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The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

IN THIS ISSUE: RANK OF STATES IN LIVESTOCK, 1960

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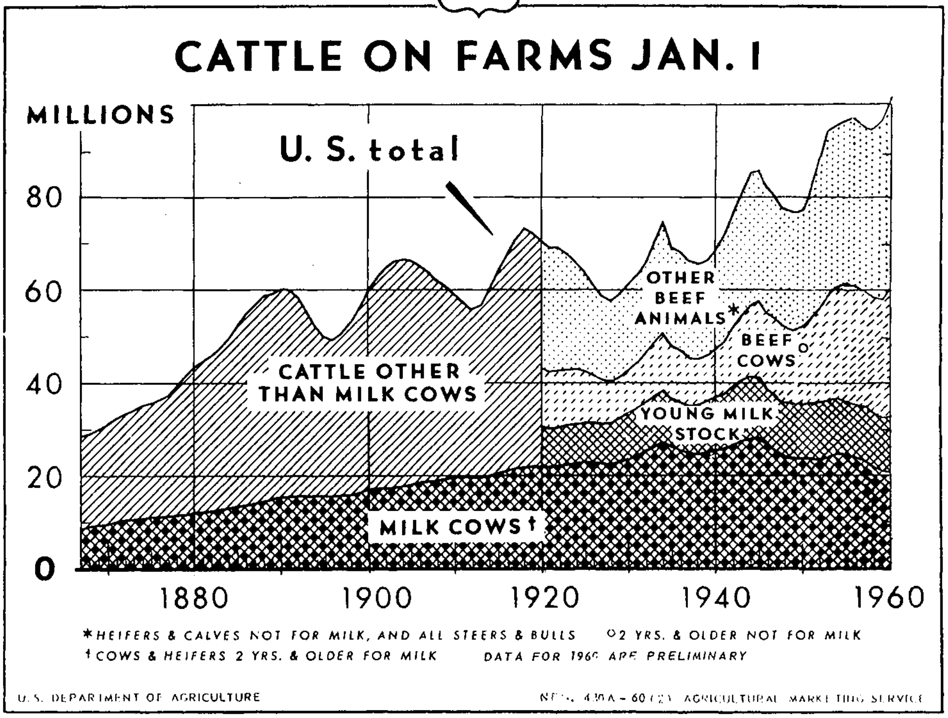

Cattle numbers were record high January 1 - - 101.5 million head. Most of the 4.9 million head gain during 1959 was in beef cattle. Beef cows increased over 1.7 million and young beef stock 2.8 million head.

Milk cows continued their decline, reaching the lowest number on hand since 1917. Numbers of young milk stock being held for milk cow replacements were up slightly from a year earlier.

The makeup of the current inventory indicates that, barring drought, only a modest increase in cattle slaughter is probable in 1960.

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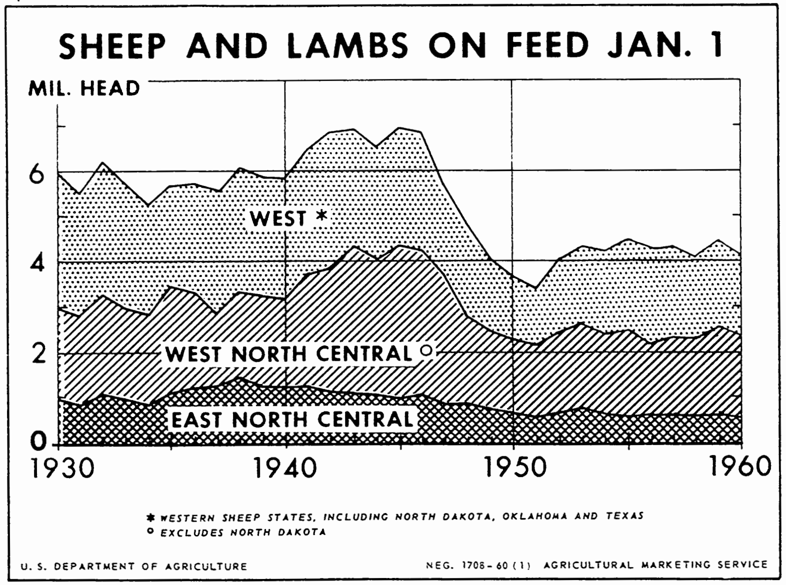

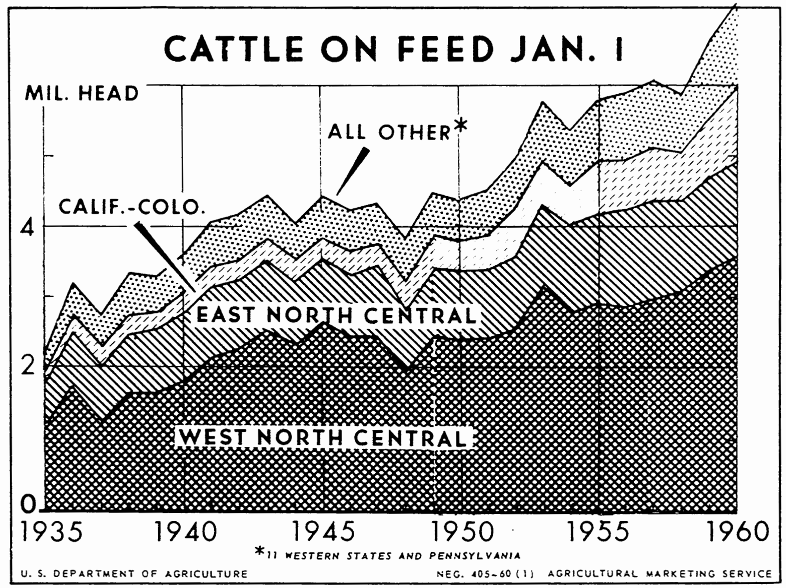

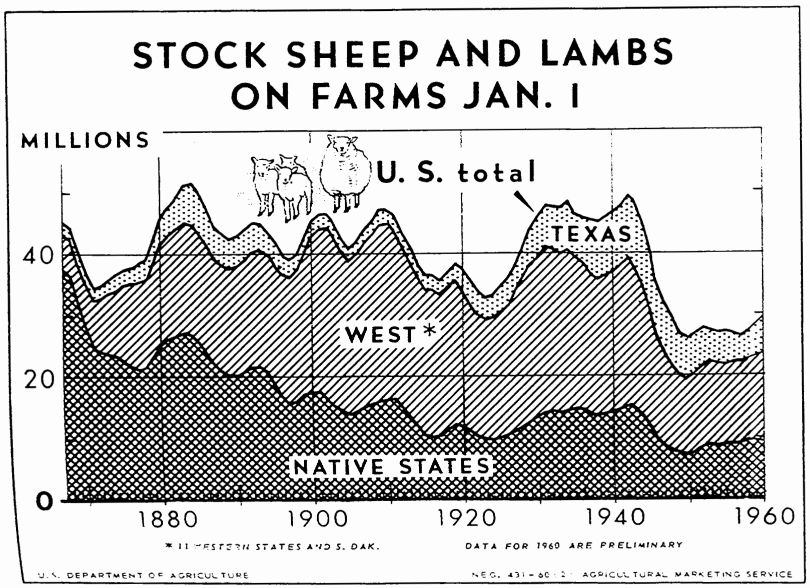

The increase in cattle numbers during 1959 included a 9 percent gain in the number on feed. More cattle were on feed in all regions of the country, with only 5 States showing fewer on feed this January than a year earlier. Fed cattle slaughter during the next several months will show a significant gain over a year ago.

The number of sheep and lambs on hand January 1 was up 2 percent from January 1959, as a 7 percent decline in the number on feed offset a part of the 3 percent gain in stock sheep. Total stock sheep numbers declined slightly in the Native States, in contrast to a 6 percent increase in the 13 Western States.

Reductions in the number of sheep and lambs on feed were widespread, with all major regions showing declines. Slaughter supplies of fed lambs during the early months of this year will be below those of a year earlier.

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 3, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	3
Review and Outlook	4
Retail Meat Outlook	14
Outlook for Sausage Meats	17
Rank of States in Livestock Numbers 1960	18
List of Tables	24

SUMMARY

Probable trends in meat animal production during 1960 are fairly well outlined by recent inventory and intention reports from farmers. Beginning inventories for cattle, hogs and sheep are each larger than a year earlier. Increases in the number of cows and ewes on hand will undoubtedly lead to larger calf and lamb crops. But the decline in sows and the intentions of producers foretell a smaller spring pig crop. Liberal feed supplies for the 1959-60 feeding season are assured by record levels of feed grains and other concentrates. Hay stocks on January 1, though 12 percent below a year earlier, were 9 percent above average.

Cattle numbers totaled 101.5 million head on January 1, the first time in 93 years of records that January numbers exceeded 100 million. Cattle numbers increased 5 percent during 1959, hog numbers 3 percent and sheep numbers 2 percent. The composite index of meat animals rose 4 points to 120 percent (1947-49=100), one percent above the previous high on January 1, 1944.

Most of the increase in cattle numbers in 1959 was in beef cattle, though numbers of milk cattle showed a small gain, the first in 6 years. All classes of beef cattle shared in the increase and gains in numbers occurred in all sections of the country. Regional increases ranged from 3 percent in the North Atlantic and East North Central Regions to 7 percent in the South Central.

Compared with a year earlier, total hog numbers increased in all regions of the country. The number of pigs under 6 months old, up 3 percent from a year earlier, was in line with the larger 1959 fall crop. The number of sows and gilts was down 11 percent, reflecting farmers' intentions to reduce 1960 spring farrowings. The number of other hogs over 6 months of age was up 16 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter supplies during the first part of the year will be greater than a year earlier but reduction in sows and gilts of breeding age will result in a smaller spring pig crop for market this summer and fall.

The total number of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches increased 2 percent during 1959 to total 33.6 million head on January 1, 1960. This is the largest inventory since January 1, 1948, but smaller than any year from 1948 back to 1867, the first year of record. Approximately 4.1 million head were sheep and lambs on feed for market, 7 percent fewer than a year earlier.

Although fluctuating seasonally, cattle prices probably will trend slowly downward during the year, in contrast to significant improvement in hog prices. For the year as a whole sheep and lamb prices are not expected to average greatly different from 1959.

Production of meat this year is forecast at 27.8 billion pounds, slightly more than in 1959. However, because meat imports will probably not be as large as last year and, with population growing, per capita consumption may be about a pound below the 159.6 pounds for 1959. Retail beef prices will probably average close to 1959 levels. Pork prices, now below a year earlier, will probably rise above 1959 levels this spring and for the year will average somewhat higher than last year.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Livestock Numbers Up

Inventories of all three species of meat animals were larger on January 1, 1960 than a year before -- the second year of increase for cattle and hogs, and the third for sheep. Cattle made the greatest gain -- 5 percent, hogs increased 3 percent and sheep and lambs 2 percent. The composite index for meat animals, which combines species on the basis of economic importance, set a new high of 120 (1947-49=100), 1 point above the previous record set January 1, 1944 (table 1). The index for all livestock and poultry also rose 4 points over 1959 but, because of lower poultry and workstock numbers, it was still below the 1944 record.

Larger inventories chiefly reflect a continuation of cyclical increases that got underway late in 1957 or early in 1958, when better prices and generally improved pastures encouraged expansion. Larger beginning inventories of breeding animals and ample feed supplies set the stage for probable further gains in cattle and sheep production this year. Hog production, however, will decline. Farmers planned December 1 to have 12 percent fewer sows farrow spring pigs this year than last. The total supply of feed grains and other concentrates for the 1959-60 feeding season is a record level, 7 percent above a year earlier. Hay stocks on January 1 were 12 percent below January 1959 but 9 percent above the 1949-58 average.

Cattle Herds Top 100 Million

The cattle and calf inventory of January 1 was reported at 101,520,000 head, up 4,870,000 head from January 1, 1959 (table 2 and cover chart). Reduced slaughter and a larger calf crop account for the larger 1960 inventory. Combined cattle and calf slaughter was down 2.1 million head from 1958 as calf slaughter dropped sharply below year-earlier levels. The calf crop was 637,000 larger in

Table 1 .--Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1951 to date

Year	Number on farms January 1					Index numbers, by groups (1947-49 = 100)			
	All cattle and calves	All sheep and lambs	Hogs	Horses and mules	Chickens	Total livestock and poultry	Meat animals	Milk cattle	Poultry
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head				
1951	82,083	30,633	62,269	7,036	430,988	104	105	96	96
1952	88,072	31,982	62,117	6,150	426,555	108	110	95	96
1953	94,241	31,900	51,755	5,403	398,158	109	112	97	90
1954	95,679	31,356	45,114	4,791	396,776	108	111	98	89
1955	96,592	31,582	50,474	4,309	390,708	110	114	96	88
1956	96,804	31,273	55,173	3,928	382,846	112	115	95	86
1957	94,502	30,840	51,703	3,574	390,137	109	112	93	89
1958	93,350	31,337	50,980	3,354	370,884	107	111	91	85
1959	96,650	32,945	56,924	3,142	383,529	112	116	88	88
1960 1/	101,520	33,621	58,464	3,089	366,859	116	120	88	84

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2 .--Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1951 to date

Year	For milk			Not for milk				
	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Heifer calves	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Calves	Steers	Bulls
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1951	23,568	5,493	6,337	18,526	5,122	14,319	7,029	1,689
1952	23,060	5,694	6,481	20,863	5,971	15,829	8,400	1,774
1953	23,549	5,893	6,479	23,291	6,535	17,440	9,147	1,907
1954	23,896	5,873	6,392	25,050	6,365	17,978	8,229	1,896
1955	23,462	5,786	6,113	25,659	6,514	18,785	8,444	1,829
1956	23,213	5,480	6,044	25,516	6,238	18,979	9,560	1,774
1957	22,916	5,377	5,977	24,754	6,017	18,621	9,105	1,735
1958	22,233	5,297	5,883	24,287	6,063	18,491	9,448	1,648
1959	21,488	5,296	5,951	25,513	6,820	19,698	10,233	1,651
1960 1/	21,331	5,454	6,199	27,263	7,419	21,093	11,009	1,752

1/ Preliminary.

1959 than in 1958. Imports of cattle and calves, however, totaled 708,755 head last year compared with 1,152,407 the year before.

The January 1960 increase in total cattle numbers over January 1959 was widespread. Only 5 States--Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware--reported numbers the same as year earlier, or less. Increases ranged from 3 percent in the North Atlantic and East North Central Region to 7 percent in the South Central States. By type-of-farming regions, shown in table 3, the Plains States and the West had slightly larger gains in cattle than those States east of these areas (table 3).

Table 3.--All cattle and calves and all sheep and lambs on farms January 1, by type-of-farming region, 1960 and 1959 with percentage change

Region	All cattle and calves			All sheep and lambs		
	1960	1959	Percentage change	1960	1959	Percentage change
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.
North Atlantic	5,454	5,286	+3.2	563	558	+0.9
Corn Belt 1/	30,083	29,061	+3.5	6,720	6,784	-.9
Plains 2/	28,166	26,527	+6.2	10,208	9,731	+4.9
South-Southeast 3/	19,543	18,557	+5.3	1,970	2,038	-3.3
West	18,274	17,219	+6.1	14,160	13,834	+2.4
United States	101,520	96,650	+5.0	33,621	32,945	+2.1

1/ Central Corn Belt and Lake States.
2/ Northern and Southern.
3/ Delta, Southeast and Appalachian States.

Beef Cattle Up Most

Increase in cattle numbers during 1959 was principally in beef cattle, though the number of milk cattle showed a small gain, the first in 6 years. Milk cow numbers declined 1 percent, while heifers and heifer calves less than 2 years old being kept for milk increased 4 percent. The number of young milk stock on hand was record large in relation to the number of cows. This indicates the decline in milk cow numbers may be slowing.

The total number of beef cattle on farms and ranches this January--all cattle except cows, heifers, and heifer calves kept for milk--was up 7 percent. Cows two years old and older were up 7 percent, yearling heifers 9 percent, steers over 1 year old 8 percent, calves 7 percent, and bulls 6 percent. The gain of $1\frac{3}{4}$ million in beef cow numbers was the largest numerical increase of any class and sets a new high for beef cows. But total cow numbers including dairy cows, are still below the number on hand in January 1954-56.

Fattening of cattle on grain and other concentrate feed for market continued to increase in importance during 1959. The number of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 leading States set new highs each quarter last year. On January 1, 1960, the number on feed in 26 leading States, for which comparable data are available, was up 9 percent from a year earlier, and the largest of record. The 7.2 million head on feed in these States compares with 4.4 million 10 years earlier, 3.6 million head 20 years earlier, and 3.1 million head on January 1, 1930. In addition, 366,000 head were on feed in 11 Southeastern States reporting on January 1 this year for the first time. (Table 4 and inside cover chart)

Calves Increase Sharply

The 2-year upswing in the cattle cycle raised the total number of cattle and calves on hand 9 percent. This is not an unusually large gain, though it featured a rapid buildup in young stock. Thus, slaughter will increase in 1960 but the sharpest gain in slaughter in this cycle is yet to come. The makeup of the January 1960 inventory indicates that, barring drought or other conditions that would bring on heavy marketings, a modest increase in cattle slaughter during 1960 is the most likely outlook, with much of the gain in fed cattle. Under such conditions the price outlook for cattle is fairly optimistic. But cattle prices probably will not reach year-earlier levels during 1960, and likely will trend slowly downward.

The real key to future herd expansion is the disposition of young stock on hand. The 3/4-million gain in heifers, for example, is a potential source for more cows in another year. Heifers and heifer calves on feed January 1 in 21 States totaled 1,995,000 head, 12 percent above a year earlier. Although these are not breeding stock, there still remains a sizable increase in heifers that could be added to cow herds in another year.

As beef cows exceed milk cows in our cow herd, much of the 1.6 million gain in the calf inventory is in beef calves. Since a smaller part of our beef calf crop is slaughtered as calves, many of these calves on hand January 1 could show up a year later in the steer and heifer inventory.

To summarize, the principal conclusions of the 1960 inventory are:

(1) Steer and heifer inventories are large enough that some increase in slaughter of those classes is almost certain in 1960, despite an increase in the number of heifers retained for breeding.

(2) The principal significance of the gain in calf inventories lies in the probable increase in yearling stock next January and a possible increase in breeding stock 2 years hence. However, some gain in calf slaughter in the early months is likely this year.

Table 4.--Number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1951 to date

Cattle and calves

Year	Pennsylvania	North Central States: East North Central	North Central States: West North Central: 3 Corn Belt 1/	North Central States: West North Central: 4 Plains 2/	Texas and Oklahoma	Western States: California	Western States: Other Western	26 States
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1951	90	967	1,485	936	239	248	569	4,534
1952	90	1,009	1,510	1,041	241	383	687	4,961
1953	90	1,177	1,845	1,300	263	327	752	5,754
1954	86	1,221	1,675	1,107	199	350	726	5,364
1955	84	1,267	1,780	1,142	200	467	846	5,786
1956	82	1,364	1,806	1,046	214	489	879	5,880
1957	90	1,413	1,911	1,051	218	496	888	6,067
1958	78	1,337	1,943	1,087	163	398	861	5,867
1959	77	1,311	2,117	1,249	237	504	1,132	6,627
1960 3/	83	1,357	2,224	1,330	308	663	1,233	4/7,198

Sheep and lambs

Year	New York	Alabama	11 Corn Belt States 5/: East	11 Corn Belt States 5/: West	Western States 6/	United States
1951	19	---	541	1,571	1,251	3,382
1952	21	---	642	1,761	1,614	4,038
1953	20	---	742	1,890	1,655	4,307
1954	21	---	647	1,763	1,846	4,277
1955	20	---	601	1,853	1,971	4,445
1956	20	42	641	1,562	1,996	4,261
1957	20	23	654	1,687	1,918	4,302
1958	21	6	619	1,732	1,632	4,010
1959	23	---	614	1,940	1,871	4,448
1960 3/	18	---	591	1,775	1,756	4,140

1/ Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri.

2/ North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ 11 South Atlantic and South Central States report an additional 366,000 head on feed.

5/ North Central States, except North Dakota.

6/ 8 Mountain States, 3 Pacific States, Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

(3) Cow numbers are increasing rapidly. Although cow numbers are still below 1954-56 levels they may soon reach a level high enough to sustain a significantly larger rate of cattle and calf slaughter.

A higher rate of slaughter for calves and yearlings during 1960 than now seems probable would probably mean significantly lower prices this year, but would modify the threat of serious overexpansion later.

The expectation that cattle numbers will probably continue to increase for several years assumes that range and pasture conditions will continue favorable. Widespread drought at any time during the next few years would stimulate much larger marketings than now are in prospect. As our basic breeding herd is maintained largely on pasture, extensive and severe drought would mean not only heavier marketings of young stock but could lead to liquidations in breeding herds. In this regard it is interesting to note that although the Nation's cattle herd was record large in January, 29 States have had larger January inventories at sometime in the past than on January 1, 1960. Admittedly such a criterion is not an accurate gauge of the current carrying capacity of our farms and ranches. With good weather it does not appear that forage supplies would be a limiting factor to further herd expansion.

During the next few months marketings will feature liberal supplies of fed cattle. In contrast to late-winter price increases during the past 2 years, fed cattle prices this winter are expected to hold close to present levels. Seasonal price increases are likely for stocker and feeder cattle with the growth of new grass this spring. (Table 5)

Hog Inventory Up; Sows Down

Hog numbers increased 3 percent during the past year to the largest January 1 number since 1952. The present inventory at 58.5 million head is well below the all-time peak of 83.7 million on January 1, 1944, and was exceeded in 9 out of the last 20 years.

A look at inventories by classes reveals that the number of pigs under 6 months old was up 3 percent from a year earlier, in line with the larger 1959 fall crop. The number of sows and gilts was down 11 percent, reflecting farmers' intentions to decrease spring farrowings this year. The number of other hogs over 6 months of age was up 16 percent from a year earlier.

Compared with a year earlier, hog numbers increased in all regions of the country. The largest percentage increases occurred in States outside the Corn Belt. Largest increase -- 11 percent -- was in the South Central States. In the North Central States, which account for about 73 percent of the U. S. total, hog numbers were up only one percent -- increases in some States more than offset decreases in others.

Hog slaughter thus far this year has been about 6 percent larger than a year ago. This increase was made up largely from the larger carryover of slaughter hogs over 6 months of age. In late-February, barrow and gilt prices at 8 markets were $14.05 per 100 pounds, about $1.20 below a year earlier.

The larger number of pigs means greater slaughter supplies this spring. The reduction in sows and gilts of breeding age will result in a smaller spring pig crop for market this summer and fall. Hence, by mid-year hog slaughter will probably be below that of a year earlier and continue so the rest of the year.

As hog prices generally respond quickly to changes in supply, prices this year will likely approximate a reverse pattern. They are likely to continue near present levels until the bulk of the larger fall crop is marketed. After that--sometime around mid-spring--prices will advance seasonally and climb above 1959 levels. By summer they should be significantly above the depressed prices of a year earlier, and during the seasonal decline next fall continue above last fall.

Table 5 .--Selected prices of livestock, by months, 1959 and 1960

Month	Choice slaughter steers at Chicago 1/		Stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City 2/		Barrows and gilts at 8 markets 3/		Choice lambs at Chicago 4/	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Jan.	26.42	28.13	23.31	26.10	12.65	16.63	19.90	19.35
Feb.	5/26.66	27.85	23.80	25.97	13.56	15.63	21.05	19.48
Mar.		29.11		27.78		15.89		20.56
Apr.		30.33		28.63		16.09		21.59
May		29.34		28.69		16.09		22.79
June		28.48		27.24		15.91		26.30
July		27.89		26.47		14.40		24.00
Aug.		27.56		25.96		14.65		23.00
Sept.		27.62		25.38		13.81		21.13
Oct.		27.19		24.41		13.11		20.52
Nov.		26.53		23.34		12.61		19.26
Dec.		25.57		22.51		11.86		17.84
Av.		27.83		25.61		14.64		21.32

1/ Sold out of first hands.
2/ All weights.
3/ Average for all weights Midwest markets.
4/ Spring lambs June-September, wooled lambs all other months except May which is shorn.
5/ 4-week average.

Compiled from Market News, Livestock Division.

USDA Resumes Lard Purchase Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced February 15 that the lard purchase program was being resumed. About 32.6 million pounds of lard was bought late last year under this program. Approximately 10.6 million pounds were purchased the week ending March 4 and additional offers have been requested. Purchases are being made with Sec. 32 funds and the lard bought is being distributed domestically to needy persons and eligible institutions.

Stock Sheep Up; On Feed Down

The total number of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches increased 2 percent during 1959 to 33.6 million head on January 1, 1960. This is the largest inventory since January 1, 1948, but less than any year before 1948, back to 1867, first year of record.

Approximately 4.1 million head of the total sheep inventory were sheep and lambs on feed for market. The number on feed was down 7 percent from a year earlier. Stock sheep numbers were up 3 percent. (Table 4 and inside cover.)

For the 35 native sheep States combined, stock sheep numbers declined 1 percent during the past year. This decline followed 5 consecutive years of increase in this area. Numbers in the Western States (including Texas and South Dakota) increased 6 percent during 1959, third consecutive year of increase. Texas, the leading sheep State, had the sharpest increase -- 12 percent.

Expansion in sheep reflects mainly improved ranges and pastures, together with incentive payments for wool.

January 1 inventory numbers of sheep and lambs do not indicate probable future trends as clearly as do cattle and calf numbers. As lambs mature much faster than calves, ewe lambs reported as such at the beginning of the year must soon enter the breeding flock or move to slaughter. Sheep slaughter (excluding lambs and yearlings) in 1959 totaled about 800,000 head. Including allowance for death losses, annual disappearance of mature sheep is equivalent to about 75 to 80 percent of the January 1 inventory of ewe lambs. However, based on the outlook for sheep and lamb prices it does not appear that any sharp change in the rate of withholding ewe lambs for breeding purposes will take place in 1960. A small further increase in flock numbers is the most likely prospect.

Assuming that about the same proportion of the ewe lamb inventory will be marketed this winter and spring as last, and considering the decline in the number on feed, it appears that during the next few months sheep and lamb slaughter will be below a year earlier. Slaughter in January and February was about 4 percent less than a year earlier. Prices have made some recovery from late 1959 lows and currently are above a year ago (table 5). Some further increase is likely to a seasonal high sometime this spring.

The larger number of ewes on hand will probably result in a corresponding gain in the 1960 lamb crop. Hence, slaughter this summer and fall will probably be above year-earlier levels. Prices will probably trend downward during the last half of the year and for 1960 will likely average close to 1959 prices.

Federal Lamb Grading

The USDA announced February 5 that the Federal grading of lamb and mutton carcasses would not be suspended as announced earlier but would be continued under new revised standards and continued study. The decision to continue the voluntary grading service was reached after full consultation with all interested parties including producer, processor, and consumer groups and farm organizations.

The new standards reduce the minimum requirements in the Prime and Choice grades. The importance of conformation and external finish is increased, and the emphasis placed on internal factors considered in evaluating quality is reduced. The changes should have the effect of lowering average fatness in the Prime and Choice grades. In addition, there should be a substantial increase in the number of lambs which qualify for Prime, thus providing two grades -- Prime and Choice -- with sufficient volume for effective merchandising.

U. S. Tariff Commission Sets Hearing

The U. S. Tariff Commission hearing will be held March 22 on lamb, mutton, sheep, and lamb imports. Interested parties desiring to express their views should notify the Commission in writing at least three days in advance of the hearing.

Meat Consumption To Decline

Meat production during the first half of 1960 will be somewhat larger than in the corresponding period in 1959. Later, output will likely be about the same as, or a little lower than year-earlier levels, largely because of a lower rate of hog slaughter. For the year as a whole, total meat production will be a little larger than in 1959. However, because meat imports will not likely be as large as last year and in addition, due to population growth, per capita consumption is expected to be about a pound smaller than the 159.6 pounds currently estimated for 1959. The probable gain of about 2 pounds per person in beef and veal will likely be more than offset by reduction in pork (table 6).

Beef output for 1960 is expected to show a modest gain over 1959 as cattle slaughter increases cyclically. As in 1959, an unusually high proportion of slaughter will be fed beef, particularly during the first half of the year. Much of the gain in slaughter during next summer and fall is expected to be in grass cattle.

The outlook for pork production was modified considerably by the December Pig Crop Report. The downturn in hog production, previously thought likely to occur in 1960, actually got underway late in 1959. Hence, slaughter supplies will probably fall below last year's rate sometime this spring and continue so the rest of the year. Total pork supplies are currently expected to total about 5 percent less than in 1959. Consumption per person will probably be close to 64 pounds compared with 67.8 last year.

Lamb and mutton production in 1960 will probably be only a little larger than in 1959. No change in the rate of consumption is forecast from the 4.5 pounds per consumer last year.

Table 6.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1957-59 and forecast for 1960

Year	Red meat: Beef	Red meat: Veal	Red meat: Lamb and mutton	Red meat: Pork	Red meat: Total	Poultry meat 2/	Red and poultry meat
	Production 1/						
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
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	1,030	745	12,025	27,400	6,275	33,675
1960 4/	14,500	1,100	750	11,475	27,825	6,425	34,250
	Consumption per person						
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
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/	81.5	5.8	4.5	67.8	159.6	34.9	194.5
1960 4/	83.5	6.0	4.5	64	158	34.9	193

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/ Preliminary.
4/ Forecast.

Wool, Mohair Production And Value Up in 1959

Wool production, shorn and pulled, totaled 291.7 million pounds, grease basis, in 1959, 7 percent above 1958 output. At 257.2 million pounds, shorn wool production was the highest since 1946. Pulled wool in 1959 totaled 34.5 million pounds compared with 30.4 million pounds in 1958. (Table 7)

Higher shorn wool production in 1959 was due to increases in the number of sheep shorn and heavier average fleece weights. The weight per fleece was 8.31 pounds compared with 8.14 pounds in 1958 and the record high of 8.55 pounds in 1955. The gain in pulled wool resulted primarily from the increase in number of sheep and lambs slaughtered. The average amount of wool pulled per skin was 3.33 pounds, somewhat lighter than usual but approximately the same as in 1957 and 1958.

The value of shorn wool produced in 1959 amounted to $110 million, up 25 percent from 1958 because of the gain in production and a 6.4 cent higher price per pound. The value of production figures do not include incentive payments authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954 to stimulate production. Payments have been made each year on shorn wool to bring the average price up to the incentive level of 62 cents per pound. Compensating payments have also been made on a liveweight basis for slaughter lambs.

Mohair production, average weight of hair per goat and kid clipped and value set new highs in the 7 leading States in 1959. Production totaled 24.2 million pounds, 16 percent larger than the 20.9 million pounds produced in 1958. (Table 8) The average clip per goat has increased consistantly during the 26 years of record and in 1959 averaged 6.4 pounds. Value of mohair produced was $22.9 million. The average price received by growers from April 1959 through January 1960 was 94.5 cents. The average price received for mohair in 1958 was 72.1 cents per pound. As the incentive level for mohair is 70 cents per pound, no payments have been made for mohair.

RETAIL MEAT OUTLOOK

In January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of retail meat prices in urban centers was 110.8 (1947-49=100), down 0.9 points from a month earlier but down 9.4 points from a year ago. Most of the decline from a year earlier is due to lower pork prices. Average retail prices for round steak and rib roast were within a penny per pound of prices a year ago. Pork cuts were 9 to 15 cents per pound below January 1959 prices.

The relative stability in retail beef prices during 1959 and thus far this year will probably continue for at least the next few months. Fed cattle slaughter will supply liberal quantities of the top grades of beef. Retail beef prices this summer and fall may be supported by somewhat smaller supplies of fed beef, but any increase in price will probably be limited by the seasonal gain in total beef output (table 9).

Table 7.--Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1950-59

Year	Shorn wool: Number sheep shorn 1/	Shorn wool: Weight per fleece	Shorn wool: Production	Shorn wool: Price per pound 2/	Shorn wool: Value	Pulled wool production
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars	1,000 pounds
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1	126,327	33,600
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	3/54.9	127,514	42,200
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	3/53.2	125,538	43,500
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	42.6	99,813	41,600
1956	28,502	8.37	238,569	44.2	105,544	40,500
1957	28,531	8.25	235,509	53.4	125,732	33,600
1958	29,624	8.14	241,272	36.4	87,720	30,400
1959 4/	30,955	8.31	257,182	5/42.8	109,956	34,500

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Average price received by farmers for the marketing season April through March.
3/ Includes an allowance for loan wool.
4/ Preliminary.
5/ Computed from State average prices for wool sold April 1959 through January 1960.

Table 8.--Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1950-59 1/

Year	Number goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound 3/	Value
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,472	5.2	12,892	118.0	15,187
1952	2,287	5.3	12,215	96.3	11,763
1953	2,337	5.5	12,757	87.7	11,387
1954	2,618	5.6	14,578	72.4	10,549
1955	2,983	5.7	16,923	82.2	13,912
1956	3,164	5.8	18,233	84.4	15,383
1957	3,244	5.9	19,058	83.7	15,960
1958	3,437	6.1	20,855	72.1	15,040
1959 4/	3,776	6.4	24,180	5/94.5	22,859

1/ States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.
2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.
3/ Average price received by farmers for the marketing season April through March.
4/ Preliminary. 5/ Computed from State average prices for mohair sold April 1959 through January 1960.

Veal prices have been high relative to beef prices for over 2 years due to sharply lowered production. Farmers preferred to hold back calves for further feeding or for breeding stock. Since calf slaughter will likely increase this year, retail veal prices will average a little below last year. Prospects for the next several months are for prices close to current levels.

Retail pork prices are currently a little above last December's low but are still well below prices a year ago. The prospective pattern of pork production points to relatively stable retail prices during the next several weeks, followed by a strong seasonal rise this summer. From February through July 1959 the monthly composite retail price of pork products excluding lard (AMS series) ranged between 57 and 59 cents per pound. Quite likely, retail prices will be above this level by midyear.

Table 9.--Average retail price of pork and Choice beef, per pound, by months, 1956 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
	Pork, excluding lard												
	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.	Ct.
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	67.9	69.1	68.2	65.3	63.4	61.8	61.4	64.8
1959	61.1	58.7	57.5	58.0	58.2	58.5	58.1	56.5	57.2	55.5	53.8	52.2	57.1
1960	51.9												
	Beef, Choice grade												
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	83.0	82.9	80.7	80.4	80.7	81.0	81.3	81.0
1959	82.6	83.3	83.2	83.3	83.7	83.3	83.6	82.0	82.1	82.2	82.3	81.9	82.8
1960	81.5												

Computed from data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Marketing Research Division, AMS.

Retail lamb prices usually rise seasonally during the early months and will probably do so this year. In fact, part of the increase may have already occurred. The retail price for leg of lamb in January (BLS) was 73 3 cents per pound compared with 73.9 in December and 75.5 in January 1959. Further increases in retail lamb prices are likely during the next several weeks with prices climbing above prices a year earlier.

OUTLOOK FOR SAUSAGE MEATS

Sausage production under Federal inspection totaled approximately 2,319 million pounds in 1959, 4 percent larger than a year earlier. The increase over a year earlier has continued this year, with week-by-week totals of almost every class above early 1959 output. Federally inspected cattle slaughter in January was 9 percent and hogs 11 percent above a year earlier. Agricultural Research Service reports the quantity of meat inspected when offered for import was 11 percent smaller than January 1959.

Table 10.--Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1959 to date and April-June 1960 forecast

Period	Federally inspected slaughter					
	Cattle				Hogs	
	Total		Cows			
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Jan.-Mar.	1/4,300	3,995	1/1,000	928	1/18,200	17,304
Apr.-June	2/4,550	4,318	2/950	880	2/15,800	15,523
July-Sept.		4,546		943		15,929
Oct.-Dec.		4,600		1,085		19,951
Year		17,459		3,836		68,707

Period	Imports all meat 3/		Meat stocks in cold storage beginning of quarter 4/		Sausage production 5/	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Jan.-Mar.	1/ 170	206	544	462	1/575	509
Apr.-June	2/ 240	274		602		599
July-Sept.		277		582		646
Oct.-Dec.		197		408		565
Year		954				2,319

1/ Partly estimated. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Total red meat imports, product weight. 4/ Includes beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton and canned meats in public cold storage. 5/ 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.

The outlook for slaughter during the next several months indicates that supplies of meats for processing will continue relatively limited. (Table 10) Cattle slaughter is expected to be somewhat larger than last year but much of the increase will be in fed beef. Some pickup in cow slaughter over 1959 rates is likely, though cow slaughter will likely continue below 2 years earlier. Hog slaughter will continue above early 1959 rates through the first quarter of the year, but some time during spring it will drop below year-earlier levels.

Meat processors may obtain a considerable part of their processing supplies from foreign sources during 1960. Lower average domestic prices for processing beef will tend to reduce imports. As prices decline, the relatively fixed costs of tariffs, freight and other marketing costs reduce the competitive advantage of foreign producers. Tightened restrictions on imports of pickled and cured meat which went into effect in June 1959 will apply during all of 1960. Beef production this year in Australia and New Zealand, two of the major exporters, is expected to be down from a year earlier. Total imports of beef are expected to continue large but to fall below last year's rate. The level of lamb and mutton imports may be altered by a change in import regulations following the investigation of such imports by the U. S. Tariff Commission. Barring any change, lamb and mutton imports are likely to continue above a year earlier.

RANK OF STATES IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Texas is the leading State in total cattle, in beef cows, in all beef cattle, and in sheep. Iowa leads in pigs saved and Wisconsin in milk cow numbers (tables 11 and 12).

California and Oklahoma each moved up a notch from the 1959 ranking in all cattle and calves on hand, and Oklahoma moved from 8th to 6th in beef cattle numbers. State positions for milk cow and sheep and lamb numbers were essentially unchanged. Missouri moved from 4th to 3rd, and Georgia from 10th to 9th, in number of pigs saved in 1959.

Table 11.--Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1960

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (cattle not for milk)			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Texas	9,276	Texas	8,177	Texas	4,296
2	Iowa	6,797	Iowa	5,288	Nebraska	1,591
3	Nebraska	5,330	Nebraska	4,734	Oklahoma	1,418
4	Kansas	4,700	Kansas	4,034	South Dakota	1,305
5	Wisconsin	4,295	Missouri	3,055	Kansas	1,262
6	California	4,274	Oklahoma	2,942	Missouri	1,184
7	Missouri	4,262	South Dakota	2,931	Montana	1,164
8	Illinois	4,100	Illinois	2,894	Mississippi	968
9	Minnesota	4,092	California	2,700	Iowa	967
10	Oklahoma	3,545	Montana	2,286	California	907
11	South Dakota	3,426	Colorado	2,145	Louisiana	856
12	Mississippi	2,505	Minnesota	1,772	Florida	807
13	Ohio	2,462	Mississippi	1,736	Colorado	806
14	Montana	2,428	Florida	1,574	Alabama	738
15	Colorado	2,382	Louisiana	1,412	New Mexico	673
16	New York	2,218	Indiana	1,384	North Dakota	659
17	Indiana	2,191	North Dakota	1,384	Illinois	654
18	Florida	1,990	Alabama	1,291	Oregon	590
19	Pennsylvania	1,971	Oregon	1,217	Georgia	551
20	Kentucky	1,935	New Mexico	1,186	Arkansas	543
21	Alabama	1,907	Ohio	1,174	Wyoming	541
22	Louisiana	1,898	Wyoming	1,114	Tennessee	421
23	North Dakota	1,889	Georgia	1,113	Idaho	420
24	Michigan	1,884	Kentucky	1,064	Arizona	417
25	Tennessee	1,876	Idaho	1,040	Kentucky	406
26	Georgia	1,606	Arizona	1,017	Indiana	347
27	Oregon	1,587	Arkansas	1,017	Virginia	342
28	Arkansas	1,535	Tennessee	963	Minnesota	312
29	Idaho	1,456	Virginia	791	Nevada	307
30	Virginia	1,407	Washington	782	Washington	278
31	New Mexico	1,267	Wisconsin	586	Utah	258
32	Washington	1,237	Nevada	568	Ohio	250
33	Wyoming	1,175	Michigan	567	North Carolina	239
34	Arizona	1,110	Utah	563	South Carolina	192
35	North Carolina	1,075	North Carolina	498	West Virginia	134
36	Utah	749	South Carolina	391	Wisconsin	123
37	South Carolina	631	Pennsylvania	371	Michigan	104
38	Nevada	609	West Virginia	315	Pennsylvania	93
39	West Virginia	568	Maryland	182	Maryland	63
40	Maryland	545	New York	163	New York	45
41	Vermont	423	Maine	29	Maine	9
42	New Jersey	219	New Jersey	20	Delaware	7
43	Maine	194	Vermont	18	New Jersey	5
44	Connecticut	157	Delaware	15	Connecticut	3
45	Massachusetts	151	Connecticut	12	Massachusetts	3
46	New Hampshire	100	Massachusetts	12	Vermont	3
47	Delaware	65	New Hampshire	8	New Hampshire	2
48	Rhode Island	21	Rhode Island	1	Rhode Island	---
United States		101,520		68,536		27,263

Table 12.--Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1960 and pigs saved 1959

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over: State	Number	All sheep and lambs: State	Number	Number of pigs saved 1/: State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Wisconsin	2,402	Texas	6,074	Iowa	21,240
2	Minnesota	1,436	Wyoming	2,360	Illinois	12,711
3	New York	1,395	California	2,023	Missouri	7,740
4	Pennsylvania	1,049	Colorado	1,948	Indiana	7,660
5	Iowa	993	Montana	1,856	Minnesota	7,079
6	California	983	Iowa	1,663	Ohio	4,899
7	Ohio	848	South Dakota	1,653	Nebraska	4,335
8	Michigan	812	New Mexico	1,347	Wisconsin	3,940
9	Missouri	803	Utah	1,326	Georgia	3,093
10	Illinois	736	Ohio	1,255	South Dakota	2,973
11	Texas	713	Idaho	1,148	North Carolina	2,613
12	Tennessee	622	Minnesota	1,042	Tennessee	2,308
13	Kentucky	615	Oregon	944	Kentucky	2,285
14	Indiana	526	Missouri	861	Texas	2,077
15	Mississippi	503	Nebraska	805	Alabama	1,919
16	Kansas	423	Kansas	748	Kansas	1,842
17	Virginia	417	Illinois	744	Michigan	1,377
18	Nebraska	386	North Dakota	675	Mississippi	1,178
19	North Carolina	382	Kentucky	586	Virginia	1,149
20	Alabama	368	Arizona	484	South Carolina	935
21	Oklahoma	366	Indiana	483	Pennsylvania	880
22	North Dakota	341	Nevada	421	Oklahoma	876
23	Arkansas	328	Michigan	410	North Dakota	840
24	Louisiana	321	Virginia	340	Florida	757
25	Georgia	307	Washington	303	Arkansas	715
26	South Dakota	303	West Virginia	283	California	583
27	Washington	292	Tennessee	279	Louisiana	549
28	Vermont	285	Pennsylvania	264	Colorado	366
29	Maryland	248	Wisconsin	262	Oregon	352
30	Florida	243	Oklahoma	253	Maryland	332
31	Idaho	242	New York	186	Washington	270
32	Oregon	221	Mississippi	94	Montana	264
33	West Virginia	180	Louisiana	78	New York	231
34	South Carolina	161	North Carolina	73	Idaho	220
35	New Jersey	148	Alabama	67	West Virginia	199
36	Colorado	144	Arkansas	61	New Jersey	184
37	Utah	116	Maryland	47	Utah	159
38	Maine	103	Maine	46	Massachusetts	152
39	Connecticut	102	Georgia	36	Wyoming	63
40	Massachusetts	100	New Jersey	20	Delaware	56
41	Montana	92	Vermont	15	New Mexico	55
42	New Hampshire	58	Massachusetts	12	Arizona	48
43	Arizona	55	South Carolina	11	Maine	31
44	New Mexico	55	Connecitcut	10	Nevada	28
45	Wyoming	40	Florida	9	Connecticut	25
46	Delaware	33	New Hampshire	8	Vermont	18
47	Nevada	19	Delaware	6	New Hampshire	17
48	Rhode Island	16	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	13
United States		21,331		33,621		101,636

1/ Total pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops of 1959.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, October 1959 to date

Period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply			Distribution						Civilian consumption	
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per person 1/	Production	Total	Per person
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
1959											
October	1,187	171	75	5	163	29	1,236	7.0	---	---	---
November	1,082	163	58	5	177	25	1,096	6.2	---	---	---
December	1,162	177	89	4	202	29	1,193	6.8	---	---	---
4th quarter	3,431	171	222	14	202	83	3,525	20.1			3/21
Year	13,245	174	1,047	50	202	346	13,868	79.5			3/81.5
1960											
January	1,192	202			196	25					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Veal:											
1959											
October	92	8	2	4/	8	3	91	.5	---	---	---
November	80	8	1	4/	9	3	77	.4	---	---	---
December	80	9	2	1	10	2	78	.4	---	---	---
4th quarter	252	8	5	1	10	8	246	1.4			3/1.5
Year	943	16	16	2	10	38	925	5.3			3/5.8
1960											
January	78	10			9	2					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
1959											
October	64	14	3	4/	12	4/	69	.4	---	---	---
November	57	12	2	4/	13	4/	58	.3	---	---	---
December	64	13	6	4/	15	1	67	.4	---	---	---
4th quarter	185	14	11	4/	15	1	194	1.1			3/1.1
Year	732	9	57	2	15	4	777	4.5			3/4.5
1960											
January	68	15			14	4/					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Pork:											
1959											
October	1,060	163	12	12	185	14	1,024	5.8	---	---	---
November	1,027	185	13	14	224	13	974	5.5	---	---	---
December	1,127	224	15	10	264	14	1,078	6.1	---	---	---
4th quarter	3,214	163	40	36	264	41	3,076	17.5			3/19
Year	11,131	206	186	141	264	181	10,937	62.7			3/67.8
1960											
January	1,054	264			309	15					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
All meat:											
1959											
October	2,403	356	92	17	368	46	2,420	13.8	---	---	---
November	2,246	368	74	19	423	41	2,205	12.5	---	---	---
December	2,433	423	112	15	491	46	2,416	13.7	---	---	---
4th quarter	7,082	356	278	51	491	133	7,041	40.1	---	---	3/42.5
Year	26,051	405	1,306	195	491	569	26,507	174.4			3/159.6
1960											
January	2,392	491	.		528	42					
February											
March											
1st 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	1959 Year average or total	1959 February	1959 December	1960 January	1960 February
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	29.32	30.65	27.22	28.07	
Choice	do.	27.83	27.85	25.57	26.42	
Good	do.	26.69	26.07	23.87	24.74	
Standard	do.	24.82	24.65	22.26	22.45	
Commercial	do.	23.16	23.99	20.87	21.67	
Utility	do.	22.32	22.10	18.60	19.09	
All grades	do.	27.53	27.44	25.26	26.10	
Omaha, all grades	do.	26.11	25.72	23.78	24.36	
Sioux City, all grades	do.	26.24	25.84	24.01	25.03	
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	19.11	20.11	15.86	16.48	15.95
Utility	do.	17.79	18.86	14.79	15.52	15.48
Canner and Cutter	do.	16.27	17.27	13.63	14.07	14.32
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	---	---	29.50	30.04	30.95
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	25.61	25.97	22.51	23.31	23.80
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	2/22.50	22.80	19.50	20.30	20.60
Calves	do.	2/27.10	28.40	23.10	24.00	24.70
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	---	---	---	---	---
180-200 pounds	do.	14.96	16.04	12.20	12.95	13.53
200-220 pounds	do.	15.21	16.15	12.42	13.09	13.95
220-240 pounds	do.	15.06	15.95	11.97	12.61	13.86
240-270 pounds	do.	15.46	15.61	11.47	12.46	13.61
270-300 pounds	do.	---	---	---	---	---
All weights	do.	14.84	15.62	11.87	12.52	13.53
8 markets 3/	do.	14.64	15.63	11.86	12.65	13.56
Sows, Chicago	do.	11.70	13.56	8.88	10.09	11.36
Price received by farmers	do.	2/14.20	15.40	11.20	12.10	13.00
Hog-corn price ratio 4/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		12.3	13.2	10.8	10.9	12.0
Price received by farmers, all hogs		13.2	14.8	11.7	12.4	13.1
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	5.78	6.88	4.57	6.71	7.25
Price received by farmers	do.	2/6.16	7.14	5.33	5.74	5.96
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	21.32	19.48	17.84	19.90	21.05
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	19.42	19.72	17.10	17.70	19.18
Price received by farmers	do.	2/18.80	18.10	16.60	17.80	18.60
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		312	322	264	278	286
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	45.37	46.44	42.71	44.97	45.18
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	44.02	39.25	38.16	40.12	40.78
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	17.13	18.07	14.63	15.30	15.73
Average per 100 pounds	do.	23.82	25.13	20.35	21.28	21.88
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	20.92	21.94	18.40	18.94	19.25
Average per 100 pounds	do.	29.46	30.90	25.91	26.67	27.11
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	18.99	19.88	16.65	17.18	17.48
Average per 100 pounds	do.	33.92	35.51	29.74	30.68	31.22
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	82.8	83.3	81.9	81.5	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	57.1	58.7	52.2	51.9	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		98.3	100.1	88.0	91.5	
Retail (1947-49=100) 5/		116.6	118.3	111.7	110.8	

1/ Average all weights and grades.
2/ Simple average.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

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

Item	Unit	1959 Year average or total	1959 February	1959 December	1960 January	1960 February
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		127	110	143	129	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	6,480	291	544	382	
Sheep and lambs	do.	3,086	153	141	160	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	17,459	1,219	1,552	1,564	
Steers	do.	9,681	663	840	871	
Heifers	do.	3,701	250	335	329	
Cows	do.	3,836	291	360	347	
Bulls and stags	do.	240	15	17	17	
Calves	do.	4,875	377	456	413	
Sheep and lambs	do.	13,466	1,080	1,182	1,237	
Hogs	do.	68,707	5,686	6,968	6,516	
Percentage sows	Percent	9	6	8	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,045	1,068	1,052	1,064	
Calves	do.	208	200	196	203	
Sheep and lambs	do.	99	105	101	102	
Hogs	do.	240	235	240	236	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	601	610	605	610	
Veal, per head	do.	119	113	112	116	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	48	51	49	50	
Pork, per head	do.	138	136	137	136	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	57	58	57	57	
Lard, per head	do.	34	32	34	32	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	14	14	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	10,462	741	935	952	
Veal	do.	575	42	51	48	
Lamb and mutton	do.	645	55	58	62	
Pork	do.	9,432	772	955	887	
Lard	do.	2,309	184	238	212	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	22,952	1,617	2,001	2,031	
Calves	do.	7,773	601	698	647	
Sheep and lambs	do.	15,414	1,218	1,326	1,376	
Hogs	do.	81,588	6,715	8,269	7,780	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	13,245	946	1,162	1,192	
Veal	do.	943	69	80	78	
Lamb and mutton	do.	732	62	64	68	
Pork	do.	11,131	907	1,127	1,054	
Lard	do.	2,610	208	267	240	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	---	174	177	202	196
Veal	do.	---	16	9	10	9
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	10	13	15	14
Pork	do.	---	240	224	264	309
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	---	499	477	544	596

1/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.

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

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LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
1	Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1951 to date	5
2	Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1951 to date	5
3	All cattle and calves and all sheep and lambs on farms January 1, by type-of-farming region, 1960 and 1959 with percentage change	6
4	Number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1951 to date	8
5	Selected prices of livestock, by months, 1959 and 1960	10
6	Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1957-59 and forecast for 1960	13
7	Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1950-59	15
8	Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1950-59	15
9	Average retail price of pork and Choice beef, per pound, by months, 1956 to date	16
10	Cattle and hog slaughter, meat imports and stocks, and sausage production, by quarters 1959 to date and April - June 1960 forecast	17
11	Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1960	19
12	Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1960 and pigs saved 1959	20

STANDARD SUMMARY TABLES

Supply and distribution of meat, October 1959 to date	21
Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat	22
Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat	23

The next issue of The Livestock and Meat Situation is scheduled for release on May 11.