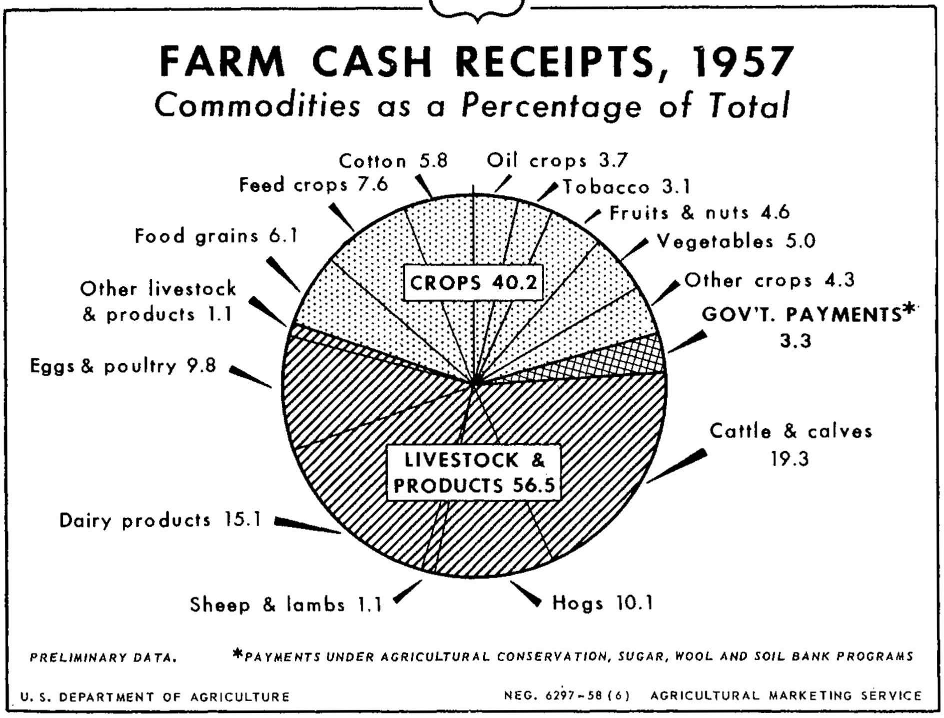
July 1958
FOR RELEASE
JULY 9, P. M.

The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-96



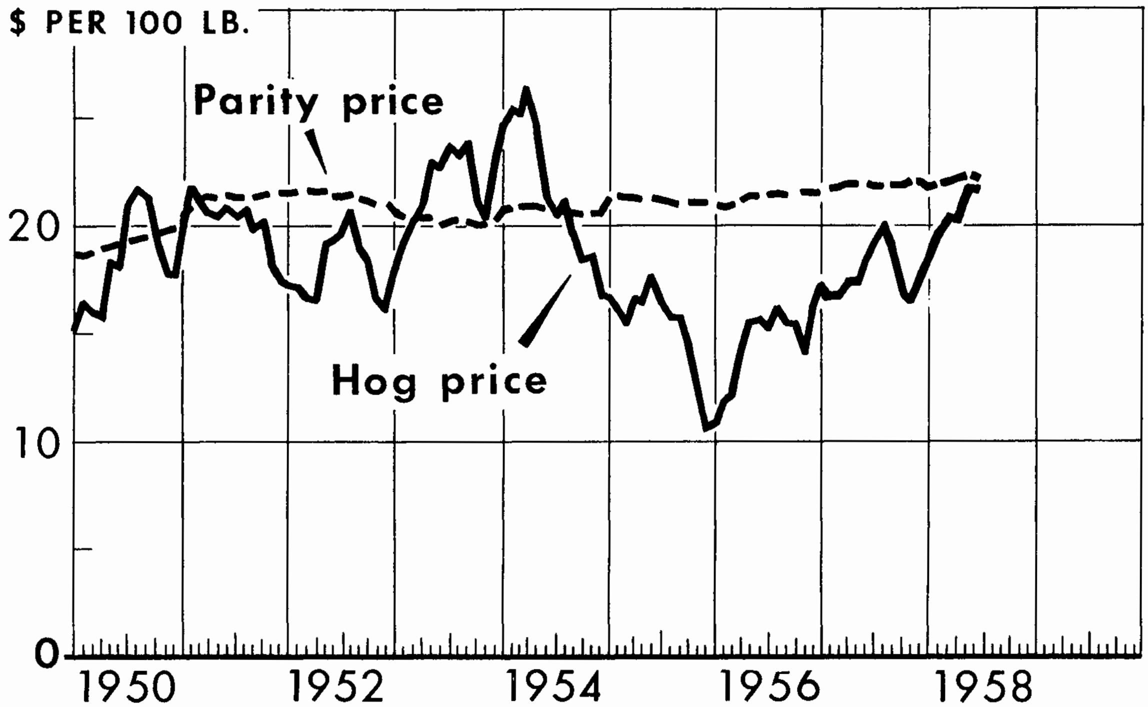
Farmers' cash receipts from commodities and Government payments in 1957 totaled 30.8 billion dollars. Receipts from livestock and livestock products were 17.4 billion or 56.5 percent of the total. Livestock have provided over half of cash receipts each year since 1934, with a gain in meat animals more than offsetting a decline in the relative importance of dairy products. Cattle and calves were the largest single source of receipts. Hogs were the third largest source, though their proportion is somewhat smaller than the long-time average.

Published bimonthly by

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

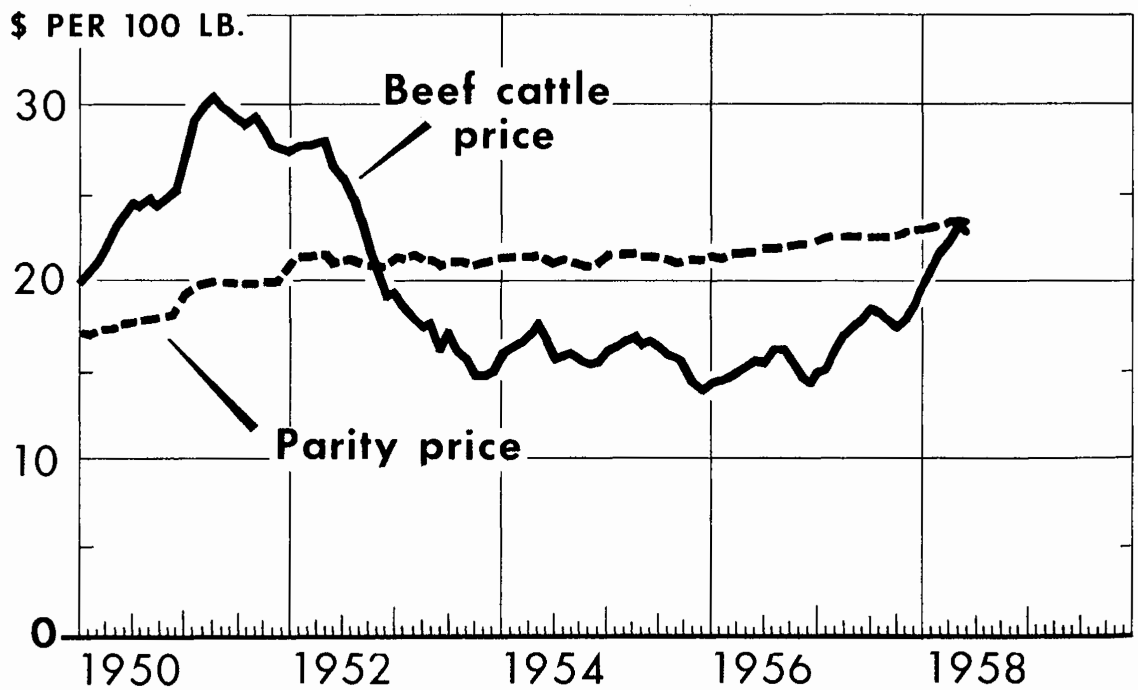
PRICES RECEIVED FOR HOGS



U. S. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 3478 - 58 (6) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

PRICES RECEIVED FOR BEEF CATTLE



U. S. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 3477A - 58 (6) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 1, 1958

SUMMARY

Hog production is beginning an uptrend. The 1958 spring pig crop is estimated to be only 2 percent larger than last year's crop, but producers plan for 13 percent more sows to farrow fall pigs. Price reaction to the small gain in spring pigs will be small but a sizable downward adjustment in 1959 can be expected from the prospective gain in fall pigs. Prices of hogs will decline seasonally this fall and may average not greatly different from the levels of last fall. Prices next spring and summer, when fall pigs are marketed, will likely be considerably below those of this past year. Nevertheless, prices are likely to retain at least an average relationship to feed prices.

Cattle production also is beginning a cyclical rise. The inventory of cattle and calves on farms next January 1 is likely to be larger than last January. However, unlike hogs, the consequent increase in marketings will not appear until much later. During the remining months of 1958 cattle slaughter is expected to be less than last year; and a reduced level seems likely to continue in 1959. Slaughter of fed cattle this fall probably will average larger than a year earlier but slaughter of other classes will be smaller.

Prices of fed cattle have declined $2.00 to $3.00 per 100 pounds from their high in March, but in late June were still $4.00 to $5.00 above the price of June last year. A small further decline seems probable. If it occurs, some further seasonal drop in prices of feeder cattle also may take place. Feeder prices will be influenced also by range conditions and by prospects for feed production. On the whole, though, prices of feeder cattle seem likely to remain considerably higher than last year during most or all the fall.

Prices of lambs declined gradually beginning in late winter to below a year before, but prices of spring lambs in late June were a little above last year. Unless prices of cattle and hogs decline more than now seems probable, prices of lambs will likely hold up well this summer and fall. They may average close to last year's prices.

Retail prices of meat this summer will be higher than last summer. Production of pork and of fed beef will likely exceed last year, but production of other kinds of meat will be less; and cold storage stocks on hand at the beginning of the summer were considerably smaller than a year before.

CONTENTS

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Spring Pig Crop Up 2 Percent

The 1958 spring pig crop totaled 52.7 million head, a modest 2 percent larger than the 1957 spring crop and a somewhat smaller gain than had been expected from earlier farrowing intentions. The 1958 spring crop was the third smallest crop in the last 10 years (table 1).

The number of sows farrowing spring pigs was up 3 percent from last year but the number of pigs saved per litter averaged 7.05 pigs, down slightly from the record high of 7.12 in the spring of 1957. It was the first decline in litter size in 8 years. The sharp increase in winter farrowings and unfavorable weather at farrowing time were factors in reducing average litter size.

The West North Central, South Atlantic and Western regions showed increases in spring pigs from a year earlier. The crop in the East North Central was virtually unchanged and decreases were recorded in the North Atlantic and South Central regions. The greatest relative gain--10 percent--was in the West. The West was notable also as the only region to show a gain in the number of pigs saved per litter.

Farrowing dates were once again moved earlier--this time rather sharply. Nearly 15 percent more sows farrowed in the first half of the spring season (December-February) this year than last. Three percent fewer farrowed in March-May. December-February farrowings comprised 37 percent of the 1958 spring total compared with 33 percent last year (table 2).

13 Percent More Fall Farrowings Planned

A sizable uptrend in hog production apparently is beginning with this fall's farrowings. Producers are planning a 13 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow fall pigs. As they follow a slight gain in the fall of 1957, the number of sows farrowing this fall would be the largest since 1951. Moreover, if these intentions are realized and the number of pigs saved per litter is average with an allowance for upward trend, the 1958 fall crop would be about 41.5 million pigs, up 14 percent from last fall and the largest peacetime fall crop on record.

All regions except the North Atlantic plan more fall farrowings. Producers in the West North Central States intend to increase farrowing by 21 percent, the greatest gain for any area.

Producers in 10 of the Corn Belt States who report farrowing plans by quarters expected to have 18 percent more summer (June-August) and 13 percent more September-November farrowings. These intentions indicate that the trend toward a higher proportion of summer farrowings is being continued. The planned increase in total fall farrowings is somewhat larger than seemed likely earlier. In March producers in these 10 States reported a 13 percent probable increase in June-August farrowings.

Table 1.--Number of sows farrowing, pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, by regions, 1952 to date

SPRING PIG CROP

Year	North Atlantic	North Central East	North Central West	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Sows farrowing:							
1952	162	2,342	4,014	700	881	212	8,311
1953	137	2,070	3,554	570	571	143	7,045
1954	130	2,220	3,915	582	665	157	7,669
1955	139	2,404	4,247	618	780	171	8,359
1956	138	2,317	3,572	645	834	159	7,665
1957	119	2,207	3,371	645	787	148	7,277
1958 1/	109	2,221	3,564	660	769	163	7,486
Pigs saved:							
1952	1,102	15,745	26,812	4,463	5,694	1,319	55,135
1953	941	14,271	24,322	3,730	3,737	939	47,940
1954	863	15,479	27,127	3,895	4,454	1,034	52,852
1955	937	16,678	29,630	4,097	5,220	1,128	57,690
1956	909	16,125	25,279	4,287	5,545	1,041	53,186
1957	824	15,746	24,485	4,385	5,353	1,019	51,812
1958 1/	750	15,698	25,590	4,408	5,176	1,123	52,745
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Pigs saved per litter:							
1952	6.80	6.72	6.68	6.38	6.46	6.22	6.63
1953	6.87	6.89	6.84	6.54	6.54	6.57	6.80
1954	6.62	6.97	6.93	6.70	6.70	6.59	6.89
1955	6.68	6.94	6.98	6.63	6.69	6.63	6.90
1956	6.58	6.96	7.08	6.65	6.65	6.54	6.94
1957	6.88	7.13	7.26	6.80	6.80	6.86	7.12
1958 1/	6.86	7.07	7.18	6.68	6.73	6.92	7.05

FALL PIG CROP

Year	North Atlantic	North Central East	North Central West	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Sows farrowing:							
1952	123	1,677	1,939	533	654	141	5,067
1953	103	1,520	1,781	429	537	109	4,479
1954	111	1,696	1,975	481	626	125	5,014
1955	119	1,877	2,225	498	732	135	5,586
1956	108	1,785	1,984	504	694	119	5,194
1957	98	1,774	2,014	507	660	123	5,176
1958 2/	95	1,959	2,429	538	711	142	5,874
Pigs saved:							
1952	847	11,271	13,001	3,421	4,226	928	33,694
1953	701	10,259	11,893	2,855	3,543	723	29,974
1954	764	11,579	13,455	3,203	4,156	821	33,978
1955	809	12,886	15,199	3,310	4,922	903	38,029
1956	738	12,625	14,118	3,417	4,687	801	36,386
1957	669	12,626	14,530	3,400	4,459	840	36,524
1958							2/41,500
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Pigs saved per litter:							
1952	6.89	6.72	6.71	6.42	6.46	6.58	6.65
1953	6.81	6.75	6.68	6.66	6.60	6.63	6.69
1954	6.91	6.83	6.81	6.66	6.64	6.56	6.78
1955	6.79	6.87	6.83	6.65	6.72	6.66	6.81
1956	6.80	7.07	7.12	6.79	6.75	6.71	7.00
1957	6.83	7.12	7.21	6.71	6.76	6.84	7.06
1958							2/7.05

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Number indicated to farrow from intentions as of June 1, 1958. 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, 1953 to date

Year	Dec. 1/	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
	Sows farrowing, spring						
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1953	213	415	998	2,028	2,160	1,231	7,045
1954	255	480	1,313	2,288	2,104	1,229	7,669
1955	307	674	1,520	2,312	2,255	1,291	8,359
1956	399	727	1,419	2,154	1,919	1,047	7,665
1957	391	709	1,325	2,008	1,827	1,017	7,277
1958	429	821	1,527	1,919	1,741	1,049	7,486
	Percentage distribution of spring farrowings						
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1953	3.0	5.9	14.2	28.8	30.6	17.5	100.0
1954	3.3	6.3	17.1	29.9	27.4	16.0	100.0
1955	3.7	8.1	18.2	27.6	27.0	15.4	100.0
1956	5.2	9.5	18.5	28.1	25.0	13.7	100.0
1957	5.4	9.7	18.2	27.6	25.1	14.0	100.0
1958	5.7	11.0	20.4	25.6	23.3	14.0	100.0

1/ December of preceding year.

Total 1958 Pig Crop up 7 Percent

If the fall pig crop should be 41.5 million head as now indicated, the combined pig crop for 1958 would be 94.2 million. Such a crop would be 7 percent above 1957 but only 5 percent more than the 1947-56 average.

An increase in hog production has been made inevitable by the consistently favorable hog-corn ratio, large "free" grain supplies and relatively high hog prices. More surprising than the large jump now occurring is that it did not come earlier.

If a 14 percent rise in fall pig crop does materalize, it will result in substantially lower prices for hogs in the spring and summer of 1959 than the relatively high prices in those seasons of this year. This will bring to an end the current unusually favorable period for hog prices. On the other hand, several factors will prevent declines from being severe: (1) the fall crop is the smaller of the two annual crops, and hogs from it reach market at a time when pork output is seasonally smaller; (2) cold storage stocks this winter will doubtless be kept smaller than usual, offsetting some of next spring's increase in current pork production; (3) the increase in pork output will begin from the lowest level relative to population in several years; (4) beef output will remain cyclically small in 1959.

Even more significant, however, is that while hog prices next spring may no longer appear very favorable in relation to various standards such as parity, they will still be fairly high in relation to the price of corn.

This fall's increase in hog production has greater meaning looking ahead to the spring crop of 1959. There is real danger that if the uptrend in hog production continues at the rapid pace now begun, production will prove excessive and severe price adjustments will follow in the fall of 1959.

Mid-summer Hog Slaughter To Be Above Last Summer

Hog slaughter each month from January through May this year was below the corresponding months of 1957, but the gap closed in June. For January-May, commercial slaughter was 6 percent less than a year ago. In June the number of hogs slaughtered in federally inspected plants was nearly 5 percent more than last June. The late-spring, early-fall pig crops of 1957, which supplied the January-June slaughter, were slightly smaller than a year before. Larger withholdings of sows accentuated the difference in slaughter supplies. Receipts of sows at 8 principal markets the first half of this year were 4 percent less than last year.

Slaughter this summer will probably continue to exceed that of a year ago. Marketings at that time will be mainly from the larger December-February farrowings. Slaughter will likely continue above a year earlier through early fall, but late-fall and early-winter slaughter will probably be down to or a little below last year's level.

Hog Prices Near Seasonal High

Although varying seasonally, hog prices have generally trended upward for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. (See table 3 and top chart inside cover page). Prices received by farmers in mid-June, at \$21.60 per 100 pounds, showed a rise of \$11.00 over the postwar low of \$10.60 in December 1955 and a margin of \$3.20 over last June. Late in June the average price of barrows and gilts at 8 markets was \$23.58 per 100 pounds, up \$4.25 from January and \$4.00 above a year ago.

Prices are expected to decline seasonally from an early-summer peak. A late-summer price adjustment could be fairly sharp if marketings of early spring pigs should be bunched. However, a more gradual decline throughout late summer and fall is the more likely prospect. Prices for the fall as a whole will probably average near those of last fall -- possibly a little above.

A sharp upturn in prices at the end of the year as occurred in each of the last two years does not seem probable this year. Prices could recover only a bit, and then decline again as hogs from the 1958 fall crop reach the market.

Table 3.--Price per 100 pounds received by farmers, parity price, and price received as percentage of parity, meat animals, average Aug. 1909-July 1914, annual 1950-57, by months 1957 to date

Year	Beef cattle			Calves			Hogs			Lambs			Sheep		
	Price received by farmers 1/	Parity price	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 1/	Parity price	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 1/	Parity price	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 1/	Parity price	Price received as percentage of parity	Price received by farmers 1/	Parity price	Price received as percentage of parity
	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Dol.	Dol.	Pct.
Average: Aug. 1909-July 1914	5.42	5.42	100	6.75	6.75	100	7.27	7.27	100	5.88	5.88	100	4.53	4.53	100
1950	23.10	17.40	133	26.00	19.50	134	18.20	19.20	95	24.80	19.10	129	11.40	10.70	105
1951	28.80	19.70	146	32.10	22.10	146	20.20	21.30	95	31.20	21.70	144	16.30	11.10	147
1952	24.80	21.00	118	27.20	23.50	115	18.00	21.40	84	24.70	23.10	107	10.60	10.70	99
1953	16.60	21.00	79	17.60	23.40	75	21.60	20.20	107	19.70	22.80	86	6.93	10.40	69
1954	16.00	21.10	76	16.70	23.30	72	21.90	20.70	106	19.30	23.00	84	6.24	10.30	61
1955	15.70	21.20	74	16.80	23.30	72	15.40	21.20	72	18.50	23.30	79	5.99	10.10	60
1956	15.00	21.60	69	16.10	23.60	68	14.50	21.30	68	18.60	23.70	78	5.68	9.97	57
1957	17.20	22.40	77	18.60	24.60	76	17.80	21.90	82	19.90	24.90	80	6.09	10.10	63
January	14.80	22.10	67	16.60	24.40	68	17.30	21.60	80	18.10	24.60	74	5.55	9.99	56
February	14.90	22.30	67	17.30	24.50	71	16.80	21.80	77	18.50	24.80	75	5.86	10.10	58
March	16.00	22.40	71	17.60	24.60	72	16.90	21.80	78	19.80	24.80	80	6.15	10.10	61
April	16.90	22.40	75	18.40	24.60	75	17.40	21.90	79	20.80	24.90	84	5.92	10.10	59
May	17.60	22.40	79	18.70	24.60	76	17.40	21.90	79	20.70	24.90	83	5.60	10.10	55
June	17.80	22.40	79	18.90	24.60	77	18.40	21.90	84	20.20	24.90	81	5.70	10.10	56
July	18.40	22.40	82	18.80	24.50	77	19.30	21.80	89	19.90	24.80	80	5.83	10.10	58
August	18.20	22.40	81	19.00	24.50	78	20.20	21.80	93	20.40	24.80	82	6.16	10.10	61
September	17.70	22.40	79	18.80	24.60	76	19.10	21.90	87	20.10	24.90	81	6.48	10.10	64
October	17.40	22.40	78	18.90	24.60	77	17.00	21.90	78	19.40	24.90	78	6.36	10.10	63
November	17.80	22.60	79	19.30	24.70	78	16.60	22.10	76	20.00	25.10	80	6.59	10.20	65
December	18.60	22.70	82	20.80	24.80	84	17.80	22.10	81	20.60	25.20	82	6.88	10.20	67
1958															
January	19.70	22.90	86	22.20	25.20	88	18.50	21.70	85	21.60	25.60	84	7.83	10.20	77
February	20.60	23.00	90	23.40	25.20	93	19.70	21.80	90	22.00	25.70	86	8.25	10.20	81
March	21.70	23.10	94	24.00	25.40	94	20.30	21.90	93	21.50	25.90	83	8.37	10.30	81
April	22.20	23.30	95	24.40	25.60	95	20.20	22.10	91	21.00	26.00	81	7.70	10.30	75
May	23.10	23.30	99	25.70	25.70	100	21.70	22.20	98	20.50	26.10	79	7.64	10.30	74
June	22.30	23.20	96	24.70	25.60	96	21.60	22.10	98	21.20	26.00	82	7.19	10.30	70

1/ Annual average is unweighted price.

Table 4 .--Commercial slaughter of cattle and hogs, by quarters, 1956 to date

Period	Cattle			Hogs		
	1958	1957	1956	1958	1957	1956
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Jan-Mar.	5,811	6,520	6,336	17,928	19,256	22,654
Apr.-June 1/	5,825-5,875	6,366	6,498	16,225-16,275	16,636	17,302
July-Sept.		6,898	6,867		16,340	16,555
Oct.-Dec.		6,448	7,161		20,363	22,002
Year		26,232	26,862		72,595	78,513

1/ Includes advance estimate for June based on weekly slaughter under Federal inspection.

First Half Cattle Slaughter Down 9 Percent

Cattle slaughter so far this year has been about 9 percent smaller than in 1957 (table 4). Some buildup in breeding herds is beginning and marketings of fed cattle have been less than last year. Total slaughter this summer and fall will likely be somewhat smaller than in 1957 with supplies of fed cattle exceeding last year but those of grass cattle being fewer.

The number of cattle and calves on feed at the beginning of 1958 was 3 percent below a year earlier. Since that time placements on feed have been up sharply and marketings of fed cattle have been down from the first half of 1957. While a more exact indication of when these cattle will be marketed will be available in July (see the report, Cattle and Calves on Feed July 1, to be released July 16), it appears that many of these cattle are reaching optimum weight and finish. Hence, fed cattle slaughter will probably be larger this summer than last, and may remain above last year during the fall.

Slaughter of all classes of cattle as reported by federally inspected plants has been down from 1957. A reduced rate for cows and calves indicates that replenishing of breeding herds is beginning. Unless the trend should be reversed by critically dry pastures over large areas, which are not expected, grass cattle slaughter will likely continue significantly below last year's level and a gain in cattle inventories seems assured this year.

Total cattle slaughter--grass and fed--will probably total a little less than in 1957 during the remaining months of this year.

Fed Cattle Prices to Decline

The reduced slaughter rate plus demand by farmers for feeding and breeding stock has given a strong boost to cattle prices. By mid-May the average price received by farmers for beef cattle had increased $5.70 per 100 pounds from last October, and was $5.50 above a year earlier. The average May price received was 99 percent of parity, the highest ratio in nearly 6 years. (See table 3 and bottom chart inside cover page.)

By mid-June the average price received by farmers for beef cattle was down 80 cents per 100 pounds from May. Late in June the average price of Choice slaughter steers at Chicago was $28.23, down $2.30 from this year's peak in March but $4.50 above a year ago (table 5).

Some small further decline in fed cattle prices seems likely this summer as marketings surpass last year's levels. Declines will likely not be large if marketings are not bunched, as they will not coincide with heavy marketings of other meat animals. Some price recovery is possible by the end of the year.

Feeder cattle prices trended steadily upward in the first 4 months of this year but turned downward in June. The average cost of feeder and stocker steers at Kansas City (all weights and grades) late in June was $25.32 per 100 pounds, $2.50 below the May high but $2.30 above January and over $5.50 above a year ago.

Some seasonal decline in feeder cattle prices may occur during coming months. This is the normal price movement and lower fed cattle prices will likely lessen the demand for feedlot replacements. However, profits in cattle feeding this past winter have been generally satisfactory, and producers are apparently optimistic about the outlook for cattle. Hence, further reductions will probably be small and feeder prices will probably continue considerably above a year earlier during most or all of 1958.

Lamb Prices Near Seasonal High; Slaughter to Increase

In contrast to the usual pattern of an uptrend during the first half of the year, the average price received by farmers for lambs declined beginning early this year, but recovered some of the loss in recent weeks. The average June price was $21.20 per 100 pounds, $.80 lower than in February but about $1.00 above last June.

Table 5 .--Price per 100 pounds for selected classes of cattle, by months, 1958 compared with 1957

Month	Choice slaughter steers at Chicago 1/		Good feeder steers at Kansas City 2/		Utility slaughter steers at Chicago 1/		Utility slaughter cows at Chicago	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	26.82	21.23	23.81	17.45	19.01	14.30	15.88	11.25
February	27.54	20.57	25.00	18.16	20.24	14.66	16.80	11.84
March	29.90	21.86	26.66	19.38	22.26	15.81	17.85	13.03
April	29.37	22.99	27.05	20.19	21.92	16.03	19.20	13.45
May	28.83	23.31	27.62	21.15	23.00	16.45	19.82	14.18
June	3/28.05	23.48	26.52	20.93	3/22.69	17.28	19.94	14.80
July		25.12		21.65		18.42		14.36
August		25.63		21.76		17.78		13.91
September		24.98		21.32		17.28		13.66
October		24.67		21.01		17.41		13.73
November		25.20		21.60		17.98		14.08
December		25.98		22.62		18.23		15.04
Average		23.83		20.60		16.53		13.61

1/ Sold out of first hands. 2/ 500-800 pounds. 3/ 4-week average.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division.

This unusual price trend was occasioned largely by a shift toward later winter marketings of old-crop lambs. Apparently ample hay supplies and good range feed encouraged producers to market later than usual. Marketings of these heavy lambs this spring delayed the usual rise in prices for spring lambs. Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs the first 3 months of this year was down 13 percent from early 1957 but during April-June was 2 - 3 percent above a year earlier. The number of lambs on farms at the beginning of the year, other than those on feed, was up 13 percent from a year earlier, and the 1958 early spring lamb crop is estimated to be about 2 percent above the 1957 crop. Many of the old-crop lambs were marketed in the second quarter of this year, but even so a considerable number are probably still on hand for flock expansion.

Changes in lamb slaughter and prices during the rest of the year will be largely seasonal, although modified by price changes for other meat animals and probably by some withholding from slaughter for restocking flocks.

Slaughter will increase seasonally this summer and will probably be close to that of last summer as this year's lambs provide the bulk of slaughter supplies. The 1958 lamb crop report will be released July 24 but is expected to show a small gain as the number of breeding ewes on hand January 1 was up slightly. Prices this fall may average close to last fall.

1957 Wool Incentive Payments Down

Prices received by farmers for shorn wool during the 1957 marketing year (April 1957-March 1958) averaged 53.7 cents per pound, 9.4 cents over a year earlier. Incentive payments of 15.5 cents will be made to producers this summer for every $1.00 received from the sale of shorn wool. This rate is the percentage necessary to bring the average price received, which was 53.7 cents, up to the 62-cent incentive level. For the 1956 season this payment rate was 44 percent.

The payment rate on unshorn lambs for 1957 is 33 cents per 100 pounds live weight, which compares with 71 cents in 1956.

1957 Farm Cash Receipts from Meat Animals Total $9.4 Billion

Cash receipts from farm marketings of meat animals totaled 9,389 million dollars in 1957, 13 percent more than in 1956 but 3 percent less than the 1950-54 average. Last year's meat animal receipts were 30.5 percent of the 30.8 billion dollars received from all products (cash receipts plus Government payments). Cattle and calves were the largest single source of receipts, as they have been since 1934. (See table 6 and cover chart).

Receipts from livestock and livestock products in 1957 totaled 17.4 billion dollars or 56.5 percent of the total.

Compared with 1956, receipts for each class of meat animals and dairy products were up, but poultry and eggs showed a decline. Hogs made the largest gain percentagewise but still provided a smaller part of total receipts than in any postwar year except 1955 and 1956.

While livestock and livestock products have made up over half of farmers' cash receipts, this does not mean that they exceed crops in value of production. The income received from sales of livestock represents the value of feeds fed as well as the value of all other items in production. Hence, on farms where crops are not marketed but fed to livestock, the value of feeds might well be credited to crop output. On the basis of the value of production to which the value of feeds is so credited, livestock and livestock products accounted for around 30 percent of the value of farm output.

Table 6.--Cash receipts from farm marketings and Government payments, with percentage distribution, United States, averages 1910-54, annual 1955-57

Year	Total cash receipts and Government payments	Livestock and livestock products: Total 1/	Meat animals: Total	Meat animals: Cattle and calves	Meat animals: Hogs	Meat animals: Sheep and lambs	Dairy products	Poultry and eggs 2/	All crops	Government payments
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Average:										
1910-14	5,929	2,948	1,688	901	678	109	628	479	2,981	0
1915-19	10,576	5,072	3,044	1,540	1,343	161	1,050	754	5,504	0
1920-24	9,801	4,735	2,343	1,120	1,071	152	1,346	912	5,066	0
1925-29	10,923	5,797	2,889	1,382	1,296	211	1,672	1,092	5,126	0
1930-34	6,490	3,593	1,615	811	680	124	1,204	687	2,782	115
1935-39	8,473	4,577	2,197	1,174	856	167	1,409	811	3,417	479
1940-44	15,711	8,658	4,386	2,102	2,013	271	2,290	1,748	6,385	668
1945-49	27,282	14,971	7,983	4,436	3,178	369	3,776	2,954	11,857	454
1950-54	31,299	17,441	9,649	5,771	3,501	377	4,216	3,278	13,595	263
1955	29,785	15,880	8,199	5,174	2,709	316	4,222	3,196	13,676	229
1956	31,093	16,304	8,311	5,351	2,629	331	4,488	3,209	14,235	554
1957	30,773	17,376	9,389	5,953	3,102	334	4,651	3,001	12,381	1,016
	Percentage of total									
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Average:										
1910-14	100.0	49.7	28.4	15.2	11.4	1.8	10.6	8.1	50.3	0
1915-19	100.0	48.0	28.8	14.6	12.7	1.5	9.9	7.1	52.0	0
1920-24	100.0	48.3	23.9	11.4	10.9	1.6	13.7	9.3	51.7	0
1925-29	100.0	53.1	26.5	12.7	11.9	1.9	15.3	10.0	46.9	0
1930-34	100.0	55.3	24.9	12.5	10.5	1.9	18.5	10.6	42.9	1.8
1935-39	100.0	54.0	25.9	13.8	10.1	2.0	16.6	9.6	40.3	5.7
1940-44	100.0	55.1	27.9	13.4	12.8	1.7	14.6	11.1	40.6	4.3
1945-49	100.0	54.9	29.3	16.3	11.6	1.4	13.8	10.8	43.4	1.7
1950-54	100.0	55.7	30.8	18.4	11.2	1.2	13.5	10.5	43.5	.8
1955	100.0	53.3	27.5	17.3	9.1	1.1	14.2	10.7	45.9	.8
1956	100.0	52.4	26.7	17.2	8.4	1.1	14.4	10.3	45.8	1.8
1957	100.0	56.5	30.5	19.3	10.1	1.1	15.1	9.8	40.2	3.3

1/ Includes wool, horses, mules, mohair, honey, beeswax, bees, goats, rabbits and fur animals.

2/ Includes ducks, geese, guineas, pigeons, quail, pheasants and turkey hatching eggs.

Table 7 .--Average retail price of pork and Choice beef, per pound, by months, 1954 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
	Pork, excluding lard												
1954	67.7	68.1	68.1	68.9	69.2	68.3	65.8	63.8	62.8	59.9	58.2	57.4	64.8
1955	56.5	55.6	54.0	53.9	55.0	57.6	57.9	56.5	57.3	55.1	50.6	48.1	54.8
1956	46.7	47.9	47.5	49.6	51.0	54.8	54.6	55.1	55.9	55.2	53.1	53.7	52.1
1957	55.7	58.1	56.6	57.4	59.0	61.8	64.2	67.0	65.2	60.4	58.1	59.1	60.2
1958	61.9	63.1	64.2	65.1	65.6								
	Beef, Choice grade												
1954	69.0	68.2	67.3	67.3	68.3	68.8	68.3	67.5	68.6	68.9	70.0	69.9	68.5
1955	70.1	69.7	68.9	68.6	67.0	67.4	66.8	66.7	67.4	67.0	65.6	64.7	67.5
1956	63.5	62.0	60.8	61.4	62.6	63.7	64.9	68.2	72.4	72.9	71.0	68.6	66.0
1957	66.8	66.6	65.7	68.4	69.9	70.7	72.4	73.4	73.9	72.7	72.4	74.0	70.6
1958	77.3	78.4	80.7	82.8	82.5								

Compiled from data of the Marketing Research Division, AMS.

Retail Meat Prices To Decline Seasonally

In May, average prices of meat at retail were above those of a year earlier (table 7). The average price of Choice beef was up most, 12.6 cents per pound. Pork prices at 65.6 cents per pound were 6.6 cents higher and the highest since mid-1954.

Among the cuts for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports prices, veal cutlets have increased most in price per pound over a year ago (table 8). This is in line with the 20 percent smaller output of veal the first 5 months of this year from a year ago. Leg of lamb, whole hams and pork chops showed the smallest rises.

Smaller stocks of meat in cold storage have been a factor in the higher prices this summer. They especially affect prices of cured pork products and all processed meats.

Little change is likely in retail prices before fall. Pork prices will decline this fall but will probably average as high as last fall. Choice beef prices may drift slowly downward but will probably remain above 1957 prices. Supplies of Choice beef will be ample but relatively smaller supplies of the lower grades will have a price supporting influence.

Table 8.--Average retail price of meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1957 to date

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
Beef, Choice 1/												
Round steak												
1957	88.7	88.1	87.1	90.7	92.6	94.0	96.9	98.1	98.0	96.3	95.6	96.9
1958	100.6	101.0	103.1	105.8	105.9							
Rib roast												
1957	72.3	69.7	69.6	71.3	73.4	74.4	75.4	76.0	76.6	75.5	75.0	76.3
1958	80.3	80.2	81.0	82.6	82.9							
Chuck roast												
1957	49.0	49.7	48.7	50.9	52.0	52.2	53.0	54.0	55.1	54.3	53.4	56.3
1958	59.1	61.1	64.1	65.7	64.8							
Hamburger												
1957	39.0	39.1	39.3	40.0	40.8	42.2	43.6	44.3	44.1	43.6	43.8	44.6
1958	47.8	49.0	50.3	53.1	54.0							
Pork												
Pork chops												
1957	79.7	82.8	81.4	83.1	85.0	92.7	92.7	92.9	90.8	88.0	85.4	85.2
1958	87.9	88.6	89.5	91.2	91.3							
Bacon, sliced												
1957	64.4	69.4	67.7	68.5	71.4	74.9	80.7	87.5	85.4	75.5	69.8	70.4
1958	75.6	77.2	77.1	79.5	80.4							
Hams, whole												
1957	62.0	62.7	61.7	61.9	62.7	63.6	64.3	66.6	64.3	61.7	61.5	64.3
1958	66.3	66.5	68.4	68.6	67.9							
Veal cutlets												
1957	114.7	116.8	116.4	117.3	117.2	118.6	117.8	118.5	119.1	118.5	118.3	120.0
1958	125.1	129.3	131.2	131.8	133.0							
Leg of lamb												
1957	67.7	68.2	67.2	71.7	72.8	73.9	72.6	72.6	72.7	71.9	71.7	72.3
1958	76.1	78.0	77.5	78.1	77.0							

1/ Choice grade except for hamburger, which has no grade designation.

Compiled from data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 9.--Cold storage stocks of meat, June 1, average 1953-57, 1957 and 1958 with percentage comparisons

Item	1953-57 average	1957	1958	1958 as a percentage of 1957
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Beef:				
Frozen	136,886	119,592	88,421	74
In cure and cured	8,506	10,820	10,710	99
Total	145,392	130,412	99,131	76
Pork:				
Frozen				
Picnics	1/	15,370	6,323	41
Hams	1/	58,990	42,404	72
Bellies	1/	91,869	85,633	93
Other frozen pork cuts	1/	98,128	56,183	57
Total	324,885	264,357	190,543	72
In cure or cured				
Dry salt bellies	1/	12,709	11,485	90
Other dry salt pork	1/	7,096	7,780	110
Other pork cuts	1/	38,136	35,785	94
Total	95,339	57,941	55,050	95
Total pork	420,224	322,298	245,593	76
Other meats:				
Veal, frozen	12,616	11,144	7,565	68
Lamb and mutton, frozen	9,626	6,837	9,509	139
Canned meats in cooler	66,042	81,338	68,663	84
Total all meats	653,900	552,029	430,461	78

1/ Not reported separately prior to 1957.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, 1958

Period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply			Distribution					Production	Civilian consumption	
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per person 1/		Total	Per person
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
January	1,210	134	43	5	135	31	1,216	7.1	---	---	---
February	961	135	59	4	116	28	1,007	5.9	---	---	---
March	986	116	43	4	110	36	995	5.8	---	---	---
1st quarter	3,157	134	145	13	110	95	3,218	18.9			3/ 19.5
April	1,024	110		3	103	28					
May	1,062	103			99	27					
June											
2nd quarter											
Veal:											
January	106	13	1	1	12	4	103	.6	---	---	---
February	86	12	4/	4/	10	3	85	.5	---	---	---
March	92	10	4/	4/	9	2	91	.5	---	---	---
1st quarter	284	13	1	1	9	9	279	1.6			3/1.8
April	91	9		4/	9	4					
May	90	9			8	3					
June											
2nd quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
January	59	5	1	1	5	4/	59	.3	---	---	---
February	53	5	4/	4/	4	4/	54	.3	---	---	---
March	56	4	4/	4/	5	1	54	.3	---	---	---
1st quarter	168	5	1	1	5	1	167	1.0			3/1.0
April	65	5		4/	7	4/					
May	62	7			10	4/					
June											
2nd quarter											
Pork:											
January	892	194	15	10	218	15	858	5.0	---	---	---
February	709	218	13	11	228	14	687	4.0	---	---	---
March	774	228	14	10	224	20	762	4.5	---	---	---
1st quarter	2,375	194	42	31	224	49	2,307	13.5			3/15
April	807	224		9	260	15					
May	734	260			246	14					
June											
2nd quarter											
All meat:											
January	2,267	346	60	17	370	50	2,236	13.1	---	---	---
February	1,809	370	72	15	358	45	1,833	10.8	---	---	---
March	1,908	358	57	14	348	59	1,902	11.1	---	---	---
1st quarter	5,984	346	189	46	347	154	5,971	35.0			3/37.5
April	1,987	348		12	379	47					
May	1,948	379			363	44					
June											
2nd quarter											

1/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.
2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.
3/ Estimated.
4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957 May	1957 June	1958 April	1958 May	1958 June
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	25.49	25.37	33.56	32.07	
Choice	do.	23.31	23.48	29.37	28.83	
Good	do.	21.38	22.00	26.73	26.81	
Standard	do.	18.24	19.52	24.36	24.74	
Commercial	do.	---	---	---	---	
Utility	do.	16.45	17.28	21.92	23.00	
All grades	do.	22.85	23.07	28.59	28.27	
Omaha, all grades	do.	22.01	22.13	26.60	26.65	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	21.65	21.99	26.51	26.77	
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	15.08	15.86	20.64	21.59	21.18
Utility	do.	14.18	14.80	19.20	19.82	19.94
Canner and Cutter	do.	12.55	12.96	17.19	17.39	17.88
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	24.80	23.88	33.18	33.90	31.12
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	21.13	20.20	26.83	27.16	25.38
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	17.60	17.80	22.20	23.10	22.30
Calves	do.	18.70	18.90	24.40	25.70	24.70
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	17.27	18.64	19.36	21.75	22.31
180-200 pounds	do.	18.54	19.85	20.89	22.96	23.44
200-220 pounds	do.	18.76	20.18	21.20	23.05	23.68
220-240 pounds	do.	18.59	19.97	21.04	22.87	23.52
240-270 pounds	do.	18.04	19.35	20.54	22.30	22.91
270-300 pounds	do.	17.64	18.82	20.09	21.66	23.32
All weights	do.	18.13	19.58	20.68	22.30	23.06
8 markets 2/	do.	18.24	19.65	20.64	22.03	22.97
Sows, Chicago	do.	15.35	16.28	18.21	18.78	19.40
Price received by farmers	do.	17.40	18.40	20.20	21.70	21.60
Hog-corn price ratio 3/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		13.6	14.9	16.1	17.0	17.1
Price received by farmers, all hogs		14.1	15.1	18.0	18.9	18.2
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	6.74	4/ 5.90	8.82	4/ 8.14	4/ 7.37
Price received by farmers	do.	5.60	5.70	7.70	7.64	7.19
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	---	23.33	5/ 22.03	4/5/21.37	---
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	21.07	21.06	5/ 22.72	---	---
Price received by farmers	do.	20.70	20.20	21.00	20.50	21.20
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		280	288	339	355	348
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	38.53	38.80	46.86	46.56	45.59
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	44.93	44.00	47.74	45.12	45.92
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	20.63	21.71	23.00	24.21	24.89
Average per 100 pounds	do.	28.69	30.19	31.99	33.67	34.62
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	24.09	25.21	27.24	28.18	28.90
Average per 100 pounds	do.	33.92	35.50	38.36	39.68	40.70
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	21.75	22.87	24.78	25.72	26.43
Average per 100 pounds	do.	38.85	40.85	44.26	45.94	47.20
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	69.9	70.7	82.8	82.5	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	59.0	61.8	65.1	65.6	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		90.8	96.5	110.2	114.4	
Retail (1947-49=100) 6/		106.7	110.5	121.5	122.0	

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/ Shorn.
5/ Choice grade.
6/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

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

Item	Unit	1957 May	1957 June	1958 April	1958 May	1958 June
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		120	101	114	111	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States						
Cattle and calves	1,000 head	205	160	302	277	
Sheep and lambs	do.	161	108	106	144	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	1,665	1,535	1,383	1,468	
Steers	do.	939	800	780	831	
Heifers	do.	240	215	225	236	
Cows	do.	450	482	353	374	
Bulls and stags	do.	37	38	25	26	
Calves	do.	535	596	485	438	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,133	1,044	1,149	1,122	
Hogs	do.	4,884	3,994	4,963	4,444	
Percentage sows	Percent	12	21	8	11	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	991	974	1,010	1,006	
Calves	do.	220	231	200	222	
Sheep and lambs	do.	94	92	103	99	
Hogs	do.	245	253	239	246	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	559	546	569	568	
Veal, per head	do.	124	130	113	124	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	47	45	50	49	
Pork, per head	do.	135	140	137	140	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	55	55	58	57	
Lard, per head	do.	38	39	33	36	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	16	15	14	14	
Total production						
Beef	Million pounds	927	835	785	831	
Veal	do.	72	69	54	54	
Lamb and mutton	do.	53	47	58	55	
Pork	do.	657	559	681	619	
Lard	do.	186	154	165	158	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,255	2,079	1,879	1,952	
Calves	do.	938	875	800	716	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,286	1,186	1,298	1,268	
Hogs	do.	5,867	4,795	5,920	5,300	
Total production						
Beef	Million pounds	1,203	1,086	1,024	1,062	
Veal	do.	118	115	91	90	
Lamb and mutton	do.	60	53	65	62	
Pork	do.	785	663	807	734	
Lard	do.	211	174	188	178	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	155	130	110	103	99
Veal	do.	13	11	9	9	8
Lamb and mutton	do.	7	7	5	7	10
Pork	do.	342	322	224	260	246
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	595	552	418	453	430

1/ Federally inspected, and other commercial.
2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

L. C. CUNNINGHAM
EXT. SERV.
N. Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGR.
1-31-47
FNS-3 ITHACA, N. Y.

LIST OF TABLES

Issue dates for the Livestock and Meat Situation are January, March, May, July, August, September, and November. The next issue is scheduled for release August 25, 1958.