

The

LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

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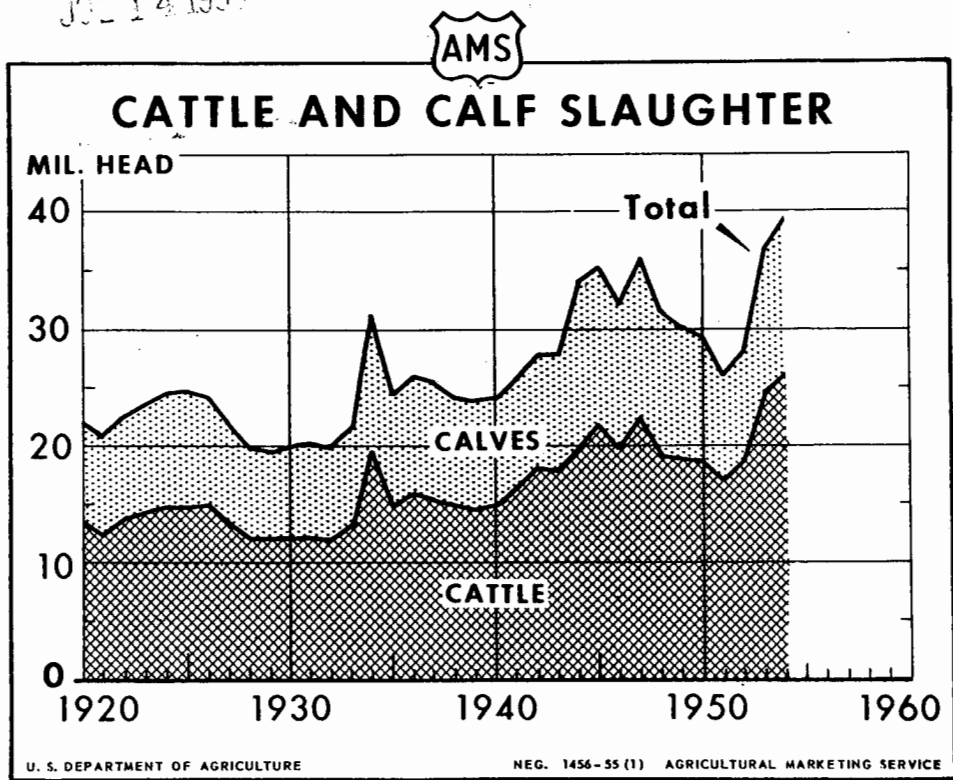
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JUL 14 1955

PERIODICAL ROOM

FOR RELEASE
JULY 8, A.M. 1955
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In this issue:
Listing of Federal Grades for
Meat Animals and Meat
Number and Location of Slaughterers

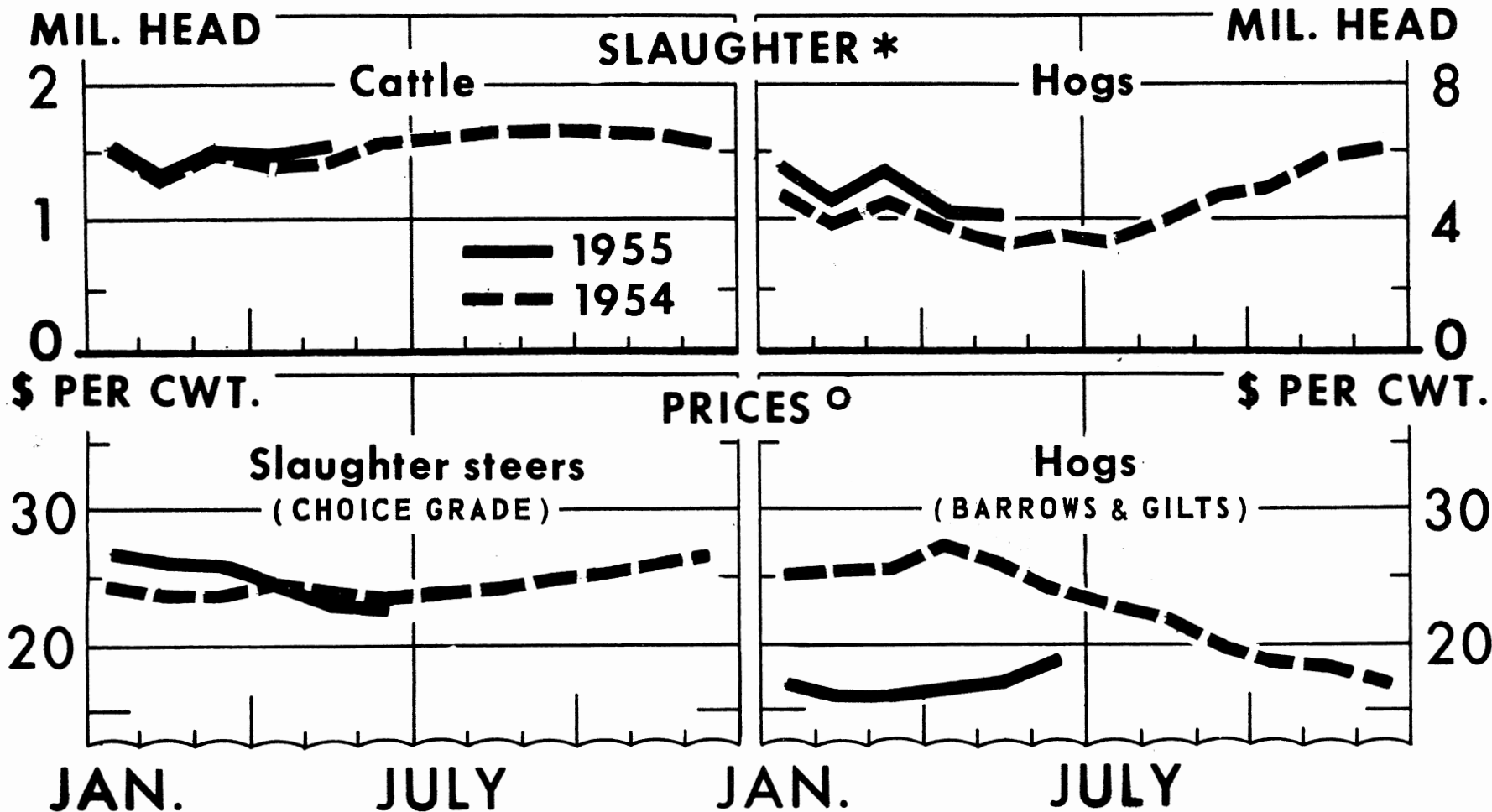


Slaughter of cattle and calves rose to a new high of 39.3 million head in 1954.

The present cattle herd has the productive capacity to support an annual slaughter of around 40 million. Slaughter for 1955 will probably total about

that number. This suggests that both inventory and slaughter of cattle will continue nearly stable for the next year or so. However, a small decrease in inventory next January 1 seems more likely than an increase.

SLAUGHTER AND PRICES OF CATTLE AND HOGS



* **FEDERALLY INSPECTED**

° **AT CHICAGO**

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, June 30, 1955

SUMMARY

Production of hogs continues to increase rapidly and is approaching a peacetime peak while cattle production is nearly stable at a record high. Total output of meat animals and meat is also on an uptrend and also at a record.

The 1955 spring pig crop turned out 9 percent larger than last year's spring crop. Producers are planning for 11 percent more sows to farrow this fall than last fall. If fall plans are carried out, the 1955 pig crop will total around 101 million, a number exceeded in peacetime only by the 102 million in 1951.

Slaughter of hogs in the first half of 1955 registered about an 18 percent gain from the small slaughter at the same time last year. Slaughter in the second half will likely increase an average of 10 to 12 percent. The planned increase in fall farrowings makes it likely that slaughter will continue upward in the first half of 1956.

The number of cattle on farms has been almost stable for more than two years and may be continuing so. From January through June about 3 percent more cattle were slaughtered than a year before while calf slaughter was unchanged. The moderate increase in combined slaughter points to little change in numbers this year. However, a small decrease is more likely than an increase.

Slaughter of sheep and lambs in the first 6 months of 1955 was almost 5 percent greater than a year before. Slaughter in the second half may be approximately equal to that of last year.

From the slaughter in prospect, consumption of all meat for 1955 will likely be around 159 or 160 pounds per person, several pounds above last year's 153 pounds and close to the record 163 pounds consumed in 1908.

High output has resulted in lower prices for hogs than in the last year or two and has prevented increases for prices of cattle and sheep despite rising incomes of consumers. Profit margins of producers are rather narrow compared with several postwar years. Production of hogs is continuing upward despite lower prices and returns, largely because prices of feed are lower and large harvests of feed crops this year have been in prospect. The lower average prices expected in the next year might halt the production uptrend in 1956.

Prices of hogs increased this spring as marketings were reduced and will remain strong through at least mid-summer. They will decline seasonally during the fall and will be considerably lower than last fall. By winter, however, when recovery usually begins, prices may not be greatly different from the lower levels of last winter.

Prices of fed steers and heifers declined during the spring when marketings increased. Since movement of feeder stock to the Corn Belt has continued large, the number of cattle on feed remains high. Seasonal increases in fed cattle prices the next few months will be limited by the sizable marketings in prospect.

Prices of lambs recovered in June after movement of 1954 crop lambs ended and before large marketings of 1955 lambs, delayed by unfavorable weather, began. Lamb prices usually decline during summer and early fall, and probably will do so this year.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Spring Pig Crop Up 9 Percent

Nine percent more pigs were saved this spring than last. The increase was the second in a row (table 1).

The number of sows farrowing also was up 9 percent, as litters averaged the same size as last year--6.90 pigs.

The spring crop was larger in all regions. Greatest increase--19 percent--was in the South Central States.

Once again farrowings were moved earlier. About 30 percent came before March 1. As recently as 1950, only 19 percent of the spring total were in the December-February period (table 2).

The spring crop was larger than had been expected. Last December, producers reported that they planned a 5 percent increase in spring farrowings. In March, producers in 6 Corn Belt States said that their total spring farrowings would be up 7 percent. Those States did increase by that percentage. But producers in States outside the center of the Corn Belt stepped up their farrowings a lot more--enough to lift the United States increase to 9 percent.

11 Percent More Fall Farrowings Planned by Producers

The uptrend in hog production continues. Producers are planning an 11 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow this fall. Following a 14 percent gain in the fall of 1954, farrowings this fall would be 27 percent above the fall of 1953 and at a new high for fall in a peacetime year.

More fall farrowings are in prospect for all regions. Producers in the West North Central Region plan a 14 percent expansion, the most for any area.

Table 1 -- Number of sows farrowing, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, United States, by regions, 1949 to date

SPRING PIG CROP							
Year	North	North Central		South	South	Western	United
	Atlantic	East	West	Atlantic	Central		States
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Sows farrowing							
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	136	2,219	3,600	597	603	145	7,300
1954	127	2,408	4,034	625	712	165	8,071
1955 ^{1/}	141	2,605	4,318	668	845	181	8,758
Pigs saved							
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	942	15,313	24,635	3,910	3,947	956	49,703
1954	870	16,791	27,962	4,179	4,771	1,094	55,667
1955 ^{1/}	969	18,069	30,131	4,425	5,657	1,202	60,463
Pigs saved per litter	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
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	6.92	6.90	6.84	6.55	6.55	6.59	6.81
1954	6.87	6.97	6.93	6.69	6.70	6.62	6.90
1955 ^{1/}	6.85	6.94	6.98	6.62	6.69	6.66	6.90
FALL PIG CROP							
Sows farrowing	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
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	96	1,660	1,842	464	574	115	4,751
1954	106	1,897	2,074	527	685	135	5,424
1955 ^{2/}	118	2,080	2,362	564	775	144	6,043
Pigs saved							
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	13,346	14,690	3,968	5,704	1,224	39,804
1952	818	11,972	13,252	3,559	4,420	940	34,961
1953	661	11,209	12,310	3,084	3,788	757	31,809
1954	739	12,954	14,135	3,501	4,547	890	36,766
1955							^{2/} 40,500
Pigs saved per litter	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
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	6.71	6.51	6.49	6.47	6.60
1952	6.97	6.72	6.71	6.41	6.46	6.56	6.65
1953	6.91	6.75	6.68	6.65	6.60	6.58	6.70
1954	7.01	6.83	6.82	6.64	6.64	6.57	6.78
1955							^{2/} 6.70

^{1/} Preliminary.^{2/} Number indicated to farrow from intentions as of June 1, 1955. Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.

Table 2.- Number of sows farrowing and percentage distribution by months, spring season, United States, 1949-55

Year	Dec. 1/	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
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	1,198	2,385	2,586	1,564	8,480
1953	220	441	1,050	2,108	2,221	1,260	7,300
1954	273	511	1,396	2,410	2,200	1,281	8,071
1955	333	722	1,608	2,421	2,336	1,338	8,758
Percentage of total sows farrowing							
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
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	3.2	5.7	14.1	28.1	30.5	18.4	100.0
1953	3.0	6.0	14.4	28.9	30.4	17.3	100.0
1954	3.4	6.3	17.3	29.9	27.2	15.9	100.0
1955	3.8	8.2	18.4	27.6	26.7	15.3	100.0

1/ December of preceding year.

Producers in 7 States who reported fall plans by quarters expect to have 10 percent more summer farrowings (June to August) and 12 percent more mid-fall farrowings (September to November). If these plans are typical of the entire United States, the proportion of summer litters will be slightly smaller than in 1954. In that year, summer farrowings were a higher percentage of all fall farrowings than in any other year on record.

The 11 percent gain in all fall farrowings now in prospect also is more than had previously seemed likely. Apparently, producers have changed their plans recently. In March, for instance, producers in 6 States expected to reduce their summer farrowings 2 percent. Now these States (with one more added) expect to increase by 10 percent.

The sizable expansion is not essentially a response to prices of hogs. Although prices strengthened gradually from their low in early March, the hog-corn price ratio this past winter and spring was only average. The reason most often reported by producers in many States is that they feel a need to raise more hogs in order to maintain income. Acreage allotments on wheat and cotton have reduced income from those crops, while lower prices than 2 or 3 years ago for cattle, several dairy products, and poultry and eggs have created a need for supplemental income in livestock regions. Moreover, large supplies of feed available make expansion possible. "Free" stocks of feed grains on farms April 1 (those not under loan) were larger than a year before. Furthermore, the increases in hog production suggest that a great many producers of corn in the Corn Belt have chosen to produce their corn entirely for feed, rather than to make it eligible for price support by complying with allotments.

Total 1955 Pig Crop Near Record

If producers carry out their intentions for breeding and litters are of average size, the fall pig crop will be $40\frac{1}{2}$ million (table 1). Coupled with the spring crop of $60\frac{1}{2}$ million, a 1955 combined crop of 101 million is in sight. This would be only 1 percent below the peacetime record crop of 102 million pigs saved in 1951. The increase since the recent low in 1953 would be 19 million or 24 percent.

The size of annual hog production is best judged when converted into the supply of pork per person. Since the population has been rising, 101 million pigs would supply less pork per person than the 102 million of 1951. Nevertheless, that number would produce more than an average supply per person. The supply would be large enough to have a considerable influence on prices of hogs. (See discussion below.)

Prices of Hogs Advance in June

Prices of hogs increased gradually after touching a low in early March, then advanced rapidly in June. In late June, barrows and gilts sold for about \$20.00 per 100 pounds at 8 Midwest markets. This was more than \$4.00 above early March and about \$4.00 below the prices in June last year (table 3). Earlier this season, prices had been much farther below a year before.

The rate of hog slaughter decreased sharply after early May. From January through May, commercial slaughter of hogs totaled 19 percent more than a year before. In June, when prices rose rapidly, weekly inspected slaughter was only around 7 to 8 percent above June 1954.

Table 3 .- Price per 100 pounds for selected classes of meat animals, by months, 1955 compared with 1954

Month	:Choice slaughter: steers at Chicago 1/		: Choice feeder : steers at :Kansas City 2/		: Barrows and gilts at : 8 markets 3/		:Choice and Prime slaughter lambs : at Chicago 4/	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Jan.	26.98	24.74	22.25	20.92	16.82	25.15	21.21	21.18
Feb.	26.17	23.86	22.69	21.44	16.25	25.83	22.06	22.02
Mar.	25.80	23.89	23.50	21.20	16.09	25.86	23.24	24.99
Apr.	24.62	24.83	23.34	21.42	16.96	27.30	22.12	25.42
May	23.09	24.25	22.74	22.60	17.21	26.07	5/19.08	5/23.00
June	22.63	23.88	22.88	21.67	19.60	24.22	24.14	24.52
July		23.99		19.86		22.78		22.28
Aug.		24.08		20.13		22.36		20.78
Sept.		25.00		20.77		19.98		20.06
Oct.		25.37		21.38		18.84		20.17
Nov.		25.85		21.88		18.59		20.49
Dec.		26.53		21.46		17.33		20.07
Av.		24.66		21.23		22.25		22.08

1/ Sold out of first hands. 2/ 500-800 pounds. 3/ Average for all weights and grades. Midwest markets. 4/ Spring lambs June-September; woolled lambs all other months. 5/ Shorn lambs.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division.

Supplies of hogs for slaughter will continue above last year, but by a somewhat smaller average percentage than in the first half of this year. In July and much of August, supplies will be limited by the few hogs remaining from the late fall crop. On June 1, inventories of all hogs over 6 months of age were up only 5 percent, and the increase for barrows and gilts was even less. During August, increasing numbers of hogs will be marketed from the 1955 spring pig crop. As the crop was up 9 percent, the increase in slaughter in ensuing months will be at least as large. Because farrowings were earlier this year, a substantial increase in early marketings and slaughter can be expected. However, several factors will prevent an extremely large early increase, as was pointed out in the last (May 9) issue of this Situation. All factors taken together point to earlier dates of slaughter than last year but probably not quite as early as two years ago, when weekly slaughter climbed rapidly in July and the peak rate was in early November. The slaughter rate could increase faster during September and October this year than last, and by October may show a very sizable gain over last October. Slaughter will likely not increase so fast thereafter and by December may be only a few percent above last December. (See inside cover page for a chart of inspected slaughter of hogs the last year and a half.)

Prices of hogs are expected to remain seasonally high through mid-summer, then swing downward. If the marketing pattern turns out as expected, prices will decline seasonally this fall and will be considerably lower than last fall. The possibility is strong that the season's lowest price will be reached before Christmas instead of at mid-winter as it was last year. In 4 years out of the last 6 the price low was passed by mid-December. While prices this fall will be consistently below those of the same times last fall, by winter, when recovery usually begins, prices may not be much different from the lower levels of last winter.

If these price prospects prove true, and if the corn crop is larger and corn prices a bit lower than last fall, hog prices the rest of 1955 will continue to hold about an average relation to the price of corn.

Hog Prices Likely to Continue at Lower Level

Because of increases in pig crops this year, a lower average level of hog prices is likely to continue through at least the first half of 1956. Price trends thereafter will be influenced by the size of the 1956 spring pig crop. Some of the factors that will bear on prices in 1956 can be shown.

Output of pork in 1955 will probably provide for a consumption of 66 or 67 pounds per person. This is 6 or 7 pounds more than the 60 pounds consumed in 1954, which was a 16-year low. It is about equal to the average consumption since the end of the war, and less than the 70½ pounds consumed in 1951 and 71½ pounds in 1952. However, demand for pork has not kept pace with either consumer incomes or demand for beef. The percentage of disposable incomes spent for pork has decreased steadily (table 4). Hence, the risk that prices of hogs will drop very low is incurred at a smaller pork supply (per person) now than formerly.

The supply of pork for 1956 can be estimated roughly according to two assumptions as to the size of spring pig crop of that year. (These are not predictions.) The 1955 fall pig crop now indicated and a 1956 spring crop the same size as this year's would result in a pork consumption per person in 1956 not much different from that of 1955. If the spring crop should increase 5 percent, consumption would be around 1½ pounds greater.

These are not great increases. Slaughter of hogs in 1955 was increased by the many hogs carried over from 1954 for slaughter early in the year. If monthly distribution of slaughter is more normal hereafter, the pork supply in 1956 will not increase quite so much as the size of pig crops would suggest.

Table 4.- Selected statistics on supplies and prices of hogs and pork, 1949 to date, with projections for 1956

Year	Number of pigs saved	Number of hogs slaughtered	Pork consumed per person	Percent consumers' incomes spent for pork	United States average price received by farmers for hogs, per 100 lb.
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pounds	Percent	Dollars
1949	93,244	74,997	66.8	2.5	18.10
1950	97,339	79,263	68.1	2.3	18.00
1951	101,811	85,581	70.6	2.4	20.00
1952	91,231	86,712	71.6	2.2	17.80
1953	81,512	74,783	62.9	2.0	21.40
1954	92,433	72,082	59.7	2.0	21.60
1955	<u>1</u> /100,953	<u>2</u> /81,000	<u>2</u> /66-67	---	<u>3</u> /16.70
<u>Projections, with two assumptions of 1956 spring pig crop</u>					
1956					
Same number spring pigs as:					
1955	---	83,500- 84,000	66-67	---	---
1956					
5 percent more spring pigs	---	85,500- 86,000	68	---	---

1/ Spring pig crop plus indicated number of fall pigs. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Average for first 6 months.

Prices for hogs will, as always, be affected not only by forthcoming supplies but also by any changes in incomes of consumers and demand for meat. With continued high incomes, the supplies in view point to a continuation of a lower level of prices in at least the first half of 1956 but do not presage a price collapse. On the whole, they point to profit margins as narrow or narrower than this year, even with slightly lower prices of feed. Possibly the main import is that supplies and prices of hogs will be at levels that allow no safety margin. Either higher prices for feed, or reduced consumer demand for meat, would cause distress in the hog industry.

Cattle Slaughter Averaging
Slightly Above 1954

Stability at high volume is the main feature of cattle production at present. While commercial slaughter of cattle in the first half of 1955 was a new high, it was only a moderate 3 percent above last year. Calf slaughter was about the same as last year, and cattle and calf slaughter combined was up 2 percent. (These figures include totals for June estimated from weekly inspected slaughter).

All the increase in cattle slaughter has been in cows and heifers. Slaughter of cows under inspection in January to May was 12 percent above last year. Slaughter of heifers was up 17 percent (table 5). Steer slaughter, on the other hand, was 6 percent smaller than a year before.

The rise in heifers slaughtered and the decrease in steers are partly accounted for by the greater number of heifers in the cattle being fed this year. In 5 States in January, 51 percent more heifers but 7 percent more steers were on feed than a year before.

Table 5 .- Number of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, by class, United States, by months 1955 compared with 1954

Month	Steers		Heifers		Cows		Calves	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Jan.	718	774	236	250	540	487	563	546
Feb.	618	673	221	201	450	400	517	518
Mar.	773	825	261	212	463	440	660	660
Apr.	737	806	238	173	444	402	596	598
May	810	815	201	155	509	429	588	561
June		881		166		474		622
July		837		198		537		640
Aug.		773		234		585		649
Sept.		761		244		588		706
Oct.		732		223		621		738
Nov.		684		202		681		694
Dec.		741		215		592		632
Year 1/		9,302		2,472		6,236		7,573

1/ Computed from unrounded numbers.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division.

Table 6.- Cattle and calf slaughter, United States, 1920 to date
(Data for cover chart)

Year	Cattle	Calves	Total	Year	Cattle	Calves	Total
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head		1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1920	13,470	8,481	21,951	1940	14,958	9,089	24,047
1921	12,428	8,394	20,822	1941	16,419	9,252	25,671
1922	13,706	8,832	22,538	1942	18,033	9,718	27,751
1923	14,283	9,327	23,610	1943	17,845	9,940	27,785
1924	14,750	9,804	24,554	1944	19,844	14,242	34,086
1925	14,704	9,936	24,640	1945	21,694	13,657	35,351
1926	14,781	9,354	24,135	1946	19,824	12,176	32,000
1927	13,413	8,478	21,891	1947	22,404	13,726	36,130
1928	12,028	7,651	19,679	1948	19,177	12,378	31,555
1929	12,038	7,406	19,444	1949	18,765	11,398	30,163
1930	12,056	7,761	19,817	1950	18,624	10,504	29,128
1931	12,096	8,057	20,153	1951	17,100	8,913	26,013
1932	11,980	7,970	19,950	1952	18,668	9,408	28,076
1933	13,107	8,564	21,671	1953	24,529	12,253	36,782
1934 1/	19,509	11,759	31,268	1954	25,958	13,320	39,278
1935 1/	14,805	9,632	24,437				
1936 1/	15,901	10,008	25,909				
1937	15,254	10,304	25,558				
1938	14,822	9,306	24,128				
1939	14,621	9,191	23,812				

1/ Includes Government purchases.

Slaughter of cattle will probably continue to average somewhat above last year. At times this summer it may be less than last summer, when severe drought stimulated marketings. But slaughter this fall is expected to be a little larger than that of last fall.

Supplies of Fed Cattle Larger

Sizable supplies of fed cattle will help to maintain the total slaughter rate. More cattle are being fed this year than ever before. The number on feed in 14 States April 1 was 12 percent greater than in April 1954. In April and May 28 percent more feeder cattle and calves

than a year earlier were received in 9 Corn Belt States. Estimates of numbers on feed July 1, to be reported July 14, will probably again show an increase over 1954.

Little Trend in Cattle Inventories

Data on cattle and calf slaughter in the first half of 1955 do not clearly indicate current trends in cattle inventories. The inventory is probably being held nearly stable. Any change taking place is more likely to be downward than upward, for the slaughter rate probably exceeds the net reproduction rate (births less deaths).

From January 1953 to January 1955 the overall change in estimated inventories was less than 2 percent. If cattle numbers next January should be little different from last January, it would be the third year in a row of steady numbers. This would be one of the most stable periods ever for the highly variable cattle industry. It would be sharply different from the 3 years ending in January 1953, when numbers advanced 20 percent.

Fed Cattle Prices Decline in Spring

Prices of fed steers and heifers declined steadily during the spring. Choice steers at Chicago in late June averaged about \$22.50 per 100 pounds. This was almost \$5.00 less than the high point of the year in early January, and was fully \$1.00 less than prices in late June 1954 (table 3).

Declines resulted from substantial increases in marketings of both fed cattle and all cattle, and were not out of proportion with them. Weekly receipts of fed steers at 3 Midwest markets in June averaged about 13 percent greater than in April, and weekly slaughter of all cattle was up 8 percent from the same month.

It seems unlikely that prices of fed cattle will drop much if any lower this summer and fall. The "normal" or average trend is for an increase of 5 percent between June and September. In 6 of the last 8 years the price of Choice steers at Chicago advanced between the two months.

Prospects for this year involve a balance between two factors--the large supply of fed cattle will retard price rises, and the continued high incomes of consumers will support demand. Earlier this year, demand for meat lagged behind the increase in income. There is some evidence, still inconclusive, that it is now catching up a bit. It would not be surprising if price advances for fed cattle should be slow and rather small, but a moderate strengthening by fall is likely.

Feeder Cattle Prices
Down Seasonally

Prices of stocker and feeder cattle and calves eased off slightly in late spring. At the end of June they were a little above a year earlier.

The normal seasonal pattern is for feeder prices to decline seasonally during the summer and to reach a low around October. (See chart.) The average June-October reduction for Choice feeder steers at Kansas City is 6 percent. The pattern is of course not followed in every year. Last year prices declined sharply to a low in late July, then recovered. Summer drought, which forced early marketings of feeder stock from several areas, was a major cause for this unusual trend.

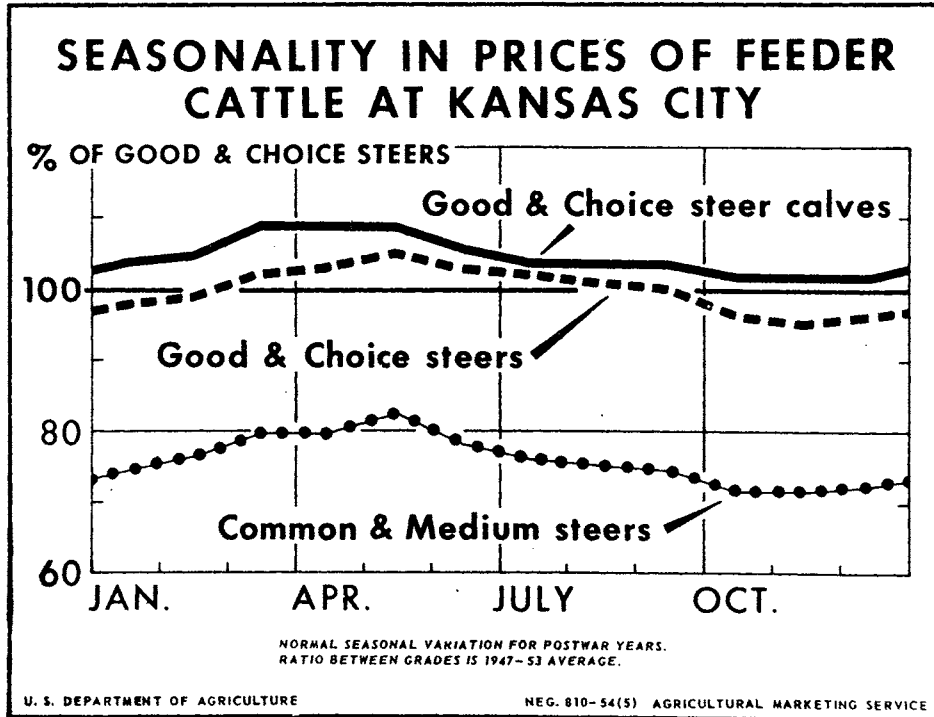
Most of the dry areas of the Central and Southern Plains received beneficial rains this past May and June, ending, at least temporarily, the drought there. This is the biggest change in the cattle situation since last year. As one result, large early marketings of grass cattle as occurred last summer are not expected this year, and price trends for feeder cattle may be more nearly normal.

The better moisture conditions, together with the relatively favorable prices for fed cattle the past spring will give strength to the stocker and feeder market. The recent declines in prices of fed cattle will have an offsetting effect. Choice steers that sold at Chicago in June for a little less than \$23.00 per 100 pounds returned less than an average profit to feeders. As cattle feeders always bid more actively for feeder stock when they have just made money and less when they have not, this is a factor tending to reduce feeder prices.

In late June, prices of feeder and fat cattle were unusually close together. It is almost certain that the margin between them will be considerably wider this fall. Prospects for prices of feeder cattle remain as previously reported--that they will follow a more nearly normal seasonal course this year than last; that they may be somewhat higher than a year earlier at mid-summer but could drift a little lower at times this fall; and that for the summer-fall season as a whole they will average about as high as last year. Though this is the most likely prospect as of late June, trends in prices of fed cattle, range conditions, and the size of feed crop harvests in feeding areas will have much bearing on actual prices this fall.

Lamb Prices Higher in June;
Seasonal Decline Expected

Prices of lambs increased in June after having been depressed earlier. Historically June has been a month of variable price trends, and this year was no exception. Apparently, late-season supplies of fed lambs depressed the market as late as early May, when weekly slaughter rose to near its peak rate of the winter. When fed-lamb supplies decreased while marketings of spring lambs were delayed by unfavorable weather, prices of lambs increased. Choice and Prime spring lambs in late June sold for \$24.00 per 100 pounds at Chicago, slightly more than a year before.



In the first 6 months of 1955, almost 5 percent more lambs were slaughtered than a year before. Slaughter in the second half will be affected by the size of this year's lamb crop, which will be reported July 28. At most, slaughter is not likely to be as much above last year in the second half as it was in the first half, and may not differ much from last year's rate. A seasonal decline in price of lambs is in view for the summer and early fall, but prices may compare favorably with those of a year ago.

Meat Supplies to Continue
Above Last Year

In the first half of 1955 commercial output of meat was 6 to 7 percent greater than in the same half of 1954. (June output is estimated from weekly inspected slaughter.) Most of the increase was in pork, but there also was slightly more beef and lamb.

Meat output will continue above last year but probably by a slightly lower percentage. The smaller increase in hog slaughter will mean a smaller increase in pork output.

Table 7.- Composite retail prices of all meat, Choice beef cuts and pork cuts, United States, by months, 1955 compared with 1954

Month	All meat products 1/		Beef (Choice grade) per lb.		Pork, excluding lard per lb.	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
January	252.49	269.55	70.2	69.0	50.3	57.4
February	250.52	269.69	69.8	68.2	49.7	57.9
March	246.43	268.54	69.0	67.3	48.5	57.8
April	246.65	270.10	68.7	67.3	48.6	58.3
May	245.84	272.76	67.2	68.3	49.3	58.7
June		271.22		68.8		57.8
July		264.76		68.3		55.6
August		258.99		67.5		54.0
September		258.18		68.6		53.3
October		252.35		68.9		50.9
November		249.90		70.0		49.4
December		248.09		69.9		48.7
Average		262.84		68.5		55.0

1/ Composite value of meats in "market basket".

Compiled from data of the Marketing Research Division, AMS.

A large supply of fed beef in coming months is assured by the large number of cattle on feed this summer. There may continue to be as much or more cow beef as last year. Supplies of lower grade steer and heifer beef, which apparently have been smaller to date this year than last, will continue smaller. Fewer thin-fleshed grass steers and heifers are expected to be slaughtered this summer and fall than last.

Though output of pork will not be so far above last year as it was previously, larger stocks in cold storage will augment current production. On June 1 holdings were 23 percent larger than last year. Consumption of pork per person this summer is expected to be roughly 6 to 8 percent above last summer. In January to June, the consumption rate per person was up 10 percent or so.

For 1955 as a whole, consumption of all meat per person will be several pounds above the 153 pounds consumed in 1954. It may be 159 to 160 pounds--close to the 163 pound record of 1908. Most of the increase in 1955 over 1954 will be in consumption of pork, as rates for the other meats will not change much.

Retail Prices of Meat Average Lower

In May, average prices of meat at retail were lower than a year before (table 7). The price of Choice beef was down slightly. Pork prices were off an average of $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound. Bacon was down a big 24 cents, pork chops $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and ham $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

The price of pork has increased since May. Summer prices will be relatively highest for fresh pork, such as loins and chops. Prices of these cuts almost always go up most, and the sizable supplies of pork in storage are likely to hold down prices of cured products, such as hams and bacon, more than prices of fresh products. Retail prices of pork will decline this fall, with largest reductions in fresh cuts, and prices will average lower than last fall.

Smaller changes are likely in prices of Choice beef. Prospects are about the same as for prices of Choice steers. Large marketings will likely prevent more than a moderate seasonal price increase.

MARKET CLASSES AND GRADES FOR MEAT ANIMALS AND MEATS

Revised standards for Federal grades of slaughter barrows and gilts and barrow and gilt carcasses became effective July 5. The major changes in standards were in grade names and in back fat thickness requirements for each grade. The new grade names of U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2, and U. S. No. 3 were substituted for Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, and Choice No. 3 respectively. The names of the other two grades, Medium and Cull, remained unchanged. The minimum back fat thickness requirement was reduced by 0.2 inch for each grade except Medium, for which the reduction was 0.1 inch. Slight changes were also made in the descriptive specifications.

These revisions are typical of the general procedure of establishing and maintaining effective Federal grades for farm products. Efforts have been made for many years to set down and define class and grade terms which can be used as marketing tools. When such terms and specifications are nationally applicable and generally recognized by buyers and sellers they facilitate trade in many ways. The use of Federal grades is generally on a voluntary basis.

Federal standards for most market classes of livestock and meats were set up after the Department of Agriculture was authorized in 1916 to report market conditions and transactions at the various livestock and meat markets. Many of the grades were tentative at first but most have since been made official. Current U. S. grade names for the various market classes of livestock and meat are shown on page 18. The few classes listed as ungraded comprise a very small part of the total volume of livestock or meat sold.

These grade standards were written through cooperation of producer and marketing groups and the Department of Agriculture and were based largely on accepted terms then in use. Changes in term definitions and

Market classes and grades for meat animals and meat

Market group	Class 1/	Grade								
Cattle and calves										
Slaughter cattle	: Steer	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Heifer	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Cow	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Bull	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Stag	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
Vealers	: Steer, heifer, and : bull	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cull			
Slaughter calves	: Steer, heifer, and : bull	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cull			
Feeder and stocker cattle 2/	: Steer	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Heifer	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Cow	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Bull	:			Ungraded					
	: Stag	:			Ungraded					
Feeder and stocker calves 2/	: Steer	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Heifer	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
Beef and veal										
Beef carcasses	: Steer	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Heifer	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Cow	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Bull	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
	: Stag	:	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cutter	Canner		
Veal carcasses	: Steer, heifer, and : bull	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cull			
Calf carcasses	: Steer, heifer, and : bull	: Prime	Choice	Good	Commercial	Utility	Cull			
Sheep and lambs										
Slaughter lambs	: Ram	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Ewe	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Wether	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
Slaughter yearlings	: Ram	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Ewe	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Wether	: Prime	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
Slaughter sheep	: Ram	:	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Ewe	:	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
	: Wether	:	Choice	Good		Utility	Cull			
Feeder lambs 2/	: Ewe	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Wether	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
Feeder yearlings 2/	: Ewe	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
	: Wether	: Fancy	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
Feeder sheep 2/	: Ewe	:	Choice	Good	Medium	Common	Inferior			
Lamb and mutton										
Lamb carcasses	: All classes 3/	: Prime	Choice	Good	Utility	Cull				
Yearling mutton car- casses	: All classes 3/	: Prime	Choice	Good	Utility	Cull				
Mutton carcasses	: All classes 3/	:	Choice	Good	Utility	Cull				
Hogs										
Slaughter hogs	: Farrow and gilt	: US No.1	US No.2	US No.3	Medium	Cull				
	: Sow 2/	:	Choice	Good	Medium	Cull				
	: Boar	:			Ungraded					
	: Stag	:			Ungraded					
Slaughter pigs	: All classes 2/	:	Choice	Good	Medium	Cull				
Feeder and stocker hogs	: Barrow and gilt 2/	:	Choice	Good	Medium	Common				
	: Sow, boar, and stag : 2/	:			Ungraded					
Feeder and stocker pigs	: All classes 2/	:	Choice	Good	Medium	Common				
Pork										
Pork carcasses	: Farrow and gilt	: US No.1	US No.2	US No.3	Medium	Cull				
	: Sow	:	No official grade; tentative grades not in general use.							
	: Boar	:			Ungraded					
	: Stag	:	No official grade; tentative grades not in general use.							

1/ Specifications are not necessarily different for each class listed. 2/ Tentative standard proposed by USDA. Not official, but widely used for many years. 3/ Grade designations apply without regard to sex condition at time of slaughter. However, carcasses with less desirable secondary sex characteristics may be discounted in grade.

names, such as the one just announced for slaughter barrows and gilts and their carcasses, have been made from time to time in both tentative and official standards. Any proposed change is made only after industry groups have had an opportunity to comment on whether or not such a change would make for more effective marketing.

A Federal system of classification has its greatest value in providing a set of concepts and language that facilitates trading. This surpasses in importance its actual application in grade determination. Many carcasses of beef, veal, lamb and mutton are officially graded and stamped. Few livestock are sold on a graded basis. Most are purchased after inspection by the buyer who makes his own appraisal of value. But in the bargaining between buyer and seller grade characteristics are often a base for discussion.

Grade names are essential to the reporting of market prices. Market news reports are usually expressed in market class and grade. The reports are made by market reporters, who are trained to judge the grades of animals for price-reporting purposes.

The Federal Grading Service graded 5.7 billion pounds of beef and 600 million pounds of veal, lamb and mutton in 1954. This was 45 percent of all beef produced commercially, 22 percent of the veal, and 35 percent of the lamb and mutton. The Federal grade stamp for meat is the familiar purple ribbonlike stamp that appears on many retail cuts. The grade name is enclosed in a shield outline under the letters USDA. Meat graded by an official grader is stamped with the official grade by means of a roller stamp that makes a purple ribbon imprint the length of the carcass or wholesale cut. This grade stamp is not to be confused with the round Federal meat inspection stamp which shows that the meat was federally inspected and passed as wholesome food.

General acceptance of the Federal grades for meat as an accurate impartial index to quality has led to their use as an aid in merchandising. Wholesalers and retailers often find it expedient to order carcasses or cuts by grade, or particular part of a grade. Many housewives, too, have come to depend upon Federal grades as a guide in buying meat at retail.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Edible Offals

Table 8 continues a series of data published in this Situation on production and consumption of liver, heart, head meat, and other edible offals. An explanation of nature and sources of data was given in this Situation for May 1949.

Table 8.- Edible offals: Supply and distribution, United States, 1940 to date

IMS-78

Year	Supply			Distribution					
	Total production	Beginning commercial stocks	Imports	Total supply	Ending stocks	Commercial exports and shipments	Domestic disappearance		
	1/	2/			2/	3/	Military	Civilian	per capita
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	lb.
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	8	1,652	69	7/ 4	5/	1,579	10.2
1953	1,711	69	7	1,787	59	7/25	5/	1,703	10.8
1954	1,752	59	6	1,817	65	7/42	5/	1,710	10.6

- 20 -

1/ Production as percentage 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 beginning 1951. 4/ Calculated from population eating out of civilian supplies July 1 adjusted for underenumeration. 5/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 6/ Adjusted by estimated 40 million pounds of trimmings previously reported in stocks. 7/ Bureau of Census reports classification of "other meats except canned (including edible animal organs)" which includes sausage ingredients. In 1953 and 1954, 4 million pounds were deducted as an estimated quantity of sausage ingredients.

Data for 1934 to 1939 may be found in this Situation for July 8, 1954 on page 13.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE
UNITED STATES, MARCH 1, 1955 1/

by C.W. Estes
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

On March 1, 1955 there were 3,217 livestock slaughtering establishments in the United States that had an annual output of more than 300,000 pounds live weight. These included Federally inspected establishments whose slaughter is inspected by the Meat Inspection Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture; and two categories of plants that are not Federally inspected--"wholesale" plants (over 2 million pounds live weight annually) and "local" plants (generally those of 300,000 to 2 million pounds). In addition, several thousand "butchers" slaughter less than 300,000 pounds live weight per year.

The 3,217 slaughterers in March this year compared with 3,238 on May 1, 1950. Total volume of slaughter has expanded a great deal in the 5 years, and plants have increased in size and capacity. "Local" slaughterers were reduced to 1,810 in 1955 from 2,072 in 1950 (table 9). But non-inspected wholesale slaughterers increased to 952 this year from 725 in 1950, and Federally inspected establishments were up to 455 from 441. While detailed data on small "butcher" class slaughterers are not reported, their number has shown a steady decline, probably decreasing about one-fourth the last 5 years.

Ninety-seven percent of all commercial slaughter in 1954 was done in the 3,200 slaughtering establishments. Butchers accounted for the remaining 3 percent. Slaughtering establishments accounted for 98 percent of all cattle slaughtered, 96 percent of the calves, 96 percent of the hogs, and 99 percent of the sheep.

Federally inspected plants turned out 78 percent of the live weight of all commercial slaughter in 1954, a slight drop from 79 percent in 1950. In 1954, 89 percent of commercial slaughter of all sheep and lambs (live weight), 83 percent of hogs, 76 percent of cattle, and 60 percent of calves was in Federally inspected plants. In 1950, the percentages were 92 percent for sheep and lambs, 85 for hogs, 76 for cattle, and 59 for calves.

1/ This summarizes data in the full report, Number of Livestock Slaughter Establishments, March 1, 1955, published June 15, 1955. The full report is available from the Information Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 9.- Number of slaughtering establishments and of butchers, and volume of slaughter, 1955 compared with 1950 1/

Class	1955			1950		
	Number, March 1, <u>1/</u> number	Percent of total <u>1/</u> number	Percent of live weight of total commercial slaughter <u>2/</u>	Number May 1 <u>1/</u> number	Percent of total <u>1/</u> number	Percent of live weight of total commercial slaughter <u>3/</u>
Federally inspected	455	14	78	441	14	79
Non-federally inspected						
Wholesale	952	30) 19	725	22) 18
Local	<u>1,810</u>	<u>56</u>		<u>2,072</u>	<u>64</u>	
Total	<u>3,217</u>	100		<u>3,238</u>	100	
Butchers	Not available		<u>3</u>	Not available		<u>3</u>
Total commercial	---	---	100	---	---	100

1/ Excluding butchers.2/ 1954 data.3/ 1950 data.

Federally inspected establishments are concentrated in the North Atlantic and East North Central regions, which have 39 percent of the United States total (table 10, and map, page 25). The Pacific Region has about 17 percent, with California accounting for 12 percent.

Non-federally inspected "wholesale" plants tend to be more numerous in the Eastern and Southern States. The East North Central Region has about 27 percent of the total. Ohio with 83 plants and Michigan with 82 account for over half of those in the region. The South Central Region has nearly 20 percent of the United States total non-federally inspected "wholesale" slaughter plants, while the North Atlantic Region has about 18 percent.

The North Atlantic Region has 24 percent of all "local" slaughter plants, with 217 located in Pennsylvania. The East North Central Region contains 23 percent, while the South Central has 21 percent.

Table 10.- Number of slaughtering establishments,
United States, March 1955 ^{1/}

State	Under	Not under Federal		Total
	Federal	inspection		
	inspection	Wholesale	Local	
	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	19	18	55	92
New York	23	36	80	139
New Jersey	17	10	36	63
Pennsylvania	21	87	217	325
Ohio	29	83	133	245
Indiana	14	33	89	136
Illinois	32	30	73	135
Michigan	4	82	113	199
Wisconsin	17	30	12	59
Minnesota	10	9	24	43
Iowa	21	7	21	49
Missouri	13	26	20	59
North Dakota	2	2	7	11
South Dakota	6	2	9	17
Nebraska	18	11	21	50
Kansas	16	12	33	61
Delaware, Maryland ^{2/}	11	17	39	67
Virginia	9	12	25	46
West Virginia	---	12	20	32
North Carolina	2	33	65	100
South Carolina	1	11	34	46
Georgia	7	33	48	88
Florida	4	26	36	66
Kentucky	7	18	21	46
Tennessee	9	24	38	71
Alabama	4	11	47	62
Mississippi	3	5	24	32
Arkansas	2	12	37	51
Louisiana	2	14	57	73
Oklahoma	3	27	39	69
Texas	22	75	121	218
Montana	4	9	19	32
Idaho	5	9	20	34
Wyoming	1	---	10	11
Colorado	12	12	17	41
New Mexico	---	2	16	18
Arizona	1	9	3	13
Utah	4	10	16	30
Nevada	2	---	4	6
Washington	13	19	56	88
Oregon	9	21	33	63
California	56	53	22	131
United States	455	952	1,810	3,217

^{1/} Includes all plants with an output of 300,000 pounds or more live weight annually. ^{2/} Includes the District of Columbia.

The 3,217 slaughtering establishments operating on March 1 have been classified according to the species slaughtered during 1954. Data are in table 11. The most common classification was plants slaughtering cattle and calves and hogs which accounted for 1,334 plants or 41 percent of the 3,217 plants. A total of 954, or 30 percent, slaughtered all four species in 1954. There were 518 plants or 16 percent that slaughtered cattle and calves only. Plants slaughtering cattle and calves and sheep and lambs totaled 265-- about 8 percent of all plants. The number of plants slaughtering only hogs totaled 138 or 4 percent of all plants classified. There were only 3 plants which slaughtered hogs and sheep and lambs in 1954 and only 5 plants that slaughtered sheep and lambs only.

Of the 455 Federally inspected establishments, 32 percent slaughtered all 4 species and 26 percent slaughtered cattle and calves only; 18 percent slaughtered cattle, calves and hogs; 16 percent slaughtered cattle, calves and sheep and lambs; and 7 percent slaughtered hogs only. There was one Federally inspected plant that slaughtered hogs and sheep and lambs only and one plant that slaughtered sheep and lambs only in 1954.

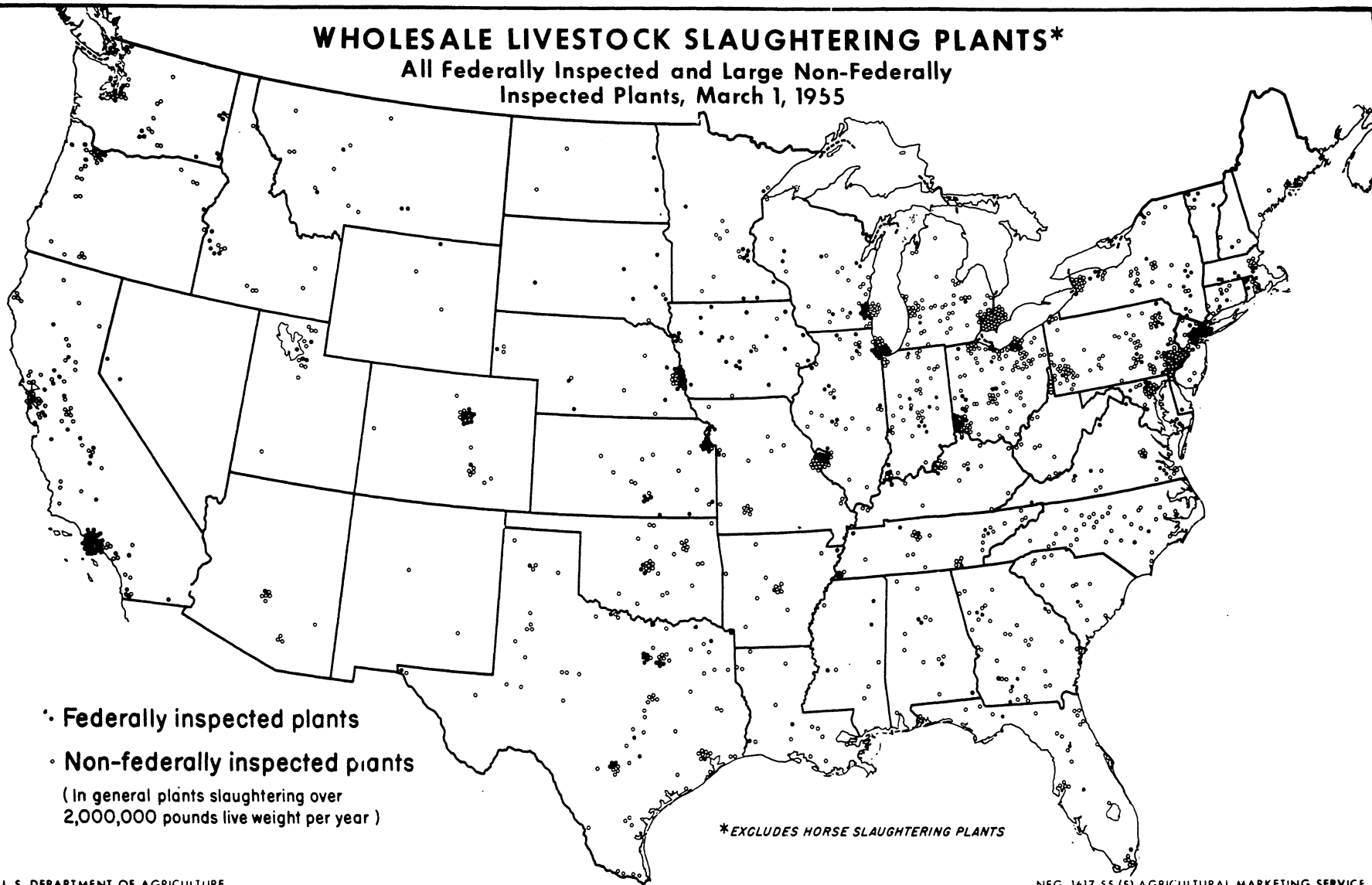
The most common slaughtering combinations for the "wholesale" group were plants slaughtering all 4 species which accounted for 36 percent, and those slaughtering cattle, calves and hogs which accounted for 37 percent. Plants slaughtering cattle and calves only made up 14 percent while those slaughtering cattle, calves and sheep and lambs were 8 percent and those slaughtering hogs only, 4 percent. There were 4 "wholesale" plants which slaughtered sheep and lambs only, and only one that slaughtered hogs and sheep and lambs only.

Among the 1,810 non-federally inspected "local" plants, the most common classification was those slaughtering cattle and calves and hogs, where about half of the "local" plants are found. The next most common category was those slaughtering all 4 species which accounts for 26 percent of the total. Another 15 percent of the plants slaughtered cattle and calves only. About 6 percent slaughtered cattle, calves and sheep and lambs and 4 percent slaughtered hogs only. Only one plant in the "local" group slaughtered hogs, sheep and lambs only, and none slaughtered sheep and lambs only.

From the data in table 11 listing slaughterers by combinations, the number for each species can be obtained by new grouping. For instance, the number of all plants slaughtering cattle and calves is a sum of the 4 separate combinations that include cattle, or 3,071. Hog slaughterers number 2,429; and sheep slaughterers, 1,227.

WHOLESALE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING PLANTS*

All Federally Inspected and Large Non-Federally Inspected Plants, March 1, 1955



- Federally inspected plants
- Non-federally inspected plants
(In general plants slaughtering over 2,000,000 pounds live weight per year)

*EXCLUDES HORSE SLAUGHTERING PLANTS

Table 11.- Number of slaughtering establishments
by species slaughtered, March 1955 1/

Species slaughtered	Under Federal inspection		Not under Federal inspection		Total
	<u>2/</u>	<u>3/</u>	Wholesale	Local	
Cattle and calves, hogs and sheep and lambs	147	340	467	954	
Cattle and calves only	119	129	270	518	
Cattle and calves and hogs	81	357	896	1,334	
Cattle and calves and sheep and lambs	73	80	112	265	
Hogs only	33	41	64	138	
Hogs and sheep and lambs	1	1	1	3	
Sheep and lambs only	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>5</u>	
Total	455	952	1,810	3,217	

1/ Classified on the basis of species slaughtered in 1954. Includes all plants with an output of 300,000 pounds or more live weight annually.

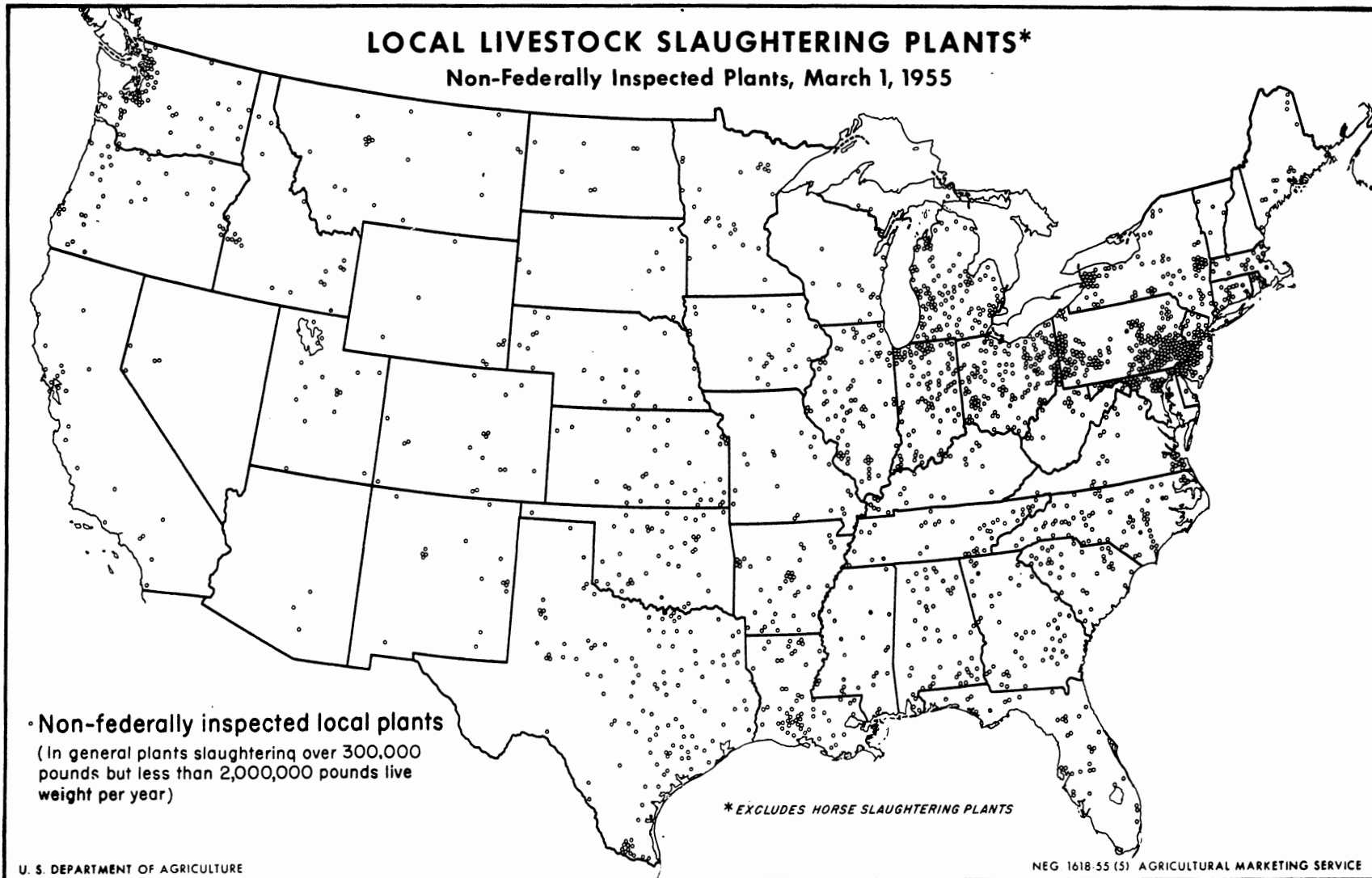
2/ Includes all plants which slaughter animals under inspection conducted by the Meat Inspection Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture.

3/ Includes principally plants not under Federal inspection which slaughter over 2 million pounds live weight annually.

4/ Includes principally plants not under Federal inspection which slaughter 300,000 to 2 million pounds annually.

LOCAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING PLANTS*

Non-Federally Inspected Plants, March 1, 1955



• Non-federally inspected local plants

(In general plants slaughtering over 300,000 pounds but less than 2,000,000 pounds live weight per year)

* EXCLUDES HORSE SLAUGHTERING PLANTS

Selected price statistics for meat animals

Item	Unit	1954		1955		
		May	June	April	May	June
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	26.67	25.72	28.45	25.65	24.15
Choice	do.	24.25	23.88	24.62	23.09	22.63
Good	do.	21.79	21.57	21.51	20.66	20.44
Commercial	do.	18.99	18.72	18.16	17.65	17.22
Utility	do.	16.42	15.99	15.71	15.10	14.64
All grades	do.	23.54	23.49	23.36	22.18	22.15
Omaha, all grades	do.	22.46	22.34	21.98	20.91	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	22.25	22.31	22.01	20.90	20.88
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	15.18	14.18	14.70	14.02	14.08
Utility	do.	13.50	12.38	12.92	12.39	12.51
Canner and Cutter	do.	11.52	10.59	11.08	10.73	10.91
Vealers, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	23.80	20.50	25.52	25.12	22.67
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	20.44	18.20	21.25	20.01	19.03
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	17.40	16.60	17.00	16.30	16.50
Calves	do.	18.40	17.10	17.60	17.20	17.50
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	25.78	24.29	16.57	17.09	18.76
180-200 pounds	do.	27.07	25.24	17.48	18.13	20.24
200-220 pounds	do.	27.15	25.25	17.49	18.08	20.24
220-240 pounds	do.	26.80	24.80	17.35	17.83	19.97
240-270 pounds	do.	25.99	23.80	16.90	17.14	19.11
270-300 pounds	do.	25.08	22.58	16.47	16.47	18.19
All weights	do.	26.05	24.02	16.90	17.24	19.51
8 markets 2/	do.	26.09	24.22	16.96	17.21	19.60
Sows, Chicago	do.	21.23	18.52	14.51	13.80	15.20
Price received by farmers	do.	24.70	21.50	16.60	16.40	18.40
Hog-corn price ratio 3/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts	do.	16.4	14.9	11.6	11.6	13.2
Price received by farmers, all hogs	do.	16.8	14.4	12.2	11.7	13.1
Sheep and lambs						
Sheep						
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	5.88	6.03	7.51	5.94	5.26
Price received by farmers	do.	6.74	6.30	6.68	5.95	5.49
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	23.00	24.52	22.12	19.08	24.14
Feeding, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	---	---	19.83	---	---
Price received by farmers	do.	21.80	20.90	19.60	18.20	20.10
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		324	296	269	260	276
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	40.01	39.46	39.32	38.22	37.63
Lamb carcass, Choice, 40-50 pounds	do.	48.35	43.36	42.65	40.61	49.50
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
72.84 pounds fresh	Dollars	27.97	26.15	18.98	19.63	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	38.40	35.90	26.04	26.95	
71.19 pounds fresh and cured	do.	31.90	30.01	22.58	22.91	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	44.81	42.15	31.72	32.18	
Excluding lard						
56.19 pounds fresh and cured	do.	28.53	26.91	20.18	20.59	
Average per 100 pounds	do.	50.77	47.89	35.91	36.64	
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	68.3	68.8	68.7	67.2	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	58.7	57.8	48.6	49.3	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		99.1	92.9	84.2	84.1	
Retail (1947-49=100) 4/		114.0	113.7	101.1	101.4	

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

4/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats. Excludes poultry and fish.

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

Item	Unit	1954		1955		
		May	June	April	May	June
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1935-39=100)		146	145	156	161	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	181	130	272	236	
Sheep and lambs	do.	147	90	156	113	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	1,439	1,570	1,452	1,560	
Steers	do.	815	881	737	810	
Heifers	do.	155	166	238	201	
Cows	do.	429	474	444	509	
Calves	do.	561	622	596	588	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,045	1,200	1,180	1,228	
Hogs	do.	3,380	3,453	4,472	4,164	
Percentage sows	Percent	17	34	8	15	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	960	944	968	961	
Calves	do.	218	241	197	219	
Sheep and lambs	do.	95	90	100	96	
Hogs	do.	261	274	244	252	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	538	526	539	534	
Veal, per head	do.	121	135	110	122	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	46	44	48	47	
Pork, per head 1/	do.	150	156	139	141	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight 1/	do.	58	57	57	56	
Lard, per head	do.	37	40	35	38	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	15	14	15	
Total production						
Beef	Million pounds	770	822	779	830	
Veal	do.	68	84	65	71	
Lamb and mutton	do.	48	52	57	58	
Pork 1/	do.	505	538	618	587	
Lard	do.	125	137	158	156	
Total commercial slaughter 2/						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	1,959	2,112	1,972	2,104	
Calves	do.	946	1,054	974	961	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,178	1,354	1,326	1,369	
Hogs	do.	4,205	4,272	5,503	5,106	
Total production						
Beef	Million pounds	1,007	1,066	1,013	1,075	
Veal	do.	115	138	109	118	
Lamb and mutton	do.	54	59	63	64	
Pork 1/	do.	616	649	751	708	
Lard	do.	145	157	184	181	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	147	127	142	132	119
Veal	do.	13	11	13	12	11
Lamb and mutton	do.	9	8	9	10	13
Pork	do.	421	385	544	539	473
Total meat and meat products 3/	do.	706	653	835	822	741

1/ Excludes lard.

2/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

3/ Includes stocks of sausage and sausage room products, canned meats and canned meat products, and edible offals, in addition to the four meats listed.

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