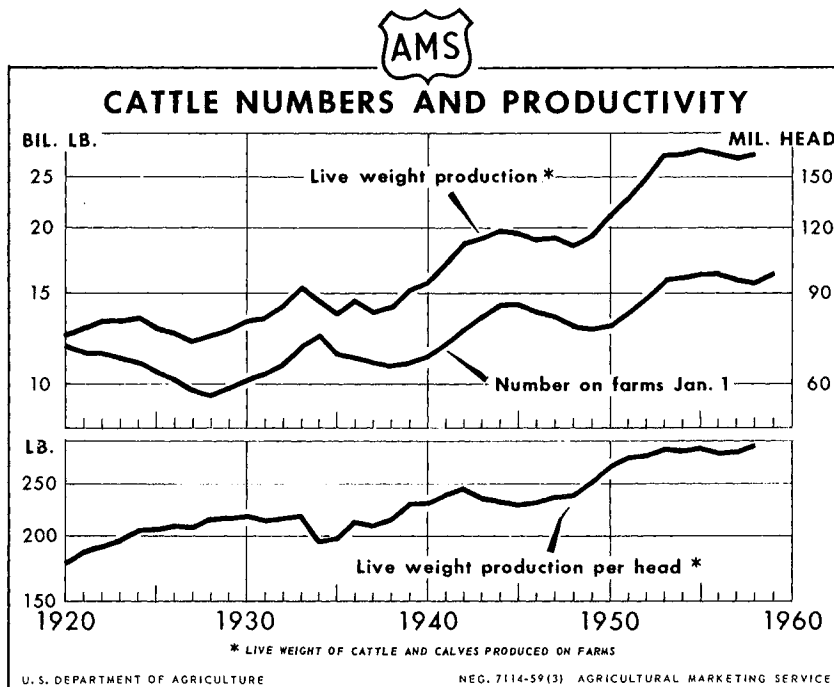


The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-102

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In this issue:
Outlook for Meat at Retail
Outlook for Sausage Meats
Cattle Productivity Still Increasing
The Market for Meat in the Nation's Schools
Rank of States in Meat Animal Production, 1958
Statistics on Foreign Trade



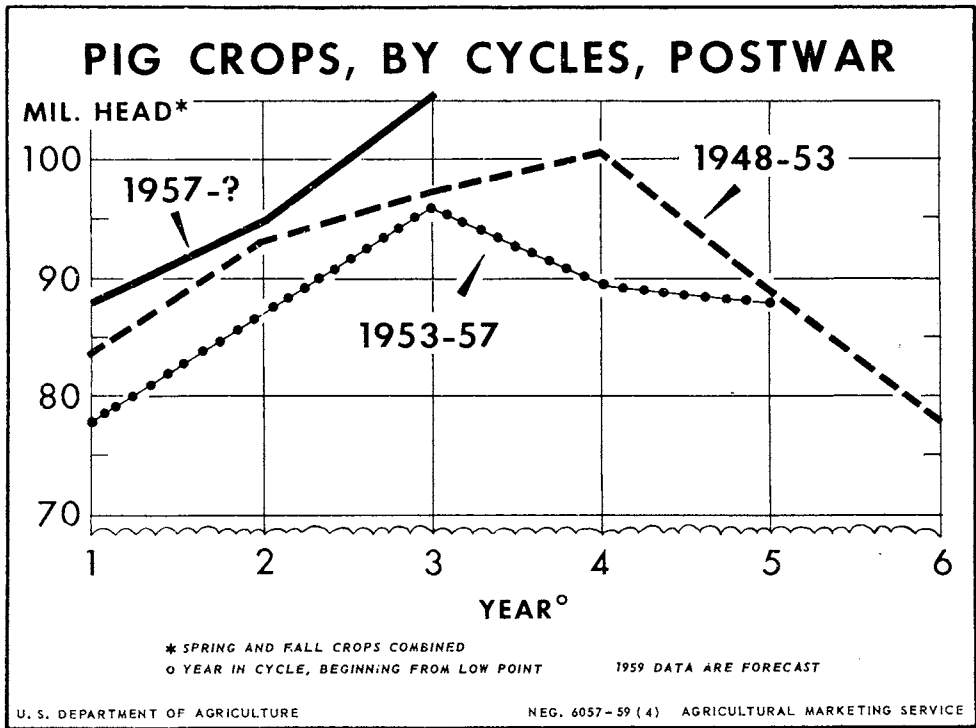
Output of the U. S. cattle industry, as measured by liveweight production of cattle and calves, has doubled since the 1920's. The big expansion has enabled U. S. consumers to increase their consumption of beef per person from 57 pounds in those years to 75 pounds as an average for the 1950's.

Half the increase in production is attributed to a 43 percent increase in inventories of cattle, which equaled the growth in population. The other

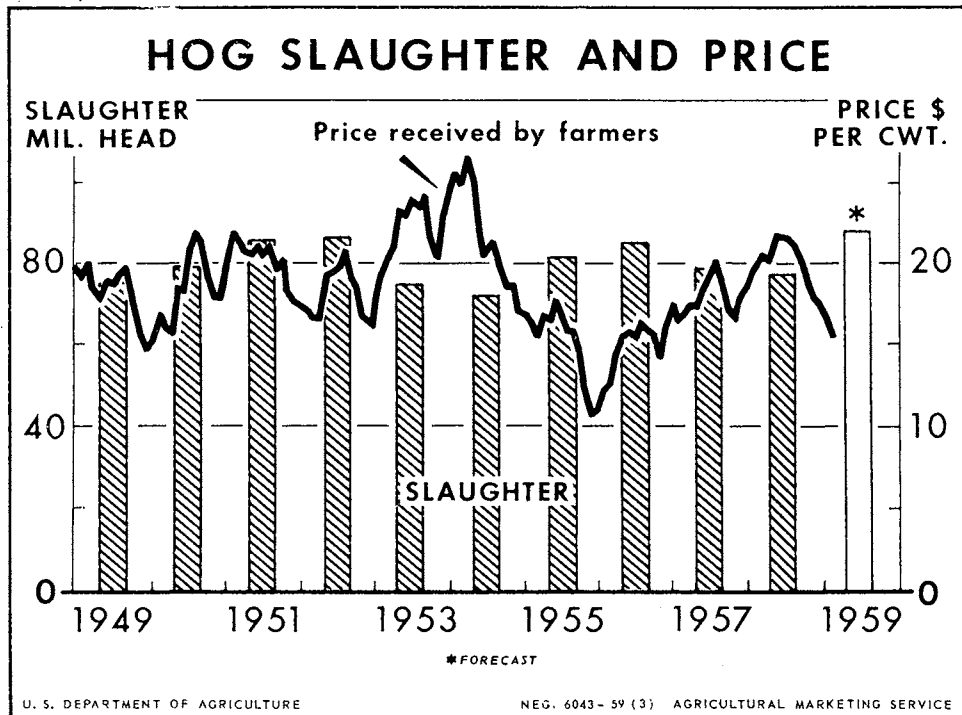
source of larger production--essential to more beef per person--is marked improvement in productivity. Liveweight production per head of cattle on farms is up 44 percent.

Numbers of cattle and productivity are both now high. While prices of cattle have increased and will likely hold up well this year, high beef output will almost certainly bring a future cyclical decline.

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Hog production is in its third upswing since the war.



Larger production is resulting in a substantially increased hog slaughter in 1959. Prices are down from 1958. Prices this fall probably will be the lowest in the last 4 years, although not as low as 1955. Further expansion makes another price reduction likely in 1960.

 T H E L I V E S T O C K A N D M E A T S I T U A T I O N

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 5, 1959

SUMMARY

Cyclical expansion in cattle numbers has moved into full swing. Cattle and calf slaughter in January-April was about 11 percent below a year earlier. Slaughter of well-finished cattle was up, but that of all other classes was sharply lower.

This slaughter rate indicates that a build-up of 4 to 5 million in cattle inventories during 1959 is underway. Such an increase would approach the fastest rate of expansion during the last cattle cycle. If it continues, it will end all hope of avoiding the overexpansion that brought distress in the last cycle. It would result in severe price declines in the early 1960's.

As in past cycles, while cattle are being held back a boom market is created. Supported by the short supply of non-fed beef, prices of all classes of cattle have increased in recent weeks and in late April were above a year earlier. Fed cattle prices have joined in the climb, even though 7 to 9 percent more fed cattle than a year earlier have been slaughtered this year.

On April 1, 8 percent more cattle than last year were on feed in 13 States. Fed cattle marketings may continue around 8 percent larger than in 1958, and probably will again be largest in July-September.

A cattle price boom tends to perpetuate itself in the short run even though collapse is inevitable in the long run. Unless recent dryness in the Northern Plains and Southwest should worsen, prospects are that cattle marketings will be small enough to put a prop under cattle prices during all of 1959. Prices of fed cattle may weaken a bit when marketings are largest, and some summer decline in feeder cattle prices is possible. But the general level of cattle prices seems likely to stay relatively high this year.

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Prices of hogs have been lower than last year. A seasonal price rise is likely this spring, a seasonal decline this fall. However, production continues to expand. Following a 17 percent gain last fall and an intended 13 percent this spring, producers in 9 States indicated in March that they planned to increase farrowings 9 percent in June-August, the first half of the fall season. This figure may roughly indicate the U. S. increase in view for the entire season.

In view of prospective supplies, prices of hogs next winter may be expected to be lower than this past winter. The hog-corn ratio will be rather low and profit margins narrow. There is little reason for optimism for hogs in 1960.

Prices of lambs had improved by late April and about equaled a year before. As the backlog of old crop lambs has largely been marketed, prices are expected to average close to a year earlier the rest of 1959.

Consumers will continue to be supplied with more fed beef but less non-fed, and their 1959 total beef consumption may about equal last year's 80 pounds. Pork consumption may rise 6 pounds above last year. Beef prices are likely to stay above a year earlier, while pork prices will remain lower.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Cattle, Calf Slaughter Down

Slaughter of cattle in January-April was about 7 percent below a year earlier and calf slaughter was 21 percent less. The combined reduction amounted to around 1.2 million head.

This cut occurred even though the number of cattle on farms at the beginning of the year was up 3 percent from January 1, 1958, to equal its previous record. Beef heifer, beef calf, and steer inventories were up sharply, each to a new high (table 1).

Cattle going to market this year have been the best and the worst -- highly finished fed cattle, and cull animals. Fed cattle slaughter has averaged 7 to 9 percent above last year, and has made up an unusually large proportion of all cattle slaughtered -- probably more than half. Cow slaughter in January-March (April data are not yet available) was 24 percent below last year and the smallest for the period since 1952 (table 2 and chart, page 22). It appears that almost all animals that offer any hope of returning a profit are being retained.

All these are the characteristics of a cattle boom -- small slaughter in the face of an increased inventory of classes available for slaughter, withholding of cows and calves, and an upswing in prices. It brings with it the sobering prospect of a price decline in the future when marketings catch up with production.

Table 1.—Cattle on farms January 1
by class, 1955 to date

Class	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
All milk cattle	32,826	33,413	34,270	34,737	35,361
Beef cattle					
Cows	25,584	24,287	24,754	25,516	25,659
Heifers	6,822	6,063	6,017	6,238	6,514
Calves	19,755	18,491	18,621	18,979	18,785
Steers	10,213	9,448	9,105	9,560	8,444
Total beef cattle <u>1/</u>	<u>64,025</u>	<u>59,937</u>	<u>60,232</u>	<u>62,067</u>	<u>61,231</u>
All cattle	96,851	93,350	94,502	96,804	96,592

1/ Includes bulls.

Table 2.—Number of cattle and calves slaughtered
under Federal inspection, by class, January-March 1959
compared with 1958

Month	Cows		Heifers		Steers		Calves	
	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
January	356	477	261	249	808	877	424	547
February	291	365	250	245	663	678	377	468
March	280	373	286	258	751	706	423	518
Total	928	1,215	796	752	2,223	2,261	1,224	1,533

Inventory Numbers Likely to Rise
4 to 5 Million

The January-April slaughter rate suggests that cattle numbers on farms could increase 4 to 5 million head by next January. An increase of that size would not be far below the rate of expansion in 1951 and 1952, when numbers rose 6 million each year.

A 4 to 5 million increase far exceeds the rate of growth in the U. S. population. It represents a substantial build-up in the beef supply for the future.

Yet the real danger in the cattle outlook lies not in the current rapid expansion itself, but in the likelihood that it will continue its momentum. Much of the increase in cattle numbers to date has represented young stock held back. Of the 3½ million added to herds last January 1, only 19 percent were cows. A much larger part of the future increase will consist of cows. As cow numbers rise, the capacity for annual beef production also will increase.

Table 3.—Projections of cattle numbers and slaughter at two assumed rates of expansion, 1959-64

Year	: Slowing expansion				: Continued rapid expansion			
	: Number on farms:		: Beef		: Number on farms:		: Beef	
	: January 1		: consumed:		: January 1		: consumed:	
	: All	: Cows	: produced:	: per	: All	: Cows	: produced:	: per
	: cattle	: and	: calves	: person	: cattle	: and	: calves	: person
	: Mil.	: Mil.	: Mil.	: Lb.	: Mil.	: Mil.	: Mil.	: Lb.
	: head	: head	: lb.		: head	: head	: lb.	
1954	: 95.7	48.9	12,963	80.1	95.7	48.9	12,963	80.1
1955	: 96.6	49.1	13,569	82.0	96.6	49.1	13,569	82.0
1956	: 96.8	48.7	14,462	85.4	96.8	48.7	14,462	85.4
1957	: 94.5	47.7	14,211	84.6	94.5	47.7	14,211	84.6
1958	: 93.4	46.5	13,342	80.5	93.4	46.5	13,342	80.5
1959	: 96.9	47.2			96.9	47.2		
Projections								
1959			13,675	80.5			13,600	80
1960	: 101.5	48.4	14,650	83.7	101.5	48.7	14,450	82.6
1961	: 105.0	50.2	15,200	85.0	106.0	51.2	15,450	86.3
1962	: 108.0	52.2	15,925	87.1	110.0	53.7	16,225	88.8
1963	: 110.0	54.0	16,800	90.0	113.0	56.2	16,750	89.7
1964	: 110.0	55.5	17,175	90.0	115.0	58.6	18,000	94.5
1965	: 110.0				115.0			

Two alternative projections illustrate how much difference the rate of herd expansion could be made in beef supplies by 1964. In one projection, the expansion rate would begin to slow after this year. Numbers would be 110 million in 1964, of which $55\frac{1}{2}$ million would be cows (table 3). This is probably the slowest rate of expansion that can be expected if no severe drought occurs in the meantime. Beef output would reach about 17 billion pounds in 1964. This would provide 90 pounds for consumption per person, $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds more than the 1956 record.

Such a beef supply would bring a sizable reduction in prices of beef and of cattle, but it might not be unmanageable, as demand for beef seems still to be growing. But if cattle herds continue upward at a fast pace, with another $4\frac{1}{2}$ million added during 1960 and 4 million during 1961, the numbers peak would be 115 million, with 58.6 million cows, or 5 million more total cattle and 3.1 million more cows than under slower expansion. Beef supplies in the near future would not differ greatly under rapid than under slower expansion, but by 1964 the more rapid rate would lift them to $94\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per person. An output of this size would unquestionably result in a demoralized market for cattle.

These data demonstrate the ultimate consequence to be expected if cyclical expansion proceeds too fast, as it gives some sign of doing. The next 6 to 12 months could be critical ones in the cyclical outlook for cattle.

Beef production will increase so much under even the slower expansion rate -- and even more under faster rate -- because the expansion of this new cycle begins from a high level. Cattle inventories fell only 3 million head in a 2-year reduction before turning upward again. Furthermore, productivity of the herd has increased steadily and probably will continue to do so (see article, page 24).

Drought Threatens in West

Prospects for cattle supplies and prices both in 1959 and the next few years would be altered sharply if a severe drought should develop. Although it is too early for alarm, as of April 1 the new grazing season was beginning under less favorable conditions than a year ago through most of the West. The entire Southwest extending to the Pacific Coast, and parts of the Northern Plains also, were unusually dry. Among Western States only Kansas showed a better range feed condition on April 1 this year than last. California reported a severe change from a year before as the range feed condition index was down to 69 from the very high 94 in April 1958.

Fed Cattle Numbers,
Marketings Up; Prices Also
Higher

Cattle feeding continues its steady growth. Cattle on feed in 13 States April 1 were 8 percent above the same date last year and 20 percent above two years earlier. Movement of cattle to feeding areas continues large. Cattle feeders plan to market 8 percent more fed cattle in April-June this year than last. Also, marketings from their April inventory after July 1 are expected to be up 8 percent.

Cattle went on feed earlier last fall than the previous fall, but marketings are being "dragged out" by feeding cattle to heavy weight. Marketings will retain an appreciable margin over last year and will likely again be largest in the July-September quarter.

At any other stage of the cattle cycle, fed cattle marketings of 1959 volume would force prices lower than currently. They are not doing so because market supply of all cattle other than fed cattle is small. In late April, a \$0.50 to \$2.00 higher price than a year before was registered for all classes except feeder calves, and for those the gain was \$4.00 per 100 pounds.

Prices of fed cattle will continue to be sensitive to the level of total cattle marketings. As the cattle industry seems to be in the middle of another boom, marketings will likely remain small this year and prices relatively high. Only if drought develops would the prospect likely change. Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that fed cattle prices will edge lower when marketings are largest. As the marketing pattern appears to be repeating that of 1958, a price decline seems more likely at mid-summer than at any other time.

Feeder Prices Also Likely
to Stay Strong

Prices of feeder steers in late April were the highest since the spring of 1952. They probably will stay relatively high.

Profits in feeding of cattle were not as great this past winter as a year before, but they were high enough to sustain interest in feeding cattle this coming year. Prices of fed cattle have strengthened and this too will help to hold the feeder market firm. The one completely unknown factor in the feeder price outlook is the growing conditions for feed crops and range that will prevail this year. If they are favorable, prices of feeder cattle will retain most of their strength. Some seasonal decline during the summer could occur, but it would not be great.

On the other hand, unfavorable weather could alter the outlook considerably. As cattle production builds up, the impact of changes in range and feed condition becomes greater. When cattle numbers are low, a deterioration in feed need have little effect, but when numbers are higher, a feed shortage is felt more keenly. Moreover, the greater potential supply of market cattle could cause any price decline to snowball.

Hog Production on Steep Uptrend

Cattle production is on an increase, but, for the present, cattle marketings are not.

For hogs, both production and marketing are on an uptrend. Last fall's pig crop was 17 percent larger than the previous year's. Since January 1, hog slaughter has averaged 14-15 percent above last year's. In December 1958, producers said they would increase their 1959 spring pig crop 13 percent. A 9-State report in March indicated that these intentions were being carried out. Moreover, it reported that farmers in those States plan for 9 percent more June-August farrowings this year than last.

1959 Hog Prices to Remain Below 1958

Prices of hogs since February have averaged about \$5.00 per 100 pounds below 1958. They have been below their postwar average but appreciably above a normal relation to the price of corn.

Prices are expected to remain considerably below last year but no extreme decline is likely. Although pig crops are larger than in 1955, the year of severe price reductions, other factors are favorable. The consuming population is larger, and the beef cattle cycle is in its expansionary phase. The seasonal distribution is improved: The March pig crop report showed that producers had shifted to farrowings earlier than ever before, even though not quite as early as than planned last fall. Early farrowing dates offer promise of early marketings, thereby reducing the danger of a late-fall price-breaking bulge in market receipts.

A strong consumer demand for meat also appears to have influenced prices of hogs this year. (See below.)

Seasonal price changes can be expected. A rise this spring will be followed by the usual decline this fall. In recent years the low point in prices has gradually moved earlier. Formerly the low usually occurred in December, but the last few years it has often been in November. The earlier month seems the more likely date for this year.

The same economic forces that may prevent fall prices from being exceptionally low will also prevent summer prices from being exceptionally high. The process of smoothing supplies and prices takes off peaks as much as it fills in valleys. This could be a year of less seasonal variation in hog prices than in some previous years.

Lower Prices Likely in 1960

Intentions for 9 percent more June-August farrowings as reported for 9 States is the first indication as to prospective size of the 1959 fall pig crop. These months are the first half of the fall season.

The total increase for the U. S. also may be in the vicinity of 9 percent. Most factors point to a substantial expansion. The hog-corn ratio, in the 14 to 14½ range this spring, is above average and therefore favorable to further increase. Increasingly, hog production is taking on the characteristics of a cycle. (See chart, inside cover page.) Production started cyclically upward last year, and may continue upward this fall and well into 1960.

Table 4.—Size of pig crops relative to population, 1954 to date with three projections for fall crop of 1959

Year	Spring crop			Fall crop		
	Number	Population	Ratio, pig	Number	Population	Ratio, pig
		1/	crop to		2/	crop to
	1,000 head	Mil.	population:	1,000 head	Mil.	population
1954	52,852	163.5	0.32	33,978	164.8	0.21
1955	57,690	166.3	.35	38,029	167.7	.23
1956	53,186	169.3	.31	36,386	170.7	.21
1957	51,812	172.3	.30	36,148	173.6	.21
1958	52,336	175.1	.30	42,470	3/ 176.6	.24
				(4/ 45,450		.25
1959	59,000	3/ 177.9	.33	(5/ 46,300	3/ 179.3	.26
				(6/ 47,150		.26

1/ As of November 1.
 2/ As of May 1 following year.
 3/ Unofficial estimate.
 4/ 7 percent increase.
 5/ 9 percent increase (as reported for June-August in 9 States).
 6/ 11 percent increase.

As a 17 percent increase in fall pigs was followed by \$5.00 lower hog prices in the current season, a 9 percent further increase would likely result in a considerable further price drop next year. The 1958 fall pig crop bore a higher ratio to U. S. population — 0.24 — than did the fall crop of any recent year (table 4). A further substantial increase in pigs saved this fall would put the pig crop-population ratio even farther ahead of recent levels. By comparison, the 1959 spring pig crop, if it turns out as intended, is only moderately above previous ratios to population.

The 1960 price outlook for hogs is not bright, and it would seem advisable for higher-cost producers to consider their management plans for next year carefully.

Lamb Prices Rise Only Slowly

After declining sharply last November and December then leveling out, prices of slaughter lambs turned upward in March. However, their recovery was slow and their April average was still a little below a year before (table 5).

Slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1959 has been larger than in 1958. Nevertheless, first-quarter slaughter was little different from 1957. Similarly, although prices have been below 1958, they have not differed as much from 1957. (1957 prices in table 5 include Prime; Choice alone was less.)

Chief cause for disappointment in lamb prices is that they have failed to share in the sizable cyclical upswing of cattle prices. Usually, lamb prices tag along with prices of cattle.

Table 5.—Slaughter and price of sheep and lambs,
January-June, 1957 to date

Month	Slaughter under Federal inspection			Price per 100 pounds, Choice slaughter lambs at Chicago		
	1959	1958	1957	1959	1958	1957 ^{1/}
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
January	1,322	1,061	1,333	19.35	23.96	20.65
February	1,080	940	1,091	19.48	23.41	20.85
March	1,143	1,000	1,011	20.56	23.40	23.58
April		1,149	1,061	21.59	22.03	24.28
May		1,122	1,133		^{2/} 21.27	—
June		1,042	1,044		^{3/} 25.04	^{3/} 23.33

^{1/} Choice and Prime.

^{2/} Shorn lambs. ^{3/} Spring lambs.

Lower prices for wool have contributed to lower lamb prices. For a heavily fleeced pelt, lower wool prices this winter than last could reduce the lamb value as much as 50-60 cents per 100 pounds.

Yet except for the effect of wool prices, the lower prices for lambs must be ascribed more to the erratic character of the lamb market than to any particular factors. Production of sheep is small compared with production of other meat animals. Yearly lamb output is only 3 percent of total meat output. In many areas volume of production is too small, or slaughter buyers too few, to establish as stable a marketing system as exists for cattle and hogs. Further, many sheep and lambs are sold by advance contract. Contract selling is not necessarily to the disadvantage of producers, but when a substantial part of the lamb supply of an area is sold under contract, filling much of slaughter demand, the marketing and pricing of the lambs not contracted can become variable and unpredictable.

Table 6.—Comparisons of composite prices of lamb cuts at retail, New York, with prices of lambs at Chicago, per 100 pounds of live lambs, 1958 to date

Period	Retail price, lamb cuts <u>1/</u>	Live lamb price <u>2/</u>	Difference <u>3/</u>
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1958			
January-March	32.07	24.24	7.83
April-June	32.03	23.39	8.64
July-September	33.29	24.53	8.76
October	33.40	23.76	9.64
November	33.96	22.80	11.16
December	33.20	19.81	13.39
1959			
January	31.25	19.35	11.90
February	30.09	19.48	10.61
March	30.20	20.56	9.64

1/ 47.2 pounds.
2/ Choice and Prime.
3/ Not a live-to-retail spread, as it is not corrected for value of byproducts.

Moreover, pricing policies for lamb carcass and cuts sometimes are so unresponsive to changing supply as to contribute to price weakness for live lambs. Failure of wholesale or retail prices to decline as supplies increase prevents retail outlets from expanding quickly and forces market supplies of live sheep and lambs to back up. Live prices become depressed. For example, according to data for New York as reported by the Market News Service, prices of lamb cuts at retail declined little last November and December while live lamb prices were dropping, and the difference between the two widened. Only after the first of the year did retail prices begin to drop appreciably, and live-retail relationships to return closer to those of a year earlier (table 6). While the data are not an exact measurement, other comparisons without exception show similar results.

In 1958, lamb prices declined in April and May, then turned sharply upward with the arrival of spring lambs in June. As no similar break is likely this year, May prices are expected to be higher than prices in the same month last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter may be slightly higher the rest of this year than last, but there is reason to think prices will average nearly as high as last year.

Lamb Feeding Profits Low

Profits in feeding lambs during the past winter were the lowest in many years. Prices for slaughter lambs began to decline about the time that most purchases of feeder lambs were completed. Recovery in price did not come early enough, nor was the increase large enough, to spare many feeders from either accepting low profits or taking actual losses.

Profits were low despite corn prices that averaged less than \$1.00 a bushel in the North Central States.

Cheap feed seldom has much influence on profits in feeding - the effects of low feed cost are bid into the paying price of feeder stock. This is true in feeding of both lambs and cattle.

Data in table 7 are calculations for a standard lamb feeding program in the Corn Belt. Costs include only those for feed and feeder animals, and no allowance is made for credits.

Data for the table show a loss of 24 cents per head for the actual feeding operations, but wool payments under the incentive price program will likely restore a slight margin. The 85-cent rate given in the table is only a rough estimate of payment to be received.

Table 7.--Average price and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1953-58

Item	Feeding year beginning December					
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Prices						
Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March, per 100 pounds	22.10	21.64	19.61	21.26	<u>1/</u> 23.67	<u>1/</u> 19.80
Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December, per 100 pounds	17.05	17.68	17.64	18.42	21.32	22.35
Corn, North Central States, October-March, per bushel	1.363	1.357	1.143	1.182	.934	.968
Alfalfa hay, received by farmers, North Central States, October-March, per ton	22.83	21.43	19.58	20.32	16.23	16.55
Receipts, per head						
Sale of Choice and Prime lamb, 85 pounds	18.78	18.39	16.67	18.07	20.12	16.83
Wool payments	---	---	.65	.60	.28	<u>2/</u> .85
Total	<u>18.78</u>	<u>18.39</u>	<u>17.32</u>	<u>18.67</u>	<u>20.40</u>	<u>17.68</u>
Cost, per head						
Feeder lamb, 60 pounds	10.23	10.61	10.58	11.05	12.79	13.41
Corn, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels	3.41	3.39	2.86	2.96	2.34	2.42
Alfalfa hay, 150 pounds	1.71	1.61	1.47	1.52	1.22	1.24
Total for items shown <u>3/</u>	<u>15.35</u>	<u>15.61</u>	<u>14.91</u>	<u>15.53</u>	<u>16.35</u>	<u>17.07</u>
Margin, value over costs shown <u>3/</u>	<u>3.43</u>	<u>2.78</u>	<u>2.41</u>	<u>3.14</u>	<u>4.05</u>	<u>.61</u>

1/ Choice lambs beginning January 1958.

2/ Rough estimate based on April 1958-January 1959 prices received by growers for shorn wool.

3/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

Canadian Cattle
Imports Down

Imports of Canadian cattle reached record levels in 1958 but so far this year have been lower, and the annual total is expected to be somewhat less in 1959 than 1958. Imports will probably consist largely of calves and light cattle for feeding. The size and makeup of the Canadian cattle herd last December 1 indicate that supplies of slaughter cattle and heavy feeders are considerably below those of a year earlier but that the number of calves on hand has increased slightly (table 8).

Table 8.--Cattle on farms in Canada, December 1, 1956-58

Class	1958	1957	1956	1958 as percentage change from 1957
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cows for beef	1,969	1,951	1,912	+0.9
Heifers for beef	579	597	692	-3.0
Steers	877	1,028	1,044	-14.7
Calves	2,799	2,775	2,742	+0.9
All cattle, including calves:	10,112	10,293	10,397	-1.8

Total number on farms, including calves and dairy cattle, shows a decline each year from the December 1, 1956 peak. Steer numbers declined nearly 15 percent last year but the beef breeding herd, as well as the number of calves, made a small gain.

Exports from Canada to the United States since January 1 this year have reflected the reduced number of heavier cattle in Canada. Data available show that movement of feeder cattle has held up better than that of slaughter classes (table 9), and that light weight feeders were a larger part of total feeder movement than a year ago.

Table 9.—Cattle and calves from Canada passed for entry into U. S., January-February 1957-59 1/

Class	1957	1958	1959
	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>
For feeding or grazing	138	67,087	28,909
For slaughter	83	19,549	1,605
For breeding, dairy and other	4,451	7,229	5,375
Total	4,672	93,865	35,889

1/ Inspected by USDA Animal Inspection and Quarantine Division.

As U. S. demand for feeder stock is expected to continue at a high level during the year, the flow of calves and light cattle from Canada to the United States may remain close to last year's rate. Because of reduced movement of heavier cattle, the year's total shipments probably will fall below 1958.

Demand for Meat Strong

Much of the current strength in prices of cattle originates in strong demand by producers for animals to be added to their herds. Producer demand for feeder and breeding cattle is much more variable than is consumer demand for meat and it is unusually strong just now.

Prices of meat itself are generally believed to be determined chiefly by consumer demand for it relative to the supply available. Price and consumption statistics for the first quarter of 1959 show that demand for meat has been unusually strong, and has contributed to higher prices for meat and therefore for meat animals. For example, the 38.5 pounds of all meat consumed in January-March was not very low compared with other recent years except 1956. Beef consumption was down two pounds per person from the same quarter of the two peak years 1956 and 1957. Pork consumption, while less than 1955-56, was a little above the average for postwar years (table 10). Yet prices of beef at retail in January-March were the highest for the quarter since 1952, and prices of pork were highest since 1954.

Table 10.--Consumption, retail price, and retail value of beef and pork, and consumption of all meat, January-March quarter, 1952 to date

Year	Beef			Pork			All meat consump- tion per person
	Consump- tion per person	Retail price per pound ^{1/}	Retail value, per person	Consump- tion per person	Retail price per pound	Retail value, per person	
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
1952	14.4	88.1	10.50	19.3	55.0	9.30	36.3
1953	17.9	71.1	10.60	17.7	57.3	8.90	38.7
1954	20.0	68.2	11.20	15.0	68.0	8.90	38.5
1955	19.5	69.6	11.20	17.2	55.4	8.30	40.1
1956	21.3	62.1	10.90	18.7	47.4	7.70	43.4
1957	21.5	66.4	11.80	15.9	56.8	7.90	40.8
1958	19.5	78.8	12.70	15.1	63.1	8.30	37.4
1959 ^{2/}	19.1	83.0	13.10	16.8	59.1	8.60	38.5

^{1/} Choice grade.

^{2/} Preliminary estimate.

Because prices were up more than quantity was down, the retail value of both beef and pork consumption for the first quarter of 1959 was above 1958. That for beef was the largest on record for the quarter (table 10). Retail value for all meat was up 3 percent from a year before and it also was a new record for the quarter.

Although the reduced supply of meat has contributed to higher prices the last two years, it appears that the steady increase in incomes of consumers also has had an appreciable influence on demand.

Table 11.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1956-58 and forecast for 1959

Year	Production ^{1/}						
	Red meat					Poultry meat ^{2/}	Red and poultry meat
	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	Total		
Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	
1956	14,462	1,632	741	11,218	28,053	5,197	33,250
1957	14,211	1,528	707	10,478	26,924	5,440	32,364
1958	13,342	1,189	688	10,528	25,747	6,049	31,796
1959 ^{3/}	13,600	1,150	750	11,700	27,200	6,475	33,675
	Consumption per person						
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1956	85.4	9.5	4.4	67.4	166.7	29.8	196.5
1957	84.6	8.8	4.2	61.5	159.1	31.4	190.5
1958	80.5	6.7	4.1	60.7	152.0	34.1	186.1
1959 ^{3/}	80	6.4	4.4	66.5	157.5	36.2	194

^{1/} Production of red meats is carcass weight equivalent of production from total United States slaughter. ^{2/} Chicken, including commercial broilers, and turkey, ready-to-cook (eviscerated) basis. ^{3/} Forecast.

In response to requests, this issue inaugurates two special interpretations of the outlook, that for meat at retail and for sausage meats.

THE OUTLOOK FOR MEAT AT RETAIL

In January-March, as just noted, consumers ate approximately 38.5 pounds of meat. This was 1 pound more than in the same three months last year. Data are in table 10.

Consumption was down 3 percent for beef, up 13 percent for pork. This difference sets the pattern for all of 1959. Although beef supplies per person may exceed a year earlier at times this fall, the year's total consumption will scarcely equal last year's 80½ pounds. Pork supplies, on the other hand, will continue above last year, allowing consumption per person to rise about 6 pounds above 1958's 60.7 pound rate (table 11).

Supplies of lamb have been appreciably above last year. They may remain above, but by only a narrow difference. Supplies of veal will remain small.

Although total beef supplies will likely average no larger than last year, the trend toward more fed beef will continue. Production of fed beef, which constitutes most of the supply of beef of the higher grades, was approximately a fifth greater in January-March than in the same months of 1958, and a tenth above 1957. Production of non-fed beef, source of lower grade fresh beef, hamburger beef, and processing beef, was down a fourth from 1958 and almost a third from 1957.

Fed beef output will continue larger than last year, non-fed beef output smaller.

Production of fed beef will increase a bit in months ahead. That of non-fed beef will increase this summer from its springtime low but will continue relatively small. Hence the difference between the two will remain wide. Stocks of beef in cold storage are up over 50 percent from last year. Last year's stocks were unusually small, and storage is a smaller factor in meat supplies now than it once was. Nevertheless, since most stored beef is for processing the larger quantity will offset part of the reduction in current output this summer.

Production of pork will decrease seasonally this spring and summer. But as pork in storage also is up by half from last year, supplies will be relatively plentiful for the season.

Supplies of lamb will be seasonally lower this spring and early summer, and will shift, as usual, from the winter's fed lamb to the new-crop spring lamb.

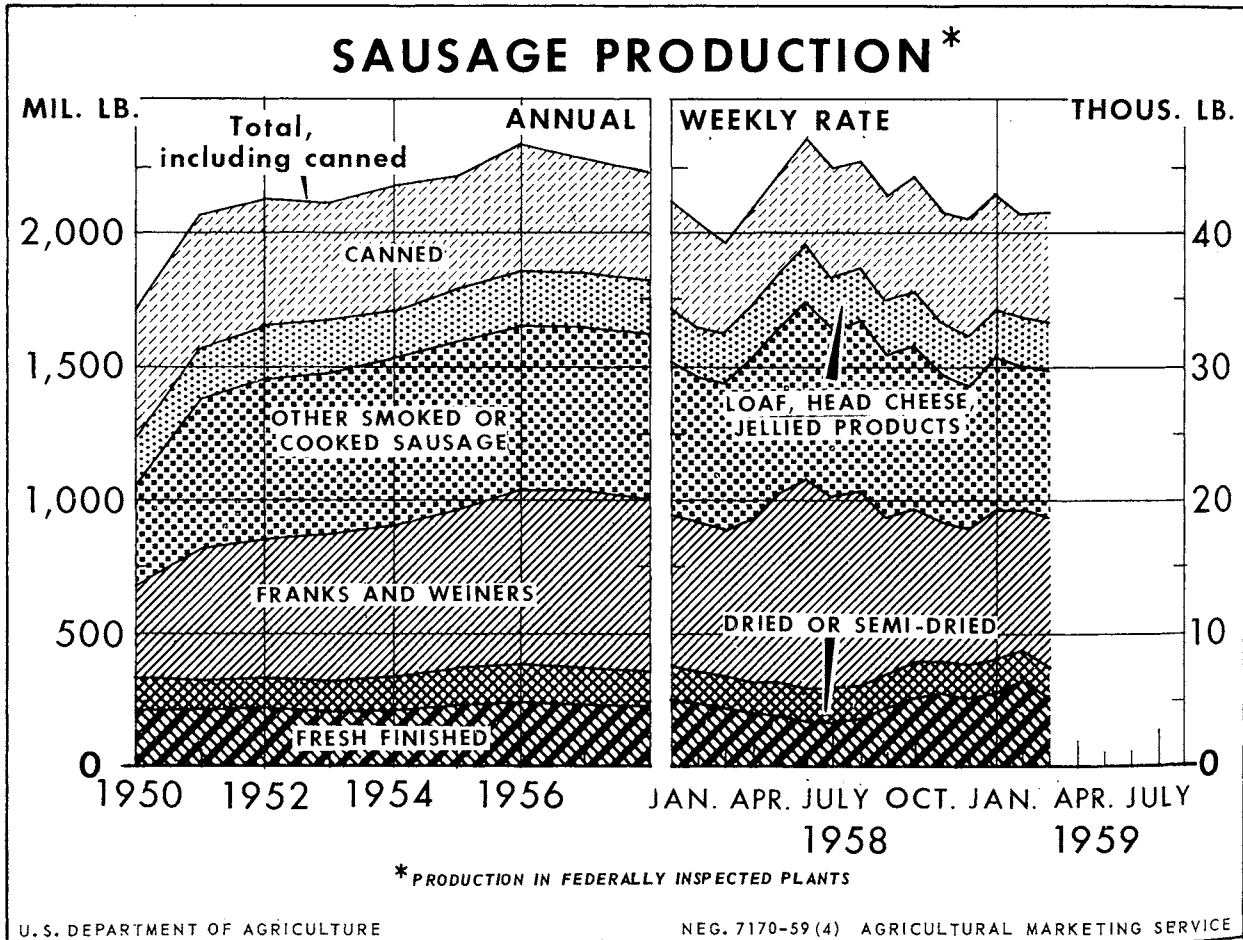
Prices of high grade fed beef are a little higher than last year and are up more from two years ago (table 12). Prices of hamburger are up most, especially in a percentage comparison. Beef prices may be fairly stable the rest of 1959 but will average a bit higher than 1958.

Prices of pork are below last year. They will rise seasonally this summer and decline this fall, and will stay below last year.

Table 12.—Prices of meat cuts at retail,
January–April 1958 and 1959

Month	Rib roast		Hamburger		Pork chops		Bacon		Leg of lamb	
	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
January	82.5	80.3	55.6	47.8	88.8	87.9	72.1	75.6	75.5	76.1
February	82.4	80.2	55.7	49.0	84.8	88.6	69.4	77.2	73.9	78.0
March	82.1	81.0	55.2	50.3	81.7	89.5	67.5	77.1	73.7	77.5
April		82.6		53.1		91.2		79.5		78.1

Compiled from data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



OUTLOOK FOR SAUSAGE MEATS

By Earl E. Miller

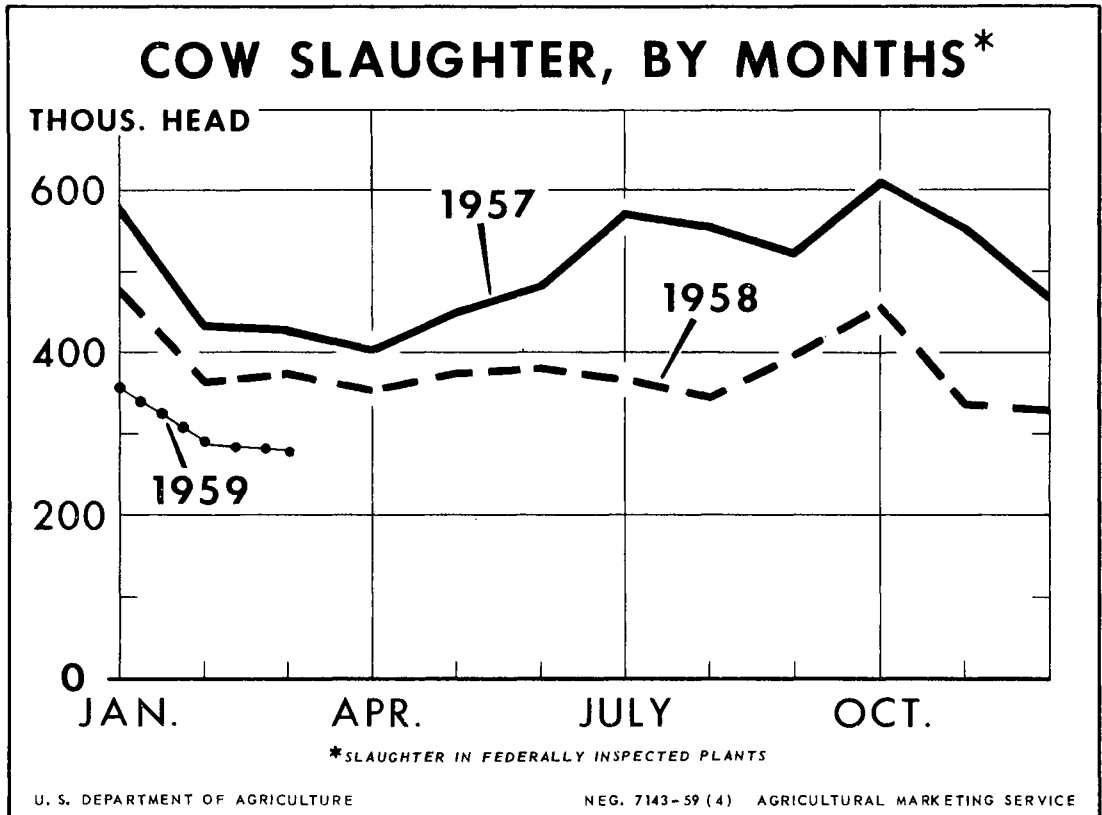
An important part of the meat packing business is sausage production. More than two billion pounds of sausage products in their many varieties and forms have been processed yearly since 1951 in federally inspected plants. Fresh finished sausage--the kind made principally from fresh pork that some people associate with the word "sausage"-- has long since been surpassed in output by other kinds of comminuted spiced meat stuffed in a casing or container. Smoked or cooked sausage such as frankfurters, weiners and bologna made up 57 percent of total sausage output last year. Sausage production by kind, 1950 to date, is shown in the chart, page 20.

Sausage as defined here includes fresh finished sausage; frankfurters, weiners, and other luncheon meats; loaf, head cheese, and jellied products; and various canned sausages.

So far this year sausage production has exceeded slightly that of early 1958. The weekly rate of output for each month in 1959 and each class of sausage, as pictured in the right hand section of the chart, has been above a year earlier. As pork production during January-March was about 17 percent larger in 1959 than in 1958, and beef output was down slightly, fresh finished sausage, which is made principally from pork, increased relatively more than most other kinds.

A certain amount of substitution between beef and pork as sausage ingredients is possible. The low level of beef production, particularly cow beef and the lower grades generally used for processing, has probably led to some replacement of beef by pork. Nevertheless, processors do not favor too much substitution, and reduced domestic beef supplies have encouraged larger imports of processing beef. Imports of boneless and prepared or processed beef last year totaled more than 425 million pounds, product weight, 4 times as large as similar imports in 1957. Fresh and cured beef and veal inspected by the USDA Meat Inspection Division when offered for importation totaled 132 million pounds during January-March this year, nearly double that of the same months last year but a little below the highest quarterly rate of 1958.

Cattle slaughter this year has lagged about 7 percent below a year ago and beef production has been down slightly. But fed cattle slaughter has been above last year, and cow slaughter, chief source of processing beef, has continued to decrease. (See chart, page 22).



Sausage materials will continue in relatively short supply until cow slaughter or other grass cattle slaughter expands appreciably. Some seasonal gain will occur next fall, when cow slaughter may climb back to the level of last fall or exceed it slightly. Nevertheless, barring liquidation of herds owing to dry weather, slaughter of grass cattle will likely remain relatively small this year.

Meat imports are expected to continue near current levels during the next 3 months, about 5 percent above the 1958 rate (table 13). Imports of beef and lamb and mutton from Australia may be up moderately with the development of new slaughtering and shipping facilities and liberalization of export privileges in the contract with Britain. Exports of manufacturing beef from New Zealand might be below recent volume as dairy herds are now reported to be fairly well thinned out and domestic prices have been showing some recovery. Governmental actions designed to rebuild cattle herds in Argentina will tend to hold down exports of beef from that country.

Imports of fresh pork, largely from Canada, will likely continue above last year's rate. However, quantities are small in relation to U. S. sausage output.

Supplies of other sausage materials this spring and summer are expected to be somewhat larger than last year. Pork production will decline seasonally until around midsummer but will average around 15 percent above last year's level. Lamb and mutton output will likely be close to a year earlier for the next few months. In addition, cold storage stocks of both beef and pork are about 50 percent above last year's low quantities.

Table 13--Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1958 to date and April-June 1959 forecast

Period	Federally inspected slaughter					
	Cattle				Hogs	
	Total		Cows		1959	1958
	1959	1958	1959	1958		
	head	head	head	head	head	head
Jan.-Mar.	3,994	4,298	927	1,215	17,304	14,801
Apr.-June	<u>1/</u> 4,350	4,357	<u>1/</u> 970	1,110	<u>1/</u> 15,600	13,617
July-Sept.		4,601		1,111		14,061
Oct.-Dec.		4,386		1,122		16,983
Year		17,642		4,558		59,462
	Imports all meat 2/		Meat stocks in cold storage beginning of quarter 3/		Sausage production 4/	
	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958
	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>
Jan.-Mar.	<u>5/</u> 218	143	462	403	546	532
Apr.-June	<u>1/</u> 215	205	597	409		575
July-Sept.		246		396		576
Oct.-Dec.		232		317		552
Year		826				2,235

1/ Forecast.

2/ Total red meat imports, product weight.

3/ Includes beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton and canned meats in public cold storage.

4/ Federally inspected production of all sausage, including loaf, head cheese, jellied products and the following canned items: Luncheon meat, viennas, franks and weiners in brine, deviled ham, other potted or deviled meat food products, bulk sausage and sausage in oil.

5/ Partly estimated.

CATTLE PRODUCTIVITY STILL INCREASING

By Harold F. Breimyer

The size of the national cattle herd is a good general guide to the volume of beef production to be expected at any given time. At present, the rapid climb to more than 100 million cattle on U. S. farms foreshadows gains in beef output in the 1960's.

But size alone is not the only indicator -- productivity of the herd, as much as size, indicates capacity for beef production. Clearest example of productivity as a factor is international: Argentina and Brazil combined have substantially more cattle than the U. S., yet their annual beef production is only half as large as ours. The record in the United States the last 30 years is equally convincing. During that period, cattle numbers increased 43 percent, but beef output about doubled. Output per head was stepped up 44 percent. (See cover chart and table 14).

Thus gain in productivity has fully equaled gain in cattle numbers as a source of more beef and veal for U. S. consumers.

Increase in productivity made it possible for beef and veal output to outrun population. In the 30 years between 1920-29 and 1950-59, U. S. population rose 43 percent. As the cattle inventory increased the same percentage, if beef output had been geared to cattle inventories alone our consumers would have no more beef per person now than in the 1920's.

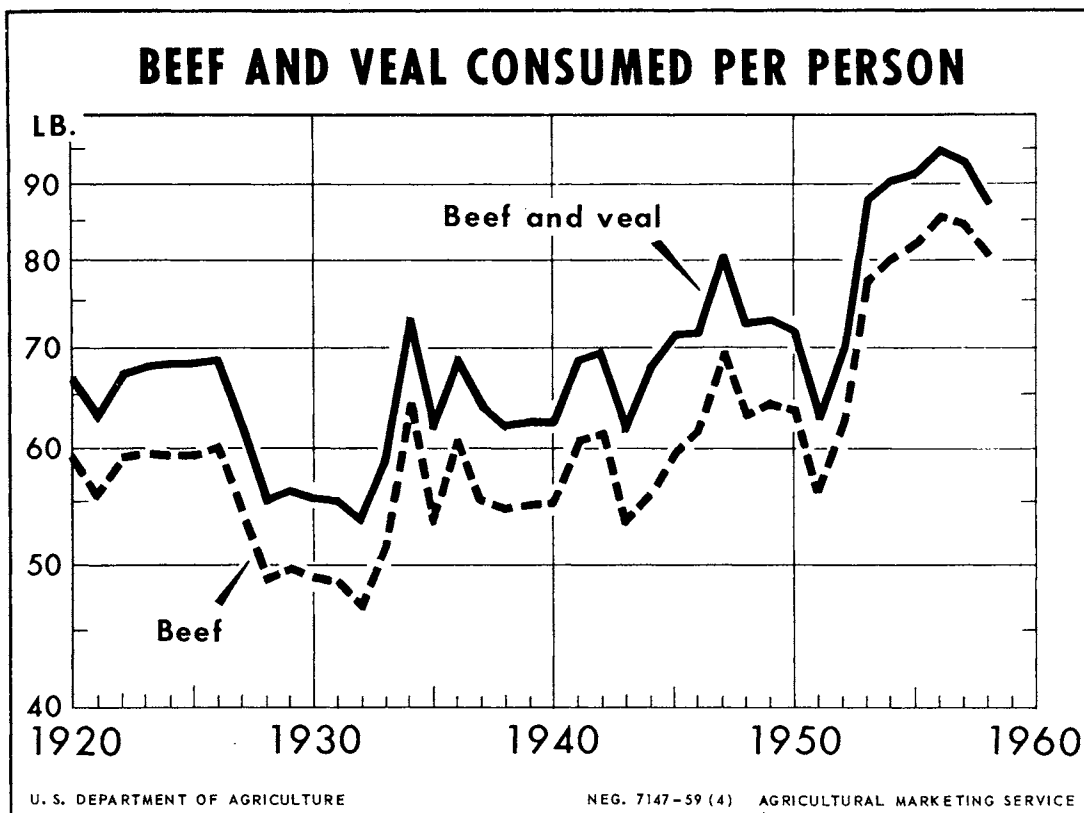
Because rising productivity added so much to production, consumers have much more beef now than before. Consumption of beef per person was at a record low in the 1920's and early 1930's. It has since shown a pronounced uptrend. Average consumption moved up from 57 pounds in 1920-29 to 75 pounds in 1950-59. Veal consumption edged from 7.7 to 8.2 pounds, for a 19 pound increase in beef and veal combined (see chart, page 25).

More Beef Cattle in Inventory

As calculated here, productivity is the ratio of the estimated live weight of cattle and calves produced on farms each year to the inventory of cattle on farms at the beginning of the year.

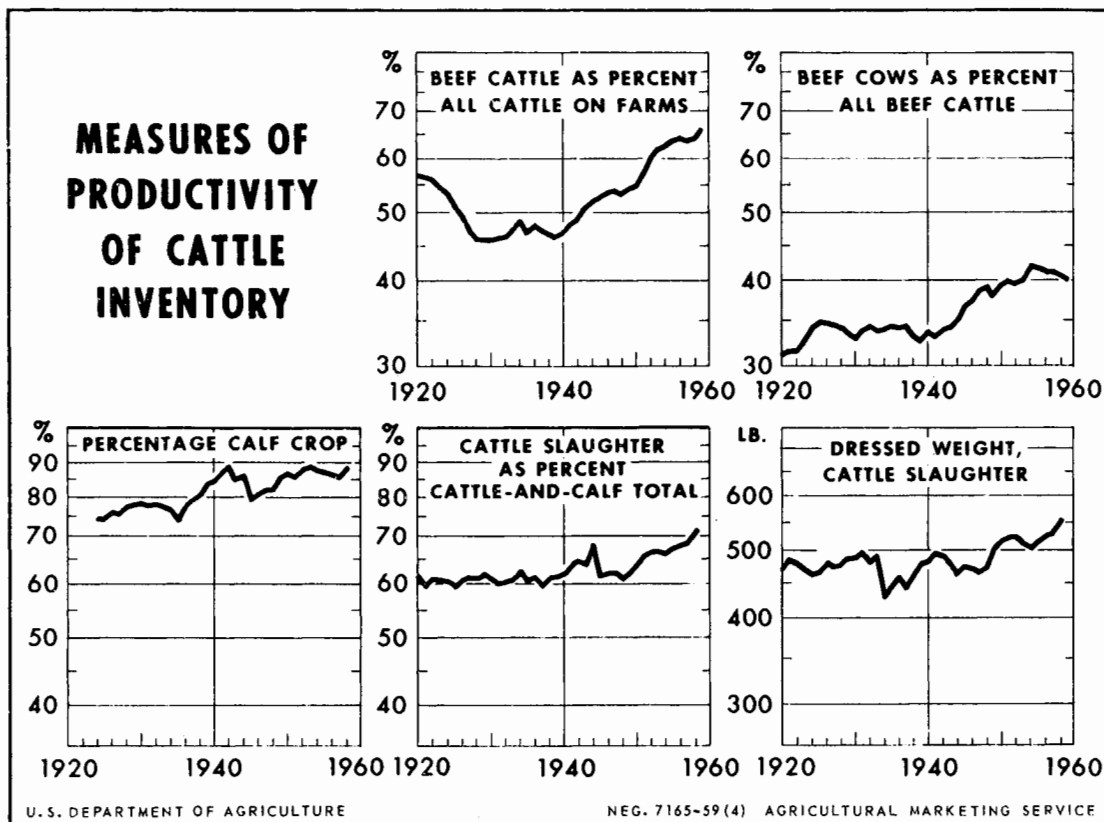
Productivity of the cattle inventory is higher now than in early years because the character of the inventory changed and because production became more efficient.

Since 1930, an increasing percentage of the January inventory has consisted of beef cattle. By 1959, 66 percent of all cattle were for beef, compared with 46 percent in 1930 (table 15). Milk cattle contribute a substantial tonnage of beef and veal each year, but beef animals are somewhat more productive.



The rising percentage that beef cows are of all beef cattle is also of significance. Beef steers and heifers were raised at a leisurely pace in the early 1920's -- many steers were not slaughtered until 3 or 4 years old. By the 1950's, this system had changed to a rapid rate of raising and feeding. Some steers and heifers now reach mature slaughter weight before they are 2 years old. This means that more liveweight is put on each animal during a year.

As their slaughter age dropped, steers became a declining part of the beef cattle inventory and the percentage of cows increased proportionately. In inventories of recent years, about 40 percent of all beef cattle were cows (see chart, page 26).



Percentage Calf Crop Higher

The number of calves born per 100 cows each year has increased from 75 in the mid-1920's to 86-87 the last few years (table 16 and chart above).

These ratios are not the same as calving rate or calving percentage as producers use these terms. But trends in the published ratios doubtless reflect accurately the changes that have taken place in actual calving percentage. Cattle producers have made material — almost spectacular — progress in improving their calf crops.

The higher overall percentage of calf crops has been achieved despite the shift from milk to beef cattle. Calving rates for beef cattle are usually lower than those for dairy animals.

Death Losses Less

As another facet of improved efficiency, annual death losses have decreased relative to the January inventory (table 16) and to the calf crop.

More Calves Raised to Maturity

One of the most effective ways to increase productivity is to add weight to each animal to be slaughtered. The extent of this trend is shown in the lower two right hand sections of the chart on page 26. First, a smaller proportion of calves are slaughtered as calves now than formerly and more are being raised to mature slaughter weight. Last year, 71 percent of cattle and calf slaughter was cattle, and only 29 percent calves. Throughout the 1920's and 1930's, the ratio was 60-40.

The big sustained increase in this percentage dates from 1948, as the previous wartime gain proved temporary. Expansion in cattle feeding largely accounts for the trend. Improved breeding of beef animals has helped greatly to make it possible. A higher percentage of all bovines born are suitable for raising to maturity than ever before.

Weights Heavier

The second way to add more weight is simply to put more flesh on each mature animal before slaughter. This too has been done. Since 1935, average dressed weight of cattle slaughtered has been on a rise.

Opinions differ as to whether this uptrend is desirable. At times the supply of very heavy, highly finished carcasses has seemed excessive. Irrespective of this dispute, the 80-pound increase has added a large tonnage to annual beef output. It has been a major factor in the rise in productivity of the national cattle herd.

Both the percentage of slaughter that is cattle, and the average carcass weights, have been especially high during the last two years. They have done a great deal to prevent beef production from dropping as low as it did in 1951-52, the last time the cattle cycle was in a sharply withholding phase.

Productivity High in this Cycle

Higher productivity will continue to add to beef output as slaughter rates are stepped up cyclically during the next several years. If the cattle inventory reaches 110 million, the minimum figure regarded as likely, and productivity continues to rise, annual beef production in 1964 would be about 17 billion pounds (table 3). Close to half of this increase of a fourth from recent averages would be due to further gains in productivity. If, however, a more rapid inventory expansion were to result in 115 million cattle by 1964, pushing beef output to 18 billion pounds, a smaller proportion would be attributable to productivity alone. For in this case runaway expansion in numbers would be the major cause.

Table 14.--Live weight of cattle and calf production, and beef and veal production and consumption per person, 1920 to date

Year	Live weight cattle and calf production			Beef and veal production		Consumption per person		
	Total	Per head of cattle	Per person	Beef	Veal	Beef	Veal	Beef and veal
	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1920	12,403	176.2	116.5	6,306	842	59.1	8.0	67.1
1921	12,817	186.5	118.1	6,022	820	55.5	7.6	63.1
1922	13,185	191.7	119.8	6,588	852	59.1	7.8	66.9
1923	13,174	195.0	117.6	6,721	916	59.6	8.2	67.8
1924	13,402	203.1	117.5	6,877	972	59.5	8.6	68.1
1925	12,953	204.4	111.9	6,878	989	59.5	8.6	68.1
1926	12,605	208.1	107.4	7,089	955	60.3	8.2	68.5
1927	12,072	207.5	101.4	6,395	867	54.5	7.4	61.9
1928	12,327	215.0	102.3	5,771	773	48.7	6.5	55.2
1929	12,754	216.6	104.7	5,871	761	49.7	6.3	56.0
1930	13,263	217.4	107.7	5,917	792	48.9	6.4	55.3
1931	13,386	212.4	108.0	6,009	823	48.6	6.6	55.2
1932	14,232	216.3	114.0	5,789	822	46.7	6.6	53.3
1933	15,405	219.2	122.7	1/6,440	1/891	1/51.5	1/7.1	58.6
1934	14,538	195.5	115.0	1/8,345	1/1,246	1/63.8	1/9.4	73.2
1935	13,651	198.3	107.3	1/6,608	1,023	1/53.2	8.5	61.7
1936	14,438	212.8	112.7	7,358	1,075	60.5	8.4	68.9
1937	13,746	208.0	106.7	6,798	1,108	55.2	8.6	63.8
1938	14,047	215.3	108.2	6,908	994	54.4	7.6	62.0
1939	15,177	229.9	115.9	7,011	991	54.7	7.6	62.3
1940	15,702	229.9	118.9	7,175	981	54.9	7.4	62.3
1941	17,029	237.3	127.7	8,082	1,036	60.9	7.6	68.5
1942	18,568	244.2	137.6	8,843	1,151	61.2	8.2	69.4
1943	19,159	235.9	140.2	8,571	1,167	53.3	8.2	61.5
1944	19,708	231.0	142.4	9,112	1,738	55.6	12.4	68.0
1945	19,517	228.1	139.5	10,276	1,664	59.4	11.9	71.3
1946	18,999	231.0	134.4	9,373	1,443	61.6	10.0	71.6
1947	19,130	237.5	132.8	10,432	1,605	69.6	10.8	80.4
1948	18,402	238.5	125.5	9,075	1,423	63.1	9.5	72.6
1949	19,274	250.9	129.2	9,439	1,334	63.9	8.9	72.8
1950	21,185	271.7	139.7	9,534	1,230	63.4	8.0	71.4
1951	22,990	280.1	148.9	8,837	1,059	56.1	6.6	62.7
1952	24,933	283.1	158.8	9,650	1,169	62.2	7.2	69.4
1953	27,405	290.8	171.7	12,407	1,546	77.6	9.5	87.1
1954	27,580	288.3	169.8	12,963	1,647	80.1	10.0	90.1
1955	28,090	290.8	169.9	13,569	1,578	82.0	9.4	91.4
1956	27,665	285.8	164.5	14,462	1,632	85.4	9.5	94.9
1957	26,808	283.7	156.6	14,211	1,528	84.6	8.8	93.4
1958	27,698	296.7	159.1	13,342	1,189	80.5	6.7	87.2

1/ Includes production and consumption for Government emergency programs.

Table 15 --Number of cattle and calves on farms January 1 and United States population, 1920 to date

Year	Number of cattle and calves on farms Jan. 1							
	U. S. population Jan. 1	All cattle and calves		For milk	For beef			
		Number	Per person		Total	Percent of all cattle and calves	Number	Percent of all beef cattle
Million	1,000 head	Number	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	1,000 head	Percent	
1920	105.7	70,400	.67	30,251	40,149	57.0	12,525	31.2
1921	107.6	68,714	.64	29,796	38,918	56.6	12,292	31.6
1922	109.4	68,795	.63	30,191	38,604	56.1	12,182	31.6
1923	111.1	67,546	.61	30,655	36,891	54.6	11,974	32.5
1924	113.1	65,996	.58	30,875	35,121	53.2	11,926	34.0
1925	115.0	63,373	.55	31,058	32,315	51.0	11,204	34.7
1926	116.7	60,576	.52	30,856	29,720	49.1	10,294	34.6
1927	118.3	58,178	.49	30,800	27,378	47.1	9,439	34.5
1928	119.8	57,322	.48	31,090	26,232	45.8	8,926	34.0
1929	121.2	58,877	.49	31,902	26,975	45.8	8,997	33.4
1930	122.5	61,003	.50	33,082	27,921	45.8	9,162	32.8
1931	123.6	63,030	.51	33,971	29,059	46.1	9,809	33.8
1932	124.5	65,801	.53	35,365	30,436	46.3	10,439	34.3
1933	125.2	70,280	.56	36,860	33,420	47.6	11,346	33.9
1934	126.0	74,369	.59	37,988	36,381	48.9	12,678	34.8
1935	126.9	68,846	.54	36,357	32,489	47.2	11,151	34.3
1936	127.7	67,847	.53	35,452	32,395	47.7	11,048	34.1
1937	128.5	66,098	.51	34,853	31,245	47.3	10,682	34.2
1938	129.4	65,249	.50	34,774	30,475	46.7	10,132	33.2
1939	130.4	66,029	.51	35,626	30,403	46.0	9,987	32.8
1940	131.5	68,309	.52	36,432	31,877	46.7	10,676	33.5
1941	132.8	71,755	.54	37,383	34,372	47.9	11,366	33.1
1942	134.2	76,025	.57	38,837	37,188	48.9	12,578	33.8
1943	135.9	81,204	.60	40,240	40,964	50.4	13,980	34.1
1944	137.7	85,334	.62	41,257	44,077	51.7	15,521	35.2
1945	139.2	85,573	.61	40,849	44,724	52.2	16,456	36.8
1946	140.7	82,235	.58	38,549	43,686	53.1	16,408	37.6
1947	142.8	80,554	.56	37,683	42,871	53.2	16,488	38.5
1948	145.5	77,171	.53	36,169	41,002	53.1	16,010	39.0
1949	148.0	76,830	.52	35,270	41,560	54.1	15,919	38.3
1950	150.6	77,963	.52	35,455	42,508	54.5	16,743	39.4
1951	153.1	82,083	.54	35,398	46,685	56.9	18,526	39.7
1952	155.8	88,072	.57	35,235	52,837	60.0	20,863	39.5
1953	158.4	94,241	.59	35,921	58,320	61.9	23,291	39.9
1954	161.1	95,679	.59	36,161	59,518	62.3	25,050	42.1
1955	164.0	96,592	.59	35,361	61,231	63.4	25,659	41.9
1956	166.8	96,804	.58	34,737	62,067	64.1	25,516	41.1
1957	169.8	94,502	.56	34,270	60,232	63.7	24,754	41.1
1958	172.7	93,350	.54	33,413	59,937	64.2	24,287	40.5
1959	175.6	96,851	.55	32,826	64,025	66.1	25,584	40.0

Table 16.--Percentage calf crop and cattle death loss, make-up of slaughter and average dressed weight, 1920 to date

Year	Percentage calf crop	Percentage death loss	Slaughter			Average dressed weight cattle slaughter
	1/	2/	Cattle	Calves	Cattle as percent of cattle and calf total	Pounds
	Percent	Percent	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent	
1920			13,470	8,481	61.4	468
1921			12,428	8,394	59.9	485
1922			13,706	8,832	60.8	481
1923			14,283	9,327	60.5	471
1924	74	4.8	14,750	9,804	60.1	466
1925	74	5.0	14,704	9,936	59.7	468
1926	76	5.0	14,781	9,354	61.2	480
1927	76	4.9	13,413	8,478	61.3	477
1928	77	5.2	12,028	7,651	61.1	480
1929	77	4.9	12,038	7,406	61.9	488
1930	78	5.2	12,056	7,761	60.8	491
1931	77	5.1	12,096	8,057	60.0	497
1932	78	5.1	11,980	7,970	60.1	483
1933	78	4.9	13,107	8,564	60.5	491
1934	76	4.8	3/19,509	3/11,759	62.4	428
1935	74	5.6	3/14,805	3/9,632	60.6	446
1936	78	5.0	3/15,901	10,008	61.4	463
1937	79	5.3	15,254	10,304	59.7	446
1938	80	5.0	14,822	9,306	61.4	466
1939	83	4.9	14,621	9,191	61.4	480
1940	84	5.0	14,958	9,089	62.2	482
1941	87	5.0	16,419	9,252	64.0	495
1942	88	5.1	18,033	9,718	65.0	492
1943	85	5.3	17,845	9,940	64.2	482
1944	86	5.3	19,844	14,242	68.2	461
1945	79	5.0	21,694	13,657	61.4	474
1946	81	5.0	19,824	12,176	62.0	473
1947	82	4.9	22,404	13,726	62.0	466
1948	82	4.7	19,177	12,378	60.8	473
1949	85	5.0	18,765	11,398	62.2	503
1950	86	4.8	18,614	10,501	63.9	514
1951	85	4.7	17,084	8,902	65.7	519
1952	87	4.6	18,625	9,388	66.5	520
1953	88	4.3	24,465	12,200	66.7	508
1954	87	4.2	25,889	13,270	66.1	502
1955	87	4.2	26,587	12,864	67.4	512
1956	86	4.0	27,754	12,997	68.1	523
1957	86	4.0	27,089	12,362	68.7	526
1958	87	4.0	24,396	9,752	71.4	548

1/ Calves born as a percentage of cows and heifers 2 years and over on farms Jan. 1.
 2/ Cattle and calf deaths as a percentage of Jan. 1 inventory. 3/ Includes Government Slaughter.

THE MARKET FOR MEAT IN THE NATION'S SCHOOLS

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Large quantities of meat and other foods are used in school lunch programs. During July 1957 to June 1958, the 60,000 schools of the United States that offer a food service were a market for 182 million pounds of fresh and processed meat. Based on the average daily attendance of a little more than 21 million pupils in those schools, this amounted to 8.5 pounds used per child.

The major portion of this meat was purchased from local merchants. Most food for school lunches is obtained in this way. However, the schools are also a constructive means of utilizing those food commodities acquired by the Government through various price stabilization and surplus removal programs.

School feeding is widely recognized by educators and school administrators as an important part of the overall school program. Children participating in school lunch programs are exposed to new foods or familiar foods in new forms, and learn how to select well-balanced meals and to appreciate the importance of good eating habits. Eating habits and tastes developed for foods served in school lunch programs may well carry over into adult life.

National School Lunch Program Assists

Today, approximately 60,000 of the 106,000 public schools in the United States offer a food service program, ranging from a complete plate lunch to a la carte service. Slightly over 54,000 participate in the National School Lunch Program. This is a program jointly administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and State educational agencies, which provide food assistance to schools operating a nonprofit food service for children.

The total wholesale value of food, both purchased and donated, used by 60,000 schools between July 1957 and June 1958 amounted to \$597 million, or \$28 per capita based on average daily attendance figures of slightly over 21 million pupils. About \$505 million or 85 percent of the total value was purchased from local sources. The rest, or approximately 15 percent, was donated by the Government, either directly from purchases for the school lunch program, or from food acquired under price stabilization or surplus removal programs.

The Department of Agriculture each year receives an appropriation of funds to carry out its part of the National School Lunch Program. The major portion of these funds is allocated among the States for the purchase of food at the local level for schools participating in the Program. Of the appropriated funds, however, about \$15 million is spent annually by the Department in purchasing certain foods which are donated directly to participating schools. Virtually all donated foods--98 percent of the total monetary value--went to the approximately 54,000 public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (July 1957-June 1958 year).

In addition, the Department acquires commodities from time to time under price support or surplus removal programs. Meat is occasionally acquired through surplus removal purchases (Section 32 funds), carried out when prices are relatively low. Food so acquired may be distributed to public schools as well as other recipients. All public schools having a nonprofit food service are eligible. Hence some of the surplus foods may go to schools not participating in the National School Lunch Program.

The total quantity of meat served in public schools with feeding services during the July 1957-June 1958 year was made up of 109 million pounds of beef, almost 42 million pounds of luncheon meat, 27 million pounds of pork, 3 million pounds of variety meat, 329,000 pounds of lamb, and 129,000 pounds of veal.

About 77 percent of all beef or almost 84 million pounds was ground beef, the largest single meat item delivered. Of this slightly over 61 million pounds or about 74 percent was acquired locally. The remainder of ground beef was obtained from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, chiefly as donation from purchases at the national level with National School Lunch Act funds (Section 6). The Department acquired no ground beef by surplus removal during the survey period, although a small quantity that had been obtained in that way during the preceding school year -- carried over in frozen form -- was delivered.

About 13 million pounds of boneless beef items other than hamburger or ground beef was also purchased by schools. Bone-in beef items were less than half this quantity. A little over 1 million pounds of commercially canned and ready cooked beef items excluding dried beef moved into the school market during the period. Dried beef and other beef products were somewhat over 5 million pounds.

Of the 27 million pounds of pork received in public schools having a feeding service, over two-thirds was in cured form, with bone-in hams the largest item. Total cured hams, including bone-in, boneless, and precooked, accounted for over 11 million pounds of the pork items. Salt pork and bacon were important cured items, amounting to approximately 4 million pounds.

Of fresh pork, sausage accounted for almost half or approximately 2 million pounds. Other volume items in fresh pork were bone-in hams and shoulders.

One of the most popular meats was frankfurters. Almost 28 million pounds moved into the school outlet during the 12-month period, July 1957-June 1958. Other luncheon meats, including bologna, were about 14 million pounds, making a total of 42 million pounds or about 1.9 pounds of these products per child.

Total and Per Capita Values of Meat

The wholesale value of all meats--both those purchased by schools and those delivered by the Department--consumed in public schools with feeding services between July 1957 and June 1958 amounted to \$83 million or about

\$3.87 per child. Beef items were almost 60 percent of total value; luncheon meats, 22 percent; pork, 16 percent; variety meats, lamb and veal combined, the remaining 2 percent.

As for individual items, ground beef alone accounted for almost 43 percent of the total value of all meat, the next being frankfurters, accounting for slightly over 14 percent.

Meat and meat products constituted almost 14 cents of the total school food dollar, and was divided as follows: Ground beef, 6 cents; frankfurters, 2 cents; cured ham, 1 cent; all other meat items combined, approximately 5 cents.

Purchases and Value of Meat by Type of Lunch Service

Information on purchases and value of food was collected by two categories of schools: (1) Those participating in the National School Lunch Program and (2) all other schools providing food services but not participating in the program. The per capita quantity of all meat consumed in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program was 8.6 pounds, and for all other schools, 7.1 pounds. Per capita value of meat was \$3.93 in participating schools and \$3.24 in nonparticipating schools--value per pound was approximately the same in both categories.

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program consumed more beef, luncheon and variety meats per capita than those not participating. For pork, however, the rate was identical in the two categories. Quantities of lamb and veal delivered were so small that per capita rates were not determined.

Source of Supply and Buying Practices

Information on sources of supply is helpful in appraising school lunches as a market outlet for meat and meat products. School-food buyers were asked where they usually purchased their meat supplies and other foods. For the most part, schools bought directly from wholesalers or processors. Size of school made little difference in dependence upon source of supply. Small schools, with a pupil enrollment under 300, utilized wholesale channels in acquiring meat supplies to about the same extent as large schools.

School-food buyers were asked how they usually bought meat and other foods, whether through a route salesman, by personal selection, by telephone, or by competitive bids. In both large and small schools, about four-fifths of the total expenditures for meat purchases were made through route salesmen. In small-sized schools, a third of the meat expenditures was based on personal inspection of items acquired, but this practice was not followed to any extent in the large schools. A relatively large number of schools, especially the larger ones, ordered by telephone.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Rank of States in
Liveweight Production

Table 17 ranks the States according to liveweight production of livestock on farms. This refers to the poundage of production, which is not the same as marketings or slaughter. In 1958 production exceeded slaughter for each species, chiefly because inventories were being built up.

Edible Offal, Canned Meat

Tables 18 and 19 extend previous tables on production and consumption of edible offal (variety meats) and canned meat.

Foreign Trade

Table 21 presents data on imports of cattle and calves from Canada and Mexico, and shows the substantial increase in 1958.

Table 22 continues another standard table on U. S. foreign trade in meat by countries. Data on exports by countries and on shipments to Territories are in terms of product weight; the combined total is shown also as carcass weight equivalent. Import data by countries of origin are product weight, with the carcass equivalent added for total imports.

Import data for beef have been revised to include quantities reported in a miscellaneous category in Census records relating to certain canned, prepared and preserved meat items. This category has increasingly been utilized to report beef imports.

Table 17.—Rank of States in live weight of farm production of meat animals, 1958 ^{1/}

Rank	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	State	Production	State	Production	State	Production
		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.
1	Texas	2,398	Texas	152	Iowa	4,403
2	Iowa	2,398	California	105	Illinois	2,684
3	Nebraska	1,640	Wyoming	102	Indiana	1,512
4	Illinois	1,411	Iowa	101	Minnesota	1,458
5	Kansas	1,324	Colorado	92	Missouri	1,393
6	Minnesota	1,295	Idaho	88	Ohio	881
7	Missouri	1,250	Montana	87	Nebraska	874
8	South Dakota	1,164	South Dakota	80	Wisconsin	809
9	Oklahoma	998	Minnesota	71	South Dakota	641
10	California	987	Utah	66	Georgia	449
11	Wisconsin	943	Ohio	61	North Carolina	410
12	Montana	791	Oregon	55	Tennessee	389
13	Colorado	725	Missouri	53	Kentucky	380
14	Indiana	705	Kansas	47	Kansas	337
15	North Dakota	616	New Mexico	46	Texas	311
16	Ohio	611	Illinois	44	Alabama	285
17	Mississippi	582	North Dakota	43	Michigan	253
18	Kentucky	473	Nebraska	41	Virginia	209
19	Alabama	471	Kentucky	41	Mississippi	170
20	Michigan	455	Indiana	34	North Dakota	166
21	Louisiana	436	Michigan	22	Pennsylvania	156
22	Idaho	430	Arizona	21	South Carolina	154
23	Tennessee	420	Virginia	20	Oklahoma	154
24	Oregon	414	Nevada	20	Arkansas	110
25	New York	384	Tennessee	18	California	108
26	Wyoming	383	Washington	18	Florida	103
27	Pennsylvania	382	West Virginia	17	Louisiana	71
28	Arkansas	379	Wisconsin	17	Maryland	61
29	New Mexico	366	Oklahoma	14	Oregon	57
30	Georgia	351	Pennsylvania	10	Colorado	56
31	Washington	351	New York	9	Montana	51
32	Florida	342	Mississippi	4	Washington	46
33	Virginia	329	North Carolina	3	New York	45
34	Arizona	321	Maryland	3	Idaho	40
35	Utah	203	Alabama	3	West Virginia	37
36	South Carolina	190	Arkansas	3	New Jersey	35
37	Nevada	166	Maine	2	Massachusetts	31
38	North Carolina	125	Georgia	2	Utah	22
39	West Virginia	121	Louisiana	2	New Mexico	12
40	Maryland	120	New Jersey	1	Wyoming	12
41	Vermont	66	Vermont	1	Delaware	11
42	New Jersey	48	Connecticut	1	Arizona	9
43	Maine	37	Massachusetts	1	Nevada	6
44	Connecticut	30	South Carolina	^{2/}	Maine	5
45	Massachusetts	29	Florida	^{2/}	Connecticut	4
46	New Hampshire	19	New Hampshire	^{2/}	New Hampshire	4
47	Delaware	14	Delaware	^{2/}	Vermont	4
48	Rhode Island	4	Rhode Island	^{2/}	Rhode Island	2
United States		27,698		1,620		19,421

^{1/} Live weight produced during year by livestock on farms. Preliminary data.^{2/} Less than 500,000 pounds.

Table 18.--Edible offals: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Supply					Distribution			
	Total	Beginning	Imports	Total	Ending	Commercial	Domestic disappearance		
	produc- tion 1/	commercial stocks			commer- cial stocks	exports and shipments to Territories 2/	Military	Civilian	Per capita 3/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1950	1,519	62	5	1,586	59	3	4/	1,524	10.1
1951	1,501	59	4	1,564	64	6	4/	1,494	9.9
1952	1,577	64	1	1,642	69	4	4/	1,569	10.2
1953	1,704	69	1	1,774	59	29	4/	1,686	10.8
1954	1,743	59	1	1,803	65	46	4/	1,692	10.6
1955	1,853	65	4/	1,918	70	70	4/	1,778	11.0
1956	1,933	70	4/	2,003	59	99	4/	1,845	11.2
1957	1,854	59	4/	1,913	5/	91	4/	1,763	10.5
1958	1,762	---	2	1,766	--	70	4/	1,696	9.9

1/ Production of offals based on percentage of carcass-weight meat production, including farm: beef 6.7, veal 10.7, lamb and mutton 5.1, pork excluding lard 6.7 percent. 2/ Exports only beginning 1951. Beginning 1952 includes small quantities of sausage ingredients reported in Bureau of Census classification "other meats except canned (including edible animal organs)." 3/ Civilian per capita. 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 5/ Not reported. Assumed no change in stocks during the year.

Table 19.--Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Imports				Commercial			Domestic disappearance		
	Federally inspected production 1/	Canned beef 2/	Canned pork 3/	Beginning stocks 4/	Exports and shipments 5/	Ending stocks 4/	Military 6/	Civilian 7/	Per capita 8/	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	
1950	1,231	125	19	27	20	27	50	1,305	8.7	
1951	1,441	154	31	27	21	35	246	1,351	8.9	
1952	1,351	120	54	35	19	37	58	1,446	9.4	
1953	1,437	100	97	37	9/ 29	34	50	10/ 1,558	10/ 10.0	
1954	1,441	85	113	34	9/ 32	54	34	1,553	9.8	
1955	1,508	87	107	54	22	37	38	10/ 1,659	10/ 10.2	
1956	1,716	73	97	37	28	51	18	10/ 1,826	10/ 11.0	
1957	1,659	95	108	51	43	57	23	1,790	10.6	
1958	1,651	113	123	57	24	57	21	1,842	10.7	

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS.

2/ Data from Department of Commerce.

3/ Federally inspected for entry. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS.

4/ Refrigerated stocks only.

5/ Includes shipments to Territories. Data from Department of Commerce.

6/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records.

7/ Calculated from federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U. S. production of canned meats.

8/ Civilian per capita.

9/ Includes small quantities of canned beef and gravy procured by USDA and shipped abroad by CARE.

10/ Includes canned meat bought by the Department of Agriculture for school lunches and eligible institutions.

Table 20.--Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico,
average 1937-41, annual 1948 to date

From Canada							
Year	Dutiable cattle					Breed- ing cattle (free)	Total cattle
	700 pounds and over		Under 700 pounds		Total dutiable cattle		
	Cows for dairy purposes	Other	Under 200 pounds	200 to 699 pounds			
	Head	Head	Head	Head			
Average:							
1937-41	9,143	136,194	69,074	18,200	232,611	11,814	244,425
1948 ^{1/}	84,275	214,645	23,571	96,335	418,826	42,853	461,679
1949	49,061	194,916	41,535	126,614	412,126	21,332	433,458
1950	46,591	173,000	38,985	179,709	438,285	22,610	460,895
1951	35,600	117,455	15,609	51,162	219,826	19,120	238,946
1952 ^{2/}	4,636	4,244	714	968	10,562	2,222	12,784
1953 ^{3/}	21,811	22,931	3,515	896	49,153	20,757	69,910
1954	17,633	46,798	2,872	3,377	70,680	15,259	85,939
1955	25,252	17,543	3,256	2,218	48,269	18,334	66,603
1956	22,678	2,914	3,571	1,390	30,553	18,475	49,028
1957	18,857	186,036	10,486	151,059	366,438	24,818	391,256
1958	19,586	230,025	13,580	373,671	636,862	26,145	663,007
From Mexico							
Average:							
1937-41	0	45,752	21,255	307,030	374,037	436	374,473
1948	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1949	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1950	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1951	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1952 ^{4/}	2,381	43,617	96	81,185	127,279	---	127,279
1953 ^{5/}	175	25,364	485	101,901	127,925	2	127,927
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955 ^{6/}	1,424	56,153	539	189,631	247,747	4	247,751
1956	1,684	11,124	848	96,594	110,250	6	110,256
1957	480	44,236	7,914	283,842	336,472	5	336,477
1958	1,255	80,589	3,231	403,166	488,244	---	488,241

^{1/} Wartime restrictions lifted Aug. 16, 1948. ^{2/} Imports prohibited beginning Feb. 25, 1952 due to foot-and mouth disease. ^{3/} Embargo removed March 1, 1953. ^{4/} Embargo removed Sept. 1, 1952. ^{5/} Imports prohibited beginning May 23, 1953. ^{6/} Embargo removed Jan. 1, 1955.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.—United States foreign trade in meat, by countries, 1957 and 1958

Product and year	Exports and shipments, product weight												Total exports and shipments		
	Exports, by destination												Shipments to Territories ^{1/}	Product weight	Carcass weight equivalent
	Canada	Mexico	Cuba	Nether-lands	West Germany	Spain	Turkey	Israel	Korean Rep.	All other	Total	Mil. lb.			
Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.		
Beef and veal															
1957	13.7	.3	.2	2/	2/	35.9	14.5	12.1	2/	11.7	88.5	12.4	100.9	121	
1958	15.8	.4	.4	2/	2/	---	2/	.1	2/	8.0	24.8	8.8	33.6	49	
Lamb and mutton:															
1957	.8	2/	2/	2/	---	---	---	2/	2/	.3	1.3	---	1.3	4	
1958	.4	2/	2/	---	---	---	---	2/	2/	.3	.7	---	.7	2	
Pork															
1957	1.2	4.8	29.5	4.4	5.4	4.9	2/	---	11.2	16.5	78.0	45.8	123.8	144	
1958	1.1	5.8	30.1	.7	1.9	---	2/	2/	2/	14.6	54.2	48.2	102.4	118	
Total meat ^{3/}															
1957	19.4	5.9	30.3	4.4	5.5	40.8	14.6	12.2	14.8	38.4	186.3	76.6	262.9	269	
1958	20.4	6.5	31.2	.8	1.9	---	2/	.2	.1	29.8	90.9	78.0	168.9	169	
Imports															
Product weight, by country of origin															
	Canada	Mexico	Argen-tina	Uruguay	Denmark	Ireland	Nether-lands	West Germany	Poland	Austra-lia	New Zealand	All other	Total	Total imports, carcass weight equivalent	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	
Beef and veal ^{4/}															
1957	47.5	13.0	99.5	11.6	.1	6.5	2/	.2	---	5.5	50.1	12.9	247.7	395	
1958	53.6	75.0	216.7	9.6	2.5	23.8	.3	.3	---	17.7	183.7	36.1	619.2	909	
Lamb and mutton:															
1957	.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.4	1.7	2/	3.5	4	
1958	1.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	14.6	7.0	1.2	24.0	24	
Pork															
1957	27.4	2/	---	---	25.8	.1	37.8	5.9	28.7	2/	2/	7.2	133.0	144	
1958	61.8	2/	---	2/	38.7	.1	44.6	7.0	27.0	---	.1	1.7	182.8	193	
Total meat															
1957	75.4	13.1	99.5	11.6	26.5	6.7	37.8	6.1	28.7	6.9	51.8	20.2	384.2	543	
1958	116.7	75.1	216.7	9.6	41.2	23.9	45.0	7.3	27.0	32.3	190.8	40.5	826.0	1,126	

^{1/} Guam, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. ^{2/} Less than 50,000 pounds. ^{3/} Includes sausage, bologna and frankfurters canned and not canned, sausage ingredients, meat and meat products canned n.e.c., and canned baby food. ^{4/} Includes quantities of other canned, prepared or preserved meat n.e.s. Assumed to be mostly beef.

All data from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, 1959

Period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply				Distribution				Civilian consumption		
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption		Production	Total	Per person
							Total	Per person 1/			
Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	
Beef:											
January	1,127	174	79	3	174	27	1,176	6.8	---	---	---
February	946	174	69	3	173	24	989	5.7	---	---	---
March	1,030	173		4	169	34			---	---	---
1st quarter	3,103	174		10	169	85					3/19
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Veal:											
January	77	16	2	4/	16	3	76	.4	---	---	---
February	69	16	1	4/	14	2	70	.4	---	---	---
March	74	14		4/	13	3			---	---	---
1st quarter	220	16		4/	13	8					3/1.4
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
January	75	9	5	4/	10	4/	79	.5	---	---	---
February	62	10	3	4/	11	1	63	.4	---	---	---
March	65	11		1	11	4/			---	---	---
1st quarter	202	9		1	11	1					3/ 1.2
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Pork:											
January	965	206	20	10	240	14	927	5.4	---	---	---
February	907	240	14	13	316	14	818	4.7	---	---	---
March	918	316		10	333	18			---	---	---
1st quarter	2,790	206		33	333	46					3/17
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
All meat:											
January	2,244	405	106	13	440	44	2,258	13.0	---	---	---
February	1,984	440	87	16	514	41	1,940	11.2	---	---	---
March	2,087	514		15	526	55			---	---	---
1st quarter	6,315	405		44	526	140					3/38.5
April											
May											
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	1958		1959		
		March	April	February	March	April
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	35.27	33.56	30.65	32.31	34.62
Choice	do.	29.90	29.37	27.85	29.11	30.33
Good	do.	26.61	26.73	26.07	27.15	28.11
Standard	do.	24.34	24.36	24.65	25.27	25.86
Commercial	do.	---	---	23.99	24.26	25.25
Utility	do.	22.26	21.92	22.10	22.93	23.90
All grades	do.	28.28	28.59	27.44	28.22	29.32
Omaha, all grades	do.	26.57	26.60	25.72	26.47	27.60
Sioux City, all grades	do.	26.16	26.51	25.84	26.53	27.75
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	19.19	20.64	20.11	20.14	21.06
Utility	do.	17.85	19.20	18.86	19.08	19.97
Canner and Cutter	do.	15.96	17.19	17.27	17.68	18.18
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	32.15	33.18	---	---	---
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City ^{1/}	do.	25.79	26.83	25.97	27.78	28.63
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	21.70	22.20	22.80	23.30	24.10
Calves	do.	24.00	24.50	28.40	27.90	29.00
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	19.77	19.36	---	---	---
180-200 pounds	do.	21.17	20.89	16.04	16.12	16.35
200-220 pounds	do.	21.54	21.20	16.15	16.44	16.73
220-240 pounds	do.	21.53	21.04	15.95	16.33	16.55
240-270 pounds	do.	21.23	20.54	15.61	16.12	16.22
270-300 pounds	do.	20.88	20.09	---	---	---
All weights	do.	21.26	20.68	15.62	16.12	16.28
8 markets ^{2/}	do.	21.20	20.64	15.63	15.89	16.09
Sows, Chicago	do.	19.05	18.21	13.56	13.61	13.39
Price received by farmers	do.	20.30	20.20	15.40	15.40	15.60
Hog-corn price ratio ^{3/}						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		18.2	16.1	13.2	13.4	12.7
Price received by farmers, all hogs		20.3	18.0	14.8	14.5	13.8
Sheep and lambs						
Sheep						
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	9.50	8.82	6.88	7.72	7.60
Price received by farmers	do.	7.73	7.54	7.14	7.25	7.05
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	23.40	22.03	19.48	20.56	21.59
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	22.99	22.18	19.72	19.55	19.88
Price received by farmers	do.	21.50	21.00	18.10	18.90	19.10
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		335	339	322	327	336
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago						
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	47.24	46.86	46.44	46.65	47.16
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	48.69	47.74	39.25	41.60	44.75
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	23.07	23.00	18.07	17.93	18.44
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.09	31.99	25.13	24.94	25.65
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	27.07	27.24	21.94	21.42	21.85
Average per 100 pounds	do.	38.12	38.36	30.90	30.16	30.77
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	24.62	24.78	19.88	19.41	19.80
Average per 100 pounds	do.	43.97	44.26	35.51	34.67	35.36
Retail, United States average						
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	80.7	82.8	83.3	83.2	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	64.2	65.1	58.7	57.5	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		106.1	110.2	100.1	99.0	
Retail (1947-49=100) ^{4/}		118.8	121.5	118.3	116.7	

^{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.

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

Item	Unit	1958		1959		
		March	April	February	March	April
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		100	114	109	117	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	285	302	291	344	
Sheep and lambs	do.	117	106	153	120	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	1,360	1,383	1,219	1,334	
Steers	do.	706	780	663	751	
Heifers	do.	258	225	250	286	
Cows	do.	373	353	291	280	
Bulls and stags	do.	23	25	15	17	
Calves	do.	518	485	377	423	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,000	1,149	1,080	1,143	
Hogs	do.	4,818	4,963	5,686	5,733	
Percentage sows	Percent	6	8	6	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,008	1,010	1,068	1,058	
Calves	do.	189	200	200	188	
Sheep and lambs	do.	104	103	105	104	
Hogs	do.	233	239	235	236	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	556	569	610	609	
Veal, per head	do.	107	113	113	107	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	51	50	51	50	
Pork, per head	do.	135	137	136	135	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	58	58	58	58	
Lard, per head	do.	32	33	32	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	14	14	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	754	785	741	811	
Veal	do.	55	54	42	45	
Lamb and mutton	do.	50	58	55	58	
Pork	do.	648	681	772	775	
Lard	do.	155	165	184	191	
Commercial slaughter ^{1/}						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	1,840	1,877	1,617	1,762	
Calves	do.	857	797	601	684	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,119	1,297	1,218	1,309	
Hogs	do.	5,791	5,919	6,715	6,818	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	985	1,023	946	1,030	
Veal	do.	91	90	69	74	
Lamb and mutton	do.	56	65	62	65	
Pork	do.	775	806	907	918	
Lard	do.	177	188	208	217	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	116	110	174	173	169
Veal	do.	10	9	16	14	13
Lamb and mutton	do.	4	5	10	11	11
Pork	do.	228	224	240	316	333
Total meat and meat products ^{2/}	do.	409	418	499	582	597

^{1/} Federally inspected, and other commercial.

^{2/} Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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