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JAN. 6, A. M.

The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-69····DEC. 1953-JAN. 1954

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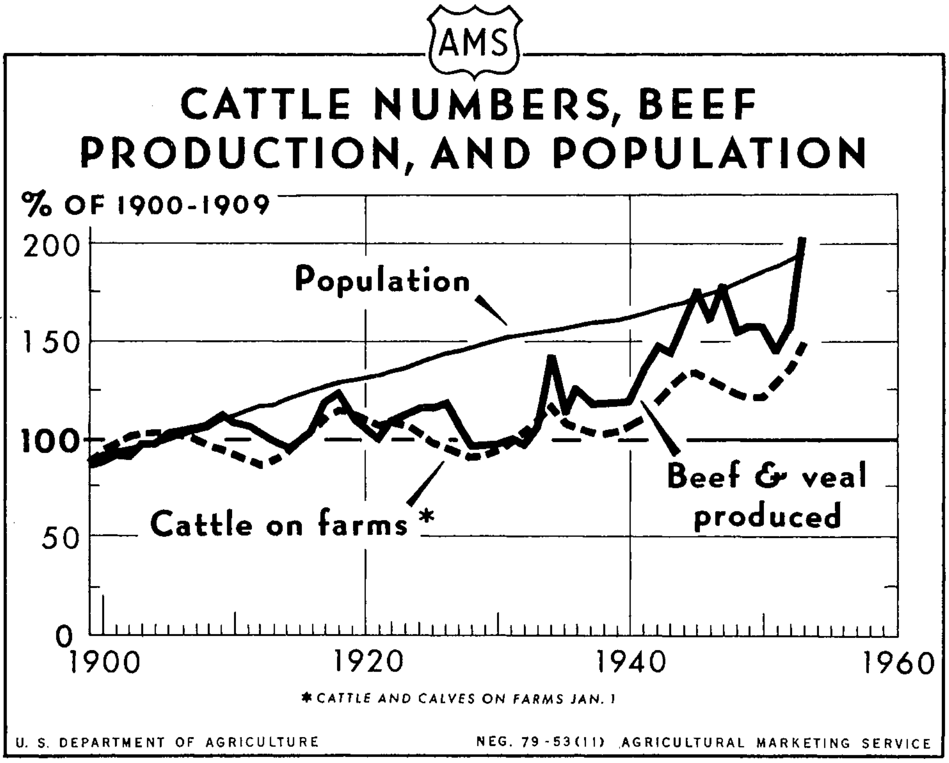
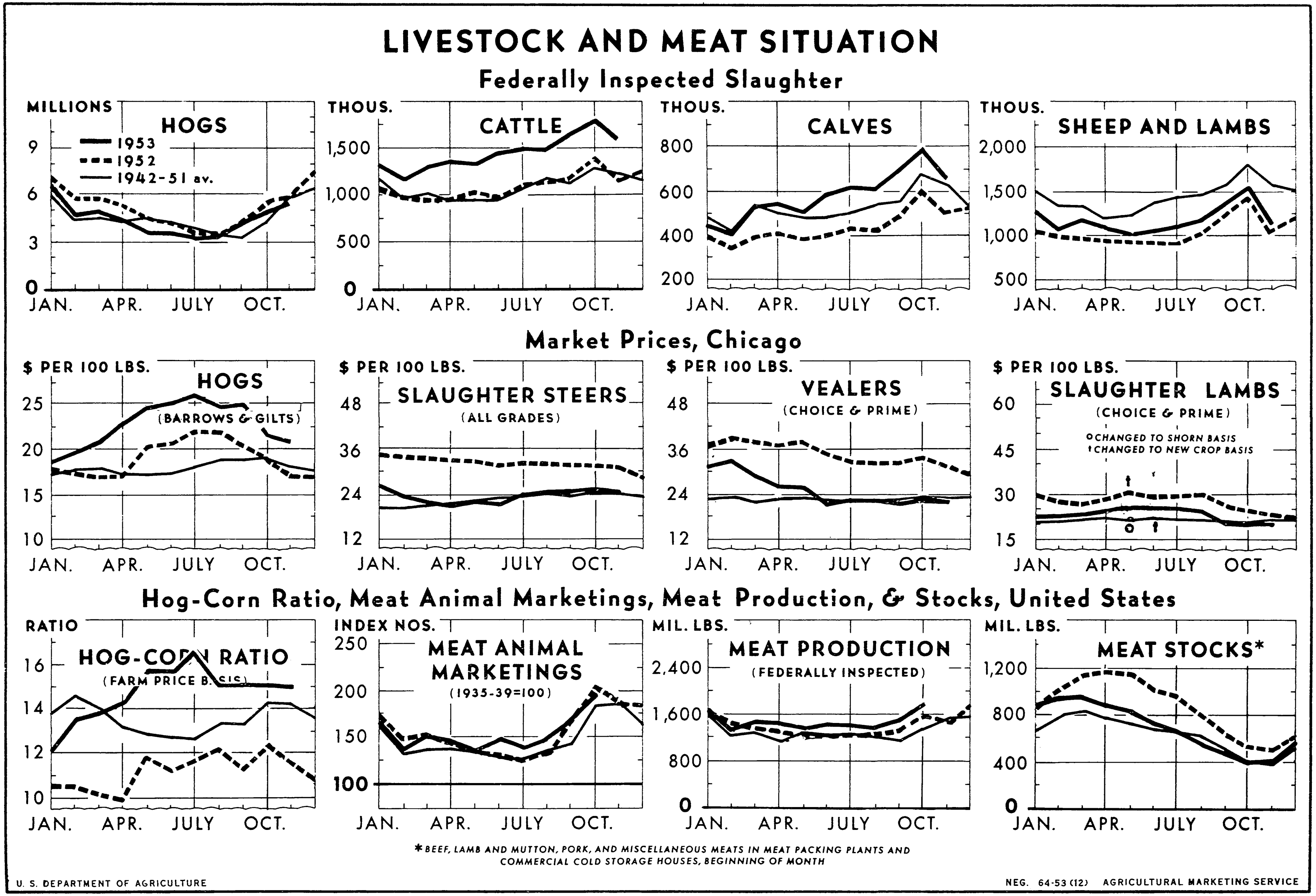


Beef and veal output lagged behind population growth until this past year. But with a sharp 28 percent increase in 1953 it caught up with and surpassed the population trend, exceeding even the rather high 1900-09 ratio to population. Beef consumption per person for the year, at 75 pounds, was the highest in 54 years of record.

Beef output in 1954 will not continue as high as in 1953 but will be larger than in other years. So long as consumers' incomes stay high the prospective output will allow a modest improvement in cattle prices but no return to 1951-52 levels.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION
Federally Inspected Slaughter
MILLIONS
HOGS
1953
1952
1942-51 av.
9
6
3
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
CATTLE
1,500
1,000
500
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
CALVES
800
600
400
200
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
THOUS.
SHEEP AND LAMBS
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
Market Prices, Chicago
$ PER 100 LBS.
HOGS
(BARROWS & GILTS)
25
20
15
10
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER STEERS
(ALL GRADES)
48
36
24
12
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
VEALERS
(CHOICE & PRIME)
48
36
24
12
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
$ PER 100 LBS.
SLAUGHTER LAMBS
(CHOICE & PRIME)
o CHANGED TO SHORN BASIS
† CHANGED TO NEW CROP BASIS
60
45
30
15
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
Hog-Corn Ratio, Meat Animal Marketings, Meat Production, & Stocks, United States
RATIO
HOG-CORN RATIO
(FARM PRICE BASIS)
16
14
12
10
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
INDEX NOS.
MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS
(1935-39=100)
250
200
150
100
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
MIL. LBS.
MEAT PRODUCTION
(FEDERALLY INSPECTED)
2,400
1,600
800
0
JAN. APR. JULY OCT.
MIL. LBS.
MEAT STOCKS*
1,200
800
400
0
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. 64-53 (12) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, December 28, 1953

SUMMARY

Production of meat this winter is expected to be moderately smaller than last winter. Fewer cattle and lambs are on feed and hog slaughter will be down. The number of hogs still on farms from the spring pig crop is less than usual because the crop was small and marketings were early. Also, the supply of hogs for mid-winter slaughter from the summer pig crop will be below last year as the number of pigs raised last summer was down from a year earlier. In addition, stocks of meat in cold storage are smaller than a year ago.

Prices of meat animals will probably reflect the reduced supplies of meat. Prices of finished cattle of the higher grades seem likely at least to hold their present level this winter. Their seasonal decline is not likely to begin until later than usual this year--perhaps in the spring. Last winter, fed cattle prices declined sharply beginning in early January. Prices of lambs this winter are expected to hold up or increase and may at times exceed the prices of last winter. Prices of hogs in late December were $4.00 per 100 pounds above their mid-November low and were $6.00 higher than at the same time last year. Hog prices will likely retain a substantial increase over last winter.

The decline in meat output will be temporary. The year's total production will again be high in 1954. Beef output for 1954 is expected to recede from the 1953 record but will be large. Cattle numbers on farms January 1, 1954 probably were only a little below the 93.7 million of January 1953, indicating a continued large capacity for annual beef production. Hog production is on the increase. Though 9 percent fewer pigs were saved this past fall than in the previous fall, farmers' intentions December 1 were for a 6 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow spring pigs. Hog slaughter will probably begin to exceed a year earlier sometime after mid-year.

For 1954 as a whole, the prospect is for total meat production to be a little below 1953 but larger than in any other recent year. The reduction from 1953 is expected to be confined to the early months. In the second half, output will probably equal that of the past year.

Prices of cattle, assuming continued high consumer demand for meat and no marked liquidation of herds, may show a modest improvement in 1954 over 1953. Prices of hogs will probably be somewhat lower next fall than the favorable prices of this fall.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Meat Output this Winter to be Below Last Winter

Total production of red meat this winter is expected to be no larger than last winter and probably will be moderately smaller. Prospects indicate less fed beef and only a little more of all beef, less lamb, and less pork than a year ago.

In each month from July to November, shipments of feeder cattle into the Corn Belt were below a year earlier. Only in December did shipments begin to exceed those of the previous year. The total reduction for July-November was 20 percent. The number of cattle on feed January 1, 1954 probably was not down by so great a percentage because larger numbers of locally produced feeders going into feedlots helped to hold up the total number fed. And the number on feed this January 1 was large compared with any other January number except the record of last year. But the supply of fed cattle for slaughter this winter will nevertheless show a reduction from last winter. (The report of cattle on feed January 1, 1954 will be released January 13).

Financial losses of feeders last season were largely responsible for the fewer cattle being placed on feed this past fall. However, by late fall feeders appeared to regain confidence in the outlook for profits in feeding. At the same time demand revived for cattle to go on the improved wheat pastures and shipments of feeder and stocker cattle in December began to exceed the comparable 1952 rate. Their prices moved up to $2.00 or more per 100 pounds above their October lows.

Slaughter of Non-fed Cattle to be Rather Large

Although fewer fed cattle will be slaughtered this winter, slaughter of all other cattle may be larger than last winter. Total cattle slaughter --fed and non-fed combined--will likely be up a little from a year ago.

Much of the increase in non-fed cattle slaughter will be in cows. Slaughter of cows was still relatively small last winter and spring, averaging only 28 percent above the preceding year from January to July. But slaughter of cows during the fall increased faster than usual and from July to November averaged 43 percent above a year earlier. (See table 1,) Continuing at a higher rate, cow slaughter this winter is expected to be somewhat greater than last winter.

Slaughter of grass steers and heifers could be up a bit from last winter, depending on how many producers in areas with adequate feed chose to hold for the winter market rather than sell at low prices of last fall.

Calf slaughter increased considerably in 1953. It will probably stay fairly large.

Table 1.- Cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, by class, by months, 1951, 1952 and 1953 1/

Month	Steers 1953	Steers 1952	Steers 1951	Heifers 1953	Heifers 1952	Heifers 1951	Cows 1953	Cows 1952	Cows 1951
	Number								
	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
June	890	560	483	135	87	85	371	271	183
July	849	627	508	165	109	97	431	314	267
Aug.	774	614	511	178	110	101	492	364	387
Sept.	781	621	441	189	123	86	618	417	377
Oct.	752	660	446	219	145	103	755	525	527
Nov.	693	516	479	183	131	98	690	462	502
Dec.		635	519		143	99		437	350
	Percentage of total cattle slaughtered								
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
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
June	61.4	58.0	61.4	9.3	9.0	10.8	25.6	28.1	23.3
July	56.7	57.0	55.2	11.0	9.9	10.5	28.8	28.5	29.0
Aug.	51.8	54.1	48.0	11.9	9.7	9.5	32.9	32.1	36.4
Sept.	47.5	51.1	46.1	11.5	10.1	9.0	37.6	34.3	39.4
Oct.	42.2	47.5	39.1	12.3	10.4	9.0	42.4	37.8	46.2
Nov.	43.1	44.8	42.7	11.4	11.4	8.7	42.9	40.1	44.7
Dec.		50.7	52.0		11.4	9.9		34.9	35.1

1/ Number of bulls and stags not shown.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division, AMS.

Lamb Feeding Also Less than Last Year

Fewer lambs are being fed this winter than last. Unsatisfactory profits the last two feeding seasons and poor prospects for wheat pastures early in the fall were reasons for reduced feeding. As pastures improved, shipments of lambs to pasture areas were speeded but not enough to lift the total volume of feeding to last winter's scale.

Spring Pigs Marketed Early; Small Carryover into 1954

Farmers apparently marketed their spring pigs at younger age in 1953 than ever before. Hogs were sold as soon as they reached light slaughter weights which they attained unusually early. All hogs (including sows) slaughtered under Federal inspection averaged only 225 pounds in September, the lightest average for the month since 1936.

That marketings were earlier in 1953 than in 1952, also an early marketing year, may be seen from data on slaughter by months. Although the total spring pig crop was 11 percent smaller than the 1952 spring crop, the number of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection from August through November was within 6 percent of last year. But in December, weekly slaughter dropped to around 30 percent below the large slaughter of December 1952.

With many spring pigs already slaughtered, considerably fewer remained for shipment after January 1. On December 1 the number of hogs over 6 months old on farms was reported to be nearly a fifth smaller than the previous December. For barrows and gilts alone the reduction was probably more than one-fifth. January numbers probably were down as much.

Meat Stocks Lowest in 3 Years

Stocks of meat in cold storage at the beginning of 1954 were not large. On December 1, holdings of beef were 11 percent below the same date of 1952 and those of pork were off 17 percent. Stocks of all meat, at 601 million pounds, were 13 percent below a year earlier and the smallest for the date since December, 1950.

A smaller supply of meat for consumption this winter would reverse the trend of 1953, when supplies and consumption of beef, veal, lamb and total red meat increased a great deal. (See table 2.)

Lower Meat Output to Give Support to Prices

Since total meat production will drop off, prices of meat animals are likely to show strength this winter. Prices of hogs will be in best position. In late December, they already had risen $4.00 per 100 pounds from their mid-November low and were $6.00 above prices at the end of 1952. Hog prices will probably retain an appreciably higher level than last winter.

Prices of fed cattle of top grades also will probably stay at late 1953 levels and might edge upward. Prices of lower grade cattle stand less chance of any sizable increase soon, inasmuch as slaughter of all kinds of unfinished or half-finished cattle will be relatively larger than that of highly finished cattle. Spreads between prices by grades will likely continue wide. However, as spring approaches the demand for cattle to go on grass will probably give benefit to prices of lower grade cattle.

Prices for lambs seem likely to make some seasonal increase and may at times equal or exceed those of last winter.

Table 2.- Meat consumption per person by quarter years, 1950 to date

Period	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork 1/	Total red meat
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1950					
Jan.-Mar.	15.5	1.9	1.0	18.2	36.6
Apr.-June	15.4	2.0	1.0	16.3	34.7
July-Sept.	16.0	2.1	1.0	14.8	33.9
Oct.-Dec.	15.6	1.9	.9	18.8	37.2
Year	62.5	7.9	3.9	68.1	142.4
1951					
Jan.-Mar.	14.4	1.6	.9	18.1	35.0
Apr.-June	13.1	1.5	.8	16.9	32.3
July-Sept.	14.2	1.8	.8	16.1	32.9
Oct.-Dec.	13.5	1.7	.9	19.5	35.6
Year	55.2	6.6	3.4	70.6	135.8
1952					
Jan.-Mar.	14.3	1.5	1.0	19.2	36.0
Apr.-June	14.5	1.5	1.0	16.9	33.9
July-Sept.	16.2	2.0	1.0	16.0	35.2
Oct.-Dec.	16.2	2.1	1.1	19.5	38.9
Year	61.2	7.1	4.1	71.6	144.0
1953					
Jan.-Mar.	17.5	1.8	1.2	17.9	38.4
Apr.-June	18.9	2.2	1.1	14.9	37.1
July-Sept.	20.1	2.7	1.1	13.8	37.8
Oct.-Dec.					2/
Year					2/

1/ Excluding lard.

2/ Total red meat consumption in the fourth quarter of 1953 was probably up a little from the same period of 1952 but by a smaller gain than registered for other quarters. Data for the fourth quarter, when available, will probably lift the 1953 total a little above the preliminary estimate of 151 pounds.

Winter Reduction in Meat Output
Temporary; 1954 Total to be High

The winter reduction in meat supplies will be temporary. Price strength resulting from it would probably prove unreliable as an indicator of general levels to be expected the next year or two.

The livestock industry has been built up to a big production capacity. Total meat output will probably continue fairly large. For 1954 it will be only moderately below 1953, and will be larger than in any other peacetime year. The reduction will be largely confined to the first half of the year; meat output in the second half promises to be fully as large as in the same period of 1953.

Production of beef in 1954 is likely to be only moderately smaller than the record output of 1953. The prospective small decrease will partly reflect the moderate reduction in cattle numbers on farms January 1, 1954 that is likely to be reported in the livestock numbers report to be released February 12. Cattle slaughter was extremely large in 1953. Starting upward in the fall of 1952, slaughter in every month of 1953 except January set a new high record for the month. Although the major factor causing the large slaughter was the big buildup in numbers on farms in previous years, drought in wide areas of the country added to the slaughter rate, particularly late in the year. Weekly slaughter of cattle under Federal inspection in November and up to the holidays in December continued close to the seasonal peak rate reached in October.

While inventory numbers of cattle and calves at the beginning of 1954 apparently were somewhat lower than a year earlier, no large scale liquidation is expected during the year. Only if caused by widespread severe drought or sharp business recession would a large reduction in cattle numbers be likely during 1954. The prospect is for production of beef the next year or two to stay at a level that would provide around 70 pounds consumption per person. This would be less than the 75 pounds consumed in 1953 but more than the 53 pounds average in the 1930's or the 60 pounds in the 1940's.

Production of lamb and mutton in 1954 will likely be smaller than in 1953. The 14 percent increase in the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1953 points to a small reduction in the number of sheep and lambs on farms January 1, 1954. This will probably be followed by a decrease in the number slaughtered in 1954.

The 1954 total production of pork is expected to be somewhat below 1953 production. However, a marked change will take place during the year. Production in early months will be considerably below a year earlier. After mid-year output will about equal that of 1953 and in ending months it will exceed a year earlier. These changes will result from the increase taking place in the number of hogs produced.

The fall pig crop of 1953, reported at 31.9 million pigs, was 9 percent smaller than the 1952 fall crop. Every region had a reduction. Regions outside the Corn Belt were down 15 percent on the average, while the Corn Belt reduced 6 percent. (See tables 3 and 4.)

Table 3.- Number of sows farrowing, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, United States, by regions, 1948 to date

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			
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	4,041	721	904	215	8,480
1953 1/	136	2,251	3,646	597	603	144	7,377
1954 2/	122	2,357	3,895	611	653	157	7,795
				Pigs saved			
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	26,994	4,601	5,846	1,336	56,270
1953 1/	942	15,534	24,955	3,910	3,947	949	50,237
1954 2/							52,000
				Pigs saved per litter			
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
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	6.55	6.55	6.59	6.81
1954 2/							6.65
				Fall Pig Crop			
				Sows farrowing			
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
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	1,991	2,237	610	879	189	6,032
1952	118	1,781	1,976	555	684	143	5,257
1953 1/	96	1,672	1,842	463	574	115	4,762
				Pigs saved			
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	14,874	3,552	5,998	1,076	39,404
1951	872	13,346	14,690	3,968	5,704	1,224	39,804
1952	818	11,972	13,252	3,559	4,420	940	34,961
1953 1/	661	11,290	12,310	3,076	3,788	757	31,882
				Pigs saved per litter			
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
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	6.71	6.41	6.46	6.56	6.65
1953 1/	6.91	6.75	6.68	6.65	6.60	6.58	6.70

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Number indicated to farrow from breeding intentions as of December 1, 1953. Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.

Table 4.- Number of sows farrowing and percentage distribution by months, fall season, United States, 1948 to date

Year	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
	Number of sows farrowing						
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand
1948	727	570	985	1,525	871	392	5,070
1949	731	618	1,172	1,760	901	386	5,568
1950	710	610	1,285	1,891	1,004	423	5,923
1951	819	673	1,350	1,827	987	376	6,032
1952	809	658	1,209	1,559	734	288	5,257
1953	685	626	1,199	1,321	647	284	4,762
	Percentage of total sows farrowing						
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1948	14.3	11.3	19.4	30.1	17.2	7.7	100.0
1949	13.1	11.1	21.1	31.6	16.2	6.9	100.0
1950	12.0	10.3	21.7	31.9	17.0	7.1	100.0
1951	13.6	11.1	22.4	30.3	16.4	6.2	100.0
1952	15.4	12.5	23.0	29.6	14.0	5.5	100.0
1953	14.4	13.1	25.2	27.7	13.6	6.0	100.0

Fall pigs are marketed from February to early August. Late in this period, possibly after mid-year, hog slaughter is likely to rise from below to above the corresponding 1953 slaughter rate.

Farmers' withholding of both gilts and sows for breeding will help to hold hog slaughter this winter and spring below a year earlier.

Hog production is now on the increase. Farmers reported December 1 that they intended to have 6 percent more sows farrow spring pigs this year than last. At an average size litter, the number of pigs would rise 4 percent to 52 million. All regions except the North Atlantic reported a prospective increase in spring farrowings. In the Corn Belt the increase is the same as the United States average--6 percent.

The 52 million spring pigs in prospect, while above last year's small crop, is less than any crop from 1949 to 1952. It is not a very large crop in relation to the consuming population.

Prices for Cattle May Average a Little Higher in 1954

The prospective leveling out and small decrease in beef output following 2 years of fast increase promises more stability in cattle prices in 1954. Prices will likely average no lower than in 1953 and may be higher. However, price gains will be modest. Prices will not return to their levels of 1951-52.

Cattle being fed this winter went into feedlots later and at lighter weights than last season. Consequently, following the rather firm market for top grade steers expected this winter, a delayed seasonal price decline may occur when these late placements are marketed in the spring. The prospects are good, however, that prices will not drop as low as last spring.

Prices for stock cattle to go on grass will probably rise seasonally in late winter and early spring. The spread between prices of top and low grades, which will be wide until that time, will then be narrowed considerably.

As the cow herd and the annual calf crop continue large, a big supply of grass cattle for feeding and slaughter will again be available in the fall. And prices may again be rather low relative to the price of top grade fed cattle. However, if prices of fed cattle prove fairly strong, as expected, and feeders realize average or better profits, demand for feeder cattle will be strengthened to some degree. Prices for feeder cattle and other grass cattle would be somewhat higher than this past fall. Particularly would there be fewer instances of severely depressed prices than were reported the past year.

Prices for Lambs also May Improve Slightly; Prices for Hogs to Decline in Fall

Prices for lambs, reflecting the moderate recovery in cattle prices, seem likely to average at least as high as in 1953 and may at times exceed 1953 prices.

Prices for hogs are expected to continue at close to present levels until late summer. At that time a seasonal decline will begin, and the reduction will likely be greater than usual because the rate of hog slaughter will have risen above the corresponding 1953 rate. Hog prices next fall will probably be lower than this past fall. However, since the increase in pigs saved will not be very large, price changes from 1953 will not be exceptionally great. Hog prices next fall are expected to remain favorable to producers.

Beef Purchases by USDA Total 250 Million Pounds

The Department of Agriculture halted buying beef for domestic distribution under Section 32 programs on December 16, advising processors to discontinue submitting bids until further notice. However, the Department will continue to buy beef for the Foreign Operations Administration whenever requests are received.

Total contracts for 1953, both Section 32 purchases and for export, were slightly less than 250 million pounds. About three-fourths was in the form of canned beef and gravy, as may be noted from the following summary data:

	Total 1953 contracts (pounds)
Canned beef and gravy (Utility grade or lower)	183,387,000
Hamburger (Commercial grade or better)	47,349,000
Carcass beef, 3-way (Good grade)	1,247,000
Carcass beef, frozen (Utility grade or better)	17,486,000
Total	249,469,000

Of the total contracts, about 30,000,000 pounds are for shipment abroad under financing by the Foreign Operations Administration and 220,000,000 pounds were purchased under Section 32 funds with delivery to the school lunch program and other eligible institutional outlets.

The beef purchases diverted from normal channels the equivalent of about 865,000 lower grade cattle (mostly cows). This number of cows would about equal the increase in the number of cows slaughtered under Federal inspection this past fall over the previous fall.

Although delivery dates for beef contracts extend through March 1954, almost all the beef contracted for must have been produced, or cattle must have been purchased, by December 15. Hence the price benefit from the program was largely confined to the fall season when marketings of cattle, particularly of the middle and lower grades, are largest.

Some of the price effect may nevertheless carry over until winter because the government program probably caused some packers to postpone their own accumulation of storage stocks of beef until after the government-purchase period. This delayed private demand may bolster somewhat the winter market for middle to lower grade cattle.

New Names for Federal Grades of Barrows and Gilts Under Consideration

The Department of Agriculture announced December 11 that it is considering a proposal by a Swine Industry Committee to change the names of the grades for slaughter (live) and carcass barrows and gilts. The Committee proposes changing the three Choice designations of Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, and Choice No. 3, to Meat, Good, and Overfat respectively. No change would be made in names of the Medium and Cull grades. A period of 60 days ending February 15 has been allowed to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposal.

Drought Aid Program
Continues

Special drought aid continues in a number of counties where dry weather held down fall and winter grazing and required early feeding of hay which reduced the supply for the winter. As of December 28, 691 counties had been certified to receive feed at reduced prices. Of these 669 were drought counties but 22 were flood disaster counties in Florida. To eligible producers in these counties corn is available from the Commodity Credit Corporation at $1.00 per bushel and wheat at $1.10 per bushel. Cottonseed cake, pellets and meal had been provided at $35.00 per ton and oats at $0.50 per bushel but supplies have been depleted.

The Department has entered into cooperative agreements with 12 States for emergency distribution of hay. The Department contributed half the cost of shipping the hay up to $10.00 per ton. The railroads have remitted the other half of the cost, having agreed to a 50 percent reduction in rates to disaster areas. This reduction was due to end December 31 but there was a possibility of a further extension.

Prices of Cattle and Beef have
Followed Similar Courses, with No
Marked Changes in Margins,
Special Study Finds

"Retail prices of beef have generally reflected the declining prices for live cattle in 1952 and 1953. Prices of retail beef, wholesale beef carcasses, and live cattle generally followed parallel trends." These were findings reported in late December by the Agricultural Marketing Service following a special study. 1/

The report noted that prices of lower grade cattle have declined more than prices of highly finished cattle, thus causing a widening price differential between grades. Questions were raised, the report said, "as to whether the extremely wide differences between grades at the farm level are reflected in beef prices at the retail counter."

Much of the large increase in cattle slaughter the last two years has consisted of relatively unfinished lower grade young stock and, more recently, of surplus cows, it was explained. As more of these cattle come on the market, " ... the marketing system must be adjusted to absorb the heavier supplies of low-grade meat... Retail stores have difficulty in shifting their customers from one grade of meat to another... These rigidities... may have contributed initially to the difficulty of producers in obtaining satisfactory prices for low-grade cattle since July 1952."

While thus ascribing the depressed prices for lower grade cattle to the disproportionate increase in their supply meeting a rather rigid demand, the report did reveal some instances of a slight widening of margins from their generally narrow point in 1951 under OPS controls. The total farm-to-retail margin for Choice beef rose to a high in 1952, then declined in 1953. Wholesale-to-retail margins in chain stores for the same grade widened slightly after 1951 but did not regain the level they held in the last two

1/ Marketing Margins for Beef. USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, December 1953.

quarters of 1950. The study gave special attention to wholesale-to-retail margins for lower grades of beef in October 1953. These margins averaged a little wider than those for Choice grade in chain stores. The wider average was contributed by wider margins taken in some low-volume stores. In stores having a large volume, margins for lower grade beef compared favorably with margins for Choice grade in chain stores.

In marketing cattle, scattered examples were found of very depressed prices for some of the lower grade cattle sold in the local livestock markets. But this, like individual cases of wide margins on lower grade beef, "...was not the usual situation."

The report pointed out that even though margins tend to remain constant over a short period, they become a larger percentage of the retail price when prices have declined.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND MEAT SUPPLIES IN RELATION TO POPULATION, 1899-1953 1/

A fundamental measure of the size of the current meat supply is afforded by comparing it with the size of the population. The cover chart illustrates supply-and-population trends for beef and veal and table 5 provides data from 1899 to date for all meat animals. The table revises a similar table in this Situation for May-June 1952, page 12.

Numbers of cattle and calves on farms, while trending upward in their characteristic cyclical course, have not kept pace with population. Increases in annual beef and veal output have more nearly equaled population growth, since more beef is now produced each year relative to numbers of cattle on farms than several decades ago. Output of beef and veal caught up with population in the early 1940's, dropped back in 1948-51, then recovered rapidly in 1952-53. Output in 1953 not only reached the population trend but surpassed it. Most of the price declines for beef and cattle can be explained by this changed relationship of beef production to population.

Pork production has trended upward at about the same rate as population. However, pork production per person has seldom attained the high level of the early 1900's, when large quantities of pork were exported each year. And in 1953, after pig crops had been cut back sharply, pork production per person dropped to its lowest point since 1938. The number of hogs raised is now increasing and pork supplies will be expanded, but consumer preference has slipped away from fat cuts of pork to a sufficient extent that pork production may not be quite as high relative to population in the future as in the past.

Production of lamb and mutton the last few years has been the smallest since the early 1920's. Production per person, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, is lower than ever before on record. It is hard to know just what trend sheep production will follow, but it is unlikely that the annual output of lamb will ever come close to its onetime large volume.

1/ A fuller review of trends for cattle, together with other information, is available in a talk "Prospects for Cattle Production and Prices" by Harold F. Breimyer, which can be obtained on request to the Economic Information Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington 25, D. C.

Table 5.-Number of meat animals and production and consumption of meat relative to population, United States, 1899-53

Year	Population Jan.1 1/	Number of meat animals: Total: On farms Jan. 1: All cattle and calves	Total: On farms Jan. 1: All sheep and lambs	Total: Pigs saved during year	Per person: On farms Jan. 1: All cattle and calves	Per person: On farms Jan. 1: All sheep and lambs	Per person: Pigs saved during year	Meat production 2/: Total: Beef	Total: Veal	Total: Lamb and mutton	Total: Pork	Total: All red meat	Per person 3/: Beef	Per person 3/: Veal	Per person 3/: Lamb and mutton	Per person 3/: Pork	Per person 3/: All red meat	Meat consumed per person 3/ 4/: Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	All red meat
	Mil.	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Head	Head	Head	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1899	74.1	55.9	45.8		.754	.618		5,522	387	487	6,310	12,706	73.8	5.2	6.5	84.4	169.9	67.2	5.2	6.5	71.8	150.7
1900	75.5	59.7	48.1		.791	.637		5,628	397	493	6,329	12,847	74.0	5.2	6.5	83.1	168.8	67.1	5.2	6.5	71.9	150.7
1901	76.9	62.6	49.1		.814	.638		5,814	422	548	6,357	13,141	74.9	5.4	7.1	81.9	169.3	67.9	5.4	7.0	70.8	151.1
1902	78.4	64.4	49.2		.822	.628		5,649	476	564	5,936	12,625	71.3	6.0	7.1	75.0	159.4	65.0	6.0	7.1	66.7	144.8
1903	80.0	66.0	47.5		.825	.594		6,240	492	563	6,067	13,362	77.4	6.1	7.0	75.3	165.8	70.9	6.1	6.9	68.2	152.1
1904	81.5	66.4	45.5		.815	.558		6,176	491	538	6,387	13,592	75.1	6.0	6.6	77.7	165.4	69.6	6.0	6.5	70.6	152.7
1905	83.1	66.1	43.8		.795	.527		6,504	556	530	6,629	14,219	77.6	6.6	6.4	79.1	169.7	71.3	6.6	6.3	71.0	155.2
1906	84.7	65.0	45.5		.767	.537		6,537	598	543	6,793	14,471	76.5	7.0	6.4	79.5	169.4	71.3	7.0	6.3	71.0	155.6
1907	86.3	63.8	47.3		.739	.548		6,544	626	553	7,059	14,782	75.2	7.2	6.4	81.1	169.9	70.6	7.2	6.3	74.1	158.2
1908	87.9	62.0	48.2		.705	.548		6,662	637	559	7,535	15,393	75.1	7.2	6.3	84.9	173.5	72.1	7.2	6.3	77.7	163.3
1909	89.7	60.8	50.8		.678	.566		6,915	660	608	6,557	14,740	75.3	7.2	6.6	71.5	160.6	73.1	7.2	6.6	66.1	153.0
1910	92.8	59.0	50.2		.636	.541		6,647	667	597	6,087	13,998	70.9	7.1	6.4	65.0	149.4	69.5	7.1	6.4	61.4	144.4
1911	94.5	57.2	50.6		.605	.535		6,549	666	693	6,961	14,869	68.8	7.0	7.3	73.1	156.2	67.5	7.0	7.2	68.1	149.8
1912	96.0	55.7	47.9		.580	.499		6,234	662	735	6,822	14,453	64.5	6.8	7.6	70.6	149.5	63.6	6.9	7.6	65.7	143.8
1913	97.7	56.6	44.7		.579	.458		6,182	608	706	6,979	14,475	62.7	6.2	7.1	70.8	146.8	62.5	6.2	7.1	65.9	141.7
1914	99.6	59.5	43.1		.597	.433		6,017	569	693	6,824	14,103	59.9	5.6	6.9	67.9	140.3	61.1	5.7	7.1	64.2	138.1
1915	101.3	63.8	40.5		.630	.400		6,075	590	605	7,616	14,886	59.5	5.8	5.9	74.7	145.9	55.6	5.8	6.0	65.6	133.0
1916	102.7	67.4	40.0		.656	.389		6,460	655	585	8,207	15,907	62.5	6.3	5.6	79.4	153.8	58.1	6.3	5.7	68.1	138.2
1917	104.2	71.0	38.9		.681	.373		7,239	744	463	7,055	15,501	69.0	7.1	4.4	67.3	147.8	63.7	7.1	4.4	58.1	133.3
1918	105.5	73.0	39.7		.692	.376		7,726	760	506	8,349	17,341	72.9	7.1	4.8	78.8	163.6	67.6	7.2	4.7	60.2	139.7
1919	106.3	72.1	41.9		.678	.394		6,756	819	590	8,477	16,642	63.4	7.7	5.5	79.6	156.2	60.7	7.8	5.6	63.0	137.1
1920	107.2	70.4	40.7		.657	.380		6,306	842	538	7,648	15,334	58.4	7.8	5.0	70.8	142.0	58.3	7.9	5.4	62.6	134.2
1921	109.1	68.7	39.5		.630	.362		6,022	820	639	7,697	15,178	54.7	7.4	5.8	69.9	137.8	54.7	7.5	6.0	63.9	132.1
1922	110.9	68.8	36.9		.620	.333		6,588	852	553	8,145	16,138	59.0	7.6	5.0	73.0	144.6	58.3	7.7	5.1	64.8	135.9
1923	112.6	67.5	36.8		.599	.327		6,721	916	588	9,483	17,708	59.2	8.1	5.2	83.5	156.0	58.8	8.1	5.2	73.2	145.3
1924	114.7	66.0	37.1	74.1	.575	.323	.646	6,877	972	597	9,149	17,595	59.4	8.4	5.2	79.1	152.1	58.7	8.4	5.2	73.0	145.3
1925	116.7	63.4	38.5	70.3	.543	.330	.602	6,878	989	603	8,128	16,598	58.6	8.4	5.1	69.2	141.3	58.6	8.5	5.1	65.8	138.0
1926	118.3	60.6	40.4	75.4	.512	.342	.637	7,089	955	639	7,966	16,649	59.6	8.0	5.4	66.9	139.9	59.4	8.0	5.4	63.3	136.1
1927	119.9	58.2	42.4	81.2	.485	.354	.677	6,395	867	629	8,430	16,321	53.0	7.2	5.2	69.8	135.2	53.7	7.3	5.2	66.8	133.0
1928	121.5	57.3	45.3	78.7	.472	.373	.648	5,771	773	663	9,041	16,248	47.3	6.3	5.4	74.0	133.0	48.1	6.4	5.4	69.9	129.8
1929	122.9	58.9	48.4	76.1	.479	.394	.619	5,871	761	682	8,833	16,147	47.5	6.2	5.5	71.5	130.7	49.0	6.2	5.5	68.7	129.4
1930	124.2	61.0	51.6	74.1	.491	.415	.597	5,917	792	825	8,482	16,016	47.4	6.3	6.6	68.0	128.3	48.2	6.4	6.6	66.1	127.3
1931	125.4	63.0	53.2	83.2	.502	.424	.663	6,009	823	885	8,739	16,456	47.8	6.5	7.0	69.5	130.8	47.9	6.6	7.0	67.4	128.9
1932	126.2	65.8	53.9	82.5	.521	.427	.654	5,789	822	884	8,923	16,418	45.7	6.5	7.0	70.5	129.7	46.0	6.5	7.0	69.7	129.2
1933 5/	127.0	70.3	53.1	84.2	.554	.418	.663	6,440	891	852	9,234	17,417	50.6	7.0	6.7	72.5	136.8	50.8	7.0	6.7	69.8	134.3
1934 5/	127.8	74.4	53.5	56.8	.582	.419	.444	8,345	1,246	851	8,397	18,839	65.2	9.7	6.6	65.6	147.1	63.0	9.2	6.2	63.6	142.0
1935 5/	128.6	68.8	51.8	56.1	.535	.403	.436	6,608	1,023	877	5,919	14,427	51.2	7.9	6.8	45.9	111.8	52.5	8.4	7.2	47.7	115.8
1936 5/	129.5	67.8	51.1	65.7	.524	.395	.507	7,358	1,075	854	7,474	16,761	56.7	8.3	6.6	57.5	129.1	59.7	8.3	6.5	54.4	128.9
1937	130.3	66.1	50.8	62.5	.507	.390	.480	6,798	1,108	852	6,951	15,709	52.1	8.5	6.5	53.2	120.3	54.4	8.5	6.6	55.0	124.5
1938	131.2	65.2	51.1	71.9	.497	.389	.548	6,908	994	897	7,680	16,479	52.5	7.5	6.8	58.4	125.2	53.6	7.6	6.8	57.4	125.4
1939	132.2	66.0	51.3	87.0	.499	.388	.658	7,011	991	872	8,660	17,534	52.8	7.5	6.6	65.2	132.1	53.9	7.5	6.5	63.9	131.8
1940	133.3	68.3	52.1	79.9	.512	.391	.599	7,175	981	876	10,044	19,076	53.6	7.3	6.5	75.0	142.4	54.2	7.3	6.5	72.4	140.4
1941	134.6	71.8	53.9	85.0	.533	.400	.632	8,082	1,036	923	9,528	19,569	59.7	7.7	6.8	70.4	144.6	60.0	7.5	6.7	67.4	141.6
1942	136.0	76.0	56.2	104.9	.559	.413	.771	8,843	1,151	1,042	10,876	21,912	64.7	8.4	7.6	79.6	160.3	60.4	8.1	7.1	62.8	138.4
1943	137.7	81.2	55.2	121.8	.590	.401	.885	8,571	1,167	1,104	13,640	24,482	61.8	8.4	8.0	98.4	176.6	52.5	8.1	6.4	77.9	144.9
1944	139.5	85.3	50.8	86.7	.611	.364	.622	9,112	1,738	1,024	13,304	25,178	64.9	12.4	7.3	94.8	179.4	54.9	12.2	6.6	78.5	152.2
1945	141.1	85.6	46.5	86.8	.607	.330	.615	10,276	1,664	1,054	10,697	23,691	72.5	11.7	7.4	75.5	167.1	58.6	11.7	7.2	65.7	143.2
1946	142.6	82.2	42.4	82.7	.576	.297	.580	9,373	1,443	968	11,150	22,934	65.3	10.1	6.8	77.7	159.9	60.8	9.8	6.6	74.9	152.1
1947	144.8	80.6	37.5	83.3	.557	.259	.575	10,432	1,605	799	10,502	23,338	71.4	11.0	5.4	71.9	159.7	68.6	10.7	5.2	68.6	153.1
1948	147.5	77.2	34.3	83.8	.523	.233	.568	9,075	1,423	747	10,055	21,300	61.0	9.6	5.0	67.6	143.2	62.2	9.4	5.0	66.8	143.4
1949	150.1	76.8	30.9	93.2	.512	.206	.621	9,439	1,334	603	10,286	21,662	62.4	8.8	4.0	68.0	143.2	63.0	8.8	4.0	66.8	142.6
1950	152.7	78.0	29.8	97.3	.511	.195	.637	9,538	1,230	597	10,714	22,079	62.0	8.0	3.9	69.7	143.6	62.5	7.9	3.9	68.1	142.4
1951	155.2	82.0	30.6	101.8	.528	.197	.656	8,843	1,061	521	11,483	21,908	56.5	6.8	3.3	73.4	140.0	55.2	6.6	3.4	70.6	135.8
1952	157.9	87.8	32.1	91.2	.556	.203	.578	9,667	1,173	648	11,547	23,035	60.7	7.4	4.1	72.5	144.7	61.2	7.1	4.1	71.6	144.0
1953 6/	160.7	93.7	31.6	82.1	.583	.197	.511	12,300	1,535	715	10,150	24,700	76.0	9.5	4.4	62.7	152.6	75	9.3	4.4	63	151

1/ Census estimate of total population, with adjustments, 1909 to date, for underenumeration. 2/ Production from all slaughter, including farm. 3/ Per person of population July 1. 4/ Beginning 1941, civilian consumption per person of civilian population. 5/ Includes production and consumption from Government emergency programs. 6/ Preliminary.

Index to 1953 issues

Index to 1953 issues
(Continued)

Meats:

Meat animals:

Sheep and Lambs:

Selected Price Statistics for Meat Animals 1/

Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov. 1952	Jan.-Nov. 1953	Nov. 1952	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov.	1953 Dec.
Cattle and calves							
Beef steers, slaughter 2/	Dollars per						
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	35.58	26.64	34.49	28.02	27.96	
Choice	do.	33.55	24.32	32.20	25.63	25.03	
Good	do.	30.49	21.59	28.08	21.66	21.07	
Commercial	do.	27.10	18.30	23.03	16.70	16.87	
Utility	do.	23.72	15.28	18.63	13.15	13.34	
All grades	do.	32.82	23.74	31.37	25.35	24.83	
Omaha, all grades	do.	31.35	22.18	29.32	23.20	22.81	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	31.47	22.26	30.36	23.99	23.05	
Cows, Chicago 2/							
Commercial	do.	22.29	14.10	16.99	12.55	12.04	
Utility	do.	19.99	12.60	14.68	10.82	10.34	
Canner and Cutter	do.	17.19	10.81	12.38	8.95	8.54	
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	34.90	25.22	31.40	22.45	22.10	
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City	do.	27.72	18.15	22.31	15.74	17.56	
Price received by farmers							
Beef cattle	do.	25.36	16.90	20.30	14.70	14.70	
Veal calves	do.	27.77	18.31	21.50	14.30	15.00	
Hogs							
Barrows and gilts							
Chicago							
160-180 pounds	do.	18.60	21.63	16.76	20.63	20.52	
180-200 pounds	do.	19.42	22.71	17.18	21.51	21.16	
200-220 pounds	do.	19.53	22.84	17.19	21.62	21.16	
220-240 pounds	do.	19.36	22.81	17.12	21.65	21.14	
240-270 pounds	do.	19.01	22.64	17.01	21.64	21.07	
270-300 pounds	do.	18.53	3/22.12	16.84	---	21.48	
All weights	do.	19.02	22.52	17.02	21.69	21.13	
Eight markets 4/	do.	18.85	22.49	16.82	21.63	21.03	
Sows, Chicago	do.	16.62	20.01	15.49	20.84	18.95	
Price received by farmers	do.	18.22	21.52	16.60	21.30	20.00	
Hog-corn price ratio 5/							
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	10.7	14.4	10.8	14.7	14.4	
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	11.0	14.9	11.4	15.9	15.0	
Sheep and lambs							
Sheep							
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	10.75	7.20	7.00	5.42	6.09	
Price received by farmers	do.	10.94	7.26	7.16	6.01	6.28	
Lambs							
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	27.88	23.19	22.75	19.97	20.13	
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	6/22.75	7/18.41	20.50	16.41	18.22	
Price received by farmers	do.	25.17	19.97	20.80	16.60	17.20	
All meat animals							
Index number price received by farmers							
(1910-14=100)		364	299	310	273	267	
Meat							
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds 2/	100 pounds	54.32	39.79	52.40	40.84	40.62	
Lamb carcass, Choice, 40-50 pounds	do.	56.16	45.07	48.07	40.08	41.42	
Composite hog products, including lard							
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	20.57	23.69	18.64	22.82	22.24	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	28.24	32.52	25.59	31.33	30.53	
71.32 pounds fresh and cured	do.	24.17	27.39	22.30	27.32	25.95	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	33.89	38.40	31.27	38.31	36.39	
Retail, United States average	Cents						
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	89.6	69.7	87.4	70.6	68.7	
Pork, excluding lard	do.						
Index number meat prices (BLS)		49.5	54.1	48.6	55.7	51.6	
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		111.2	92.4	101.5	86.9	84.3	

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, January-February, 1953.
2/ Grade names as used beginning January 1951.
3/ Average excludes September and October, no price quoted.
4/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul and Indianapolis.
5/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
6/ Prices for July-November.
7/ Prices for January-March and July-November.

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

Item	Unit	January-October 1952	January-October 1953	Oct. 1952	1953 Sept.	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov.
Meat animal marketings							
Index number (1935-39=100)		152	152	208	166	193	196
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States	1,000						
Cattle and calves	head	3,186	2,602	1,117	446	773	643
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,108	2,430	830	547	754	292
Slaughter under Federal inspection							
Number slaughtered							
Cattle	do.	10,762	14,368	1,390	1,644	1,782	1,609
Calves	do.	4,261	5,721	602	687	776	658
Sheep and lambs	do.	10,407	11,897	1,427	1,366	1,529	1,159
Hogs	do.	49,428	43,078	5,492	4,059	4,994	5,540
Percentage sows	Percent	11.7	11.0	8.3	9.7	6.2	5.1
Average live weight per head							
Cattle	Pounds	992	971	968	943	948	958
Calves	do.	220	227	248	248	242	229
Sheep and lambs	do.	98	95	94	90	92	95
Hogs	do.	244	239	229	225	225	234
Average production							
Beef, per head	do.	550	537	520	507	502	509
Veal, per head	do.	124	127	136	136	132	125
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	46	45	44	42	43	45
Pork, per head 2/	do.	135	136	130	131	130	134
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 2/	do.	55	57	57	58	58	57
Lard, per head	do.	36	34	32	29	30	33
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight ..	do.	15	14	14	13	13	14
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	5,887	7,687	720	832	892	816
Veal	do.	523	724	82	93	102	82
Lamb and mutton	do.	477	535	62	57	65	52
Pork 2/	do.	6,661	5,838	715	532	648	744
Lard	do.	1,783	1,454	176	117	149	180
Total commercial slaughter 3/							
Number slaughtered	1,000						
Cattle	head	14,663	19,356	1,868	2,240	2,384	
Calves	do.	7,226	9,575	963	1,149	1,252	
Sheep and lambs	do.	11,451	13,271	1,573	1,537	1,721	
Hogs	do.	61,815	53,861	6,878	5,080	6,101	
Total production	Million						
Beef	pounds	7,712	9,942	933	1,087	1,145	
Veal	do.	875	1,203	128	153	163	
Lamb and mutton	do.	521	596	68	65	73	
Pork 2/	do.	8,205	7,215	894	664	794	
Lard	do.	2,092	1,708	208	139	174	
Cold storage stocks first of month 4/							
Beef	do.	---	---	172	141	147	169
Veal	do.	---	---	12	13	13	15
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	---	13	9	10	11
Pork	do.	---	---	291	266	201	181
Total meat and meat products 5/.....	do.	---	---	587	532	460	460

1/ Annual data for most series published in Statistical Appendix to this Situation, January-February 1953.
2/ Excludes lard.
3/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.
4/ December 1, 1953 cold storage stocks are as follows: Beef, 206 million pounds; veal, 19; lamb and mutton, 13; pork, 266; total meat and meat products, 601.
5/ 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

AMS-LMS-69-1/54-4700

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300