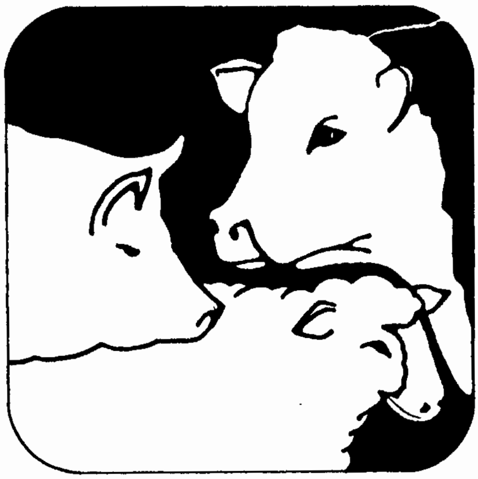
LMS-183 FEBRUARY 1972

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



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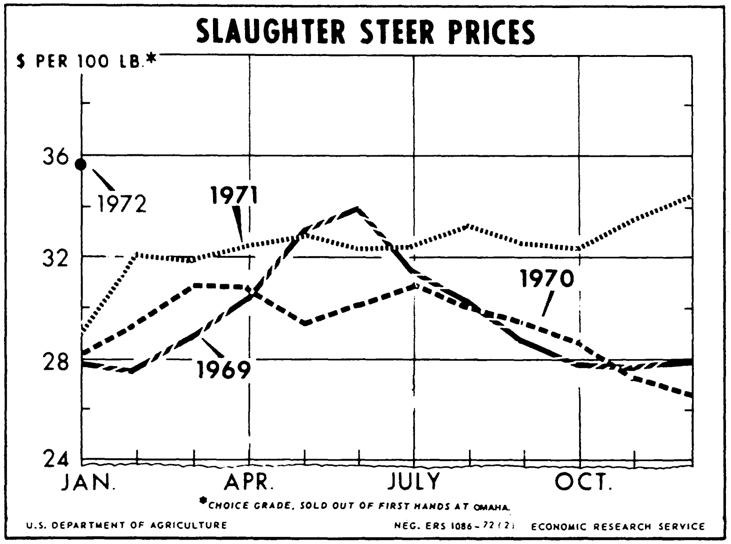
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
36
32
28
24
1972
1971
1970
1969
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA.
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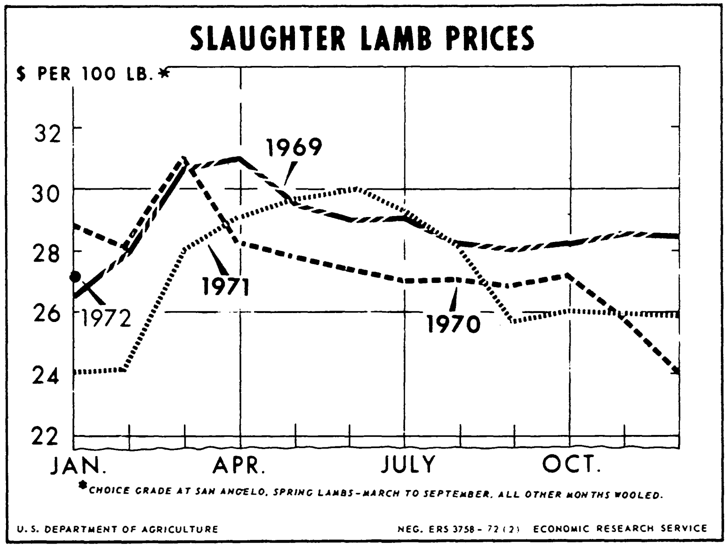
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
32
30
28
26
24
22
1969
1971
1972
1970
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO, SPRING LAMBS-MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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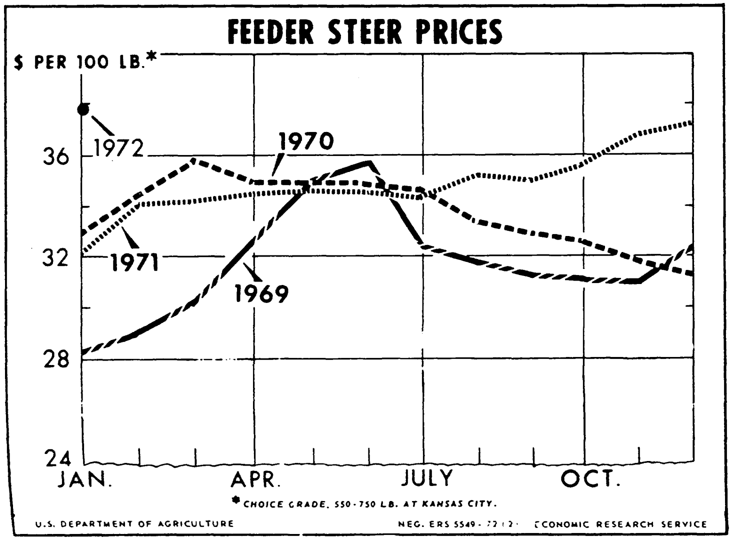
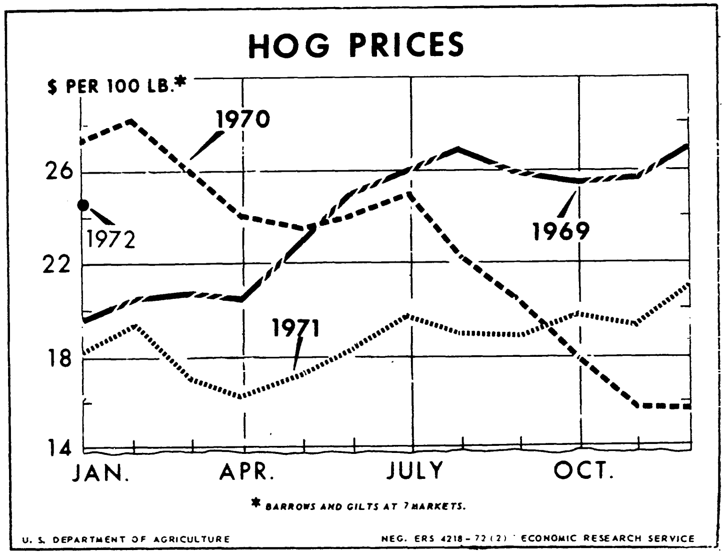

FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
36
32
28
24
1972
1970
1971
1969
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, 550-750 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 5549-72 (2)
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


HOG PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
26
22
18
14
1970
1972
1969
1971
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

CONTENTS

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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
February 4, 1972

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The *Livestock and Meat Situation* is published in February, March, May, August, October, and November.

SUMMARY

Cattle and hog prices have risen sharply in recent months, largely because slaughter supplies of hogs have dropped below year-earlier levels while cattle marketings have been about the same and consumer demand for meat has stayed strong. Hog slaughter will continue low at least through the summer, but the margin below a year earlier will be much less than in January. Cattle slaughter in late winter and spring is expected to rise moderately from year-earlier levels.

Cattle feeders placed 10 percent more cattle on feed last fall but marketed about the same number as a year earlier. This resulted in 9 percent more cattle on feed on January 1 in 23 major feeding States. The sharp increase in feeding reflects the rise in slaughter cattle prices and the decline in feed costs because of the record 1971 corn crop. Cattle feeders intend to market 7 percent more cattle this winter than last. Spring marketings probably will rise also.

Choice steers at Omaha in late January ran $36.50 per 100 pounds, up about $4 from October lows and over $6.50 above a year earlier. The lower feed costs this year and higher feeder cattle replacement costs may lead to heavier market weights. With larger marketings and possibly heavier weights, fed cattle prices probably will weaken at least moderately this winter and spring. Nevertheless, they likely will continue higher than a year earlier in the first half of 1972.

Cow slaughter will run near year-earlier levels this winter but drop in the spring. There are more cows on farms but culling rates continue low. Cow slaughter in 1971 was up 4 percent. Part of this increase resulted from drought in the Southwest last spring.

Feeder cattle prices rose during the fall when they usually decline. Wheat pastures were unusually good and higher fed cattle prices coupled with lower feed costs boosted demand for feeder cattle late in the year. Feeder cattle prices will remain well above year-earlier levels in the first half of 1972, but little if any seasonal rise is likely.

Hog slaughter in the first half of this year likely will be down sharply. On December 1, there were 4 to 7 percent fewer hogs on farms in weight groups that are marketed in the winter. And there were 7 percent fewer lighter weight pigs that will be ready for market in the spring.

Hog prices advanced in January and by the last week of the month averaged $27.70 per 100 pounds at 7 markets. Hog prices are expected to continue substantially above the $17.50 average of the first half

of 1971. However, prices likely will dip from January levels as slaughter supplies increase seasonally in late winter and early spring. This summer's high price likely will exceed the $25.40 summer peak of 2 years ago.

Prices in the second half may remain strong relative to a year ago, but will decline seasonally in the fall. Hog slaughter will stay down, since the December 1971-May 1972 pig crop is expected to be down 9 percent.

Three percent more lambs were on feed January 1, but winter lamb slaughter probably will be the same as or smaller than a year ago. Spring slaughter likely will decline. The early lamb crop likely will be smaller than the large early crop last year. Based on the apparent decline in the sheep inventory, the late lamb crop also will be smaller, trimming slaughter in the second half of 1972.

Prices of Choice slaughter lambs at San Angelo in late January were $28 per 100 pounds, up $4.25 from a year earlier. Lamb prices likely will continue to run above 1971 prices through the first half.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

CATTLE

Commercial cattle slaughter rose nearly 2 percent in 1971 and totaled 35.6 million head. Annual increases during the mid-1960's averaged more than 5 percent, but gains since 1968 have been very small. Calf slaughter has trended downward for many years and was off another 9 percent during 1971. This year, cattle slaughter may rise 3 to 4 percent, but calf slaughter likely will decline further.

Fed cattle marketings were less than 2 percent larger in 1971 than in 1970, the smallest increase since 1957. The slower growth in cattle feeding reflected higher feed grain costs in late 1970 and through most of 1971. Corn Belt cattle feeders reacted the most to higher feed costs, reducing marketings 3 percent. Western feeders marketed 9 percent more cattle and accounted for all of the increase in fed cattle marketings last year

Prices of all classes of cattle were higher in 1971. Choice steers at Omaha rose from about $29 per 100 pounds in January to nearly $34.50 in December. Cow prices were much more erratic and the average for the year was up only 30 cents. Feeder cattle prices were below a year earlier in the first half of 1971, but considerably above in the fall.

Cattle prices rose despite a 1 percent increase in beef output, about 10 percent more pork—although pork output declined progressively during the year—and 1 percent more broiler production. Very strong consumer demand for meat, a continued population increase, and a cutback in beef imports boosted the cattle market last year. Cattle prices in 1972 likely will

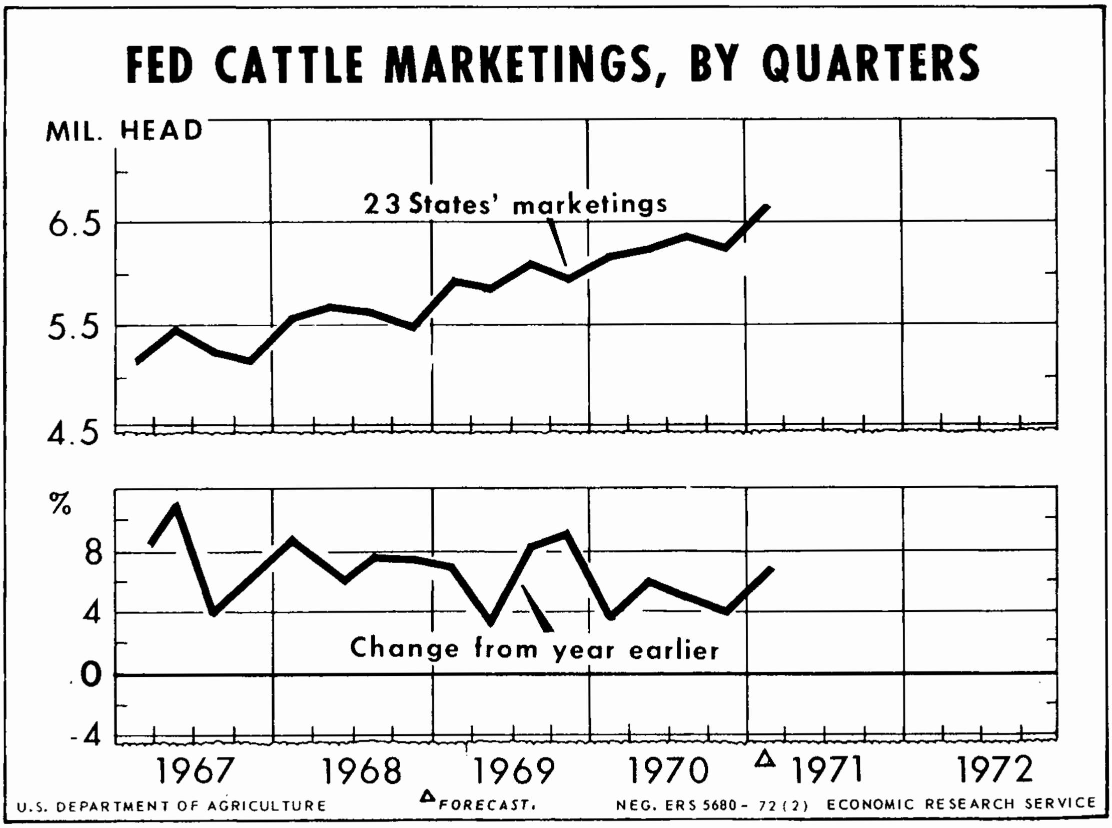


Table 1.—Cattle and calves on feed in 23 States, January 1, by regions

Item	1970	Change from 1969	1971	Change from 1970	1972	Change from 1971
	Thousand head	*Percent*	*Thousand head*	*Percent*	*Thousand head*	*Percent*
North Central States						
East	1,866	-1.6	1,738	-6.9	1,730	-0.5
West	5,997	+2.7	5,604	-6.6	6,067	+8.3
Total	7,863	+1.6	7,342	-6.6	7,797	+6.2
Texas and Oklahoma	1,640	+28.1	1,716	+4.6	2,031	+18.4
Other Western States	3,141	+6.5	3,151	+0.3	3,422	+8.6
Total	12,644	+5.7	12,209	-3.4	13,250	+8.5

average a little higher again even though beef supplies are expected to be up moderately. Pork output is dropping sharply this year and further rises in consumer demand for meat are likely

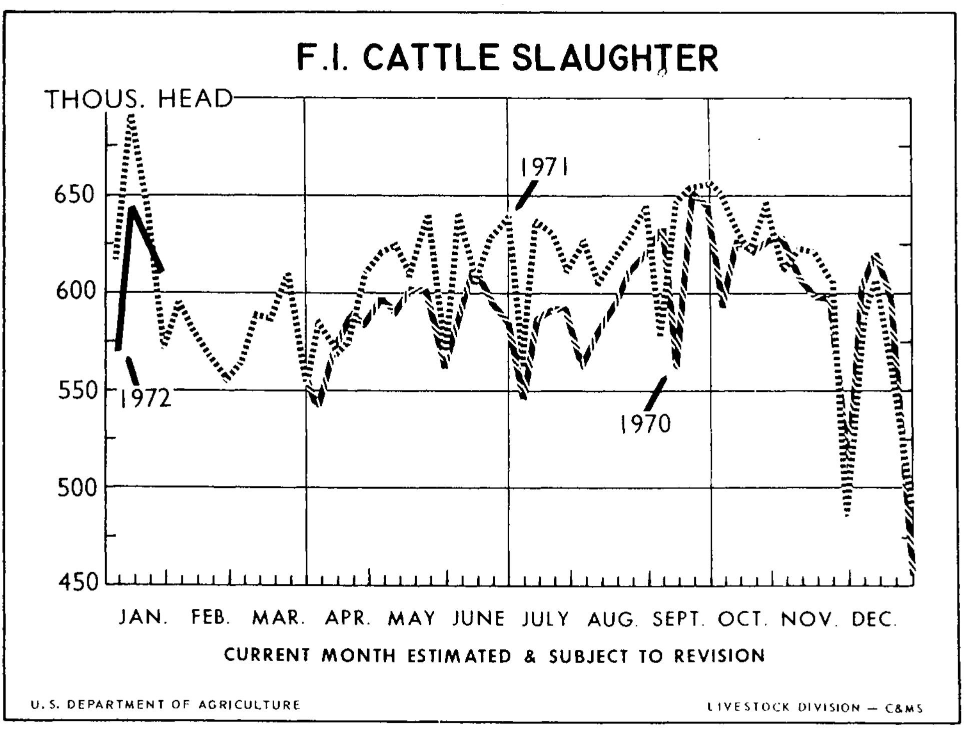
More Cattle on Feed

As 1972 began, there were 13.2 million cattle and calves on feed in 23 major feeding States, 9 percent more than a year earlier. In 1970, the corn crop was small because of Southern corn leaf blight and dry weather in the Western Corn Belt. As a result, feed prices rose dramatically, discouraging many cattle feeders. The situation was just the opposite last fall—a record 1971 corn crop and low corn prices. So with higher fed cattle prices, cattle feeders placed 10 percent more animals on feed in the fall.

Corn Belt farmers had 6 percent more cattle on feed while numbers were up 12 percent in the West. However, even with the increase for the Corn Belt, it still had fewer cattle on feed than it did 2 years ago.

Cattle feeders have stated intentions to market 7 percent more cattle during January-March than in these months last year. Corn Belt feeders plan a 6 percent increase while feeders in the West plan a 9 percent increase. There were 11 percent more cattle on feed in weight groups that supply the bulk of first quarter marketings. Thus, cattle feeders could easily meet their intentions.

However, cattle slaughter rates under Federal inspection in January were a little smaller than a year ago. This indicates that fed cattle marketings in January rose little, if at all, and that marketings would have to increase substantially in February and March to attain the increase feeders plan for the first quarter. If cattle feeders are delaying marketings this winter, there will be sharper increases in the spring and market weights will be heavier.



Choice steers at Omaha in late January ran about $36.50 per 100 pounds, up about $4 from October lows. With increased marketings of fed cattle late this winter, prices likely will decline moderately. However, prices are expected to hold $1 to $3 above the $32 of a year ago. If cattle feeders delay shipments as price weakness develops, market weights will rise and further increase the beef supply. This would add to price weakness in late winter and early spring.

Choice steer prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1969	1970	1971	1972
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
January	27.82	28.23	29.11	35.74
February	27.63	29.30	32.23	
March	29.00	30.97	31.81	
April	30.41	30.64	32.44	
May	33.18	29.52	32.88	
June	33.99	30.29	32.39	
July	31.56	31.12	32.44	
August	30.40	30.14	33.24	
September	28.77	29.32	32.62	
October	27.72	28.67	32.34	
November	27.67	27.21	33.58	
December	27.98	26.71	34.40	
Average	29.66	29.34	32.42	

Spring Marketings to be Large

Fed cattle marketings in the spring likely will continue moderately larger than a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed in weight groups that typically supply over half of spring marketings was up only 2 percent on January 1. But there were 13 percent more lightweight steers and heifers that will provide part of April-June marketings. The beef supply may also be swelled by more heavy steers and heifers on feed January 1 being marketed in the spring instead of in late winter.

Market reports indicate that some cattle feeders are buying fleshy yearlings and cattle that have already received limited feeding for a quick turn in the feedlot. If this catches on, it could also help swell second quarter marketings.

Choice steers at Omaha averaged about $32.60 per 100 pounds during April-June 1971. Prices this spring probably will average about the same or higher even though beef production will be up moderately and heavier market weights are in prospect. Less pork and strong consumer demand for meat will be bolstering factors in the cattle market.

Heavier Cattle on the Way

Carcass weights of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection have been trending upward. However, average weights dropped about 1 percent in 1971 because of high feed costs and because cow slaughter was up more than steer and heifer slaughter.

The uptrend in average weight of slaughter cattle likely will resume in the first half of 1972: (1) Feed costs are down while replacement costs of feeder cattle are higher. (2) In the past, cattle feeders often extended feeding programs and carried animals to heavier weights when price weakness developed, as is expected in the next few months. (3) Fed cattle marketings should gain more than cow slaughter will.

Last summer, market weights of Choice steers at 7 Midwest markets were down about 9 pounds per head. Weights in the fall were about the same as a year earlier, but in January market weights were lighter. They probably will exceed year-ago levels by late winter and remain above in the spring, although they will be declining seasonally.

Choice 900 to 1,100 pound steers at Omaha in January were at a slight premium over heavier steers. If cattle feeders run weights much above 1971 levels in the months ahead, the price premium for lightweight cattle will widen.

Larger Second Half Marketings Too

Fed cattle marketings in the second half of 1972 likely will be moderately larger than a year earlier because fed cattle prices are high in relation to feed costs and there are more feeder cattle. The cattle inventory apparently rose moderately during 1971 and there are more cattle and calves available for cattle feeders to buy. The 1971 calf crop was up about 3 percent, with 4 percent more beef calves, but 1 percent fewer dairy calves.

Wheat pastures this season have been the best since 1965. In mid-December, about 40 percent of seeded wheat acreage was being pastured, double the percentage of a year earlier. Only 4 acres of wheat pasture were required to carry a 400-pound calf in late 1971, about half the 8 acres the year before. Animals on wheat pasture usually are placed on feed in late winter and early spring. The number of cattle on wheat pasture does not change the supply of feeder cattle, but probably shifts the time many animals are placed on feed and affects the length of time they are kept in the feedlot.

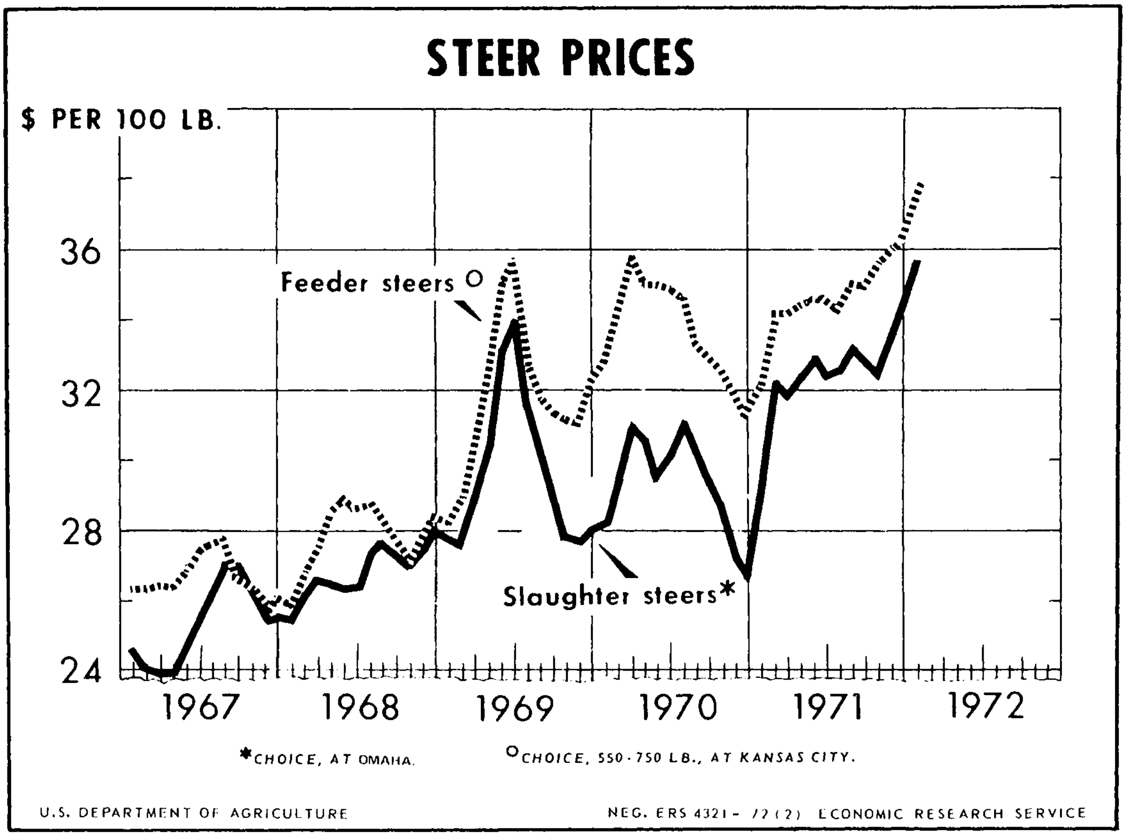
Cattle feeders likely will place more cattle on feed this winter and spring than a year ago. Fed cattle prices have been relatively high in recent months and feed costs are down. Also, there is ample feedlot capacity.

The high steer-corn price ratio in recent months has resulted both from cattle prices going up and corn prices going down. In the fourth quarter of 1971, the steer-corn price ratio at Omaha was 28.2, up from 19.9 a year earlier and the highest quarterly average on record.

The 1972 feeder cattle supply can be estimated more accurately from the January 1, 1972, livestock inventory, which was released on February 4. We will analyze that data in the March issue of the *Livestock and Meat Situation*.

Feeder Cattle Prices to Hold Up

Feeder cattle prices have been unusually strong in recent months. Typically, feeder cattle prices decline in


STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.
36
32
28
24
Feeder steers O
Slaughter steers*
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
*CHOICE, AT OMAHA.
OCHOICE, 550-750 LB., AT KANSAS CITY.
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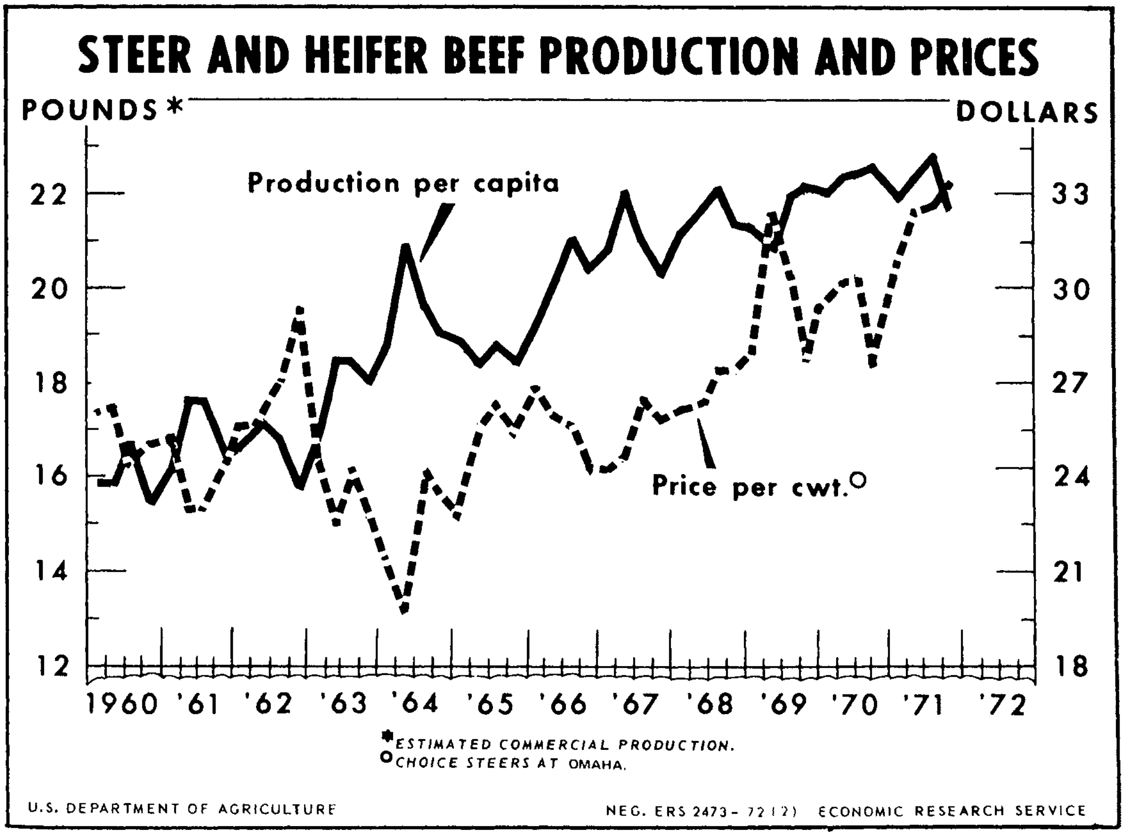
NEG. ERS 4321- 72 (2) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


STEER AND HEIFER BEEF PRODUCTION AND PRICES
POUNDS*
DOLLARS
22
20
18
16
14
12
33
30
27
24
21
18
Production per capita
Price per cwt.O
1960 '61 '62 '63 '64 '65 '66 '67 '68 '69 '70 '71 '72
*ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION.
OCHOICE STEERS AT OMAHA.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 2473- 72 (2) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

the fall as movement from ranges into feedlots picks up seasonally. Choice feeder steers at Kansas City, 550-750 pounds, averaged over $34 per 100 pounds last July and by the end of the year were topping $37, about $6 higher than a year earlier. Prices in January were about 75 cents higher than in December.

Feeder cattle prices per 100 pounds, Kansas City

Month	Choice feeder steers 600-700 lbs.[1]			Choice feeder steer calves[2]		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
Jan.	32.83	32.20	37.92	36.82	36.18	41.50
Feb.	34.44	34.24		38.55	38.48	
March	35.85	34.26		39.74	38.17	
April	35.01	34.46		39.40	38.62	
May	35.00	34.52		40.61	39.19	
June	34.92	34.52		41.48	39.15	
July	34.54	34.36		41.24	39.10	
Aug.	33.28	35.18		39.50	39.36	
Sept.	32.86	34.97		38.66	39.33	
Oct.	32.66	35.64		37.60	39.95	
Nov.	31.79	36.88		36.08	41.70	
Dec.	31.28	37.20		35.49	41.81	
Average	33.70	34.87		38.76	39.25	

[1] Prior to 1972 550-750 lbs.
[2] 400-500 lbs., prior to 1972 300-550 lb.

Feeder cattle prices usually rise seasonally from a fall low to a spring high because the volume of movement falls off sharply in the winter and spring. But with some price weakness in fed cattle and larger supplies of cattle coming off seeded wheat, feeder cattle prices will face little if any upward price pressure through the first half. They are already unusually high compared with the past several years. And they will remain several dollars higher than in January-June 1971 when Choice yearlings at Kansas City were $34 per 100 pounds.

The uptrend in feeder cattle prices in 1971 resulted in a negative feeding margin for most cattle feeders. Except for spring, fed cattle sold for a lower price per 100 pounds than when they were purchased as feeder animals several months earlier. This situation is expected to be repeated in most of the first half of 1972.

Current fed cattle prices per 100 pounds, compared with feeder cattle prices 5 months earlier

Year	Fed cattle[1]	Feeder cattle[2]	Margin
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
1970			
January	28.38	31.76	-3.38
February	29.30	31.29	-1.99
March	30.99	31.15	-.16
April	30.79	31.12	-.33
May	29.57	32.38	-2.81
June	30.36	32.83	-2.47
July	31.12	34.44	-3.32
August	30.09	35.85	-5.76
September	29.21	35.01	-5.80
October	28.47	35.00	-6.53
November	27.22	34.92	-7.70
December	26.82	34.54	-7.72
1971			
January	29.10	33.28	-4.18
February	32.18	32.86	-.68
March	31.89	32.66	-.77
April	32.41	31.79	+.62
May	32.86	31.28	+1.58
June	32.35	32.20	+.15
July	32.44	34.24	-1.80
August	33.10	34.26	-1.16
September	32.58	34.46	-1.88
October	32.22	34.52	-2.30
November	33.30	34.52	-1.22
December	34.28	34.36	-.08
1972			
January	35.63	35.18	+.45

[1] Choice steers at Omaha, 900-1,100 pounds. [2] Choice steers at Kansas City, 600-700 pounds, prior to 1972 550-750 lb.

Cow Slaughter Up in 1971

Estimated commercial cow slaughter in 1971 was up about 4 percent because there were more cows on farms and because drought conditions in the Southern Plains last spring forced extra cows to market. Even though cow slaughter rose in 1971, it was still low in relation to the number of cows on farms.

Cow slaughter this winter is expected to run about the same or slightly higher than a year earlier. In the spring it may be down from the high levels last spring. Cow slaughter in the second half of 1972 is expected to be about the same or a little larger than in July-December 1971. Culling rates probably will be low because of further expansion in the beef cow herd, and the already small dairy herd is declining slowly.

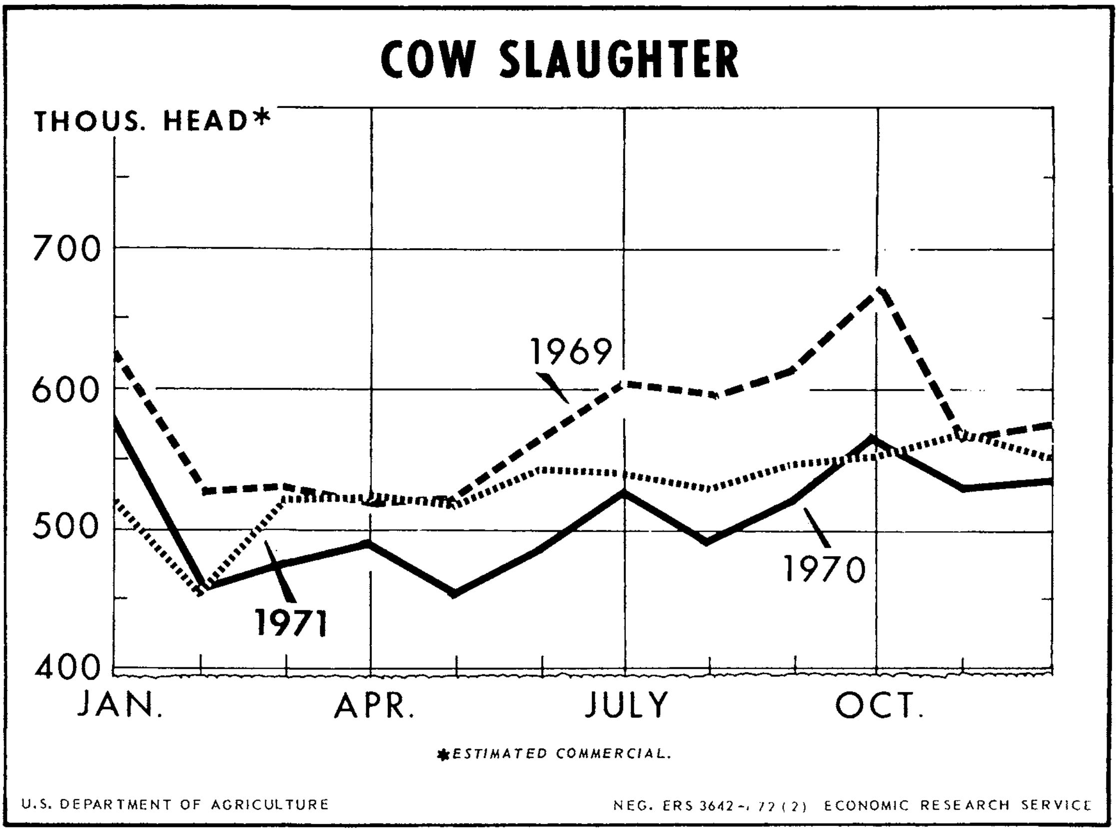
Utility cow prices at Omaha averaged $21.60 per 100 pounds in 1971, about 30 cents above 1970 and highest since 1951. All of the increase came in the second half of the year. Dock strikes held beef imports at a lower level in 1971, helping to boost cow prices.

Cow prices will rise seasonally in the spring and likely will run moderately above the April-June 1971 average of $22. Utility cows averaged $22.60 in January. The large output of fed beef in prospect for spring will dampen the spring rise in cow prices, but much smaller pork supplies may be offsetting.

Calf Slaughter Declines

Calf slaughter has been declining for several years and in 1971 dropped 9 percent. About the same rate of decline seems to be continuing this year. With a declining dairy herd and strong demand for feeder cattle, calf slaughter is expected to continue to shrink throughout 1972.

Choice 100-250 pound vealers at South St. Paul were over $50 per 100 pounds in late January, more than $8 above a year ago. The smaller supply and strong consumer demand for meat likely will hold vealer prices relatively high in 1972. Vealers at South St. Paul averaged about $45 during January-June 1971. First half prices this year likely will be higher.



Utility cow prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1969	1970	1971	1972
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
January	17.22	20.93	19.98	22.61
February ...	18.53	22.18	20.98	
March	20.12	23.24	22.03	
April	20.64	23.23	21.48	
May	21.92	22.64	22.30	
June	21.90	22.58	22.03	
July	21.32	20.85	21.68	
August	21.26	20.48	21.72	
September ..	20.96	21.13	21.84	
October	20.21	20.84	22.30	
November ..	19.31	19.04	21.45	
December ..	20.10	18.77	21.64	
Average ..	20.29	21.32	21.62	

Fewer Small Feedlots More Big Ones

The decline in number of feedlots in recent years accelerated in 1971. There were 169,000 feedlots in 23 major feeding States, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Lots with a capacity of 1,000 head or less accounted for all of the reduction. They also represented almost 99 percent of the total number of lots, but marketed only 42 percent of the fed cattle.

There were 2,204 feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more in 1971, slightly more than in 1970. These large lots made up a little more than 1 percent of the total number of lots but marketed 58 percent of the fed cattle. In 1964 (the earliest that 23-State figures were available) large lots marketed about 40 percent of the fed cattle.

The trend toward bigness in cattle feeding operations can be readily seen from developments in feedlots with a capacity of 16,000 head and over. In 1964, there were only 44 such lots, but they marketed 9 percent of the fed cattle. In 1971, there were 160 and they accounted for 27 percent of total marketings.

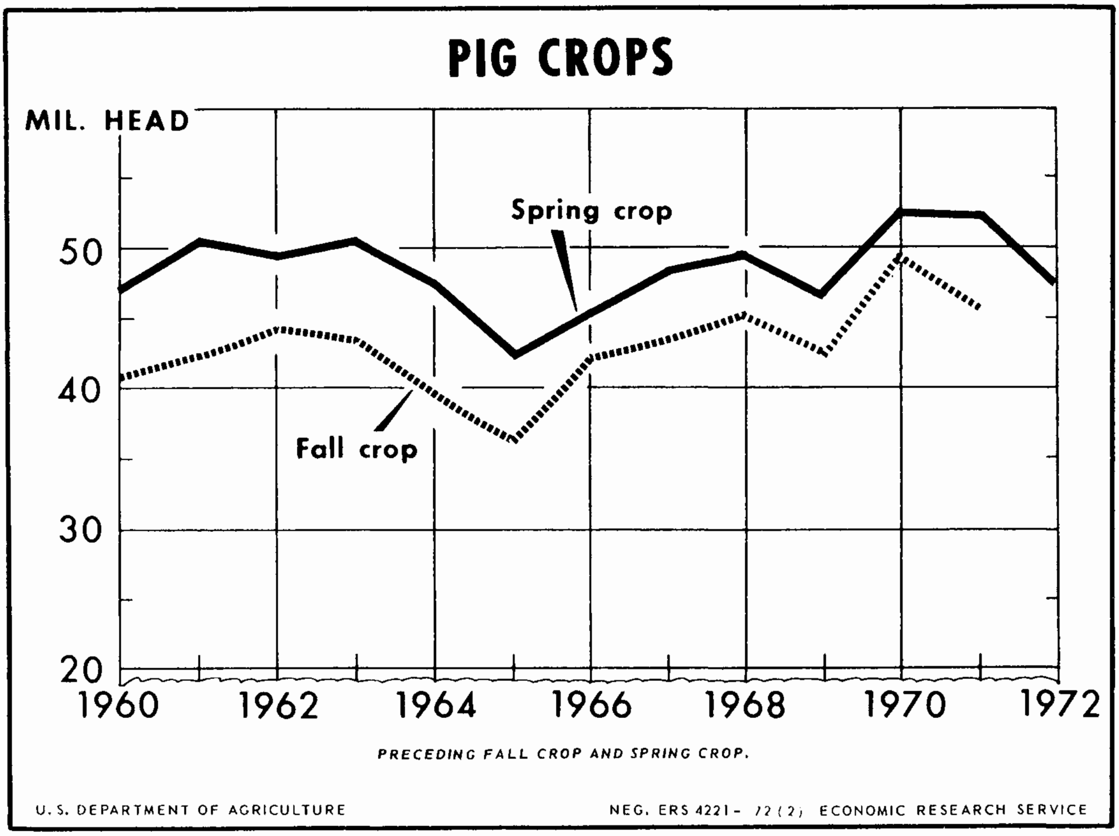
The trend toward more large lots has upped the average number of cattle marketed per feedlot. Feedlot operators whose lots had 1,000 head capacity or less marketed an average of 50 head during 1964 and they only upped the average to 63 in 1971. Larger lots went from an average of 4,200 head in 1964 to nearly 6,700 during 1971.

HOGS

1971 Slaughter Up

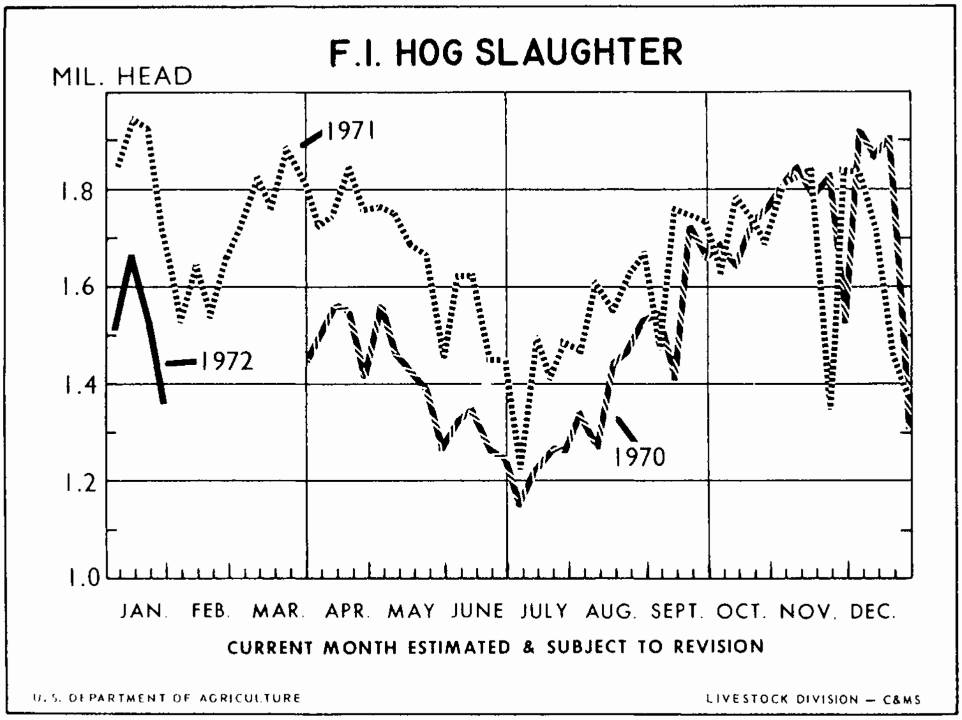
Commercial hog slaughter in 1971 was up a tenth from 1970 and prices of barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged $18.45 per 100 pounds, down $3.50 from 1970. The sharply lower prices in late 1970 and in early 1971 resulted in a cutback in late spring farrowings.

The 1971 pig crop was down 4 percent with the cutback beginning with a 3 percent drop in March-May farrowings, ending the expansion that had begun in early 1970. The March-May decline led to a small drop in hog slaughter in the fourth quarter last year.



Slaughter Down in First Half of 1972

Weekly slaughter rates under Federal inspection in January ran 18 percent below a year earlier. Although slaughter will continue below last year in the months ahead, the margin will be much smaller than in January. About 6 percent fewer market hogs were on farms on December 1, 1971, than a year earlier. Hogs and pigs in weight groups that will supply the bulk of winter marketings (over 120 pounds) were down about 4



percent. There were 7 percent fewer weighing less than 120 pounds. Most of the lighter weight pigs will be ready for slaughter in the spring. The reduced December 1 inventory reflected the 8 percent decline in the June-November 1971 pig crop.

Market hogs and pigs by weight groups, as of December 1

Weight group	1970	1971	Change
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
Under 60 lbs. . .	21,572	20,043	-7
60-119 lbs. . . .	15,661	14,524	-7
120-179 lbs. . .	11,434	10,972	-4
180-219 lbs. . .	6,965	6,684	-4
220 lbs. & over	2,408	2,233	-7
Total market hogs and pigs	58,040	54,456	-6

On December 1, producers reported 10 percent fewer hogs on farms for breeding than a year earlier. This is in line with their reported intentions to have 10 percent fewer sows farrow during December 1971-May 1972.

Barrows and gilts at 7 markets in late January reached $27.70 per 100 pounds. This was nearly $10.50 above a year earlier and $8.75 higher than late last summer.

Hog prices per 100 pounds, 7 markets

Month	Barrows and gilts			Sows		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
	Dols.	*Dols.*	*Dols.*	*Dols.*	*Dols.*	*Dols.*
Jan. . . .	27.40	16.25	24.84	23.25	12.74	20.41
Feb. . . .	28.23	19.43		24.96	16.68	
March . .	25.94	17.13		23.75	15.28	
April . . .	24.02	16.19		21.60	14.47	
May . . .	23.53	17.43		19.20	14.84	
June . . .	24.04	18.38		18.31	15.07	
July . . .	25.13	19.84		18.90	15.86	
Aug. . . .	22.12	19.05		17.85	15.77	
Sept. . . .	20.35	18.91		17.24	16.08	
Oct. . . .	17.91	19.80		14.99	16.95	
Nov. . . .	15.69	19.39		12.31	16.32	
Dec. . . .	15.67	20.98		11.28	16.26	
Average	21.95	18.45		17.83	15.54	

[1] Average for all weights at Midwest markets.

Hog prices are expected to weaken from recent high levels. Further pressure on prices may develop in late winter with the usual bulge in marketings at that time. Prices will then rise seasonally through the spring to a summer peak that likely will exceed the weekly summer high of $25.40 that occurred in 1970 and much above last summer's high of $19.95. Larger beef and broiler output in the spring and summer will tend to limit the rise in hog prices, but continued strong demand for red meats will be an offsetting factor all year.

Slaughter in Second Half to Continue Lower

Hog slaughter in the second half of 1972 will come primarily from the December 1971-May 1972 pig crop, now indicated to be 9 percent smaller than last year. Although there are 10 percent fewer sows farrowing, a small increase in the number of pigs saved per litter is partly offsetting. Reductions in the pig crop are a little sharper outside the Corn Belt. This is in contrast to other recent cyclical changes when increases or decreases in production outside the Corn Belt usually lagged behind changes in those 10 States.

Corn Belt producers are having 11 percent fewer sows farrow during December 1971-February 1972 and 8 percent fewer during the heavy farrowing period of March-May. With these reductions hog slaughter next summer and fall will run well below a year earlier and prices will be up sharply.

In the second half of 1971 prices moved mostly between $18 and $20 per 100 pounds, with little seasonal price change evident. This year there will be a substantially higher summer peak, and a more normal seasonal downturn in the fall is expected. But, as in the summer, fall prices will run well above 1971's October-December average of $20 at 7 markets.

Larger supplies and lower costs of feed this year will encourage producers to feed hogs to heavier weights than in 1971. Last year's live weight of barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged 235 pounds, down from 237 pounds in 1970. Market weights averaged 6 pounds per head lighter than a year earlier in the first half of 1971, but in the second half when corn prices dropped, market weights averaged near year-earlier levels. November and December weights were again above a year earlier. But pork production will be down substantially from 1971 even with 1-3 percent heavier weights this year.

Average liveweight of barrows and gilts, 7 markets

Month	1969	1970	1971	1972
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January . .	233	242	235	238
February .	229	236	231	
March	230	238	231	
April	234	243	236	
May	237	246	241	
June	238	243	239	
July	232	234	234	
August . . .	226	227	230	
September	229	230	229	
October . .	234	234	234	
November .	239	238	239	
December .	241	237	238	
Year . . .	234	237	235	

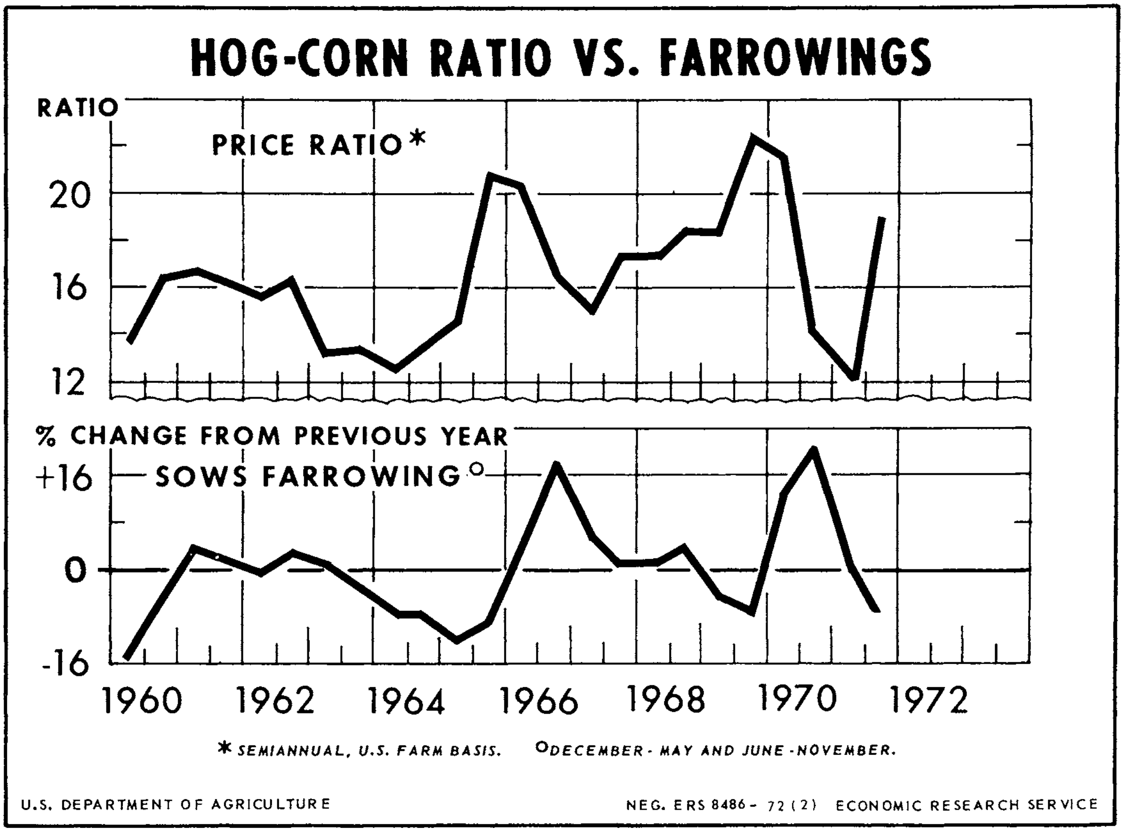
Hog-Corn Price Ratio to Rise Further

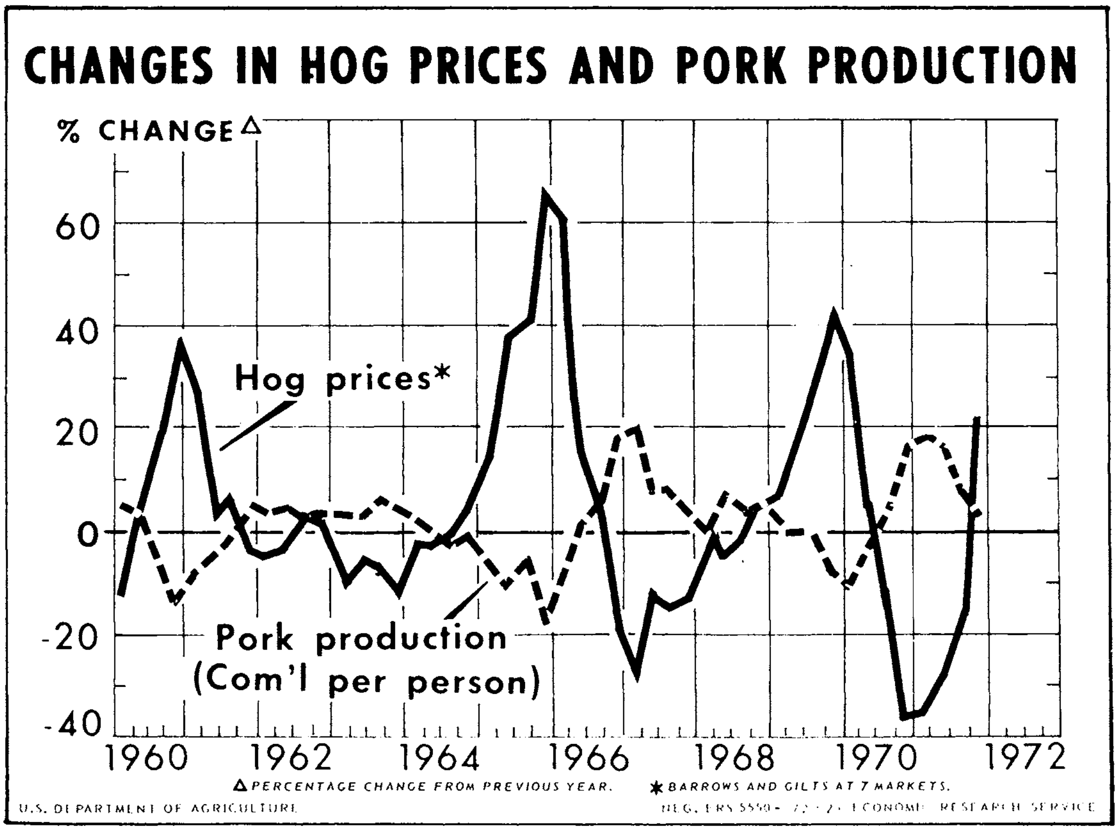
The hog-corn price ratio (farm basis) rose from around 11 early in 1971 to 19 by fall. The rise reflected both declining corn prices and rising hog prices. Prices received by farmers for corn during the first half of 1971 averaged $1.42 per bushel, up 23 cents from a year

Table 2.—Number of sows farrowing pigs saved and pigs saved per litter, spring and fall pig crops, by regions, 1967 to date

Year	North Atlantic	North Central		South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
		East	West				
			DECEMBER-MAY				
			1,000 head				
Sows farrowing:							
1967	85	1,835	3,355	544	630	115	6,570
1968	84	1,824	3,421	556	665	113	6,669
1969	89	1,721	3,216	584	642	113	6,360
1970	90	1,935	3,618	667	731	125	7,171
1971	93	1,916	3,574	737	806	147	7,279
1972							[1] 6,544
Pigs saved:							
1967	619	13,519	24,661	3,969	4,537	859	48,205
1968	615	13,359	25,540	4,035	4,700	856	49,146
1969	668	12,516	23,587	4,379	4,743	856	46,788
1970	649	13,919	26,716	4,928	5,335	966	52,551
1971	685	13,628	25,672	5,401	5,827	1,105	52,358
1972							[2] 47,771
			Number				
Pigs saved per litter:							
1967	7.30	7.37	7.35	7.30	7.20	7.45	7.34
1968	7.32	7.32	7.47	7.27	7.07	7.58	7.37
1969	7.51	7.27	7.33	7.50	7.39	7.58	7.36
1970	7.21	7.19	7.38	7.39	7.30	7.73	7.33
1971	7.37	7.11	7.18	7.32	7.23	7.52	7.19
1972							[2] 7.30
			JUNE-NOVEMBER				
			1,000 head				
Sows farrowing:							
1967	75	1,791	2,803	455	656	113	5,899
1968	80	1,813	2,975	483	655	117	6,129
1969	83	1,699	2,701	495	626	117	5,727
1970	86	1,995	3,329	576	767	140	6,898
1971	79	1,803	3,054	519	696	141	6,298
Pigs saved:							
1967	555	13,333	20,644	3,357	4,763	847	43,540
1968	585	13,292	22,050	3,525	4,685	891	45,071
1969	610	12,573	19,591	3,632	4,676	898	42,019
1970	627	14,401	23,739	4,169	5,690	1,053	49,719
1971	589	13,109	22,141	3,794	5,177	1,073	45,923
			Number				
Pigs saved per litter:							
1967	7.40	7.44	7.36	7.38	7.26	7.50	7.38
1968	7.31	7.33	7.41	7.30	7.15	7.62	7.35
1969	7.35	7.40	7.25	7.33	7.47	7.68	7.34
1970	7.32	7.22	7.13	7.24	7.42	7.54	7.21
1971	7.49	7.27	7.25	7.31	7.44	7.59	7.29

[1] Preliminary. [2] Number indicated to farrow from intentions as of December 1, 1971. Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to calculate indicated number of pigs saved.


HOG-CORN RATIO VS. FARROWINGS
RATIO
PRICE RATIO*
20
16
12
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
+16
SOWS FARROWING°
0
-16
1960
1962
1964
1966
1968
1970
1972
* SEMIANNUAL, U.S. FARM BASIS.
° DECEMBER - MAY AND JUNE - NOVEMBER.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 8486 - 72 (2)
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


CHANGES IN HOG PRICES AND PORK PRODUCTION
% CHANGE Δ
60
40
20
0
-20
-40
Hog prices*
Pork production
(Com'l per person)
1960
1962
1964
1966
1968
1970
1972
Δ PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.
* BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

earlier. But prospects for a 30 percent increase in the 1971 corn crop brought prices down sharply during the summer. In November, corn was near 97 cents at the farm, 32 cents below a year earlier. Hog prices at the farm level rose from around $17 per 100 pounds in the first half of 1971 to near $20 by December.

The hog-corn price ratio in January was 21. A strong hog market and continued pressure on corn prices will maintain the ratio substantially higher in 1972 than in 1971. Thus, the price relationship between hogs and corn probably has encouraged some producers to hold more gilts for breeding. However, any increase will not significantly affect late 1972 slaughter supplies.

Hog-corn price ratio, farm basis

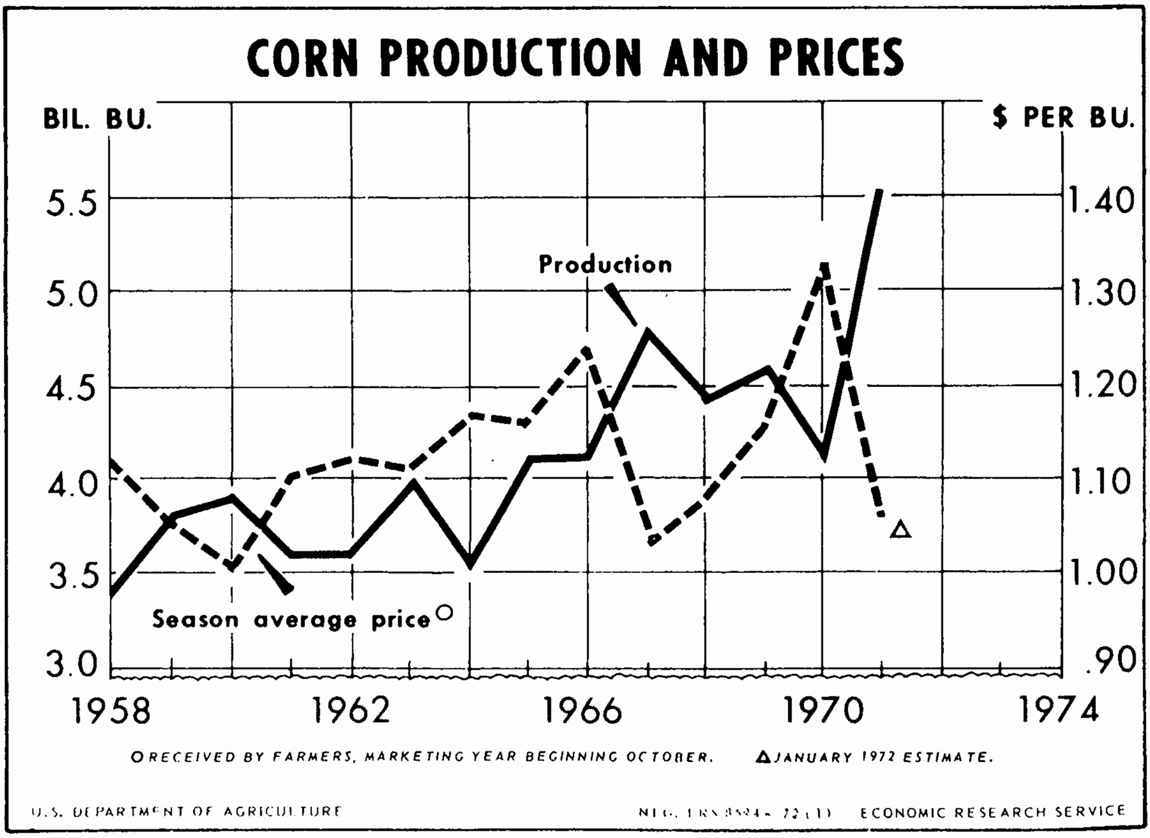
Month	1969	1970	1971	1972
January . .	17.3	23.6	10.7	20.8
February .	18.0	24.1	13.4	
March	18.3	22.7	11.8	
April	17.6	20.7	11.3	
May	18.7	19.5	12.3	
June	20.3	19.2	12.2	
July	21.1	19.2	14.0	
August . . .	21.9	17.0	15.6	
September	21.7	14.3	16.1	
October . .	22.1	13.4	19.5	
November .	23.4	11.9	19.4	
December .	23.7	11.1	18.2	
Year . . .	20.3	18.0	14.5	

Cold Storage Stocks Down

The volume of pork in cold storage was large during 1971, up 50 percent most of the year. However, with some decline in pork output in late fall accompanied by a price rise, January storage stocks at 335 million pounds were about the same as a year earlier. As pork output continues below year-earlier rates in the months ahead, storage stocks will show substantial declines from a year earlier throughout 1972.

Feeder Pig Prices Up

Feeder pig prices have risen at a faster pace than slaughter hog prices. Plentiful and cheaper corn together with a more favorable slaughter hog market have rapidly shifted the demand for feeder pigs. Feeder pigs at Illinois auctions, 40-60 pounds, rose from $15 per head late last summer to $25.40 in late January—more than double the year-earlier price. The market for feeder pigs will generally follow the slaughter hog price changes in 1972, but upward movement in the first half will probably continue to exceed price strength for slaughter hogs.



SHEEP AND LAMBS

Sheep and lambs slaughtered in commerical plants last year totaled 10.7 million head. This was 2 percent above the record low in 1970. Most of the increase was in sheep slaughter. Lamb and yearling slaughter was about unchanged. Considering there were 4 percent fewer sheep and lambs on farms at the beginning of 1971, and the 1971 lamb crop was 4 percent smaller, this was an unusually high rate of slaughter.

Choice slaughter lambs averaged over $27 per 100 pounds at San Angelo in 1971, slightly below a year earlier and $1.65 below 1969 when the lamb market was the highest in several years. Prices rose sharply last winter and spring, from a $23.50 low for fed lambs in February to nearly $31 for spring lambs in June. Prices tapered off seasonally to $25-$26 during the fall.

Choice feeder lambs in 1971 averaged $25.85 per 100 pounds at San Angelo—about $1.30 below slaughter lamb prices and more than $1 below a year earlier. However, the feeder market strengthened in late fall and early winter, rising a little above slaughter lamb prices in response to improved profit prospects, thanks to lower feed prices.

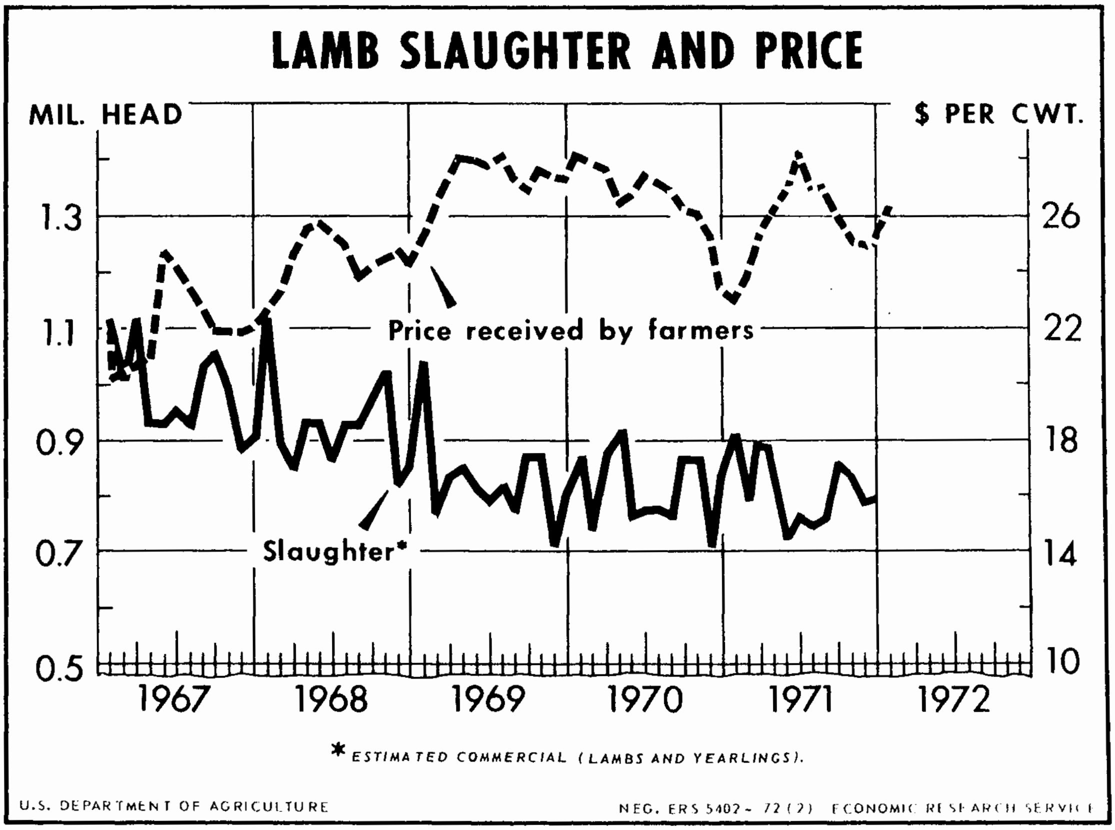
Choice lamb prices per 100 pounds, San Angelo

Month	Slaughter lambs			Feeder lambs		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
Jan. . . .	28.81	24.06	27.19	29.81	24.00	27.69
Feb. . . .	28.06	24.12		29.50	24.75	
March . .	31.06	28.05		30.88	28.05	
April . . .	28.35	29.06		28.50	27.44	
May . . .	27.75	29.69		27.12	26.76	
June . . .	27.41	30.05		26.25	25.65	
July . . .	27.00	29.06		25.25	24.69	
Aug. . . .	27.06	28.12		25.44	25.75	
Sept. . . .	26.85	25.70		26.60	24.95	
Oct. . . .	27.19	26.06		26.19	25.19	
Nov. . . .	25.81	26.00		24.56	26.44	
Dec. . . .	24.00	25.94		23.50	26.69	
Average	27.45	27.16		26.97	25.86	

More Lambs on Feed

On January 1 this year, 2.7 million lambs were on feed in 26 States, about 3 percent more than a year earlier but less than in other recent years. Small decreases in Corn Belt States and in Western States were more than offset by substantial increases in the Southern Plains where acreage of wheat pastured doubled over a year earlier. During November and December feedlot placements of lambs in 7 major feeding States—accounting for more than half of all lambs on feed—were up 24 percent from a year earlier and marketings were up 2 percent. The bulk of the increase in placements was in Colorado, Texas, and Iowa.

First quarter lamb slaughter is generally associated with the number of lambs on feed at the beginning of



the year. During most of the past decade, changes in the number of lambs on feed on January 1 have been followed by similar changes in first quarter slaughter. However, last year, with 9 percent fewer lambs on feed, January-March slaughter rose 6 percent because of a sharp increase in the early lamb crop (born October-December 1970) and some early movement of these lambs to market. This year, despite the increase in the number on feed, slaughter in the first quarter may be about the same or smaller than January-March 1971, because the early crop (October-December) probably declined from the previous year. Sheep slaughter was up sharply last year in some early lamb producing areas.

Weekly slaughter under Federal inspection in January averaged 10 percent below a year ago, with small increases late in the month failing to offset earlier declines. Judging from the breakdown by weight groups of lambs on feed on January 1 in 7 States, slaughter will rise above a year earlier in late winter. There were 2 percent more lambs on feed weighing over 80 pounds but 39 percent more weighing under 80 pounds.

Spring slaughter lamb supplies consist mostly of new-crop lambs. Since the breeding herd in the early lamb producing areas is probably down from a year earlier, a smaller early lamb crop is expected. If so, slaughter supplies in the spring will drop below a year earlier.

Lamb Prices Retain Strength

Choice grade slaughter lambs in late January were \$28 per 100 pounds at San Angelo, \$4.25 above a year earlier. If slaughter supplies follow the pattern suggested by the number of lambs on feed January 1, and the movement of early lambs is normal, fed lamb prices likely will continue steady to strong this winter and spring. New-crop spring lambs will probably be sharply higher and may exceed last year's early quotations (March and April) by \$2-\$3 per 100 pounds despite a possible small increase in slaughter supplies of fed lambs. Although the fed cattle market will likely soften this winter, cattle prices will continue above a year earlier and lend strength to the lamb market. Also, pork output will be smaller and consumer demand for red meat will be stronger.

Feeder lamb prices likely will continue near or above slaughter lambs into late winter or spring.

Discounts Smaller This Year

The price spread between 30-45 pound Choice grade lamb carcasses and 55-65 pounders at Chicago was substantially smaller last fall than during October-December 1970. The heavier weights averaged around \$1 below the lighter weights in late 1971 compared with \$1.75 a year earlier. In January, the spread between these weight groups averaged \$2.60, compared with \$6.75 a year earlier. Wholesale prices of all red meats were well above a year earlier, with lamb carcasses running 20-25 percent higher. During periods of rising lamb prices, the heavier lambs become more competitive and discounts tend to be smaller.

Price spreads this winter will continue relatively narrow if the market remains strong as expected. Discounts on heavy lamb carcasses will narrow further and probably be eliminated before midyear when new crop lambs dominate the market and slaughter drops below a year earlier.

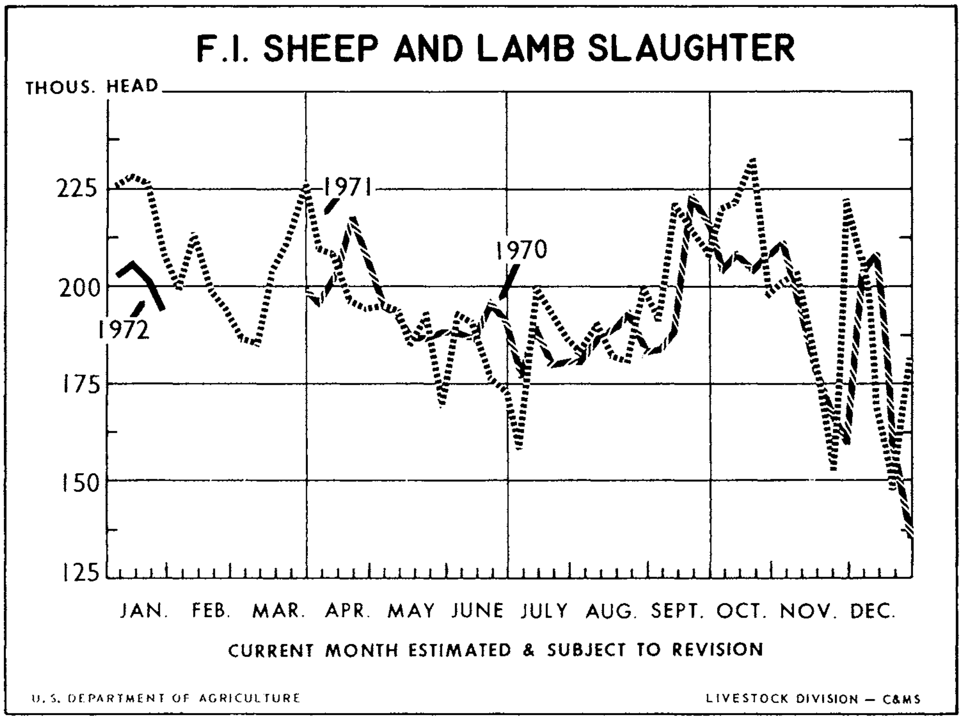
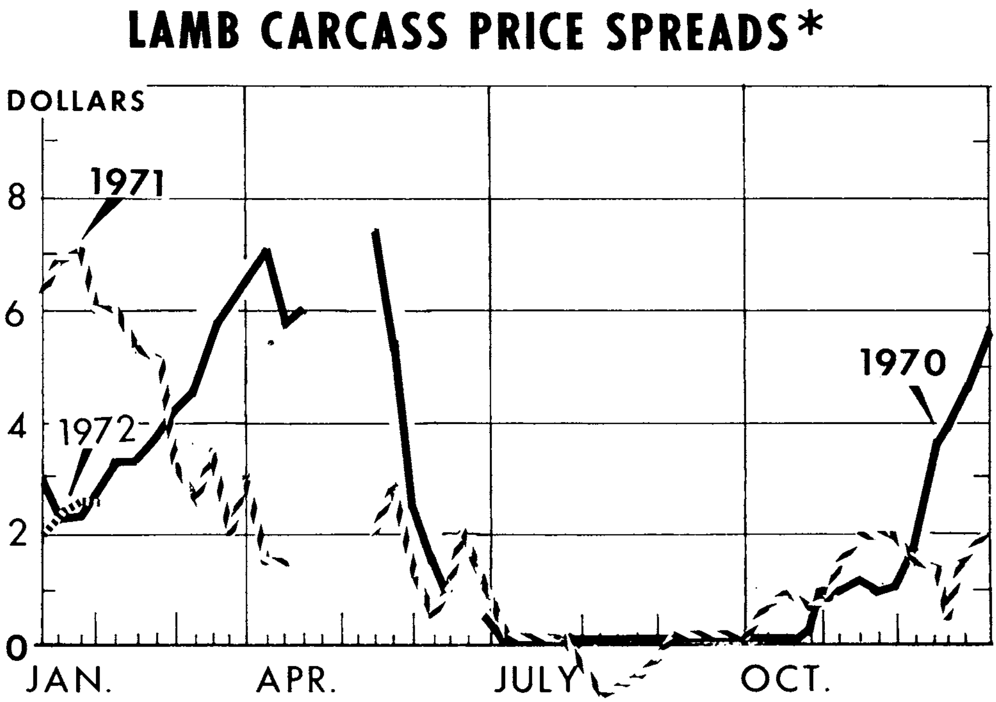


Table 3.—Wholesale price of Choice lamb at Chicago, carlot basis, by months 1969 to date[1]

Month	1969			1970			1971		
	35-45 lb.	55-65 lb.	Difference	35-45 lb.	55-65 lb.	Difference	35-45 lb.	55-65 lb.	Difference
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
January ...	58.92	54.29	4.63	60.64	58.10	2.54	55.69	48.92	6.77
February ..	60.47	57.22	3.25	59.60	56.02	3.58	55.74	50.83	4.91
March	62.31	58.38	3.93	59.08	53.42	5.66	58.50	56.00	2.50
April	62.85	58.62	4.23	59.70	50.55	9.15	62.06	61.38	.68
May	64.50	58.50	3.00	59.94	55.35	4.59	63.75	61.66	2.09
June	63.06	60.68	2.38	60.94	60.02	.92	66.61	66.11	.50
July	61.80	61.15	.65	61.25	61.25	0	64.54	64.54	0
August	60.52	60.52	0	59.89	59.89	0	62.99	63.58	-.59
September .	58.62	58.62	0	58.20	58.20	0	59.47	59.65	-.18
October ...	59.09	58.58	.51	58.41	58.16	.25	59.84	59.00	.84
November ..	59.66	58.22	1.44	58.56	57.50	1.06	58.36	56.56	1.80
December ..	59.02	56.87	2.15	56.28	52.30	3.98	59.91	59.91	0
Year	60.90	58.47	2.43	59.37	56.73	2.64	60.49	59.01	1.48

[1] Prime and Choice quoted together.



*DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 30-45 AND 55-65 LB. CHOICE AND PRIME LAMB CARCASS, CARLOT BASIS, CHICAGO.

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MEAT CONSUMPTION

Red meat consumption this year likely will average close to the 192 pounds consumed per person in 1971. A moderate increase in beef consumption likely will be offset by reduced consumption of pork, veal and lamb and mutton. In 1971, pork consumption was up sharply; beef and lamb and mutton consumption declined a little.

Beef consumption in 1971 declined slightly to about 113 pounds per person. Beef production was up 1 percent, but imports of beef were smaller, due largely to the dock strikes, and the population continued to expand. Growth in beef output slowed in 1971 because of high feed prices brought about by the small 1970 corn crop. This year, feed cost are lower and beef output will be up moderately. Beef production was somewhat smaller in January, but will soon rise moderately and continue above year-earlier levels the rest of 1972. Also, beef imports probably will be larger. Such increases in supply will boost beef consumption 4 to 5 pounds per person.

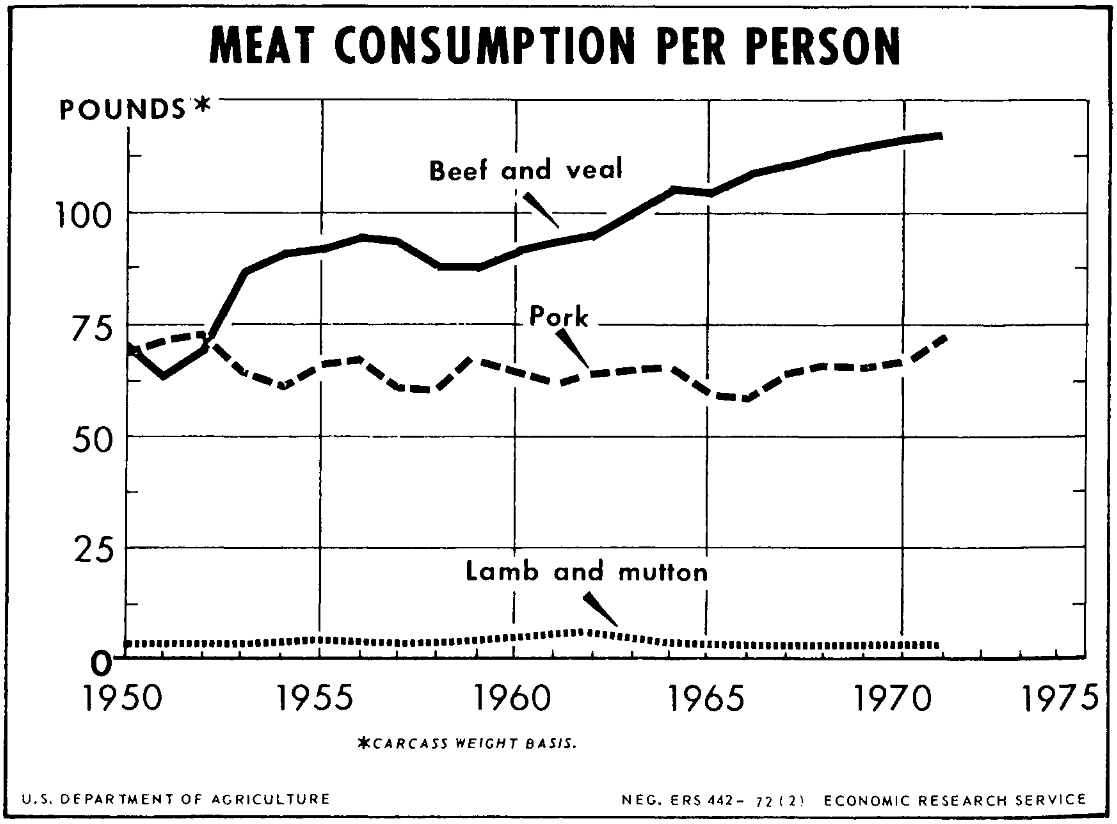
Veal consumption has been declining for several years and another reduction is likely in 1972. The dairy herd is dwindling and the demand for feeder cattle is strong. Consumption of veal averaged only 2.7 pounds per person last year, down from 2.9 pounds in 1970.

Pork consumption jumped 6 pounds to 73 pounds per person in 1971, the highest annual consumption since 1952. However, hog producers were in a severe cost-price squeeze during most of 1971 and as a result

Meat Consumption

Year	January-June	July-December	Total
	Pounds per person		
Beef			
1968	53.9	55.8	109.7
1969	53.9	56.9	110.8
1970	56.2	57.5	113.7
1971[1]	55.8	57.5	113.3
Veal			
1968	1.8	1.8	3.6
1969	1.7	1.6	3.3
1970	1.5	1.4	2.9
1971[1]	1.3	1.4	2.7
Pork			
1968	32.4	33.8	66.2
1969	33.0	32.0	65.0
1970	31.0	35.4	66.4
1971[1]	36.1	36.7	72.8
Lamb & Mutton			
1968	1.9	1.8	3.7
1969	1.7	1.7	3.4
1970	1.8	1.5	3.3
1971[1]	1.6	1.6	3.2
Red Meat			
1968	90.0	93.2	183.2
1969	90.3	92.2	182.5
1970	90.5	95.8	186.3
1971[1]	94.8	97.2	192.0

[1] Preliminary



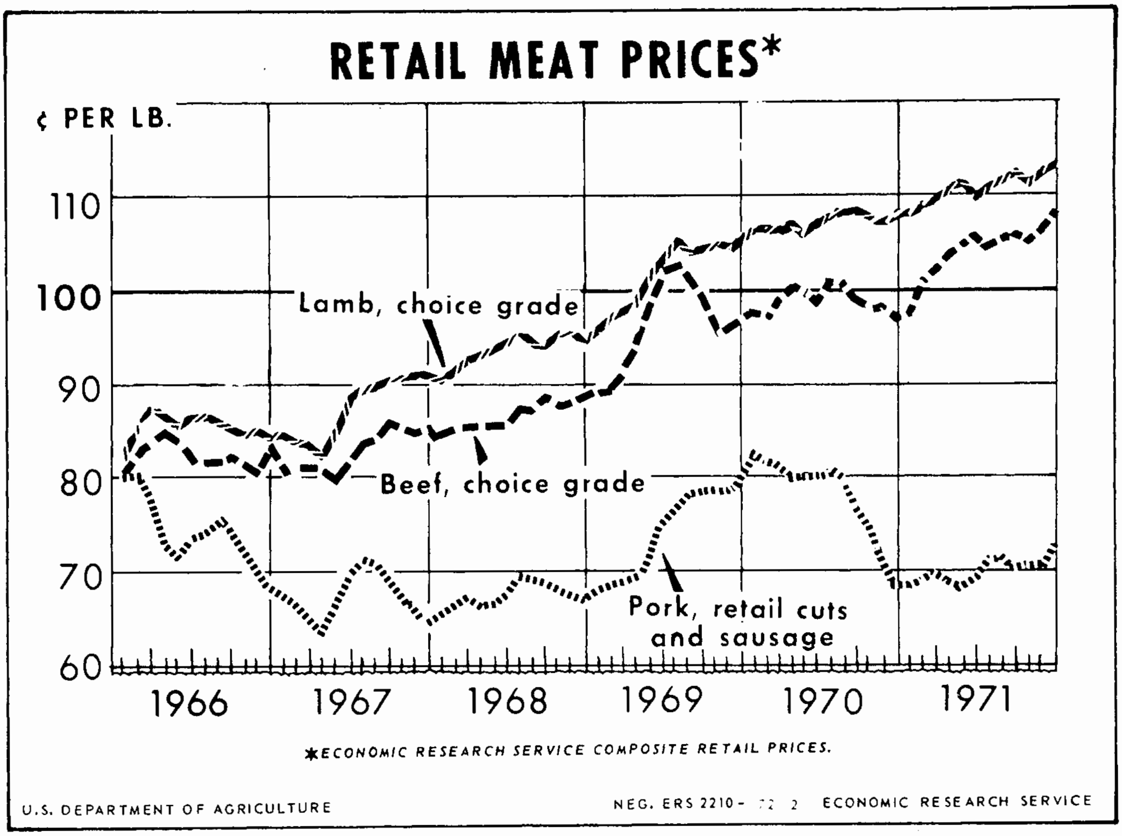


Table 4.—Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1966 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*
						Beef, Choice grade							
1966	81.0	83.1	84.1	84.6	83.8	81.7	81.5	81.7	82.2	81.3	80.3	83.6	82.4
1967	80.4	80.9	80.8	80.4	79.6	81.9	83.3	84.0	85.5	85.3	84.4	85.3	82.6
1968	84.3	85.1	85.6	85.6	85.8	85.8	87.1	87.0	88.4	87.7	88.1	88.5	86.6
1969	89.5	89.6	90.9	93.3	97.8	101.9	102.4	101.1	99.1	95.2	96.5	96.9	96.2
1970	97.5	97.3	99.4	99.9	99.4	98.5	100.7	100.4	98.7	97.9	97.6	96.5	98.6
1971	97.2	101.3	102.2	104.0	104.8	105.7	104.7	105.7	105.9	105.1	106.3	108.5	104.3
						Veal, retail cuts							
1966	85.1	89.2	89.4	90.3	88.5	90.7	91.1	90.6	91.3	91.3	90.5	91.4	90.0
1967	92.0	90.1	91.4	92.8	93.3	93.7	93.9	96.1	96.3	96.7	97.4	97.2	94.2
1968	99.8	99.2	100.0	102.0	100.0	102.5	101.7	101.4	101.9	101.1	101.9	100.9	101.0
1969	102.5	103.7	104.6	107.5	108.6	112.5	114.0	115.0	115.1	115.2	114.6	116.3	110.8
1970	117.2	119.3	120.8	123.3	123.9	124.9	125.7	126.6	127.0	127.4	127.6	127.9	124.3
1971	128.9	129.5	130.8	133.2	134.2	135.4	139.3	140.2	140.6	141.4	141.9	142.4	136.5
						Pork							
1966	80.0	80.2	77.5	72.6	71.1	73.5	74.1	75.8	74.4	71.8	69.4	68.1	74.0
1967	67.5	66.2	64.5	63.2	66.0	70.0	71.0	70.2	69.3	66.6	66.6	64.9	67.2
1968	65.4	66.7	67.1	66.3	66.7	67.8	69.4	69.0	68.8	67.8	67.1	67.0	67.4
1969	67.9	68.6	69.0	69.1	71.6	75.0	76.9	78.3	78.9	78.7	78.1	79.7	74.3
1970	82.1	81.8	81.4	79.9	80.0	80.0	80.6	79.7	76.7	74.6	70.8	68.4	78.0
1971	68.4	69.4	69.9	68.7	68.2	69.6	71.4	71.6	71.0	71.3	71.4	72.9	70.3
						Lamb, Choice grade							
1966	81.8	85.8	87.6	86.4	85.6	86.6	86.8	86.3	85.2	84.9	86.1	84.5	85.6
1967	84.6	83.4	83.3	82.9	84.6	88.8	89.5	89.3	90.3	89.6	90.2	89.9	87.2
1968	89.8	90.4	92.0	92.5	93.3	93.7	94.5	93.6	93.1	94.5	94.2	93.5	92.9
1969	94.5	95.9	96.4	97.1	100.1	101.8	104.4	102.9	103.4	103.9	103.7	104.8	100.7
1970	104.8	104.8	104.7	105.6	103.9	105.7	106.0	106.3	106.3	105.9	105.9	106.4	105.5
1971	105.9	106.5	107.0	107.5	108.2	109.7	111.7	111.8	112.9	111.2	113.1	113.4	109.9

have been reducing output. Pork consumption will be down sharply this winter, and will be sharply lower during the remainder of the year. It may be off 4 to 5 pounds per person in 1972.

Consumption of lamb and mutton declined a little in 1971, reaching 3.2 pounds per person. Production was about the same, but imports were down. This year, lamb and mutton consumption likely will drift lower again because production is expected to be off moderately. The Nation's sheep flock is shrinking and the 1972 lamb crop will be smaller.

Retail meat prices, lower than a year earlier in the first half of 1971, were higher in the second half. Beef prices rose late in the year. Beef prices likely will continue to rise this winter, but probably will steady in the spring as supplies of beef increase. Pork prices staged some recovery during 1971, but for the year averaged 10 percent below 1970. With much smaller pork output in coming months, retail pork prices will be higher. Prices of veal and lamb have been rising as consumption dropped. Further increases are likely for these meats in the first half of 1972.

USDA MEAT PURCHASES

In 1971, the U.S. Department of Agriculture bought 239 million pounds (product weight) of meat and meat products for distribution to schools and other food help programs at an f.o.b. cost of $126 million.

Purchases under Section 32 of Public Law 320 included 74 million pounds of canned luncheon meat at an f.o.b. cost of $34 million, 70 million pounds of frozen ground pork($36 million), and 45 million pounds of canned pork with natural juices ($28 million).

Section 6 funds were used to buy 50 million pounds of frozen ground beef and beef patties at an f.o.b. cost of $28 million.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MEATS

Imports of red meat totaled 2,317 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, 3 percent less than in 1970. This was the first year since 1965 that meat imports declined. Imports in 1971, however, were larger than in any other year except 1970, when they were record high at 2,387 million pounds.

Representing about three-fourths of the total, imports of beef and veal were 1,755 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, down 3 percent from 1970. This decline accounted for more than four-fifths of the drop in meat imports.

Imports of lamb and of mutton and goat also were down. Lamb imports were 38 million pounds, 12 percent below 1970. Imports of mutton and goat were 65 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent), down 18 percent.

Pork imports totaled 459 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, 2 percent more than in 1970, and a record.

U.S. exports of red meats totaled 127 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, up 16 percent from 1970. Exports of all meats were larger. Pork exports were 72 million pounds, up 6 percent; beef exports were 53 million pounds, a third larger; exports of lamb and mutton were 2 million pounds, 20 percent larger.

Imports of Meat Subject To Meat Import Law

Imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law (mainly fresh, chilled, or frozen beef and mutton) totaled 1,133 million pounds (product weight) in 1971. This was 3 percent below 1970 imports of 1,170 million pounds and 2 percent below the 1,160 million pounds authorized under the 1971 voluntary restraint program.

Consultations are underway with principal supplying countries for a similar program for 1972 which will likely result in a level of imports slightly above 1971.

Table 5.—Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-71

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	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.*
1959-63 average . .	47.3	49.6	57.5	54.3	48.5	58.6	67.1	84.1	76.1	61.6	56.1	61.4	722.2
1964	87.2	44.9	68.9	61.4	51.1	98.1	43.7	79.5	49.6	46.4	55.7	53.4	739.9
1965	28.2	34.5	68.7	32.4	52.3	41.9	58.5	59.9	62.2	64.4	57.2	53.7	613.9
1966	51.4	60.3	49.4	63.3	52.0	100.2	61.4	87.1	91.5	79.7	61.1	66.0	823.4
1967	77.4	58.5	61.9	58.8	51.5	69.6	88.7	92.2	89.8	91.8	82.3	72.4	894.9
1968	80.7	72.6	64.1	78.4	56.1	105.1	86.4	108.6	115.5	102.1	95.8	35.6	1,001.0
1969[1]	41.9	50.4	136.1	90.0	80.5	85.7	107.1	141.8	121.4	108.4	51.4	69.4	1,084.1
1970[1]	124.5	100.7	112.0	88.7	62.1	93.4	110.0	113.0	107.6	89.3	79.3	89.8	1,170.4
1971	83.4	65.1	88.4	86.2	76.8	101.0	94.4	104.9	158.6	80.4	63.2	130.3	1,132.6

[1] Rejections for calendar year 1969 equaled 13.5 million pounds, and 17.4 million pounds for 1970.

Table 6.—U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1970 and 1971

Months	Beef and veal			Lamb and mutton[1]			Pork			Total meat		
	1970	1971	Change	1970	1971	Change	1970	1971	Change	1970	1971	Change
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*
IMPORTS												
January . .	186	128	-31	17	9	-44	25	35	+41	228	172	-24
February .	149	100	-33	13	6	-57	43	38	-13	205	144	-30
March	168	137	-19	15	10	-37	43	47	+9	226	193	-15
April	129	134	+34	13	9	-30	42	39	-8	184	181	-2
May	97	119	+23	8	12	+45	37	40	+8	142	171	+20
June	138	165	+20	16	13	-18	42	41	-1	196	219	+12
July	166	150	-10	19	9	-51	40	42	+4	225	201	-11
August . . .	180	175	-3	7	3	-60	31	38	+26	218	216	-1
September	180	237	+32	3	20	+545	32	41	+25	215	298	+38
October . .	156	121	-22	3	6	+90	39	18	-55	198	145	-27
November .	129	97	-24	3	3	-8	38	32	-17	170	132	-22
December .	138	193	+39	5	3	-30	37	49	+34	180	245	+37
Total . . .	1,816	1,756	-3	122	103	-16	449	459	+2	2,387	2,318	-3
EXPORTS												
January . .	3.57	3.45	-3	0.17	.17	+4	4.47	4.55	+2	8.21	8.17	-0.4
February .	2.77	4.22	+52	.12	.17	+48	4.37	3.68	-16	7.26	8.07	+11
March	3.11	5.61	+81	.14	.24	+75	4.05	3.36	-17	7.30	9.22	+26
April	3.17	5.27	+66	.13	.17	+36	3.79	3.78	0	7.09	9.22	+30
May	3.72	4.43	+19	.15	.18	+27	4.13	4.88	+18	8.00	9.49	+19
June	3.43	4.63	+35	.20	.13	-35	4.18	4.65	+11	7.81	9.41	+20
July	3.50	3.63	+40	.10	.11	+2	4.66	3.46	-26	8.26	7.20	-13
August . . .	2.75	3.54	+29	.24	.21	-15	4.52	7.12	+58	7.51	10.86	+45
September	2.67	4.10	+53	.10	.18	+75	10.98	7.52	-32	13.75	11.80	-14
October . .	3.46	3.25	-6	.14	.13	-10	9.15	6.62	-28	12.75	10.00	-22
November .	3.63	5.82	+61	.13	.21	+57	8.84	12.41	+40	12.60	18.44	+46
December .	4.01	4.92	+23	.13	.20	+58	5.24	10.35	+98	9.38	15.47	+65
Total . . .	39.79	52.87	+33	1.75	2.10	+20	68.38	72.38	+6	109.92	127.35	+16

[1] Includes goat meat.

Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by months, carcass weight, July 1971 to date

Meat and period	Supply			Distribution				
	Production[1]	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption Total	Civilian consumption Per person[2]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Pounds*
July	1,849	297	149	11	312	25	1,947	9.6
August	1,834	312	174	9	333	27	1,951	9.6
September	1,890	333	235	10	351	27	2,070	10.2
3rd. quarter	5,573	297	558	30	351	79	5,968	29.4
October	1,824	351	119	6	347	34	1,907	9.4
November	1,784	347	95	9	326	30	1,861	9.1
December	1,767	326	188	12	331			
4th quarter	5,375	351	402	27	331			
Veal:								
July	43	9	1	([3])	8	([3])	45	.2
August	42	8	1	([3])	8	1	42	.2
September	45	8	2	1	8	1	45	.2
3rd quarter	130	9	4	1	8	2	132	.6
October	43	8	2	([3])	8	1	44	.2
November	42	8	2	([3])	8	1	43	.2
December	40	8	5	1	9			
4th quarter	125	8	9	1	9			
Lamb and mutton:								
July	41	23	9	1	21	([3])	51	.3
August	41	21	3	1	19	1	44	.2
September	47	19	20	1	21	([3])	64	.3
3rd quarter	129	23	32	3	21	1	159	.8
October	48	21	6	([3])	20	([3])	55	.3
November	44	20	3	([3])	19	([3])	48	.2
December	46	19	3	1	19			
4th quarter	138	21	12	1	19			
Pork:								
July	1,058	476	42	14	405	6	1,151	5.6
August	1,152	405	38	17	332	7	1,239	6.1
September	1,222	332	41	20	309	11	1,255	6.2
4th quarter	3,432	476	121	51	309	24	3,645	17.9
October	1,214	309	18	10	312	7	1,212	5.9
November	1,296	312	32	17	327	14	1,282	6.3
December	1,307	327	49	28	335			
4th quarter	3,817	309	99	55	335			
All Meat:								
July	2,991	805	201	26	746	31	3,194	15.7
August	3,069	746	216	27	692	36	3,276	16.1
September	3,204	692	298	32	689	39	3,434	16.9
3rd quarter	9,264	805	715	85	689	106	9,904	48.7
October	3,129	689	145	16	687	42	3,218	15.8
November	3,166	687	132	26	680	45	3,234	15.8
December	3,160	680	245	42	694			
4th quarter	9,455	689	522	84	694			

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1970 Nov.	1970 Dec.	1971 Oct.	1971 Nov.	1971 Dec.
	Dollars per 100 pounds				
CATTLE AND CALVES					
Beef steers, slaughter, Omaha					
Prime	27.87	27.24	33.18	34.48	35.15
Choice	27.21	26.71	32.34	33.58	34.49
Good	26.28	25.73	31.11	32.28	32.97
Standard	24.22	23.10	27.96	29.10	29.13
Utility	22.98	22.44	26.27	27.50	28.05
All grades	27.00	26.45	32.11	33.30	33.92
Choice 900-1100 pounds, California	28.81	28.22	32.47	33.81	35.05
Choice 900-1100 pounds, Colorado	27.12	26.86	32.05	33.74	35.48
Cows, Omaha					
Commercial	18.80	18.49	21.96	21.24	21.35
Utility	19.04	18.77	22.30	21.45	21.64
Cutter	18.30	17.86	20.90	20.36	20.43
Canner	17.30	16.83	19.55	19.15	18.87
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	42.98	42.42	48.10	48.28	49.41
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City[1]	28.03	27.57	34.07	34.23	35.11
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	25.10	24.40	29.10	29.50	29.80
Cows	18.70	18.50	20.80	20.60	20.80
Steers and heifers	27.30	26.60	31.30	32.40	32.90
Calves	33.20	32.70	36.80	37.60	38.40
Beef steer-corn price ratio[2]	20.1	18.5	28.2	29.0	27.4
HOGS					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Omaha					
180-200 pounds					
200-220 pounds	16.65	16.88	20.19	20.20	21.94
220-240 pounds	16.43	16.68	20.11	20.06	21.79
Barrows and gilts, 7 markets[3]	15.69	15.67	19.80	19.39	20.98
Sows, 7 markets[3]	12.31	11.28	16.95	16.32	16.26
Price received by farmers	15.40	15.10	19.50	18.90	19.70
Hog-corn price ratio[4]					
Omaha, barrows and gilts	11.5	10.8	17.2	16.7	16.6
Price received by farmers, all hogs	11.9	11.1	19.5	19.4	18.2
SHEEP AND LAMBS					
Sheep					
Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo	9.44	9.12	7.62	8.44	8.81
Price received by farmers	6.97	6.67	5.75	5.80	5.96
Lambs					
Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo	25.81	24.00	26.06	26.00	25.49
Feeder, Choice, San Angelo	24.56	23.50	25.19	26.44	26.69
Price received by farmers	25.20	23.40	25.10	24.90	25.10
ALL MEAT ANIMALS					
Index number price received by farmers (1967=100)	104	102	123	123	125
MEAT	*Dollars per 100 pounds*				
Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700	44.86	43.79	51.60	54.08	55.92
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds	42.88	41.91	50.74	53.14	54.78
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	41.48	41.37	45.57	44.12	45.72
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	58.56	55.53	59.84	58.33	59.91
Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds	40.85	30.02	48.69	45.26	46.14
	Cents per pound				
Retail, United States average					
Beef, Choice grade	97.6	96.5	105.1	106.3	108.5
Pork, retail cuts and sausage	70.8	68.4	71.3	71.4	72.9
Lamb, Choice grade	105.9	106.4	111.2	113.1	113.4
Index number all meats (BLS)					
Wholesale (1967=100)	106.5	102.0	115.7	115.6	119.6
Retail (1967=100)	115.1	113.4	118.3	118.2	119.1
Beef and veal	119.3	118.4	127.1	126.6	128.0
Pork	108.8	105.1	105.8	106.3	107.2

[1] Average all weights and grades. [2] Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of slaughter steers sold out of first hands, Omaha, all grades. [3] 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.

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

Item	Unit	1970 Nov.	1970 Dec.	1971 Oct.	1971 Nov.	1971 Dec.
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1967=100)		106	104	117	102	102
6-State Cattle on Feed Report						
Number on feed	1,000 head	6,996	7,221	6,701	7,418	7,723
Placed on feed	1,000 head	1,526	1,428	2,154	1,689	1,585
Marketings	1,000 head	1,301	1,342	1,437	1,384	1,318
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,404	2,611	2,667	2,564	2,528
Steers	1,000 head	1,277	1,414	1,391	1,374	1,372
Heifers	1,000 head	642	687	738	644	628
Cows	1,000 head	466	471	490	500	486
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	39	39	48	46	42
Calves	1,000 head	245	276	231	233	238
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	735	847	919	818	846
Hogs	1,000 head	7,350	7,990	7,190	7,569	7,547
Percentage sows	Percent	7	6	6	6	7
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,051	1,065	1,030	1,048	1,065
Calves	Pounds	190	181	209	207	203
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	104	105	103	105	106
Hogs	Pounds	244	243	239	243	243
Average production						
Beef, per head	Pounds	624	636	615	620	627
Veal, per head	Pounds	104	102	117	116	114
Lamb and mutton, per head	Pounds	51	52	50	52	52
Pork, per head	Pounds	156	156	157	158	159
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	64	64	66	65	66
Lard, per head	Pounds	24	22	20	21	20
Lard per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	10	9	8	9	8
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lbs.	1,506	1,654	1,635	1,585	1,580
Veal	Mil. lbs.	26	28	27	27	27
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lbs.	38	44	46	42	44
Pork	Mil. lbs.	1,142	1,247	1,125	1,198	1,199
Lard	Mil. lbs.	174	178	140	159	153
Commercial slaughter[1]						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,774	2,971	3,010	2,922	2,869
Calves	1,000 head	327	352	308	304	302
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	774	887	959	859	885
Hogs	1,000 head	8,094	8,825	7,787	8,219	8,266
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,696	1,851	1,824	1,784	1,767
Veal	Mil. lb.	43	44	43	42	40
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	39	46	48	44	46
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,255	1,372	1,214	1,296	1,307
Lard	Mil. lb.	185	190	148	168	162
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	Mil. lb.	301	318	351	347	326
Veal	Mil. lb.	9	8	8	8	8
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	21	20	21	20	19
Pork	Mil. lb.	246	304	309	312	327
Total meat and meat products[2]	Mil. lb.	646	715	776	769	757

[1] Federally inspected and other commercial. [2] Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the 4 meats listed.

LIST OF TABLES

STANDARD SUMMARY TABLES

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