will be governed largely by feed conditions. Pastures and ranges are very dry in a broad area extending from central Kansas southward through the eastern half of New Mexico and western half of Texas. Several other Southern areas have become dry recently. Pastures in the entire northern part of the United States, however, have been very good.

If the drought does not spread, total slaughter of cattle and calves in 1953 will likely exceed last year by about one-fourth. Depending on the size of the year's calf crop, this rate of slaughter probably would be a little less than the net natural increase, and the number of cattle on farms at the end of the year would be a little larger than at the beginning.

But if the drought should become worse, slaughter for the year might be high enough to end the cyclical expansion in cattle numbers that began in 1949.

The upswing in the number of cattle that began in 1949 was sharper than in past cattle cycles. With the increase trailing off this year, the upswing also is likely to be shorter than usual. In fact, if numbers fail to increase this year, the expansion phase of the current cattle cycle will be the shortest on record. In past cattle cycles, the period of increase in numbers has lasted from 6 to 8 years.

Beef Supply Record High

Since cattle and calf slaughter has been approximately 30 percent above last year in the first 6 months of 1953 and is likely to average 25 percent higher for the year as a whole, the output of beef will be far above last year.

Table 3.- Cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, by class, January to May, 1951, 1952 and 1953 1/

Number

Month	Steers			Heifers			Cows		
	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	1951	1953	1952	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
Jan.	709	600	583	179	130	141	390	334	401
Feb.	692	586	476	165	122	115	287	252	270
Mar.	802	545	572	153	117	107	308	239	261
Apr.	869	586	533	152	102	89	304	221	245
May	854	622	630	122	89	79	319	254	238
	Percent of total cattle slaughtered								
Jan.	54.0	54.7	50.3	13.6	11.9	12.1	29.7	30.5	34.6
Feb.	59.1	59.5	53.6	14.1	12.4	13.0	24.5	25.6	30.4
Mar.	61.7	58.8	59.3	11.8	12.6	11.1	23.7	25.8	27.1
Apr.	63.4	62.4	59.6	11.1	10.9	10.0	22.2	23.5	27.4
May	63.5	61.6	63.9	9.1	8.8	8.0	23.7	25.2	24.1

1/ Number of bulls and stags not shown.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

In January-March, consumption of beef per person was about 17.5 pounds compared with 14.3 pounds in the same quarter of 1952. In April-June, consumption probably was something like 19 pounds. Last year the April-June rate was 14.6 pounds. (Table 2.)

For all of 1953, beef consumption per person will likely at least equal the 1909 rate of 73 pounds, highest in this century.

Prices for Fed Cattle Relatively Steady Through June; Demand Strong

Prices for fed cattle have been comparatively steady since April after declining sharply from January to March. A small gain in May was erased under pressure of very large marketings and slaughter in June.

In general, prices for fed cattle have been held down because of the increased marketing, not because of any change in consumer demand for meat. Insofar as it can be estimated, demand for meat does not appear to be much different than at this time last year.

Supported by the active consumer demand, aided by a shorter supply of pork, and encouraged by promotional efforts of private agencies and the

Department of Agriculture, the increased consumption of beef has taken place with about an equivalent decline in prices at retail. Most estimates show retail beef prices this spring down a fourth, and the supply up a third. Often in the past this much increase in supply has caused a greater decline in price.

Consumers are spending about as much money for red meats this year as last. Expenditures for meat have not, however, gone up along with rising consumer incomes. A slightly smaller part of incomes is being spent for meat than a year ago. The relationship of expenditures for meat to incomes of consumers has tended to decline ever since reaching its inflationary high in 1947-48.

Prices of slaughter cattle are 35 to 40 percent below a year ago, which is a bigger percentage decline than has been recorded for the retail price of beef. This is a normal experience. Because the costs and returns in marketing and distributing meat tend to be nearly constant, they absorb a bigger part of the retail price when prices are low than when they are high. A smaller part of low than of high retail prices therefore goes to the producer for the live animal.

Statistical evidence, though not entirely conclusive, is that the price spread or margin between the live animal and beef at retail is fully as wide as last year and may be a bit wider. This is opposite to the situation for pork, for which the marketing margin has been rather narrow recently.

Higher Prices for Fed Cattle in Prospect; Decline for Grass Cattle

A moderate seasonal increase in prices of top grade slaughter steers seems in prospect as marketings decline in the months ahead.

Prices of grass cattle will probably be much less firm. Since early April prices of all kinds of cattle off grass have declined. The average price for all sales of stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City, which ranged from $19.00 to $20.00 per 100 pounds in May, was down to $13.77 the week ending June 27. In late June last year it was about $24.00.

Feeders will be unwilling to buy feeder cattle in large number this summer and fall except at prices that appear low enough to allow them a good chance of profit. They will plan carefully to avoid repeating the financial losses they took last winter. Slaughterers, faced with a rather limited outlet for beef of the middle grades, will likewise buy grass cattle in volume only at relatively low prices. Both feeders and slaughterers will alter their demands from time to time as they reappraise the prospects for the future. Prices of grass cattle will in all probability remain seasonally low and will continue erratic for several months.

Table 4.- Number of sows farrowing, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, United States and by regions, 1947-1953

SPRING PIG CROP

Year	North Atlantic	North Central		South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
		East	West				
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	Sows farrowing						
1947	159	2,311	4,230	639	979	230	8,548
1948	153	2,111	3,718	608	987	256	7,833
1949	165	2,394	4,319	633	1,053	256	8,820
1950	145	2,554	4,568	631	1,048	228	9,174
1951	153	2,625	4,855	683	1,026	249	9,591
1952	157	2,442	4,053	721	904	216	8,493
1953 1/	136	2,282	3,679	604	603	145	7,449
	Pigs saved						
1947	1,029	14,266	25,812	3,790	5,857	1,446	52,199
1948	1,010	14,052	24,062	3,714	6,030	1,600	50,468
1949	1,107	15,909	27,835	3,909	6,570	1,639	56,969
1950	920	16,177	28,905	3,971	6,534	1,428	57,935
1951	1,016	17,238	31,463	4,273	6,430	1,587	62,007
1952	1,072	16,421	27,075	4,601	5,846	1,342	56,357
1953 1/	942	15,749	25,177	3,955	3,947	956	50,726
	Pigs saved per litter						
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
1947	6.48	6.17	6.10	5.93	5.98	6.27	6.11
1948	6.58	6.65	6.47	6.11	6.11	6.26	6.44
1949	6.73	6.65	6.44	6.17	6.24	6.39	6.46
1950	6.36	6.33	6.33	6.29	6.23	6.26	6.31
1951	6.63	6.57	6.48	6.26	6.27	6.38	6.47
1952	6.83	6.72	6.68	6.38	6.47	6.23	6.64
1953 1/	6.92	6.90	6.84	6.54	6.55	6.59	6.81

FALL PIG CROP

	Sows farrowing						
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1947	121	1,557	1,530	583	901	174	4,866
1948	126	1,609	1,690	551	904	190	5,070
1949	123	1,800	1,941	565	951	188	5,568
1950	119	1,970	2,183	561	924	166	5,923
1951	126	2,015	2,269	611	879	189	6,032
1952	118	1,795	2,012	566	684	143	5,318
1953 2/	108	1,798	1,999	497	534	118	5,054
	Pigs saved						
1947	831	10,199	9,732	3,584	5,627	1,117	31,090
1948	865	10,917	11,184	3,452	5,717	1,223	33,358
1949	831	11,925	12,694	3,531	6,059	1,235	36,275
1950	815	13,289	14,674	3,552	5,998	1,076	39,404
1951	872	13,508	14,899	3,975	5,704	1,224	39,804
1952	818	12,064	13,490	3,623	4,420	940	35,355
1953							2/33,500
	Pigs saved per litter						
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
1947	6.82	6.55	6.36	6.14	6.25	6.45	6.39
1948	6.88	6.78	6.62	6.27	6.32	6.43	6.58
1949	6.77	6.62	6.54	6.25	6.37	6.55	6.52
1950	6.83	6.74	6.72	6.33	6.49	6.50	6.65
1951	6.92	6.70	6.57	6.51	6.49	6.47	6.60
1952	6.97	6.72	6.70	6.40	6.46	6.56	6.65
1953							2/6.65

1/ Preliminary

2/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions as of June 1, 1953; average number of pigs per litter adjusted for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.

Table 5.- Number of sows farrowing and percentage distribution by months, spring season, United States, 1947-53

Year	Dec. 1/	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
	Number of sows farrowing						
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1947	293	381	900	2,452	3,035	1,487	8,548
1948	254	350	746	2,122	2,838	1,523	7,833
1949	283	441	958	2,567	3,026	1,545	8,820
1950	249	416	1,089	2,803	3,084	1,533	9,174
1951	288	491	1,237	2,752	3,103	1,720	9,591
1952	267	480	1,201	2,390	2,589	1,566	8,493
1953	222	446	1,075	2,154	2,267	1,285	7,449
	Percent of total sows farrowing						
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1947	3.4	4.5	10.5	28.7	35.5	17.4	100.0
1948	3.2	4.5	9.5	27.1	36.2	19.5	100.0
1949	3.2	5.0	10.9	29.1	34.3	17.5	100.0
1950	2.7	4.5	11.9	30.6	33.6	16.7	100.0
1951	3.0	5.1	12.9	28.7	32.4	17.9	100.0
1952	3.1	5.7	14.2	28.1	30.5	18.4	100.0
1953	3.0	6.0	14.4	28.9	30.4	17.3	100.0

1/ December of preceding year.

Prospects for Longer Future Brighter, Provided Demand is Strong

The big increase in cattle slaughter this year not only affects current beef supplies and prices but also has an important bearing on the future. The slaughter this year is bringing the end of the cycle in numbers closer. It is also bringing nearer the time when price adjustments will be completed.

The supply of beef per person may be as high this year as in any year of this cycle. Consumption per person in the next 2 or 3 years is expected to be at or a little above 70 pounds. This revises to a small extent the projections previously made where a small further rise in beef supply was foreseen. (See this Situation, March-April 1953, pages 21-26.)

This outlook gives some promise for cattle prices to show more stability in the next few years than previously seemed likely. While not pointing to an uptrend, it does suggest that 1953 prices might prove to be close to the lows in the present cattle cycle. This outlook is based on the assumption that consumer demand for beef will continue strong and supplies of other meats are not excessive. If demand for beef should weaken, prices for beef and for cattle would decline further. Any decrease in prices for pork and lamb and mutton in years ahead would naturally have some weakening effect on beef prices.

Future Level of Cattle Production

Evaluating the outlook for cattle always raises the question of the level of cattle production that would conform to price and income prospects. Since the prime controller of cattle numbers and production is the size of the breeding herd, the question becomes one of how many cows are justified by the economic outlook.

As noted above, cow slaughter has not yet increased greatly, except for the high rate of slaughter in the drought areas the last few weeks. (See table 3.) Relatively few cows are usually slaughtered in the spring. Most of the year's cow slaughter comes in the fall. We will not know for several months whether producers have decided to reduce their cow herds or maintain them. However, the likelihood is for no really big liquidation of cows this year, unless there is extensive drought. Ordinarily, cows are the last class to be sold. Their sale in great number usually is forced by conditions such as (1) a shortage of feed; or (2) lack of credit; or (3) extreme pessimism about future prospects. None of these three is expected to be acute the country over this year.

When cow selling starts it usually proceeds rapidly. In most cattle cycles, numbers eventually have been reduced more than market prospects justified just as they have been over-expanded during the upward phases of the cycles. Unless consumer demand should be curtailed by economic recession, which is not now in prospect, the market for beef will continue large. It does not call for any radical cut-back in beef production. Fairly sharp culling of cow herds, so as to reduce costs of production, would seem in order, but wholesale liquidation would not be.

Further Reduction in Pig Crops

Last year producers reduced their pig crop 10 percent. As a result, hog slaughter in 1953 has been substantially below 1952 and it will continue so. Pork consumption per person may average about 62 pounds, 10 pounds less than the 72 pounds in 1952.

Hog growers are making a further cut in production this year. They saved 10 percent fewer pigs this spring than last, and they plan a 5 percent reduction this fall from last fall.

About 12 percent fewer sows farrowed this spring than last, but the average size of litter was up to a new record of 6.81 pigs. Early spring litters were reduced least, continuing the trend toward early dates of farrowing. The Western Corn Belt had 7 percent fewer pigs than last spring and the Eastern Corn Belt 4 percent fewer, while areas outside the Corn Belt reduced their spring pigs by 24 percent.

Farmers intended on June 1 to have 5 percent fewer sows farrow this fall than last. At an average size of litter the crop would be 33.5 million pigs.

In the Corn Belt about the same number of sows will farrow this fall as last, according to the June intentions. As in the spring, the crop this fall will be reduced greatly outside the Corn Belt, where a 17 percent decrease is planned.

Last year the number of sows farrowing was comparatively large in the summer but smaller beginning in September. This year, the number farrowing may take an opposite movement. Summer farrowings will doubtless be considerably below last summer, but by late fall the number of sows farrowing may about equal the number at the same time last year.

Hog producers have not responded the way they usually do to favorable prices for hogs. Since February the hog-corn price ratio has been between 13.5 and 15.5, which is much above average. A ratio this high has almost always been followed by an increase in production. There may be several reasons for the reluctance of producers to expand this year. One is that prices have not been up very long. They turned higher only about the first of this year, whereas they had been depressed for much of the previous 18 months. Vesicular exanthema disease continues a menace, though actual losses from it are minor. Some of the small producers outside the Corn Belt are continuing to go out of hog production despite improving hog prices. The large supply of cattle may still be influencing hog producers. And finally, the Government loan program tends to support the price of corn at near the loan price but the price of hogs is subject to the uncertainties of the market. With corn prices--a cost--more assured but hog prices less assured, hog producers are making less response than normal this year to prevailing hog-corn price relationships.

Hog slaughter will remain low through at least the first part of 1954. Until then, the small supplies of pork will keep prices relatively high. Usual seasonal changes may be expected. The 1953 high in prices may come at late summer, and a seasonal decline will follow during the fall.

Sheep Slaughter at Liquidation Rate

Sheep production was reduced drastically during the 1940's and sheep and lamb slaughter has been at a very low level during the past 4 years. About 17 percent more sheep and lambs were slaughtered commercially in January-June this year than last. This increase, in light of the number on farms January 1 and the probable lamb crop, signals a reduction in the number of sheep and lambs on farms during 1953.

Most of the reduction is probably occurring in the dry Southern Plains. Some decrease may be taking place in parts of the Mountain West. The eastern or "native" States have been increasing sheep production for 3 years, and it is likely that they are holding up best again this year. However, actual trends there are not yet known.

Prices of slaughter lambs increased about $4.00 per 100 pounds from January through May, then decreased seasonally in June. A general seasonal decline may continue until fall. Lamb prices, which are generally affected by prices for cattle, have held up much better than cattle prices in the

past year. In June, Choice and Prime slaughter lambs at Chicago sold for 20 percent more than Choice slaughter steers. A year ago they were 11 percent less than Choice steer prices. The present margin over Choice steers is the greatest since April 1949.

Assistance in Drought Relief Begun

Farmers and ranchers in 152 counties of Texas and Oklahoma were made eligible on June 29 for emergency federal disaster relief. Immediately provided was feed from stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which was to be priced in line with livestock prices in the area. Also under consideration was supplying additional credit, as well as other measures of assistance to drought-stricken farmers.

Mexican Foot-and-Mouth Outbreak Closes Border

On May 23 the United States closed its border to imports of livestock and fresh or frozen meats from Mexico. The closing followed an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Vera Cruz. The border had been closed to such imports for almost 5 years prior to last September, during which time the Mexican and United States governments had carried on a joint campaign to eradicate the disease in Mexico. The recent outbreak was located only a few miles from where the last outbreak occurred in August 1951.

Some 256,000 cattle and approximately 35 million pounds, product weight, of beef and veal were imported from Mexico during the 8 2/3 months the border was officially open. None of the cattle were from the former quarantine area.

Experienced veterinary crews of both governments, maintained for such an emergency, have held the new infection within the boundaries of the general area of quarantine, according to the joint Mexican-United States Comission.

New Regulations on VE July 1

Beginning July 1 the Department of Agriculture put into effect certain revisions to the federal regulations on vesicular exanthema. The USDA will no longer pay indemnities on losses from hogs fed raw garbage. Hogs from a quarantined area and all hogs fed raw garbage can be moved interstate only to slaughter and the carcass must be specially processed. In areas not under quarantine grain-fed hogs and hogs certified to have been fed cooked garbage can move across State lines without restriction.

Vesicular exanthema has spread from California to the east coast during the last 12 months. Under the emergency declared by the Secretary of Agriculture last August, the disease has been eradicated in most of the States and with a few exceptions now exists only in California and around the large cities in the North Atlantic States. Thirty-four States have enacted laws or regulations requiring the cooking of garbage and several other States are considering such control measures.

Changes in Demand for Pork Products

by Earl E. Miller

During the past 50 years the American consumer has shown an increasing preference for lean cuts of pork over fat cuts and lard. This is evident from widening price advantage of lean over fat cuts. Since the relative supply of the various cuts has changed only little, the higher prices for lean cuts demonstrate an increasing demand for them.

Because prices for lean cuts such as hams, loins, picnics and butts have been rising relative to those for fat cuts and lard, an increasing part of the value of the total hog carcass--and therefore of the live hog--has come from lean cuts, and a decreasing part from fat cuts and lard.

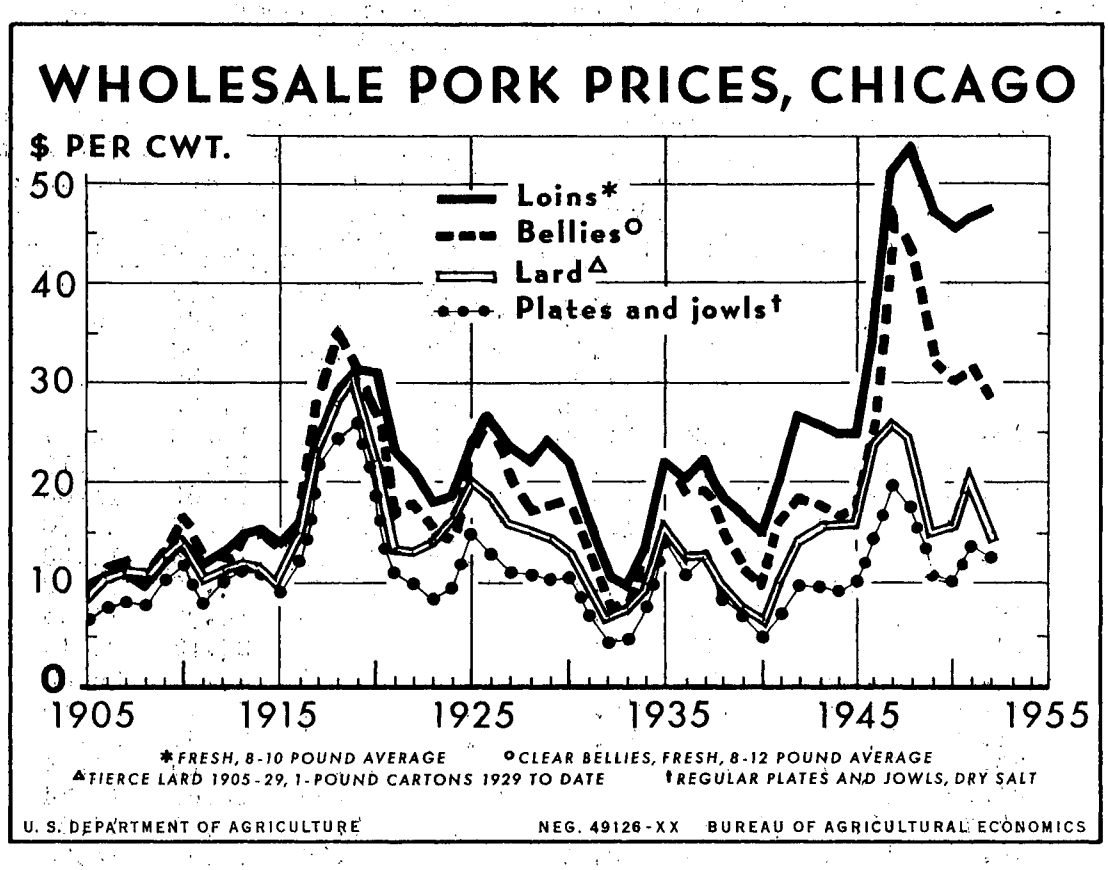
Price trends for 3 cuts and for lard are shown in the top chart on page 15 and those for several cuts and groups of cuts as well as live hog prices are shown in table 6. Loins, which are retailed largely as pork chops, have been one of the cuts in greatest demand over the years and their prices have trended generally upward. Prices for hams and Boston butts have followed loins, although the price per pound usually has been a little lower. Prices for the other cuts and lard show considerable variation compared with loins and have not made nearly so much gain since early years of the century. Prior to 1920, the position of lard and those fat cuts readily converted to lard was held up by a strong export demand for lard as well as by a comparatively stronger domestic demand. Those demands are now weaker. Fat backs, plates and jowls, nearly always the cheapest cuts, are cheaper now than years ago relative to prices for lean cuts.

Bellies, which are primarily made into bacon, are the most important cut grouped with the fat cuts. Because bacon is still in strong demand by the consumer, the price of bellies compared rather favorably with prices of the leaner cuts until recent years. They are now in an intermediate position, having increased in price less than lean cuts, but more than fat backs, plates and jowls.

The price of lard, while fluctuating in line with the general level of pork prices, has declined relative to lean cuts since about 1925. Early in the period, lard was worth more per pound than any other pork product; today it is the cheapest major pork product. The price of lard has been below the composite carcass value per pound since 1925 and below the price of live hogs since 1947. It is now worth only about one-third as much per pound as most lean cuts.

The composite value of all lean cuts per pound was in early years about the same as the composite average price of all pork items. It is now almost one-half higher than the all-pork average because of declining values of fat cuts and lard.

As price relationships have changed, more and more of the total value returned for each hog has had to come from the lean cuts. Table 7 and the lower chart on page 15 present data. In 1905-09 the 35.05 pounds of lean cuts produced from each 100 pounds of live hog comprised a little less than half the total value of all products. The 17.25 pounds of fat cuts and


WHOLESALE PORK PRICES, CHICAGO
$ PER CWT.
50
40
30
20
10
0
Loins*
Bellies°
Lard△
Plates and jowls†
1905
1915
1925
1935
1945
1955
*FRESH, 8-10 POUND AVERAGE
°CLEAR BELLIES, FRESH, 8-12 POUND AVERAGE
△TIERCE LARD 1905-29, 1-POUND CARTONS 1929 TO DATE
†REGULAR PLATES AND JOWLS, DRY SALT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 49126-XX
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

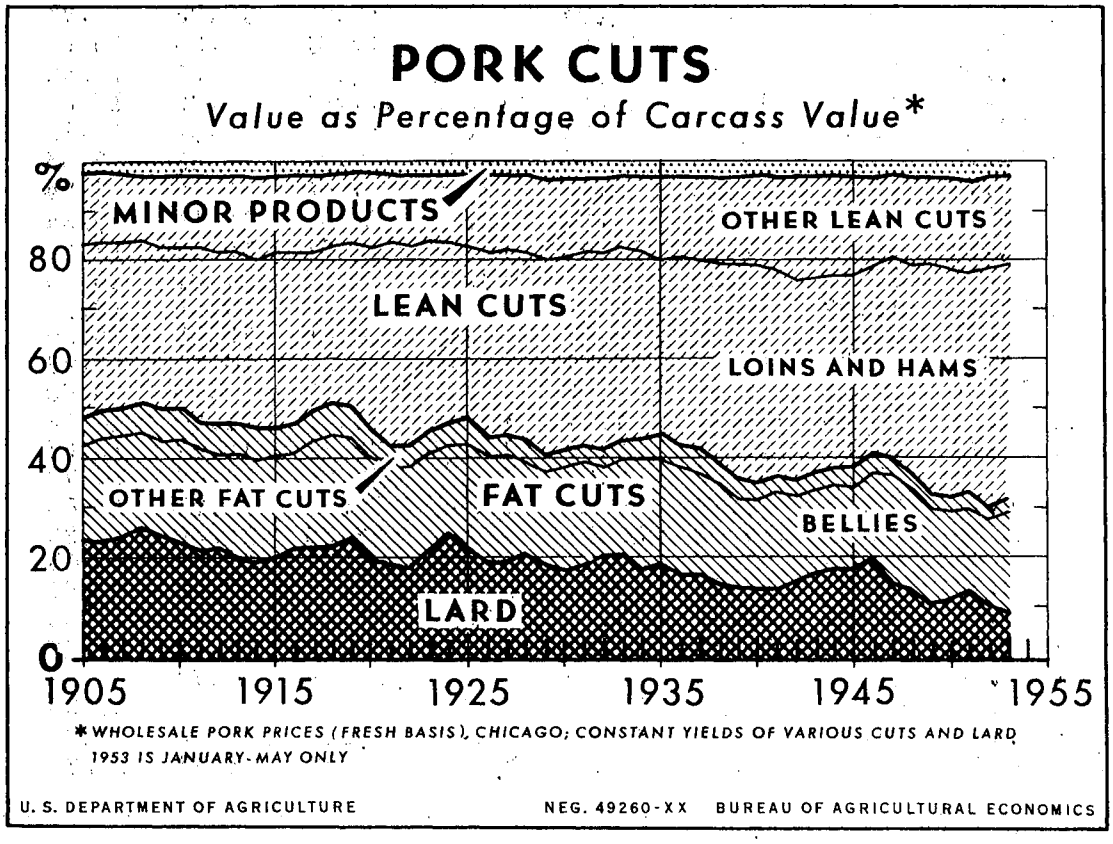

PORK CUTS
Value as Percentage of Carcass Value*
%
80
60
40
20
0
MINOR PRODUCTS
OTHER LEAN CUTS
LEAN CUTS
LOINS AND HAMS
OTHER FAT CUTS
FAT CUTS
BELLIES
LARD
1905
1915
1925
1935
1945
1955
*WHOLESALE PORK PRICES (FRESH BASIS), CHICAGO; CONSTANT YIELDS OF VARIOUS CUTS AND LARD
1953 IS JANUARY-MAY ONLY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 49260-XX
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Table 6.- Wholesale price of pork cuts (fresh basis) and of live hogs, per 100 pounds, Chicago, 1905-1952

Year	Price of individual cuts					Composite price 6/			Price of barrows and gilts 10/
	Loins 1/	Hams 2/	Bellies 3/	Plates and jowls 4/	Lard 5/	All lean cuts 7/	All fat cuts 8/	Total carcass 9/	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1905	9.52	8.95	9.41	6.44	8.84	8.20	8.59	8.03	5.36
1906	10.68	10.41	11.79	7.65	10.43	9.48	10.65	9.49	6.33
1907	11.01	10.50	12.01	8.20	11.19	9.70	10.96	9.85	6.25
1908	9.76	9.24	9.89	7.93	11.08	8.47	9.35	8.86	5.72
1909	12.39	10.94	12.54	10.39	12.61	10.66	11.95	10.91	7.41
1910	14.22	13.56	16.42	11.88	14.05	12.81	15.16	13.07	9.03
1911	12.07	11.47	12.39	8.08	10.36	10.50	11.20	10.19	6.85
1912	13.09	12.02	12.50	10.14	11.45	11.40	11.85	11.03	7.64
1913	14.86	13.64	15.08	11.14	11.96	12.91	13.99	12.40	8.50
1914	15.36	13.58	15.24	11.06	11.55	13.25	14.09	12.58	8.43
1915	14.34	12.03	13.79	9.40	10.47	11.76	12.58	11.18	7.39
1916	16.23	15.73	15.87	12.59	14.63	14.58	14.92	14.03	9.49
1917	24.31	22.23	27.75	21.83	23.32	21.66	26.12	22.19	15.70
1918	29.49	26.66	34.92	24.68	27.75	25.36	32.10	26.29	17.89
1919	31.40	27.90	31.49	26.07	31.43	26.72	29.99	27.15	18.54
1920	31.07	25.92	26.90	18.71	22.22	24.86	24.64	23.06	14.53
1921	23.13	17.81	16.65	11.04	13.21	17.02	15.10	14.94	8.84
1922	21.29	19.44	17.75	10.02	13.15	17.35	15.63	15.24	9.67
1923	17.75	15.39	14.54	8.54	13.90	13.84	12.89	13.06	7.83
1924	18.56	14.93	14.24	9.67	16.65	14.29	12.98	13.82	8.46
1925	24.24	20.50	24.04	14.92	19.90	19.75	21.53	19.30	12.23
1926	27.09	23.84	25.22	12.77	18.91	22.37	21.79	20.48	12.94
1927	23.94	18.03	20.55	11.04	15.66	18.03	17.93	16.73	10.45
1928	22.01	17.73	17.09	10.80	15.30	17.31	15.36	15.69	9.70
1929	24.02	19.70	17.53	10.45	14.62	18.99	15.58	16.49	10.51
1930	22.24	17.60	18.14	10.52	13.18	17.41	16.05	15.52	9.85
1931	16.44	11.97	12.90	6.91	9.79	12.11	11.25	10.92	6.65
1932	10.75	7.96	7.30	4.06	6.82	7.97	6.41	7.03	4.08
1933	9.76	8.92	8.12	4.59	7.05	7.98	7.15	7.24	4.20
1934	13.71	13.37	13.78	7.86	9.34	11.97	12.14	10.94	5.06
1935	22.15	19.00	21.77	14.45	15.58	18.91	19.75	17.65	9.78
1936	20.30	19.18	19.29	11.03	12.69	17.86	17.01	15.80	10.35
1937	22.40	18.27	19.23	12.76	12.94	18.47	17.45	16.28	10.70
1938	19.01	16.79	15.44	8.51	9.47	16.05	13.53	13.39	8.63
1939	16.86	15.24	11.35	6.87	7.66	14.27	10.12	11.26	7.08
1940	14.91	13.19	9.66	4.99	6.38	12.43	8.38	9.60	6.03
1941	20.24	20.25	16.22	7.07	10.02	18.71	13.70	14.88	9.85
1942	26.70	25.28	18.95	9.93	14.47	25.11	16.47	19.66	13.99
1943	26.08	22.96	17.65	9.79	15.55	23.27	15.48	18.79	14.66
1944	24.75	21.50	16.72	9.42	15.55	21.89	14.71	17.88	14.14
1945	24.75	22.11	17.36	10.11	15.55	22.36	15.36	18.29	14.76
1946	34.00	29.05	24.97	14.56	23.76	29.10	22.10	25.03	17.97
1947	50.77	48.56	47.81	19.89	25.84	44.28	40.12	37.41	26.32
1948	53.73	48.93	42.59	17.72	24.28	46.00	35.74	37.02	25.61
1949	47.27	43.15	32.44	10.83	15.09	39.57	26.49	29.47	19.94
1950	45.66	42.11	30.16	10.40	15.59	38.85	24.72	28.87	19.59
1951	46.55	45.46	31.33	13.68	20.34	41.85	26.47	31.95	21.45
1952	47.40	44.15	28.76	10.94	14.48	40.01	23.85	28.97	19.36
1953 11/	48.14	49.02	37.83	13.26	13.03	42.97	31.07	31.74	21.40

For footnotes see next page.

Table 7.- Wholesale value of pork products (fresh basis) in 100 pounds of live hog, Chicago, 5 year average 1905-09 to 1945-49 and 1950-53

Year and average	35.05 lbs. of lean cuts	17.25 lbs. of fat cuts	15 lbs. lard	5.54 lbs. edible by-products	Total value	Value as a percent of total value: Lean cuts	Fat cuts	Lard	Edible by-products
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Average:									
1905-09	3.26	1.78	1.62	.21	6.87	47.5	25.9	23.6	3.0
1910-14	4.27	2.29	1.78	.30	8.64	49.4	26.5	20.6	3.5
1915-19	7.02	3.99	3.23	.45	14.69	47.8	27.1	22.0	3.1
1920-24	6.12	2.80	2.37	.37	11.66	52.5	24.0	20.3	3.2
1925-29	6.76	3.18	2.53	.44	12.91	52.4	24.6	19.6	3.4
1930-34	4.03	1.83	1.39	.28	7.53	53.5	24.3	18.5	3.7
1935-39	6.00	2.69	1.75	.40	10.84	55.4	24.8	16.1	3.7
1940-44	7.11	2.37	1.86	.43	11.77	60.4	20.1	15.8	3.7
1945-49	12.71	4.82	3.13	.77	21.43	59.3	22.5	14.6	3.6
1950	13.62	4.26	2.34	.81	21.03	64.8	20.2	11.1	3.9
1951	14.67	4.57	3.05	.98	23.27	63.1	19.6	13.1	4.2
1952	14.02	4.12	2.17	.79	21.10	66.5	19.5	10.3	3.7
1953 1/	15.06	5.36	1.95	.75	23.12	65.1	23.2	8.4	3.3

1/ January-May average.
Computed from data provided by Market News Division, Livestock Branch, PMA.

15 pounds of lard were each worth about one-half as much as the lean cuts and were together equal to half the total carcass value. Edible by-products made up the last 3 percent.

By contrast, the fat cuts have recently been worth only 30 percent as much as the lean cuts, and lard only 15 to 20 percent as much. Their combined value has been only around 30 percent of the total return for the hog.

These values are totals for individual pork products classified into 4 groups: lean cuts, fat cuts, lard and edible by-products. Representative yields used for the various cuts total 72.84 pounds of all products per 100 pounds live weight of hog. Constant yields were used for the entire period

Footnotes for table 6. 1/ 8-10 lb. average. 2/ 12-14 lb. average. 3/ Clear bellies 8-12 lb. average. 4/ Regular, D.S. 1905-1951, D.S. Jowl butt 1952-53. 5/ Tierce or carton. 6/ Combined in proportion to their respective yields from live hog. 7/ 35.05 lbs. loins, hams, Boston butts, picnics, spareribs and lean trimmings. 8/ 17.25 lbs. bellies, plates and jowls. 9/ 72.84 lbs. Includes 15 lbs. lard and 5.54 lb. minor pork products. 10/ Choice 200-220 lbs. 11/ Jan.-May average.
Compiled from Market News, Livestock Branch, PMA.

covered. In this regard, probably the only major changes in yields over the years has been in the trimming of fat from the lean cuts and in the rendering of excessively fatty cuts into lard. The yields used allow for converting all fat backs into lard. Prices for the tables and charts are Chicago wholesale prices for pork products, fresh basis, for all except plates and jowls which are dry salted.

So far, producers have modified only slightly their methods of raising and marketing hogs in response to the increasing consumer demand for lean pork. Hogs are marketed at heavier weights now than years ago--a trend that of itself would increase the proportionate supply of fat pork. Weights of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection averaged 225 pounds in 1921-25, but were up to 247 pounds in 1948-52. There doubtless has been a trend away from the very chunkiest, fattest hog type that was popular several decades ago, and new meat-type breeds and leaner strains have been developed. But these changes in type of hog scarcely more than offset the heavier weights at which hogs are sold.

There are two leading ways of adjusting to the changed relative demand for lean versus fat pork. The first is to increase the market for pork fats--either domestic or foreign. And the second is to produce more lean and less fat in the hog carcass. Neither of these holds a certain answer to this problem unless some striking changes are made.

Both private agencies and the Department of Agriculture have extensive research programs attempting to extend the profitable use of animal fats. Some are designed to recapture old markets that have been lost to other sources. Projects to improve the quality, flavor and keeping qualities of lard are of this nature. Some research is pointed toward developing new uses such as the addition of fats to animal feeds or their use in plastics. How much potential there is for new or expanded outlets is partly a technological question the answer to which cannot be foreseen.

Producing more lean and less fat in the hog carcass is a definite possibility, as has been demonstrated repeatedly. Retarding such a change are (1) the big supply of corn, basically a fat-producing feed; (2) custom and habit in hog breeders; and (3) the absence of a price differential for meat type hogs.

Studies have been under way for a number of years to determine a way of marketing hogs on a quality-differential basis. Hogs are usually priced and rated by weight groups rather than degree of finish or cut-out value. That is, all 200-220 pound hogs will usually sell at a given market on a given day for about the same price. For the bulk of hogs market weight and finish are closely interrelated, but a number of individual hogs in a given weight group will produce excessively fat carcasses and others will produce leaner ones. Federal grades for live hogs have been set up to provide a better method for determining the value more accurately but they are not yet generally in use. Apparently most packers feel that the cost of sorting and grading hogs more than offsets any advantages and that total returns to farmers are in line with the value of the products produced. Such a procedure, while it may

"average out" for hog raisers as a group, fails to reimburse the producer of meat type hogs in line with their superior value as meat. It does not reward him for going to the trouble to raise and market a meat type hog.

Another marketing method designed to give the producer the encouragement he needs to raise leaner type hogs is carcass grading, whereby the producer is paid on the basis of the weight and grade of the carcasses when his hogs are slaughtered. Such a system involves changes in established procedures and customs in marketing and causes some delay in final payment to the producer. This method is being offered by some packers.

Farmers are not likely to shift to producing meatier hogs in any substantial numbers, however, unless they receive a commensurate price incentive at the market place. Closely allied to this problem is the cost of production for meat type versus lard type hogs. Higher costs for meatier hogs would inhibit the changeover, lower costs would favor it.

By producing leaner hogs the hog farmer would be meeting consumers' wishes. Resources would be utilized to produce the most desirable product. It is a function of the pricing system to direct the efforts of producers in the direction of utility or usefulness of their products. Unless it is allowed to do that it is not carrying out its proper function.

Under a system of paying a differential price for meat type hogs, those producers who raise and market hogs of that type would receive an enhanced income. If the change to meaty hogs were more nearly universal, some economic gain would accrue to the entire industry from replacing low-priced fat with higher-priced lean. However, as more lean and less fat were produced the wide price differential between the two would be narrowed somewhat. The lower price for lean would at least partially offset the bigger quantity to be sold. Dollar income to the industry as a whole would not be increased enough to be the sole or main reason for changing the kind of hog produced. The justification is rather in the factors already named, fitting production to the expressed preferences of consumers, rewarding the producer who does so, and thereby making best use of the corn from 30 to 35 million crop acres that annually is fed to hogs.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Meat Production and Consumption

Table 8 presents complete summary data on meat production and consumption since 1899. Data for consumption per person have been revised slightly for all years since 1909 because of a change in the population series. The new estimates of population include adjusments to compensate for underenumeration of all the population. Previously, only the underenumeration of children under 5 had been corrected for.

(Concluded on page 25.)

Table 8.- Meat production and consumption from total United States slaughter, 1899 to date 1/

Year	Beef			Veal			Lamb and mutton			Pork (excluding lard)			All meats			Lard			Population July 1 3/
	Production	Consumption		Production	Consumption		Production	Consumption		Production	Consumption		Production	Consumption		Production	Consumption 2/		
		Total	Per capita		Total	Per capita		Total	Per capita		Total	Per capita		Total	Per capita		Total	Per capita	
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Lb.	Mil.
1899	5,522	5,029	67.2	387	387	5.2	487	486	6.5	6,310	5,371	71.8	12,706	11,273	150.7	1,679	954	12.8	74.8
1900	5,628	5,104	67.1	397	397	5.2	493	492	6.5	6,329	5,476	71.9	12,847	11,469	150.7	1,653	1,002	13.2	76.1
1901	5,814	5,266	67.9	422	422	5.4	548	548	7.0	6,357	5,493	70.8	13,141	11,729	151.1	1,650	997	12.8	77.6
1902	5,649	5,148	65.0	476	476	6.0	564	560	7.1	5,936	5,288	66.7	12,625	11,472	144.8	1,493	956	12.1	79.2
1903	6,240	5,711	70.9	492	492	6.1	563	560	6.9	6,067	5,498	68.2	13,362	12,261	152.1	1,529	952	11.8	80.6
1904	6,176	5,719	69.6	491	491	6.0	538	537	6.5	6,387	5,803	70.6	13,592	12,550	152.7	1,638	1,031	12.5	82.2
1905	6,504	5,973	71.3	556	556	6.6	530	529	6.3	6,629	5,945	71.0	14,219	13,003	155.2	1,742	991	11.8	83.8
1906	6,537	6,087	71.3	598	598	7.0	543	542	6.3	6,793	6,065	71.0	14,471	13,292	155.6	1,735	1,002	11.7	85.4
1907	6,544	6,141	70.6	626	626	7.2	553	551	6.3	7,059	6,443	74.1	14,782	13,761	158.2	1,790	1,146	13.2	87.0
1908	6,662	6,393	72.1	637	637	7.2	559	557	6.3	7,535	6,898	77.7	15,393	14,485	163.3	1,911	1,277	14.4	88.7
1909	6,915	6,713	73.1	660	660	7.2	608	606	6.6	6,557	6,065	66.1	14,740	14,044	153.0	1,628	1,127	12.3	91.8
1910	6,647	6,508	69.5	667	667	7.1	597	596	6.4	6,087	5,756	61.4	13,998	13,527	144.4	1,553	1,156	12.3	93.7
1911	6,549	6,426	67.5	666	666	7.0	693	690	7.2	6,961	6,482	68.1	14,869	14,264	149.8	1,747	1,138	12.0	95.2
1912	6,234	6,153	63.6	662	662	6.9	735	729	7.6	6,822	6,357	65.7	14,453	13,901	143.8	1,658	1,102	11.4	96.7
1913	6,182	6,157	62.5	608	609	6.2	706	701	7.1	6,979	6,501	65.9	14,475	13,968	141.7	1,653	1,073	10.9	98.6
1914	6,017	6,144	61.1	569	572	5.7	693	708	7.1	6,824	6,453	64.2	14,103	13,877	138.1	1,554	1,090	10.8	100.5
1915	6,075	5,668	55.6	590	591	5.8	605	612	6.0	7,616	6,690	65.6	14,886	13,561	133.0	1,689	1,198	11.7	102.0
1916	6,460	6,003	58.1	655	656	6.3	585	595	5.7	8,207	7,037	68.1	15,907	14,291	138.2	1,706	1,228	11.9	103.4
1917	7,239	6,687	63.7	744	745	7.1	463	463	4.4	7,055	6,093	58.1	15,501	13,988	133.3	1,451	1,091	10.4	104.9
1918	7,726	7,167	67.6	760	761	7.2	506	499	4.7	8,349	6,384	60.2	17,341	14,811	139.7	1,899	1,291	12.2	106.0
1919	6,756	6,462	60.7	819	824	7.8	590	598	5.6	8,477	6,712	63.0	16,642	14,596	137.1	1,920	1,174	11.0	106.5
1920	6,306	6,293	58.3	842	852	7.9	538	578	5.4	7,648	6,766	62.6	15,334	14,489	134.2	1,958	1,319	12.2	108.0
1921	6,022	6,024	54.7	820	824	7.5	639	662	6.0	7,697	7,029	63.9	15,178	14,539	132.1	2,108	1,217	11.1	110.1
1922	6,588	6,503	58.3	852	858	7.7	553	565	5.1	8,145	7,236	64.8	16,138	15,162	135.9	2,302	1,503	13.5	111.6
1923	6,721	6,671	58.8	916	919	8.1	588	592	5.2	9,483	8,310	73.2	17,708	16,492	145.3	2,718	1,643	14.5	113.5
1924	6,877	6,786	58.7	972	977	8.4	597	596	5.2	9,149	8,451	73.0	17,595	16,810	145.3	2,660	1,663	14.4	115.7
1925	6,878	6,888	58.6	989	993	8.5	603	605	5.1	8,128	7,734	65.8	16,598	16,220	138.0	2,153	1,453	12.4	117.5
1926	7,089	7,074	59.4	955	959	8.0	639	637	5.4	7,966	7,529	63.3	16,649	16,199	136.1	2,206	1,465	12.3	119.0
1927	6,395	6,484	53.7	867	875	7.3	629	631	5.2	8,430	8,058	66.8	16,321	16,048	133.0	2,263	1,541	12.8	120.7
1928	5,771	5,872	48.1	773	781	6.4	663	662	5.4	9,041	8,545	69.9	16,248	15,860	129.8	2,458	1,626	13.3	122.2
1929	5,871	6,048	49.0	761	766	6.2	682	686	5.5	8,833	8,484	68.7	16,147	15,984	129.4	2,461	1,598	12.9	123.5
1930	5,917	6,021	48.2	792	794	6.4	825	824	6.6	8,482	8,216	66.1	16,016	15,885	127.3	2,227	1,584	12.7	124.8
1931	6,009	6,025	47.9	823	824	6.6	885	886	7.0	8,739	8,477	67.4	16,456	16,212	128.9	2,307	1,706	13.6	125.8
1932	5,789	5,830	46.0	822	822	6.5	884	882	7.0	8,923	8,825	69.7	16,418	16,359	129.2	2,380	1,814	14.3	126.6
1933 4/	6,440	6,469	50.8	891	891	7.0	852	849	6.7	9,234	8,885	69.8	17,417	17,094	134.3	2,475	1,772	13.9	127.3
1934 4/	8,345	8,066	63.0	1,246	1,182	9.2	851	798	6.2	8,397	8,141	63.6	18,839	18,187	142.0	2,091	1,648	12.9	128.1
1935 4/	6,608	6,770	52.5	1,023	1,087	8.4	877	923	7.2	5,919	6,155	47.7	14,427	14,935	115.8	1,276	1,226	9.5	129.0
1936 4/	7,358	7,742	59.7	1,075	1,075	8.3	854	849	6.5	7,474	7,061	54.4	16,761	16,727	128.9	1,679	1,449	11.2	129.8
1937	6,798	7,107	54.4	1,108	1,108	8.5	852	857	6.6	6,951	7,185	55.0	15,709	16,257	124.5	1,431	1,361	10.4	130.6
1938	6,908	7,058	53.6	994	994	7.6	897	894	6.8	7,680	7,554	57.4	16,479	16,500	125.4	1,728	1,440	10.9	131.6
1939	7,011	7,159	53.9	991	991	7.5	872	869	6.5	8,660	8,474	63.9	17,534	17,493	131.8	2,037	1,671	12.6	132.7
1940	7,175	7,257	54.2	981	981	7.3	876	873	6.5	10,044	9,701	72.4	19,076	18,812	140.4	2,288	1,924	14.4	134.0
1941	8,082	8,021	60.0	1,036	1,005	7.5	923	901	6.7	9,528	9,007	67.4	19,569	18,934	141.6	2,228	1,879	14.1	133.7
1942	8,843	8,049	60.4	1,151	1,084	8.1	1,042	950	7.1	10,876	8,368	62.8	21,912	18,451	138.4	2,401	1,760	13.2	133.3
1943	8,571	6,860	52.5	1,167	1,059	8.1	1,104	830	6.4	13,640	10,172	77.9	24,482	18,921	144.9	2,865	1,819	13.9	130.6
1944	9,112	7,146	54.9	1,738	1,594	12.2	1,024	857	6.6	13,304	10,230	78.5	25,178	19,827	152.2	3,054	1,824	14.0	130.3
1945	10,276	7,665	58.6	1,664	1,536	11.7	1,054	943	7.2	10,697	8,598	65.7	23,691	18,742	143.2	2,066	1,622	12.4	130.9
1946	9,373	8,533	60.8	1,443	1,382	9.8	968	923	6.6	11,150	10,506	74.9	22,934	21,344	152.1	2,136	1,667	11.9	140.3
1947	10,432	9,916	68.6	1,605	1,545	10.7	799	762	5.2	10,502	9,919	68.6	23,338	22,142	153.1	2,402	1,904	13.2	144.6
1948	9,075	9,153	62.2	1,423	1,384	9.4	747	733	5.0	10,055	9,840	66.8	21,300	21,110	143.4	2,321	1,972	13.4	147.2
1949	9,439	9,420	63.0	1,334	1,311	8.8	603	606	4.0	10,286	9,993	66.8	21,662	21,330	142.6	2,534	1,892	12.6	149.6
1950	9,538	9,517	62.5	1,230	1,206	7.9	597	596	3.9	10,714	10,361	68.1	22,079	21,680	142.4	2,631	2,097	13.8	152.3
1951	8,843	8,462	55.2	1,061	1,005	6.6	521	517	3.4	11,483	10,818	70.6	21,908	20,802	135.8	2,864	2,104	13.7	153.2
1952	9,667	9,518	61.2	1,173	1,103	7.1	648	640	4.1	11,547	11,132	71.6	23,035	22,393	144.0	2,886	2,083	13.4	155.5

1/ Beginning 1940, data exclude meat produced in Hawaii and Virgin Islands. Beginning 1941, consumption is civilian only. Units are carcass weight equivalent; exclude edible offals.

2/ Computed from unrounded numbers. Includes lard entering into manufactured products. Excludes military use.

3/ Beginning 1909, adjusted for underenumeration.

4/ Includes production and consumption from Government emergency programs, data for which can be found in The Livestock and Meat Situation for February, 1949, page 23. Revises slightly table 9 of Jan.-Feb. 1953 Livestock and Meat Situation.

Table 9.- Price per 100 pounds received by farmers for meat animals by classes, index numbers of prices received for meat animals, and hog-corn price ratio, United States, by months 1952-53

Commodity and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Weighted average
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beef cattle													
1952	27.20	27.50	27.50	27.70	27.80	26.20	25.60	24.60	23.20	21.40	20.30	19.00	24.30
1953	19.70	18.80	17.80	17.30	17.50	16.00							
Veal calves													
1952	30.90	31.50	30.70	30.70	30.50	29.60	27.80	26.20	24.30	21.80	21.50	20.50	25.80
1953	23.40	23.20	20.60	19.60	19.80	17.00							
Hogs													
1952	17.30	17.10	16.60	16.40	19.20	19.40	19.70	20.60	19.00	18.50	16.60	16.10	17.80
1953	17.80	19.30	20.20	20.70	23.10	22.70							
Sheep													
1952	13.40	13.30	13.20	13.50	12.80	11.30	9.79	9.42	8.83	7.60	7.16	7.36	10.10
1953	8.40	8.55	8.69	8.50	8.18	6.48							
Lambs													
1952	28.20	26.80	25.60	26.60	26.10	25.60	25.60	25.50	24.00	22.10	20.80	19.50	24.30
1953	20.30	20.40	20.30	20.80	22.40	22.00							
Index numbers of prices received for meat animals Jan. 1910 - Dec. 1914 = 100													
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1952	376	377	372	372	394	380	376	372	349	328	310	291	2/358
1953	303	305	301	299	317	299							
Hog-Corn Ratio													
United States 1/:													
1952	10.3	10.4	10.1	9.8	11.3	11.2	11.4	11.9	11.1	12.1	11.4	10.7	2/11.0
1953	12.0	13.5	13.8	14.2	15.5	15.5							
Chicago													
1952	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.3	11.0	11.2	12.1	12.1	11.5	11.9	10.8	10.4	2/10.7
1953	11.4	12.7	13.3	14.2	15.2								

1/ United States, based on prices received by farmers for all hogs. 2/ Unweighted average.

Revises and brings to date table A-19 of this Situation for Jan.-Feb. 1953.

Table 10.- Edible offals: Supply and distribution, United States, by calendar years, 1934 to date

Year	Supply				Distribution				
	Total production 1/	Beginning commercial stocks 2/	Imports	Total supply	Ending stocks 2/	Commercial exports and shipments 3/	Domestic disappearance		
							Military	Civilian	Civilian per capita 4/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1934	1,298	65	5/	1,363	126	28	---	1,209	9.4
1935	994	126	T	1,121	74	17	---	1,030	8.0
1936	1,152	74	5/	1,226	132	18	---	1,076	8.3
1937	1,083	132	T	1,216	67	14	---	1,135	8.7
1938	1,130	67	5/	1,197	72	19	---	1,106	8.4
1939	1,200	72	T	1,273	95	19	---	1,159	8.7
1940	1,303	95	2	1,400	102	11	---	1,287	9.6
1941	1,338	102	4	1,444	105	8	---	1,331	10.0
1942	1,498	105	2	1,605	86	11	5/	1,508	11.3
1943	1,669	86	5/	1,755	137	22	2	1,594	12.2
1944	1,740	6/97	5/	1,837	37	68	2	1,730	13.3
1945	1,637	37	5/	1,674	41	3	3	1,627	12.4
1946	1,579	41	5/	1,620	56	1	5/	1,563	11.1
1947	1,615	56	5/	1,671	71	9	5/	1,591	11.0
1948	1,472	71	5	1,548	58	1	5/	1,489	10.1
1949	1,495	58	10	1,563	62	2	5/	1,499	10.0
1950	1,519	62	9	1,590	59	3	5/	1,528	10.0
1951	1,502	59	8	1,569	64	6	5/	1,499	9.8
1952	1,580	64	9	1,653	69	5	5/	1,579	10.3

1/ Production of offals as percent of dressed weight of meat production, including farm: Beef 6.7, veal 10.7, lamb and mutton 5.1, pork excluding lard 6.7. 2/ Trimmings included prior to July 1, 1944; excluded beginning that date. 3/ Exports only for 1952, as shipment data not reported. 4/ Calculated from number of persons eating out of civilian supplies July 1 adjusted for underenumeration. 5/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 6/ Adjusted by 40 million pounds as estimated allowance for trimmings, which were reported in stocks prior to July 1, 1944.

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-May av.		1952	1953		
		1952	1953	May	Apr.	May	June
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	36.97	26.68	36.20	23.58	23.51	
Choice	do.	34.57	23.87	34.17	21.99	22.36	
Good	do.	31.74	21.63	31.62	20.37	20.95	
Commercial	do.	28.74	19.52	28.64	18.68	19.07	
Utility	do.	26.13	17.21	26.20	16.52	17.06	
All grades	do.	33.62	22.95	33.29	21.50	21.83	
Omaha, all grades	do.	32.10	21.33	31.79	20.35	20.98	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	31.92	21.27	32.01	20.23	20.94	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	24.52	15.48	25.42	15.34	15.12	
Utility	do.	22.29	14.28	23.17	14.11	13.57	
Canner and Cutter	do.	19.40	12.62	20.16	12.39	11.44	
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	37.38	29.03	37.24	26.28	26.25	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	31.72	20.71	32.06	19.91	19.80	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	27.54	18.22	27.80	17.30	17.50	16.00
Veal calves	do.	30.86	20.98	30.50	19.60	19.80	17.00
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	17.59	20.43	20.26	21.06	22.23	
180-200 pounds	do.	18.39	21.34	21.06	22.18	24.46	
200-220 pounds	do.	18.46	21.40	21.21	22.32	24.58	
220-240 pounds	do.	18.23	21.31	20.95	22.32	24.58	
240-270 pounds	do.	17.78	21.10	20.42	22.28	24.48	
270-300 pounds	do.	17.30	20.72	19.81	21.97	24.15	
All weights	do.	17.79	21.08	20.21	22.29	24.32	
Eight markets 3/	do.	17.61	20.92	20.21	22.11	24.01	
Sows, Chicago	do.	15.67	18.72	17.78	20.24	21.68	
Price received by farmers	do.	17.32	20.22	19.20	20.70	23.10	22.70
Hog-corn price ratio 4/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	9.7	13.4	11.0	14.2	15.2	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	10.4	13.8	11.3	14.2	15.5	15.5
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	14.20	8.98	12.78	9.72	6.60	
Price received by farmers	do.	13.24	8.46	12.80	8.50	8.18	6.48
Lambs							
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	28.80	23.57	30.72	24.12	25.85	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	26.66	-	26.30	-	-	
Price received by farmers	do.	26.66	20.84	26.10	20.80	22.40	22.00
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		378	305	394	299	317	299
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	55.18	39.12	54.88	36.46	37.36	
Lamb carcass, Choice, 30-40 pounds	do.	55.98	44.90	59.60	45.36	49.48	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	19.77	22.31	21.54	23.03	24.91	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	27.14	30.62	28.57	31.61	34.19	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	23.08	25.71	24.87	26.49	28.39	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.36	36.04	34.87	37.14	39.80	
Index number meat prices (BLS) Wholesale (1947-49=100)		112.9	93.5	114.3	88.2	92.7	

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, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

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

Item	Unit	Jan.-May		1952	1953		
		1952	1953	May	April	May	June
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		150	146	135	145	134	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	793	723	190	161	160	
Sheep and lambs	do.	680	600	149	99	131	
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	4,956	6,499	1,009	1,371	1,345	
Calves	do.	1,915	2,454	388	541	504	
Sheep and lambs	do.	4,884	5,681	939	1,100	1,015	
Hogs	do.	28,153	23,746	4,482	4,325	3,643	
Percentage sows	Percent	6	6	9	6	8	
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	1,009	995	1,003	988	984	
Calves	do.	189	203	202	197	229	
Sheep and lambs	do.	103	101	100	100	96	
Hogs	do.	242	237	242	233	244	
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	564	558	563	560	558	
Veal, per head	do.	108	114	117	112	129	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	48	48	48	46	
Pork, per head 2/	do.	133	134	133	132	138	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	55	58	55	57	57	
Lard, per head	do.	37	35	37	34	35	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	15	14	14	
Total production	Million pounds						
Beef		2,779	3,615	565	766	748	
Veal	do.	205	278	45	60	65	
Lamb and mutton	do.	239	272	45	52	47	
Pork 2/	do.	3,740	3,166	594	570	502	
Lard	do.	1,040	831	166	146	128	
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000 head						
Cattle		6,794	8,738	1,378	1,852	1,808	
Calves	do.	3,353	4,166	656	916	849	
Sheep and lambs	do.	5,294	6,243	1,027	1,225	1,136	
Hogs	do.	34,904	29,840	5,618	5,454	4,562	
Total production	Million pounds						
Beef		3,661	4,665	742	991	963	
Veal	do.	359	477	77	102	107	
Lamb and mutton	do.	256	297	49	58	52	
Pork 2/	do.	4,574	3,934	736	714	621	
Lard	do.	1,210	979	195	174	151	
Cold storage stocks first of month							
Beef	do.			241	235	218	194
Veal	do.			12	21	17	16
Lamb and mutton	do.			13	20	17	16
Pork	do.			824	569	538	460
Total meat and meat products 4/	do.			1,231	990	929	817

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.

Edible Offals

Data on meat production do not include the quantities of liver, heart, head meat and other edible offals that are produced each year. Table 9 brings forward estimates of production and distribution of these products. An explanation of the nature and sources of the data may be found in this Situation for May 1949.

Revisions in prices received by farmers for meat animals in 1952 and related data are contained in table 10.

Revisions in estimates of commercial meat production by months and of distribution by quarters for 1952 are omitted because of lack of space. Data will be supplied on request to the editor of this Situation.

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