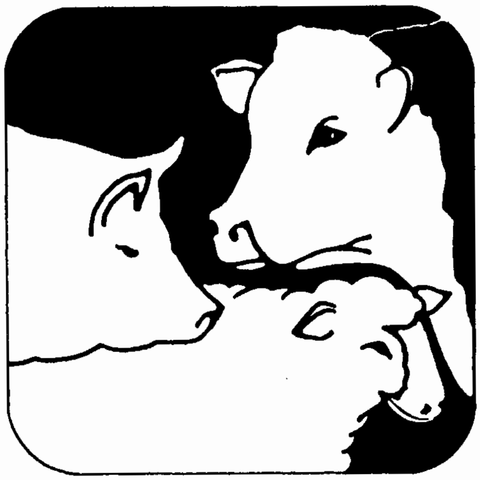
LMS-184

MARCH 1972



# LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



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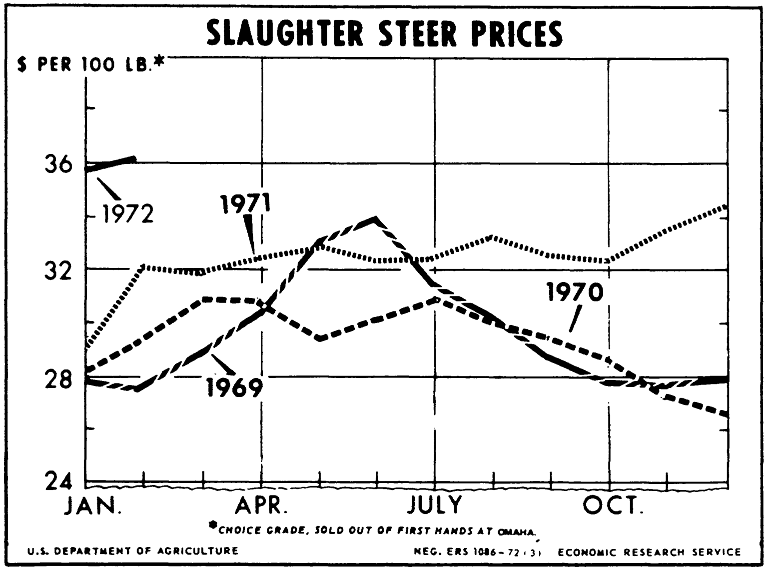
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
36
32
28
24
1972
1971
1970
1969
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1086-72 (3)
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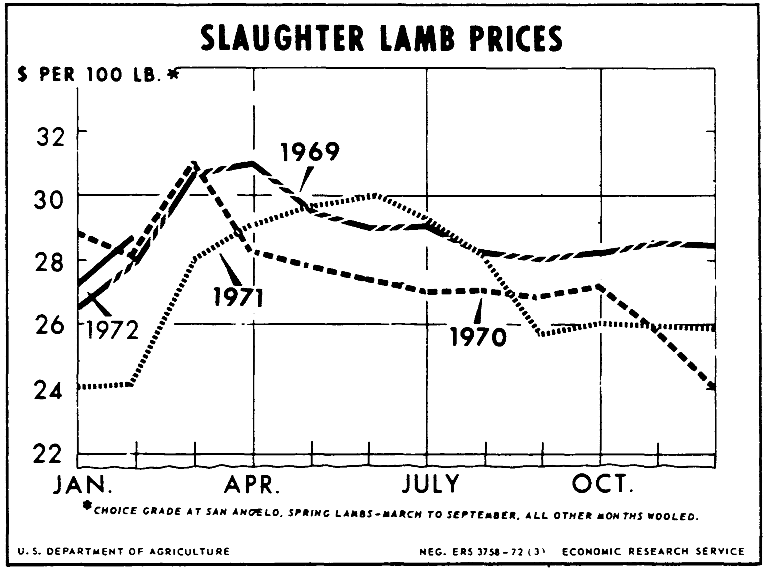
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
32
30
28
26
24
22
1969
1971
1972
1970
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO, SPRING LAMBS-MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
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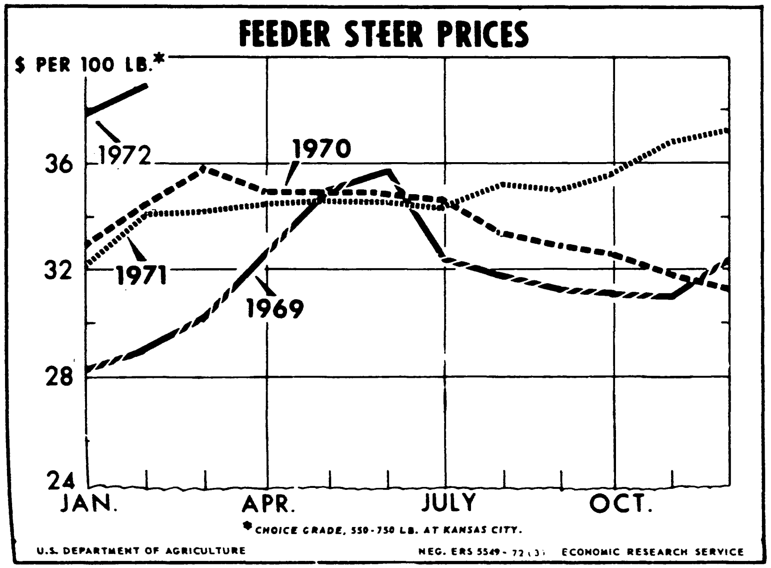
FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
36
32
28
24
1972
1970
1971
1969
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, 550-750 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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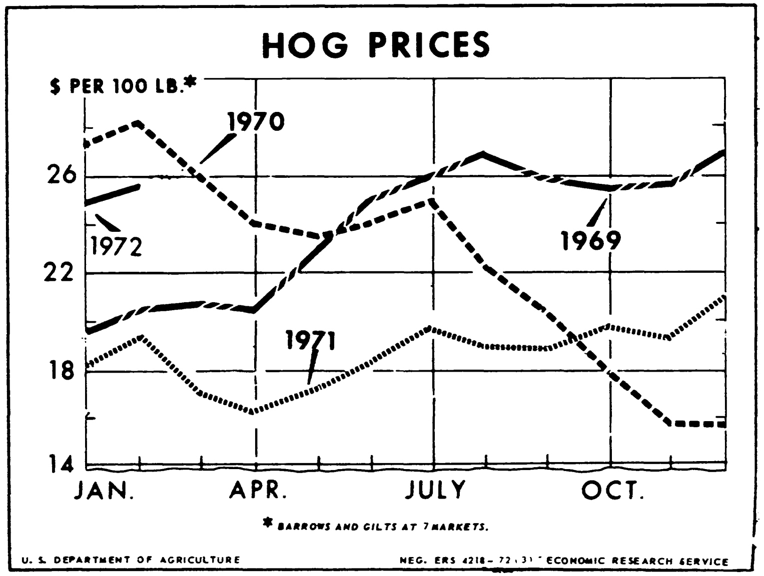
HOG PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
26
22
18
14
1970
1972
1969
1971
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 4218-72 (3)
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

# LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

## CONTENTS



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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
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## SUMMARY


Larger beef supplies in 1972 and further gains during the next several years are indicated by recent cattle inventory figures. The Nation's cattle herd rose nearly 3½ million head during 1971 to 117.9 million at the beginning of this year for the sharpest increase since 1962. Beef cattle accounted for all of the gain. Beef cow numbers totaled 38.7 million, up 1.2 million, or 3 percent. This increase was about in line with those of the past several years and indicates that the 1972 calf crop will be up. Also, there are enough feeder cattle to permit increased placements on feed this year.

Fed cattle marketings rose less than 2 percent in 1971. This was a much smaller gain than in other recent years. Marketings in the first half of 1972 will be up moderately from a year ago. On January 1, there were 9 percent more cattle on feed, and cattle feeders planned to ship 7 percent more cattle this winter than last. However, winter marketings probably were up less than that. Spring marketings will be moderately larger than a year ago and larger than in the winter.

First half placements on feed will largely govern the pace of fed cattle marketings in the second half. With a larger feeder cattle supply, lower feed costs, and relatively high fed cattle prices, increased first half placements seem likely. January-February placements in 6 major feeding States were up 7 percent.

Choice steer prices at Omaha rose steadily during the fall and early winter, from $32 per 100 pounds in mid-October to about $36.50 in late January. Prices then weakened somewhat and by early March were $35.40, still about $4 above a year earlier. Although some further decline is likely, prices will stay above the April-June 1971 average when Choice steers at Omaha were $32.60. Strong consumer demand is continuing to bolster the cattle market.

The voluntary restraint level for 1972 of meat subject to the Meat Import Law is 1,240 million pounds (product weight), nearly a tenth above 1971 actual imports. This will put limited downward pressure on cattle prices. These imports consist mainly of frozen boneless beef, so cow prices will be affected more than fed cattle prices.

Hog slaughter rates will continue sharply lower than a year ago through midyear, but will be down less this spring than the 13 percent drop in January and February. Last December 1 there were 7 percent fewer market hogs on farms in weight groups that typically supply the bulk of spring slaughter supplies. Farmers

indicated they would have 10 percent fewer sows farrow during December 1971-May 1972. Based on the farrowing pattern reported in the Corn Belt, slaughter may be off a little more in the summer than in the fall.

Hog prices rose contraseasonally last fall even though slaughter was seasonally large. By late January, barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged $27.70 per 100 pounds, $8.75 above early September and nearly $10.50 above a year earlier. However, prices weakened in February and in early March ran about $24.

Hog prices probably will decline further in the early spring but will rise seasonally in late spring to a summer high above $25. Prices will weaken in the fall as slaughter supplies increase seasonally, but probably will run considerably above last fall's average of $20. Larger beef and broiler output in 1972 may tend to temper price gains for hogs, but strong consumer demand for meat will be a strengthening factor.

Sheep and lambs on January 1, 1972, totaled 18.5 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago with most of the loss occurring in the breeding herd. This means another drop in the lamb crop this year.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in January-February was down 6 percent. Although there were 3 percent more lambs on feed on January 1, a 19 percent decline in the number of lambs born during October-December 1971 means smaller spring slaughter.

Choice slaughter lamb prices have been rising this winter, averaging about $28 per 100 pounds at San Angelo, up $4 from a year ago. In early March wooled slaughter lambs were quoted at $28.75, and spring lambs at $32. Spring lamb prices are expected to show little if any further advance but will likely continue above a year earlier through most of the rest of the year.

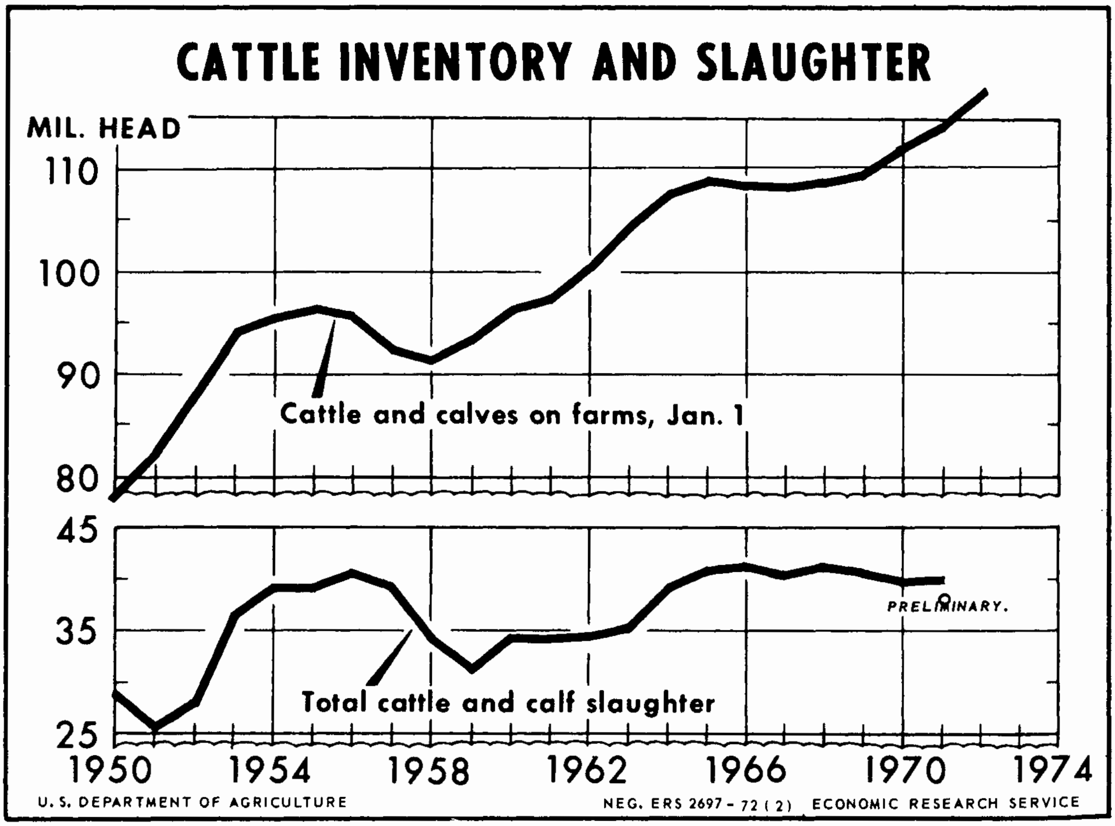
# SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

## CATTLE

### Cattle Numbers Continue to Increase

The number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches rose to 117.9 million head at the beginning of this year, 3.4 million, or 3 percent more than a year earlier. This was the largest increase since 1962 when numbers rose 3.7 million. Rising feeder cattle and calf prices in recent years, and particularly last year, have encouraged rapid expansion. The beef herd continued to expand while the dairy herd declined again. This was the 5th consecutive increase in the total inventory and the 15th consecutive year of increase in beef cow numbers. The dairy herd has been shrinking since 1954 but the decline has slowed in recent years.

Beef cows totaled 38.7 million on January 1, up 1.2 million, or 3 percent from a year earlier. The 6 percent rise in the number of heifers for beef cow replacements



points to further expansion in the beef cow herd for 1972.

There were more beef cows in all but 5 States and milk cow numbers were the same or larger in 19 States. In Wisconsin, the leading dairy State, dairy cow numbers increased slightly for the first gain since 1963.

The total feeder cattle supply this year is up nearly a million head, enough to permit sharp increases over last year in the rate of placements on feed. The number of beef steers and heifers on farms was up about 3 percent at the beginning of 1972. But since more of these cattle were on feed, the number of heavier steers and heifers outside of feedlots was down a little. The number of calves on farms rose to 31.7 million head, 1.3 million, or 4 percent more than a year earlier. The increase in the number of calves on farms was much greater than the increase in number of these calves on feed.

Fed cattle marketings were up only 1.6 percent last year, following a 4 percent increase in 1970. During the 1960's annual marketings of fed cattle rose about 6 to 7 percent per year. The slower rate of growth in 1971 largely reflected higher feed costs and large negative feeding margins in late 1970 and early 1971.

Fed cattle marketings this year will be up more, around 5 percent. There were 9 percent more cattle on feed at the beginning of this year and the large placements likely in the first half will boost second half marketings.

**Calf Crop**

| Year | Number | Percentage change from preceding year | Ratio to breeding stock on farms January 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | |
| 1959 ....... | 38,938 | +0.2 | 86 |
| 1960 ....... | 39,416 | +1.2 | 86 |
| 1961 ....... | 40,180 | +1.9 | 86 |
| 1962 ....... | 41.441 | +3.1 | 87 |
| 1963 ....... | 42,268 | +2.0 | 86 |
| 1964 ....... | 43,809 | +3.6 | 87 |
| 1965 ....... | 43,928 | +0.3 | 86 |
| 1966 ....... | 43,526 | -0.9 | 86 |
| 1967 ....... | 43,765 | +0.5 | 88 |
| 1968 ....... | 44,239 | +1.1 | 88 |
| 1969 ....... | 45,196 | +2.2 | 90 |
| 1970 ....... | 45,908 | +1.6 | 94 |
| 1971 ....... | 46,974 | +2.3 | 94 |

Inventory data indicate that beef production will rise further the next several years. The number of beef cows has gone up steadily in recent years, and as a result, calf crops have continued to increase at about 2 percent per year. Moreover, calf slaughter probably will decline further, making more calves available for feeding. Higher feeder cattle prices in 1971 and so far in 1972 likely will encourage stockmen to increase beef herds again this year.

Further growth in cattle feeding will account for

**Table 1.—Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1965 to date**

| Year | Beef cows | Beef heifer replace-ments | Milk cows | Dairy heifer replace-ments | Other heifers 500 lb. and over | Steers 500 lb. and over | Heifers, steers and bulls under 500 lb. | Bulls 500 lb. and over |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* |
| 1965 ....... | 33,400 | 5,700 | 15,380 | 4,780 | 5,980 | 14,050 | 27,530 | 2,180 |
| 1966 ....... | 33,500 | 5,760 | 14,490 | 4,450 | 5,990 | 14,770 | 27,752 | 2,150 |
| 1967 ....... | 33,740 | 5,810 | 13,770 | 4,220 | 6,090 | 14,750 | 28,125 | 2,140 |
| 1968 ....... | 34,460 | 5,940 | 13,250 | 4,120 | 6,010 | 14,700 | 28,502 | 2,170 |
| 1969 ....... | 35,250 | 6,020 | 12,835 | 4,040 | 5,900 | 14,850 | 28,800 | 2,190 |
| 1970 ....... | 36,404 | 6,253 | 12,578 | 3,974 | 6,065 | 15,080 | 29,704 | 2,245 |
| 1971 ....... | 37,533 | 6,475 | 12,414 | 3,941 | 6,046 | 15,375 | 30,381 | 2,305 |
| 1972 ....... | 38,725 | 6,840 | 12,279 | 3,942 | 6,331 | 15,711 | 31,723 | 2,365 |

**Table 2.—Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1963 to date**

| Year | Number on farms January 1 | | | | Index numbers, by groups (1967=100) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All cattle and calves | All sheep and lambs | Hogs | Chickens | Total livestock and poultry | Meat animals | Milk cattle | Poultry |
| | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | *1,000 head* | | | | |
| 1963 ....... | 104,488 | 29,176 | 57,993 | 375,575 | 99 | 99 | 122 | 86 |
| 1964 ....... | 107,903 | 27,116 | 56,757 | 382,262 | 101 | 101 | 117 | 87 |
| 1965 ....... | 109,000 | 25,127 | 50,792 | 394,118 | 101 | 101 | 112 | 92 |
| 1966 ....... | 108,862 | 24,734 | 47,414 | 393,019 | 99 | 99 | 105 | 93 |
| 1967 ....... | 108,645 | 23,898 | 53,249 | 428,746 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1968 ....... | 109,152 | 22,140 | [1] 58,777 | 425,158 | 100 | 100 | 96 | 98 |
| 1969 ....... | 109,885 | 21,238 | 60,632 | 419,635 | 101 | 101 | 94 | 96 |
| 1970 ....... | 112,303 | 20,288 | 56,655 | 433,640 | 102 | 102 | 92 | 98 |
| 1971 ....... | 114,470 | 19,597 | 67,449 | 442,783 | 106 | 106 | 91 | 100 |
| 1972 ....... | 117,916 | 18,482 | 62,972 | [1] 441,037 | 107 | 107 | 90 | 99 |

[1] Number on farms December 1, preceding year.

most of the gain in beef output during the next several years. Cow slaughter will also rise somewhat because of the greater number of cows on farms. Also, the proportion of older cows has been increasing.

### Beef Output Rising

Commercial beef production in January was down 1 percent, but gains in February and March output will be more than offsetting, for a small net January-March increase. Production this spring likely will be moderately larger than a year earlier. Fed cattle marketings will be up and market weights may be heavier, more than offsetting a small decline in cow slaughter. Thus, for the first half of the year beef production could be up 3 to 4 percent with most of the increase coming in the second quarter.

### Marketings to Pick Up Moderately

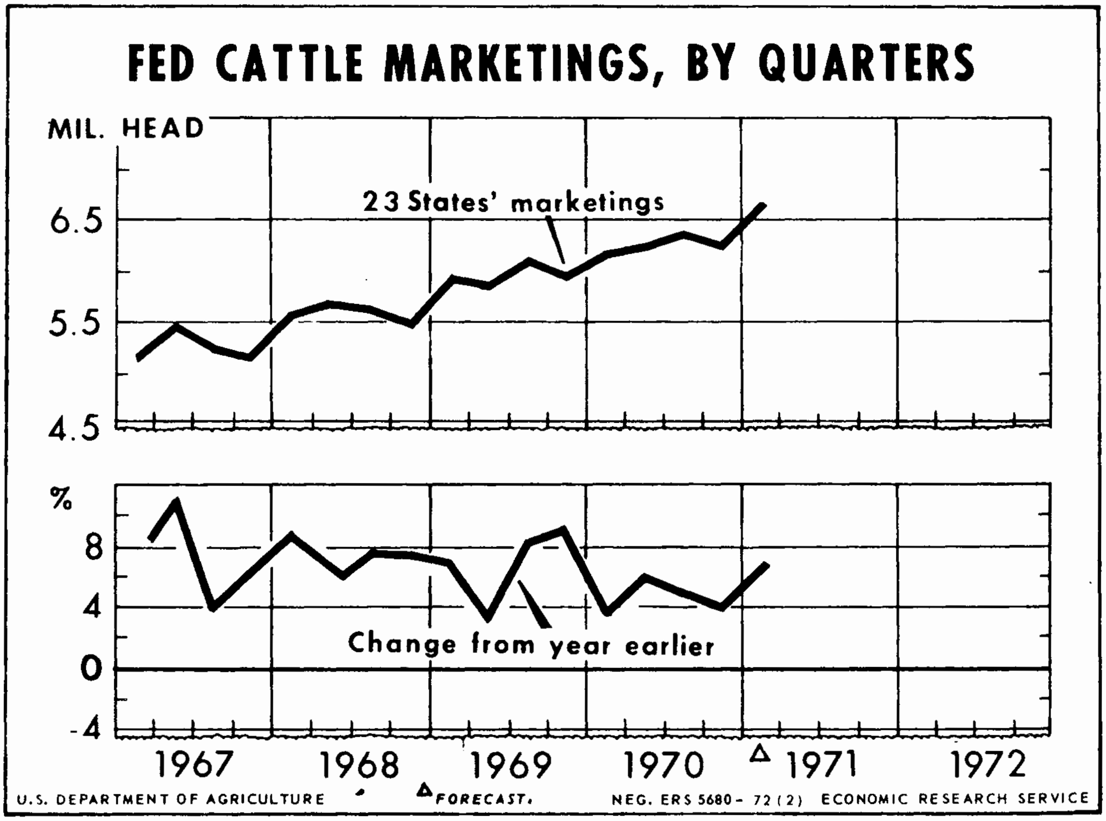
Fed cattle marketings picked up in midwinter and moderate increases over a year earlier are expected in the spring. At the beginning of this year feedlots had only 2 percent more cattle in weight groups that typically supply the bulk of spring marketings. However, there were 13 percent more lighter weight cattle on feed that will also figure importantly in spring slaughter. And since January-March marketings seem to be running less than producers indicated, they may be holding back some cattle for moving in the spring.

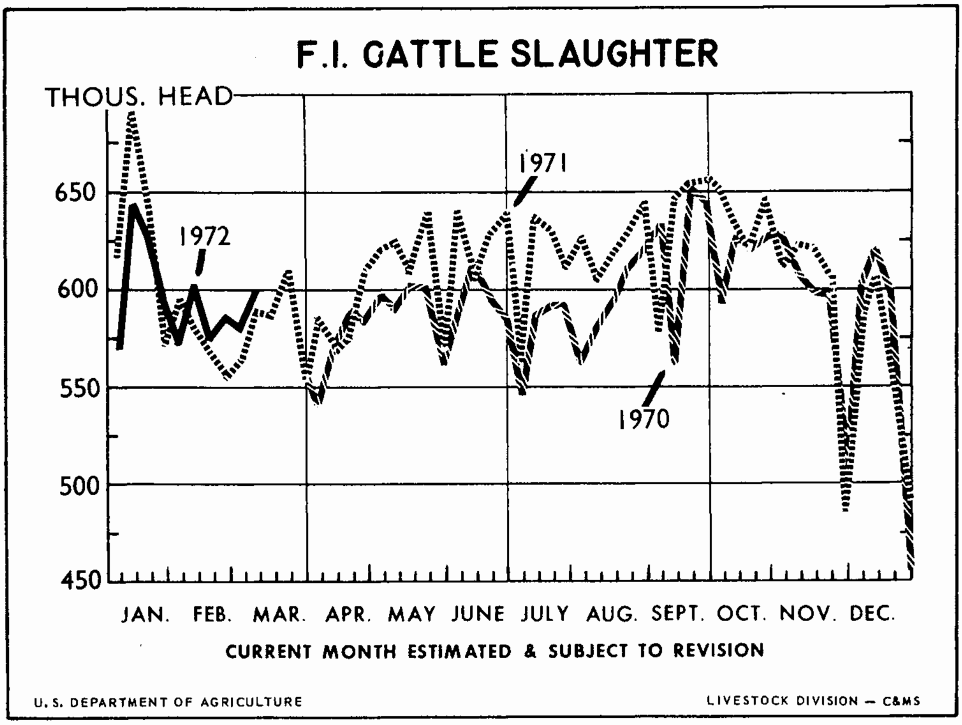
Fed cattle marketings increased in the West and the Corn Belt this winter, and increases for both areas are expected to continue the rest of the year. However, the marketing pattern for fed cattle is shifting with the Western States accounting for a larger share of cattle on feed and fed cattle marketed. On January 1, the West had 12 percent more cattle on feed while Corn Belt feeders had only 6 percent more. In the fall of 1971 cattle feeders in the West shipped 10 percent more cattle to slaughter than in October-December 1970. Corn Belt feeders shipped 6 percent fewer.

Fed cattle marketings in the second half of 1972 are expected to run moderately larger than a year earlier, since conditions favor increased placements this winter and spring. The feeder cattle supply is larger this year and fed cattle prices are running substantially higher than in recent years. Also, feed grain supplies are large and prices are lower this year. Of course, higher replacement cattle prices in recent months will temper increases in number of cattle placed on feed. However, placements in January and February were likely larger than last year. In 6 States they were up 7 percent.

### Market Prices Ease Off

Choice steers at Omaha rose steadily during the fall and early winter. In mid-October Choice steers at Omaha were about $32 per 100 pounds. In late January they were averaging about $36.50. Prices weakened a little in February but in early March were averaging $35.40, still about $4 higher than a year earlier.






**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 | 36.19 |
| 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 | |

Price strength in the fall and early winter resulted from a decline in the supply of slaughter livestock and strong consumer demand for meat. The number of cattle moving out of feedlots dropped below year-earlier levels and hog slaughter was off moderately in late fall and then fell 15 percent in January.

The cattle slaughter picture began changing in midwinter. In recent weeks cattle marketings have been running moderately larger than a year earlier. Hog slaughter has been down, but by much less than in January. Also, fed cattle marketings this spring likely will be moderately larger than a year earlier and up some from winter shipments. Thus, some further price decline is likely, but Choice steers at Omaha this spring likely will stay above the April-June 1971 average of about $32.60.

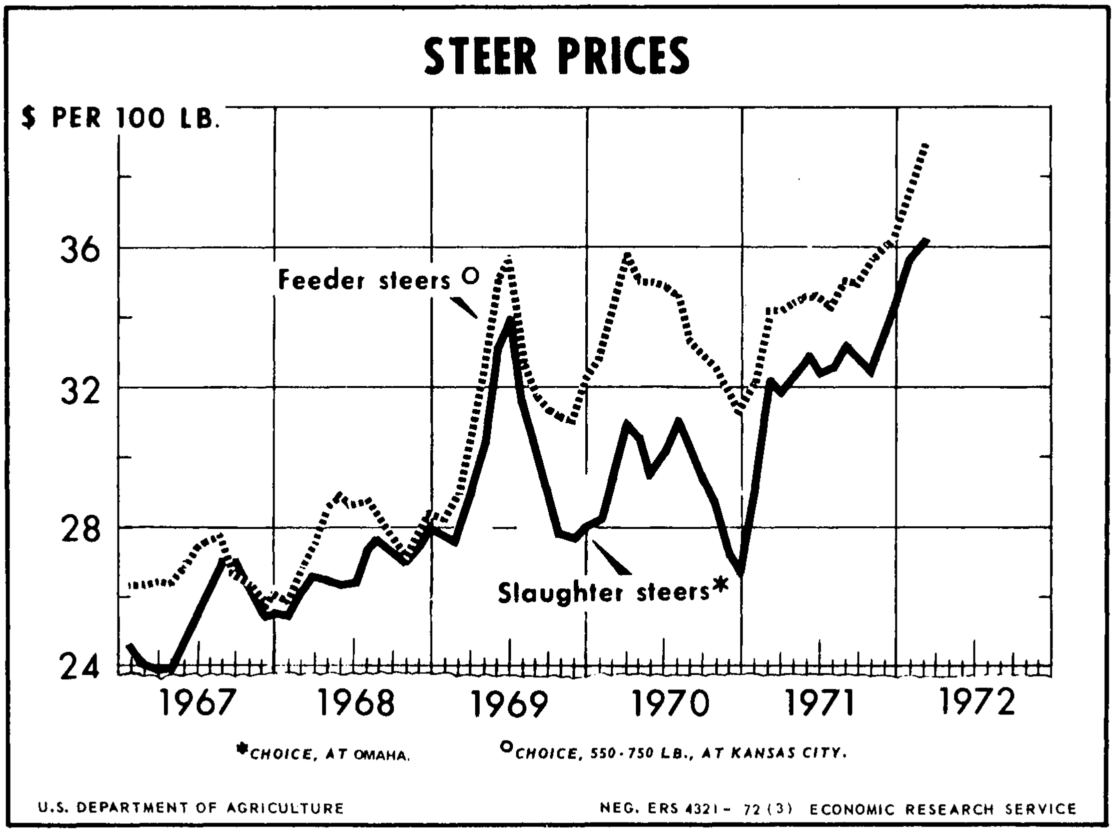
## Feeder Cattle Market Strong

Feeder cattle prices rose during the second half of 1971 even though marketings were seasonally large. The

**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 |
| February ..... | 36.32 | 34.97 | +1.35 |

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



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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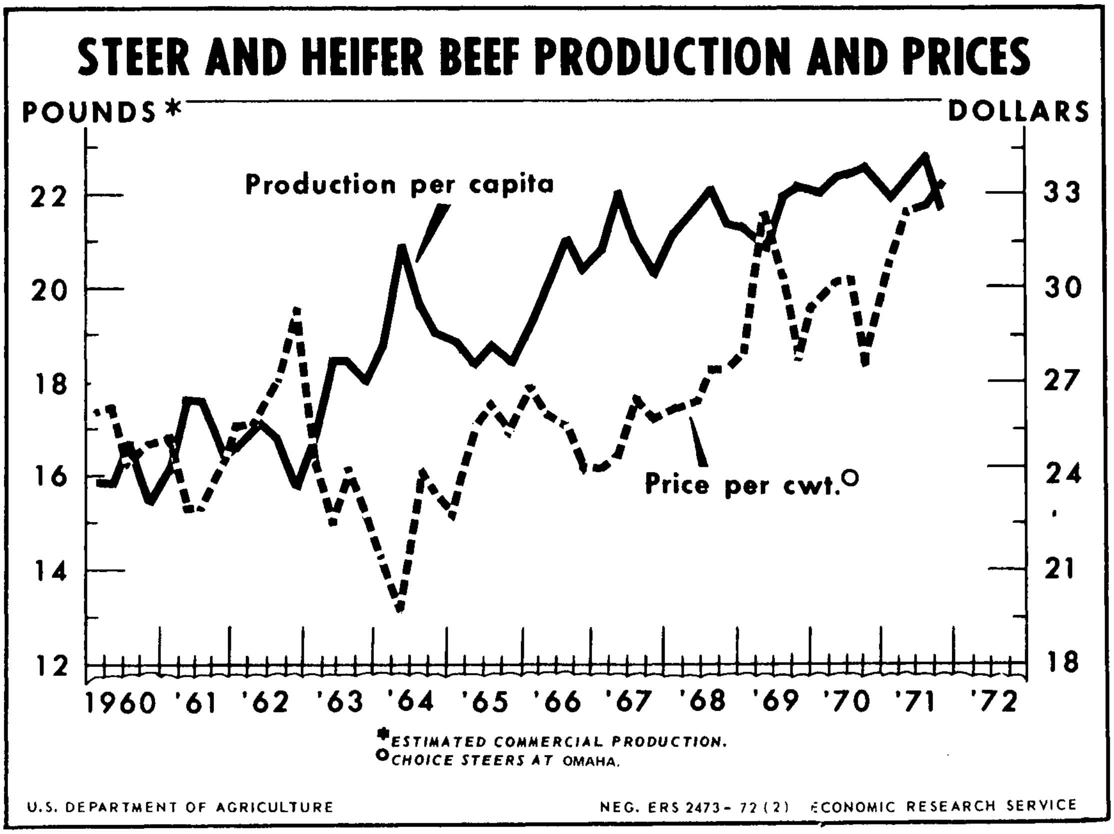


STEER AND HEIFER BEEF PRODUCTION AND PRICES
POUNDS*
DOLLARS
22
20
18
16
14
12
33
30
27
24
21
18
Production per capita
Price per cwt.O
1960 '61 '62 '63 '64 '65 '66 '67 '68 '69 '70 '71 '72
*ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION.
OCHOICE STEERS AT OMAHA.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 2473- 72 (2) ECONOMIC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

**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 | 38.86 | 38.55 | 38.48 | 43.94 |
| 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.

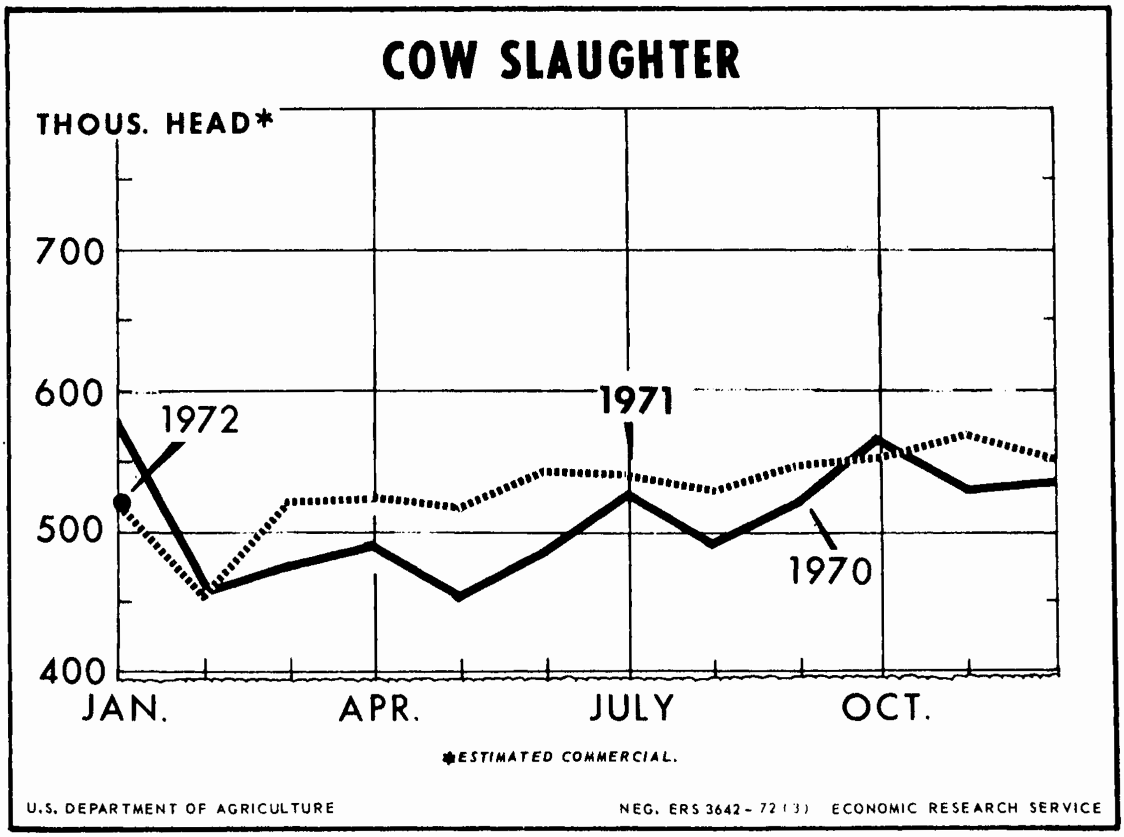
price rise largely reflected the strong fed cattle market. Feeder cattle prices continued to rise in January and February despite a softening of the slaughter market in late January. Choice yearlings at Kansas City rose from about $34.35 per 100 pounds in July 1971 to more than $37 by the end of the year. Prices in February were about $39. This was about $4.60 above a year earlier. Feeder calf prices have followed a similar pattern.

Some softness in the feeder market this spring is expected because fed cattle prices likely will continue on a weaker tone. The volume of movement at this time of year is low but demand for replacement cattle is also low. Feeder cattle prices in the summer are expected to continue well above year-earlier levels. A more normal seasonal decline in the fall is likely and prices probably will average below the October-December 1971 average of $36.60.

### Cow Slaughter

Commercial cow slaughter in January was the same as a year earlier. Based on the weekly information of cattle slaughter under Federal inspection, cow slaughter in February was also little different from a year ago. This spring, however, it is expected to run somewhat below the high slaughter levels last spring when drought forced movement of many cows to market in the Southwest. Cow slaughter in the summer and fall likely will run near or a little above 1971 slaughter levels. Cow slaughter has continued low in relation to the number of cows on farms although they have been increasing in recent years. In 1971 cow slaughter was up 4 percent following a 12 percent decrease during 1970. Culling rates this year are not expected to change materially from 1971 levels, unless severe drought develops.

Utility cows at Omaha in early March were averaging about $24 per 100 pounds, up $2.50 from a year earlier. In 1971 cow prices rose through the winter, steadied in the spring, then climbed above a year earlier at midyear. Prices stayed above year-earlier levels through the second



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 | 23.80 |
| 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 | |

half. With somewhat reduced cow slaughter this spring, and substantially less pork, cow prices are expected to run well above 1971 prices. However, larger imports of beef in the coming months likely will temper price gains for cows.

### Calf Slaughter Down

The downtrend in calf slaughter continues. In January and February it was running about 8 to 10 percent smaller than in these months a year ago. The strong demand for feeder cattle and another decline in the dairy herd will make fewer calves available for veal production again this year.

Choice vealers at South St. Paul averaged just over $52 per 100 pounds in February, $8.75 above a year earlier. Competing meat supplies likely will be large in the coming months with increases in beef and poultry more than offsetting declines in pork and lamb. Vealer prices in the spring and summer likely will continue strong. They averaged $46.55 per 100 pounds last April-June and then $47.11 in the summer.

## HOGS

### Hog Slaughter Off Sharply

Hog slaughter last year was extremely large in the first half. Gains moderated during the summer, and slaughter dropped below a year earlier in the fall. Hog slaughter was down 15 percent in January 1972. The deficit was less in February and March. The changing slaughter pattern in recent months reflects producers' responses to high corn prices and low hog prices during late 1970 and early 1971.

### Small Spring Slaughter

Hog slaughter this spring will continue smaller than a year earlier. Last December 1 there were 7 percent fewer market hogs on farms in weight groups that typically supply the bulk of spring slaughter supplies. However, slaughter in late winter and early spring will rise seasonally above January and February levels. By late spring, hog slaughter will begin a seasonal decline that will terminate in the summer.

Hog weights typically increase in the spring to a high during May or June. With lower corn prices this year, hog producers may feed to heavier weights. Last spring, barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged 5 pounds lighter than in April-June 1970. If producers feed to heavier market weights this spring, the pork supply will not be off quite as much as the reduction in number of head slaughtered.

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 | 234 |
| 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 prices rose contraseasonally last fall and rapid gains continued in January. By the last week of January, barrows and gilts at 7 markets were $27.70 per 100 pounds. This was $8.75 above prices in early September and about $10.50 above the unusually low prices in January 1971. Prices weakened in February and barrows and gilts in early March were about $24. The price pattern this winter was similar to price developments in early 1971, although hog prices have been at a much higher level.

The rapid rise in hog prices in late fall and in early winter reflected a sharp cut in hog slaughter and a small reduction in the beef supply. Also, consumer demand for meat has continued strong.

Hog prices, following the February and early March drop, probably will decline somewhat further in early spring but then rise seasonally to a summer high. Last year barrows and gilts at 7 markets rose from about $16.20 per 100 pounds in April to a summer high in July of about $20. This year they likely will rise during late spring, running $5 or more above the $17.30 average of last April-June. Moderate increases in beef and broiler supplies will be a price dampening factor in the hog market.

### Summer and Fall Slaughter to Stay Down

Hog slaughter in the summer and fall will continue substantially below the July-December 1971 level. The December 1971-May 1972 pig crop is forecast to be 9 percent smaller than a year earlier. Pigs born during these months supply the bulk of second half slaughter hogs.

Using developments in the Corn Belt as a guide to the second half slaughter pattern, summer slaughter may be off a little more than fall slaughter. Corn Belt producers planned to reduce the number of sows farrowing during December 1971-February 1972 by 11 percent and cut March-May farrowings by 8 percent.

The March 21 Hogs and Pigs report gives a better indication of recent developments in farrowings and prospective slaughter supplies.

Hog prices will be generally strong during the second half of the year because of the low kill levels in prospect.

**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 | 25.61 | 24.96 | 16.68 | 22.90 |
| 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 | |

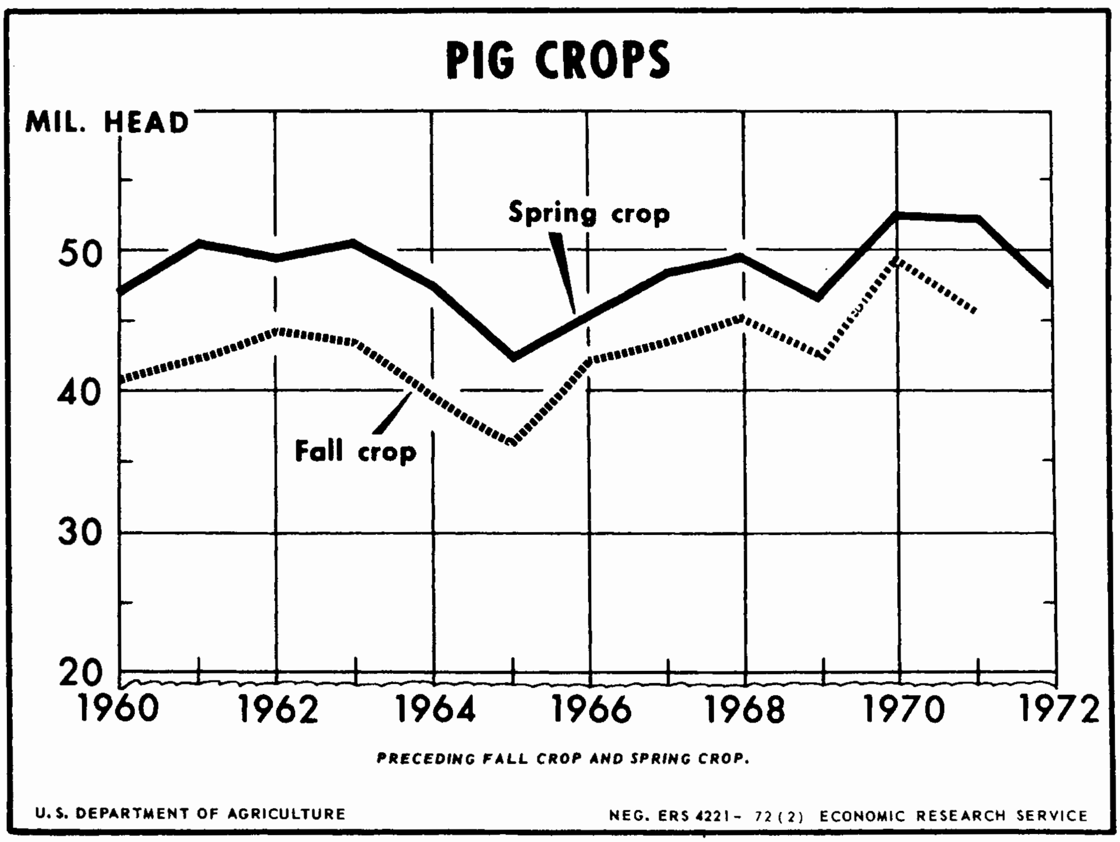
[1] Average for all weights at Midwest markets.

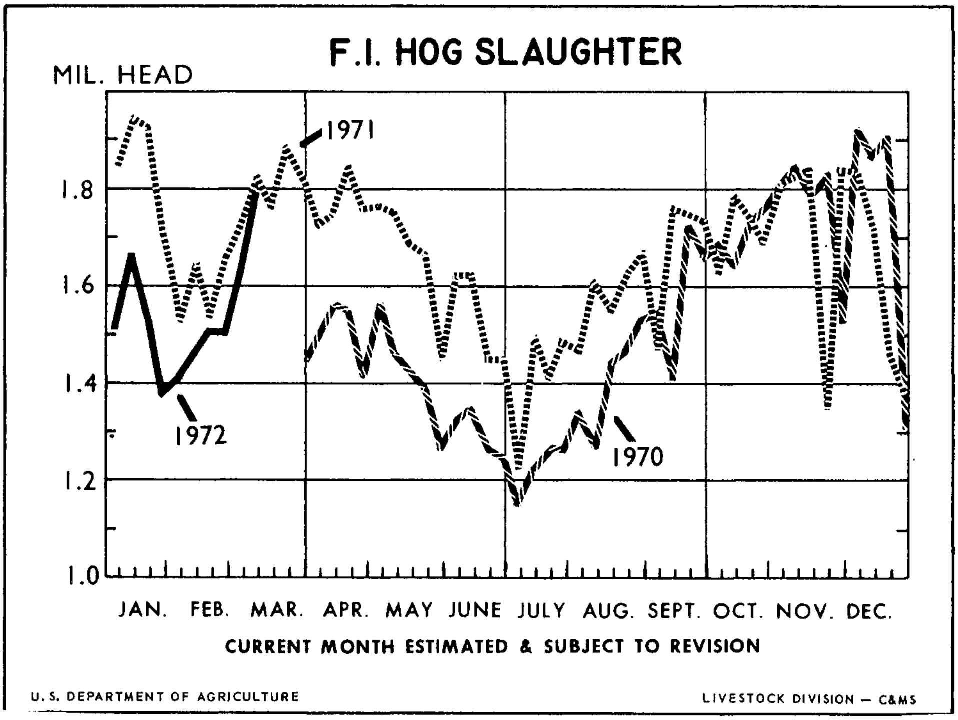
Seasonally small summer slaughter will boost prices of barrows and gilts at 7 markets to a high in July or August that will probably top the 1970 summer weekly high of $25.40. This would also be substantially higher than last year's $20 in July. Seasonal price weakness is likely next fall as slaughter supplies increase. However, fall prices are expected to run considerably above the 1971 October-December average of $20. Larger beef and broiler output in the second half of 1972 will tend to temper price gains for hogs but strong consumer demand for meat and smaller cold storage stocks will be bolstering factors.

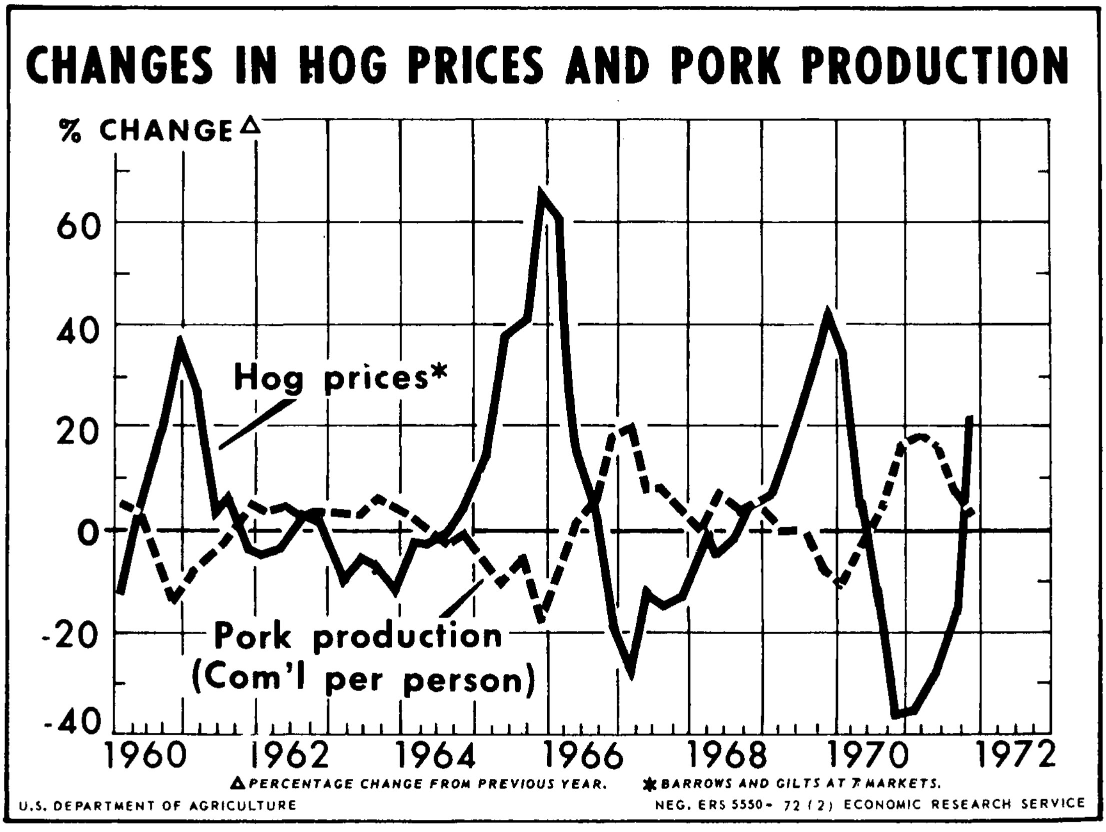
Hog slaughter in the second half will be smaller than a year ago, but it will still be the third largest for a like period in the past 10 years. Slaughter supplies in the second half of calendar 1970 and 1971 were very large. Thus, except for 1959 and 1971, consumption of pork per person in 1972 will probably still be higher than in any year since 1952.

### Fall Farrowings: Up or Down?

Hog producers will soon be deciding how many sows to have farrow during June-November this year. Hog prices have improved in recent months and corn prices are lower than a year ago. This has lifted returns to hog producers well above the low levels of late 1970 and early 1971. However, farmers probably will not increase June-November farrowings this year. The reduction in indicated spring farrowings is substantial, and since 1950




F.I. HOG SLAUGHTER
MIL. HEAD
1971
1972
1970
1.8
1.6
1.4
1.2
1.0
JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUNE JULY AUG. SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC.
CURRENT MONTH ESTIMATED & SUBJECT TO REVISION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION — C&MS


CHANGES IN HOG PRICES AND PORK PRODUCTION
% CHANGE△
60
40
20
0
-20
-40
Hog prices*
Pork production
(Com'l per person)
1960 1962 1964 1966 1968 1970 1972
△PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. *BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 5550- 72 (2) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

sharp increases or decreases in the spring pig crop have always been followed by a change in the same direction in the fall crop. However, with improved profits and plenty of corn, hog producers will be taking steps to increase pig output in the future. Thus, the fall pig crop may not be down nearly as much as the spring pig crop. Of course, any reduction in fall farrowings would be reflected in first half 1973 hog slaughter.

The supply of corn is large and corn prices are much lower than they were last year. Hog prices are higher. Thus, the hog-corn price ratio has been running near 22 to 1 compared with about 12 to 1 during the first half of 1971.

Feeder pig prices have also risen in recent months along with the higher prices for slaughter hogs. Prices of feeder pigs are now substantially above a year earlier at most Midwest markets. However, they are still below the record-high prices in late 1969 and early 1970.

Sow slaughter under Federal Inspection in recent months has been following the same pattern as barrow and gilt slaughter. Sow slaughter is expected to be off more than barrow and gilt slaughter in the coming months as more producers begin to increase pig output. Last fall, the number of sows slaughtered under Federal inspection accounted for 6.4 percent of total hog slaughter, down slightly from 6.5 percent during October-December 1970. Sow slaughter in January continued to account for a slightly smaller percentage of the total than a year earlier.

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 | 23.6 |
| 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 | |

## SHEEP AND LAMBS

### Inventory Continues to Shrink

The number of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches totaled 18.5 million head at the beginning of this year. This was down 1.1 million, or 6 percent, from a year earlier to the lowest total on record. Numbers have been dropping steadily since 1960 when there were more than 33 million. A small increase in slaughter accelerated the decline in 1971. All areas of the country shared in the decline but 75 percent of the reduction occurred in the 17 Western States.

The proportion of stock sheep in the leading sheep

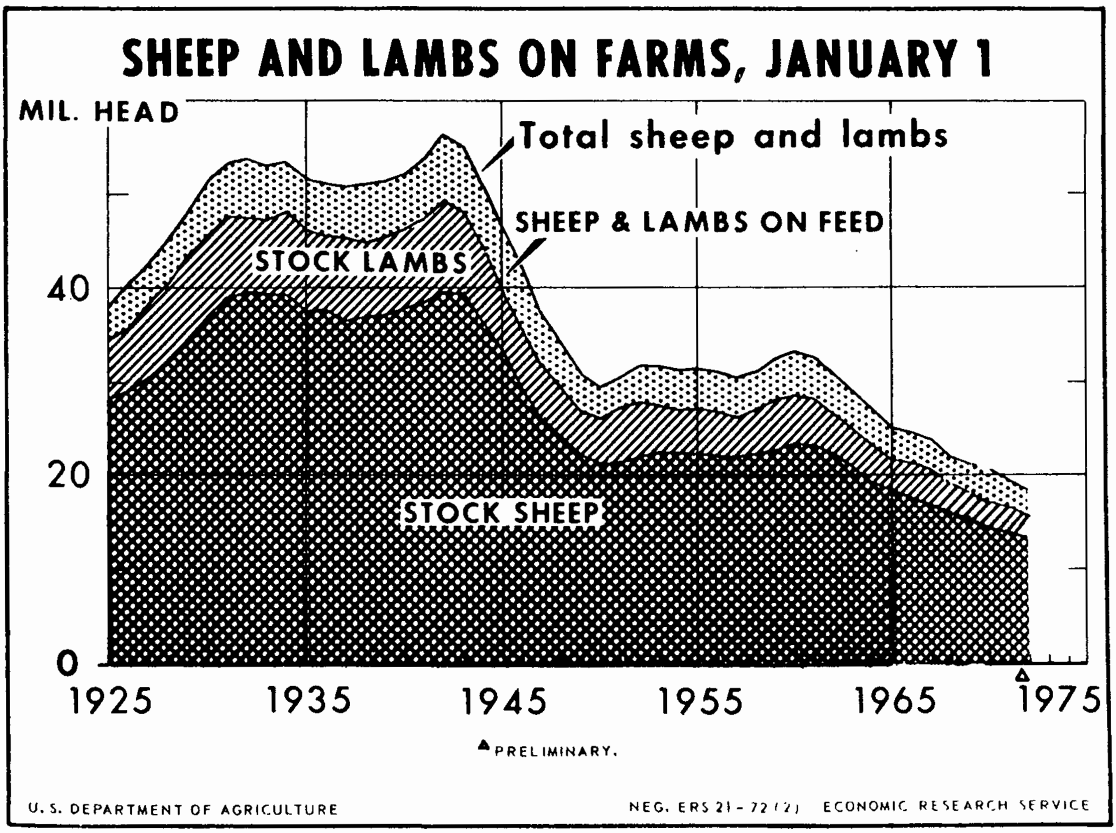


Table 3.—Balance sheet for sheep and lambs, United States, 1956 to date

| Year | Number on farms Jan. 1 | Born during year | Net exports | Slaughter | Deaths | Adjustment factor | Number on farms Dec. 31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | | | | | | |
| 1956 | 31,157 | 20,336 | +57 | 16,328 | 4,322 | -132 | 30,654 |
| 1957 | 30,654 | 19,810 | +18 | 15,292 | 4,353 | +416 | 31,217 |
| 1958 | 31,217 | 20,686 | -22 | 14,495 | 4,350 | -474 | 32,606 |
| 1959 | 32,606 | 21,120 | -54 | 15,528 | 4,539 | -543 | 33,170 |
| 1960 | 33,170 | 21,012 | -13 | 16,240 | 4,590 | -641 | 32,725 |
| 1961[1] | 32,725 | 20,782 | +27 | 17,537 | 4,499 | -475 | 30,969 |
| 1962 | 30,969 | 19,712 | +16 | 17,168 | 4,437 | +116 | 29,176 |
| 1963 | 29,176 | 18,516 | +28 | 16,147 | 4,157 | -244 | 27,116 |
| 1964 | 27,116 | 16,994 | +10 | 14,895 | 4,062 | -16 | 25,127 |
| 1965 | 25,127 | 16,312 | +6 | 13,300 | 3,910 | +511 | 24,734 |
| 1966 | 24,734 | 15,881 | +51 | 13,003 | 3,614 | -49 | 23,898 |
| 1967 | 23,898 | 15,003 | +108 | 13,034 | 3,650 | +31 | 22,140 |
| 1968 | 22,140 | 14,433 | +91 | 12,119 | 3,397 | +272 | 21,238 |
| 1969 | 21,238 | 13,703 | +83 | 10,923 | 3,457 | -190 | 20,288 |
| 1970 | 20,288 | 13,413 | +121 | 10,776 | 3,200 | -7 | 19,597 |
| 1971 | 19,597 | 12,929 | +121 | 10,945 | 3,100 | +122 | 18,482 |
| 1972[2] | 18,482 | 12,050 | +100 | 10,050 | 2,950 | | 17-17.5 |

[1] Beginning 1961, 50-State total. [2] Estimated.

States—Texas, Wyoming, California, Montana, and South Dakota—has been increasing. On January 1, 1972 about 49 percent of the stock sheep were in these States compared with 46 percent 10 years earlier. Sheepmen in these States cut inventories 9 percent during 1971 while producers in all other States reduced numbers 6 percent. Texas, the leading sheep State, cut numbers 11 percent last year, accounting for nearly a third of the total decline. Drought was a major factor contributing to the reduction in numbers in that State.

Stock sheep numbers dropped to 15.8 million head on January 1, 1972, down 7 percent from a year earlier. This included 14 percent fewer lambs and 6 percent fewer ewes 1 year old and older. Ewe lambs were off 14 percent. This reduction indicates that further declines in the breeding herd are in prospect in the current year.

Declining stock sheep numbers mean smaller lamb crops. On January 1 last year the number of ewes on farms was down 2 percent, and the 1971 lamb crop was 4 percent smaller than the 1970 crop. So, with ewes down another 6 percent the first of this year, we can probably expect a 5 to 7 percent smaller 1972 lamb crop. A smaller lamb crop will likely mean lower slaughter rates in 1972. Last year slaughter slightly exceeded the year-earlier rate and accelerated the liquidation rate. This year, slaughter is expected to be down but not enough to stop further liquidation.

Lamb Crop

| Year | Number | Percentage change from preceding year | Ratio to breeding stock on farms January 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | |
| 1959 | 21,120 | +2.1 | 97 |
| 1960 | 21,012 | -0.5 | 94 |
| 1961 | 20,782 | -1.1 | 94 |
| 1962 | 19,712 | -5.1 | 93 |
| 1963 | 18,516 | -6.1 | 92 |
| 1964 | 16,994 | -8.2 | 91 |
| 1965 | 16,312 | -4.0 | 93 |
| 1966 | 15,881 | -2.6 | 94 |
| 1967 | 15,003 | -5.5 | 93 |
| 1968 | 14,433 | -3.8 | 94 |
| 1969 | 13,703 | -5.1 | 93 |
| 1970 | 13,413 | -2.1 | 96 |
| 1971 | 12,929 | -3.6 | 95 |

## First Half Slaughter Down

Sheep and lamb slaughter in January was 6 percent smaller than a year ago. Weekly kill rates in February and early March were down 7 percent.

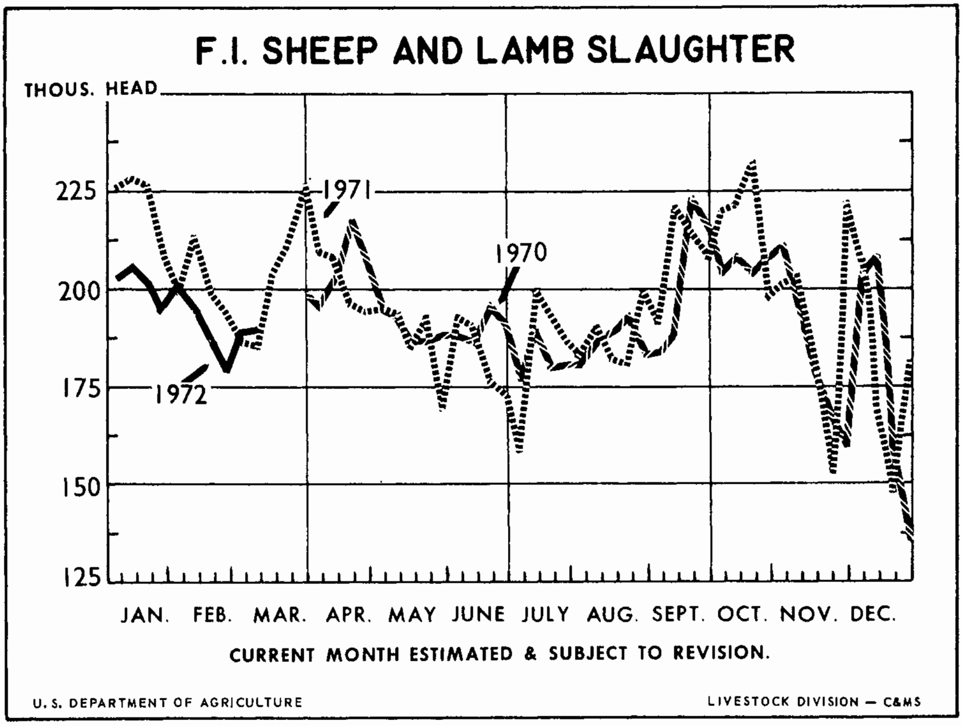
Slaughter is expected to continue below a year earlier in the second quarter. Spring slaughter supplies depend to a considerable extent on new crop lambs which reach slaughter weight at that time. On January 1 there were 1.2 million lambs on farms that were born during October-December 1971, about 19 percent fewer than a year earlier. Two years ago, when the October-December crop was off 22 percent, April-June slaugher was down 9 percent. Thus, lamb slaughter this spring will be down considerably.

Wooled slaughter lamb prices have been running well above a year earlier. In February Choice slaughter lambs at San Angelo averaged $28.70. This was $4.60 above February 1971.

Spring lamb prices were running $32 at San Angelo in early March, $4 above a year ago. Last year, March-May prices on new crop lambs moved up from March through May at San Angelo, averaging $29 per 100 pounds. This spring prices are expected to move in a more typical pattern, from sharply higher prices on early lambs to a lower level as the season progresses.

## Second Half Slaughter to Continue Lower

July-December slaughter likely will be moderately




smaller than a year earlier. There were 6 percent fewer ewes 1 year and older on farms at the beginning of this year which will probably result in a similar reduction in the lamb crop this year. This will pull slaughter to a lower level again this year. Last year the lamb crop was about 4 percent smaller than the previous year but second half lamb slaughter was down only 1 percent. This was partly the result of drought conditions forcing more lambs to the slaughter route than normal and partly reflecting sheepmen's discouraged outlook. However, this year changes in the slaughter rates will probably more nearly match changes in the lamb crop. Prospects suggest a better feed situation in last year's drought areas and higher lamb prices and some improvement in the wool market will give more encouragement to sheep producers. In fact, some producers who reduced numbers last year because of the feed shortage may hold more ewe lambs this year. This would tend to keep slaughter rates down.

The seasonal decline in lamb prices last summer was somewhat steeper than in other recent years, dropping from $30.25 in late June to $25.25 by the end of September. This was in contrast to only small declines in other recent years during that period. Second half prices this year are expected to show only a small seasonal decline through the summer, then hold generally steady into late fall. Prices will remain above year-earlier levels. Supplies of competing meats will be near or larger than a year ago in the second half. However, demand for red meat will continue strong.

**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 | 28.69 | 29.50 | 24.75 | 28.38 |
| 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 | |

## 1971 Imports Down

Lamb imports last year totaled 38.2 million pounds. This was down 12 percent from a year earlier but substantially larger than in most other recent years. Mutton imports, at 64.6 million pounds, (carcass weight equivalent) were off 18 percent from 1970 and the smallest quantity imported since 1965. Imports were down more than domestic production and equal to 8 percent of estimated lamb production last year. This compares with 9 percent in 1970.

Until recent years, imports of mutton (carcass weight equivalent) had been several times those of lamb. However, in the last couple of years mutton imports have dropped by half and lamb imports have more than tripled. Mutton imports in 1971 were less than twice as large as lamb imports. Lamb and mutton imports combined were down 16 percent in 1971.

## FOREIGN TRADE IN MEATS

Meat imports totaled 209 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in January, 21 percent more than in January 1971. Larger imports of pork accounted for most of the increase. Pork imports of 63 million pounds—30 percent of the total—were 81 percent larger. Beef and veal imports of 143 million pounds—68 percent of the total— were 12 percent larger. Lamb imports of 2.9 million pounds were down from 7.6 million pounds in January 1971. Imports of mutton and goat totaled 135 thousand pounds, less than a tenth of January 1971 imports.

U.S. meat exports, always small compared with imports, totaled 7.5 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in January, 8 percent less than in January 1971. Beef and veal exports totaled 4 million pounds, up 17 percent. Pork exports totaled 3.3 million pounds, 28 percent smaller than in January 1971.

### Imports of Meat Subject to Meat Import Law

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced on March 9 that calendar 1972 imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law are estimated at 1,240 million pounds (product weight). This estimate is based upon a new voluntary restraint program which the Secretary of State is negotiating with the Governments of principal supplying countries.

The voluntary restraint level in 1971 was 1,160 million pounds. But dock strikes interfered to some degree with the flow of imports last year and imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law totaled 1,133 million pounds. Thus, the voluntary restraint level for 1972 meat imports is nearly a tenth above 1971's actual imports for consumption. In 1971, 21 million pounds were rejected after entry.

Public Law 88-482, enacted in August 1964, provides that if yearly imports of certain meats—primarily fresh, chilled, or frozen beef and mutton—are estimated to equal or exceed 110 percent of an adjusted base quota, the President is required to invoke a quota on imports of these meats. The adjusted base quota for 1972 is 1,042.4 million pounds. The amount of estimated imports which would trigger its imposition is 110 percent of the adjusted base quota or 1,146.6 million pounds.

The President has issued a proclamation pursuant to Section 2(c) (1) of Public Law 88-482 limiting imports of meat subject to the Act. At the same time he suspended that limitation on the basis that this action is required by overriding economic interests of the United States, giving special weight to the importance to the Nation of the economic well-being of the domestic livestock industry. This procedure is the same as that followed with Presidential Proclamation 4037 of March 11, 1971.

**Table 4.—Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-72**

| 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[1] ..... | 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 |
| 1972 ..... | 86.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

[1] Rejections for calendar year 1969 equaled 13.5 million pounds, 17.4 million pounds for 1970, and 21.0 million pounds for 1971.

Table 5.—Rank of States in Number of Cattle and Calves on farms
January 1, 1972

| Rank | All cattle and calves | | Beef cows | | Milk cows | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | State | Number | State | Number | State | Number |
| | | *1,000 head* | | *1,000 head* | | *1,000 head* |
| 1 | Texas | 12,829 | Texas | 5,452 | Wisconsin | 1,866 |
| 2 | Iowa | 7,773 | Oklahoma | 2,237 | New York | 973 |
| 3 | Nebraska | 6,780 | Missouri | 2,081 | Minnesota | 971 |
| 4 | Kansas | 6,757 | Nebraska | 2,056 | California | 816 |
| 5 | Oklahoma | 5,441 | Kansas | 1,919 | Pennsylvania | 696 |
| 6 | Missouri | 5,238 | South Dakota | 1,829 | Michigan | 473 |
| 7 | California | 4,775 | Iowa | 1,737 | Iowa | 465 |
| 8 | South Dakota | 4,543 | Montana | 1,644 | Ohio | 444 |
| 9 | Wisconsin | 4,241 | Mississippi | 1,341 | Texas | 355 |
| 10 | Minnesota | 3,998 | Colorado | 1,154 | Missouri | 337 |
| 11 | Colorado | 3,716 | Kentucky | 1,136 | Kentucky | 334 |
| 12 | Illinois | 3,400 | Tennessee | 1,029 | Illinois | 286 |
| 13 | Montana | 3,165 | North Dakota | 1,013 | Tennessee | 284 |
| 14 | Kentucky | 2,916 | Arkansas | 982 | Indiana | 237 |
| 15 | Mississippi | 2,613 | Florida | 971 | Virginia | 216 |
| 16 | Tennessee | 2,472 | Alabama | 951 | Vermont | 205 |
| 17 | North Dakota | 2,278 | Louisiana | 942 | Florida | 197 |
| 18 | Ohio | 2,244 | California | 888 | Kansas | 192 |
| 19 | Alabama | 2,050 | Georgia | 887 | Washington | 192 |
| 20 | Georgia | 2,042 | Illinois | 802 | Nebraska | 185 |
| 21 | Indiana | 1,956 | Wyoming | 735 | North Carolina | 182 |
| 22 | Florida | 1,939 | Oregon | 664 | Mississippi | 181 |
| 23 | Arkansas | 1,912 | New Mexico | 654 | South Dakota | 174 |
| 24 | Idaho | 1,822 | Idaho | 626 | Louisiana | 167 |
| 25 | New York | 1,812 | Minnesota | 547 | Maryland | 164 |
| 26 | Louisiana | 1,807 | Virginia | 515 | Idaho | 151 |
| 27 | Pennsylvania | 1,763 | Indiana | 456 | Georgia | 146 |
| 28 | Oregon | 1,593 | Ohio | 390 | Oklahoma | 144 |
| 29 | Michigan | 1,542 | North Carolina | 381 | Alabama | 134 |
| 30 | Wyoming | 1,490 | Washington | 379 | North Dakota | 132 |
| 31 | Virginia | 1,460 | Utah | 357 | Oregon | 103 |
| 32 | New Mexico | 1,441 | Arizona | 345 | Colorado | 101 |
| 33 | Washington | 1,362 | Nevada | 344 | Arkansas | 96 |
| 34 | Arizona | 1,295 | South Carolina | 294 | Utah | 81 |
| 35 | North Carolina | 1,103 | Wisconsin | 279 | Maine | 66 |
| 36 | Utah | 874 | West Virginia | 210 | South Carolina | 65 |
| 37 | South Carolina | 687 | Michigan | 138 | New Jersey | 64 |
| 38 | Nevada | 658 | Pennsylvania | 97 | Connecticut | 62 |
| 39 | West Virginia | 475 | Hawaii | 89 | Massachusetts | 62 |
| 40 | Maryland | 430 | New York | 67 | Arizona | 53 |
| 41 | Vermont | 351 | Maryland | 57 | West Virginia | 52 |
| 42 | Hawaii | 245 | New Jersey | 11 | Montana | 39 |
| 43 | Maine | 142 | Maine | 9 | New Hampshire | 36 |
| 44 | New Jersey | 125 | Massachusetts | 8 | New Mexico | 33 |
| 45 | Connecticut | 119 | Vermont | 7 | Wyoming | 17 |
| 46 | Massachusetts | 118 | Connecticut | 5 | Delaware | 14 |
| 47 | New Hampshire | 71 | Delaware | 5 | Nevada | 14 |
| 48 | Delaware | 32 | Alaska | 2 | Hawaii | 13 |
| 49 | Rhode Island | 12 | New Hampshire | 2 | Rhode Island | 7 |
| 50 | Alaska | 9 | Rhode Island | 1 | Alaska | 2 |
| | United States | 117,916 | | 38,725 | | 12,279 |

**Table 6.—Rank of States in number of cattle on feed, sheep and lambs on farms, January 1, 1972 and pigs saved 1971**

| Rank | Cattle on feed[1] | | All sheep and lambs | | Number of pigs saved[2] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | State | Number | State | Number | State | Number |
| | | *1,000 head* | | *1,000 head* | | *1,000 head* |
| 1 | Iowa | 2,092 | Texas | 3,524 | Iowa | 21,453 |
| 2 | Texas | 1,781 | Wyoming | 1,711 | Illinois | 11,048 |
| 3 | Nebraska | 1,550 | South Dakota | 1,144 | Missouri | 7,728 |
| 4 | Kansas | 1,100 | Colorado | 1,114 | Indiana | 7,065 |
| 5 | California | 1,045 | California | 1,113 | Minnesota | 5,945 |
| 6 | Colorado | 983 | Montana | 1,050 | Nebraska | 5,593 |
| 7 | Illinois | 662 | Utah | 976 | Ohio | 3,969 |
| 8 | Arizona | 539 | New Mexico | 742 | North Carolina | 3,478 |
| 9 | Minnesota | 537 | Iowa | 735 | Wisconsin | 3,449 |
| 10 | Missouri | 373 | Idaho | 728 | Kansas | 3,259 |
| 11 | South Dakota | 363 | Ohio | 672 | South Dakota | 3,209 |
| 12 | Ohio | 320 | Oregon | 517 | Georgia | 2,786 |
| 13 | Indiana | 283 | Arizona | 503 | Kentucky | 2,388 |
| 14 | Idaho | 265 | Minnesota | 467 | Texas | 2,336 |
| 15 | Oklahoma | 250 | North Dakota | 361 | Tennessee | 1,797 |
| 16 | Michigan | 230 | Nebraska | 356 | Alabama | 1,663 |
| 17 | New Mexico | 188 | Kansas | 337 | Michigan | 1,206 |
| 18 | Montana | 165 | Illinois | 305 | South Carolina | 978 |
| 19 | Washington | 155 | Missouri | 249 | Mississippi | 959 |
| 20 | Wisconsin | 144 | Michigan | 222 | Virginia | 903 |
| 21 | Pennsylvania | 91 | Indiana | 218 | Pennsylvania | 874 |
| 22 | Oregon | 82 | Nevada | 204 | Oklahoma | 865 |
| 23 | Georgia | 62 | Virginia | 162 | Arkansas | 660 |
| 24 | Florida | 57 | West Virginia | 153 | North Dakota | 626 |
| 25 | Utah | 55 | Pennsylvania | 150 | Colorado | 604 |
| 26 | North Dakota | 52 | Wisconsin | 141 | Florida | 558 |
| 27 | Nevada | 49 | Washington | 137 | Montana | 400 |
| 28 | North Carolina | 47 | Oklahoma | 123 | Louisiana | 336 |
| 29 | Kentucky | 44 | New York | 96 | Maryland | 306 |
| 30 | Virginia | 37 | Kentucky | 78 | Idaho | 231 |
| 31 | Wyoming | 37 | Tennessee | 28 | California | 225 |
| 32 | Alabama | 34 | Louisiana | 22 | Oregon | 191 |
| 33 | Tennessee | 27 | Maryland | 20 | Washington | 144 |
| 34 | South Carolina | 23 | Alaska | 19 | New York | 142 |
| 35 | Maryland | 20 | North Carolina | 15 | Arizona | 139 |
| 36 | Mississippi | 17 | Maine | 14 | West Virginia | 104 |
| 37 | Arkansas | 17 | Mississippi | 14 | Massachusetts | 101 |
| 38 | New York | 12 | New Jersey | 8 | New Jersey | 97 |
| 39 | Louisiana | 8 | Massachusetts | 8 | New Mexico | 86 |
| 40 | | | Arkansas | 7 | Utah | 85 |
| 41 | | | Georgia | 7 | Delaware | 82 |
| 42 | | | Vermont | 6 | Hawaii | 78 |
| 43 | | | Florida | 6 | Wyoming | 59 |
| 44 | | | Alabama | 6 | New Hampshire | 16 |
| 45 | | | New Hampshire | 5 | Nevada | 14 |
| 46 | | | Connecticut | 4 | Maine | 13 |
| 47 | | | Delaware | 2 | Connecticut | 12 |
| 48 | | | Rhode Island | 2 | Rhode Island | 11 |
| 49 | | | South Carolina | 1 | Vermont | 8 |
| 50 | | | Hawaii | --- | Alaska | 2 |
| | United States | 13,796 | | 18,482 | | 98,281 |

[1] Data available for only 39 States. [2] Total pigs saved from December-May and June-November pig crops.

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

| Meat and period | Supply: Production[1] | Supply: Beginning stocks | Supply: Imports | Distribution: Exports and shipments | Distribution: Ending stocks | Distribution: Military | Civilian consumption: Total | Civilian consumption: Per person[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Million pounds* | *Pounds* |
| Beef: | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 365 | | | |
| 4th quarter | 5,375 | 351 | 402 | 27 | 365 | | | |
| Year | 21,690 | 338 | 1,733 | 117 | 365 | | | |
| 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 | | | |
| Year | 516 | 9 | 23 | 4 | 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 | | | |
| Year | 545 | 19 | 103 | 8 | 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 |
| 3rd 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 | 330 | | | |
| 4th quarter | 3,817 | 309 | 99 | 55 | 330 | | | |
| Year | 14,606 | 336 | 458 | 183 | 330 | | | |
| 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 | 723 | | | |
| 4th quarter | 9,455 | 689 | 522 | 84 | 723 | | | |
| Year | 37,357 | 702 | 2,317 | 312 | 723 | | | |

[1] Excludes production from farm slaughter. [2] Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. [3] Less than 500,000 pounds.

**Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat**

| Item | Year or average | 1971 January | 1971 February | 1972 January | 1972 February |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Dollars per 100 pounds* | | | |
| CATTLE AND CALVES | | | | | |
| Beef steers, slaughter, Omaha | | | | | |
| Prime | 33.37 | 29.90 | 33.26 | 36.59 | 37.25 |
| Choice | 32.42 | 29.11 | 32.23 | 35.74 | 36.19 |
| Good | 30.90 | 27.49 | 30.71 | 34.33 | 34.88 |
| Standard | 27.41 | 24.80 | 26.89 | 30.24 | 31.11 |
| Utility | 26.33 | 23.75 | 25.78 | 28.70 | 29.91 |
| All grades | 32.02 | 28.83 | 31.80 | 35.35 | 35.74 |
| Choice 900-1100 pounds, California | 32.92 | 29.94 | 33.19 | 35.62 | 35.97 |
| Choice 900-1100 pounds, Colorado | 32.59 | 29.06 | 32.13 | 35.81 | 36.38 |
| Cows, Omaha | | | | | |
| Commercial | 21.21 | 19.31 | 20.40 | 22.24 | 23.29 |
| Utility | 21.62 | 19.98 | 20.98 | 22.61 | 23.80 |
| Cutter | 20.42 | 18.86 | 19.78 | 21.60 | 22.40 |
| Canner | 19.03 | 17.51 | 18.39 | 20.10 | 20.81 |
| Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul | 46.30 | 42.12 | 43.42 | 47.88 | 52.15 |
| Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City[1] | 32.11 | 29.42 | 31.69 | 36.61 | 36.92 |
| Price received by farmers | | | | | |
| Beef cattle | 28.80 | 25.90 | 28.50 | 31.40 | 32.60 |
| Cows | 20.68 | 19.20 | 20.60 | 21.80 | 23.20 |
| Steers and heifers | 31.08 | 28.00 | 30.90 | 34.40 | 35.30 |
| Calves | 36.00 | 33.30 | 35.70 | 39.60 | 41.20 |
| Beef steer-corn price ratio[2] | 24.3 | 19.7 | 21.8 | 28.3 | 29.1 |
| HOGS | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Omaha | | | | | |
| 180-200 pounds | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 200-220 pounds | 19.34 | 17.27 | 20.10 | 25.84 | 26.71 |
| 220-240 pounds | 19.25 | 17.18 | 20.07 | 25.70 | 26.58 |
| Barrows and gilts, 7 markets[3] | 18.45 | 16.25 | 19.43 | 24.84 | 25.61 |
| Sows, 7 markets[3] | 15.54 | 12.74 | 16.68 | 20.41 | 22.90 |
| Price received by farmers | 17.56 | 15.20 | 19.20 | 22.70 | 25.70 |
| Hog-corn price ratio[4] | | | | | |
| Omaha, barrows and gilts | 13.9 | 11.0 | 13.2 | 19.7 | 19.4 |
| Price received by farmers, all hogs | 14.5 | 10.7 | 13.4 | 20.8 | 23.6 |
| SHEEP AND LAMBS | | | | | |
| Sheep | | | | | |
| Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo | 8.42 | 9.25 | 9.69 | 8.94 | 11.56 |
| Price received by farmers | 6.49 | 6.86 | 6.96 | 6.03 | 6.42 |
| Lambs | | | | | |
| Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo | 27.16 | 24.06 | 24.12 | 27.19 | 28.69 |
| Feeder, Choice, San Angelo | 25.86 | 24.00 | 24.75 | 27.69 | 28.38 |
| Price received by farmers | 25.72 | 23.10 | 23.80 | 26.30 | 27.70 |
| ALL MEAT ANIMALS | | | | | |
| Index number price received by farmers (1967=100) | 119 | 106 | 120 | 135 | 143 |
| | | *Dollars per 100 pounds* | | | |
| MEAT | | | | | |
| Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot | | | | | |
| Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700 | 52.67 | 48.60 | 51.86 | 57.52 | 57.58 |
| Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds | 51.72 | 46.92 | 50.63 | 56.62 | 57.03 |
| Cow beef, Canner and Cutter | 45.63 | 43.05 | 44.96 | 48.00 | 50.42 |
| Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds | 60.71 | 54.39 | 55.25 | 62.50 | 63.62 |
| Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds | 45.34 | 42.75 | 48.75 | 58.88 | 58.58 |
| | | *Cents per pound* | | | |
| Retail, United States average | | | | | |
| Beef, Choice grade | 104.3 | 97.2 | 101.3 | 111.5 | |
| Pork, retail cuts and sausage | 70.3 | 68.4 | 69.4 | 76.3 | |
| Lamb, Choice grade | 109.9 | 105.9 | 106.5 | 113.4 | |
| Index number all meats (BLS) | | | | | |
| Wholesale (1967=100) | 114.1 | 105.9 | 113.6 | 124.2 | |
| Retail (1967=100) | 116.7 | 112.9 | 113.5 | 121.1 | |
| Beef and veal | 124.9 | 118.5 | 120.0 | 130.8 | |
| Pork | 105.0 | 103.6 | 103.2 | 109.2 | |

[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 stock statistics for meat animals and meat

| Item | Unit | 1971 | | | 1972 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Year average or total | January | February | January | February |
| **Meat animal marketings** | | | | | | |
| Index number (1967=100) | | 107 | 108 | 98 | 102 | 107 |
| **6-State Cattle on Feed Report** | | | | | | |
| Number on feed | 1,000 head | 85,109 | 7,307 | 7,481 | 7,990 | 8,193 |
| Placed on feed | 1,000 head | 17,157 | 1,543 | 971 | 1,581 | 1,114 |
| Marketings | 1,000 head | 16,474 | 1,369 | 1,213 | 1,378 | 1,336 |
| **Slaughter under Federal Inspection** | | | | | | |
| Number slaughtered | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,000 head | 31,419 | 2,569 | 2,299 | 2,556 | |
| Steers | 1,000 head | 17,003 | 1,388 | 1,257 | 1,407 | |
| Heifers | 1,000 head | 8,229 | 686 | 605 | 647 | |
| Cows | 1,000 head | 5,627 | 456 | 400 | 460 | |
| Bulls and stags | 1,000 head | 560 | 39 | 37 | 42 | |
| Calves | 1,000 head | 2,806 | 247 | 237 | 226 | |
| Sheep and lambs | 1,000 head | 10,256 | 903 | 806 | 847 | |
| Hogs | 1,000 head | 86,670 | 7,489 | 13,868 | 6,395 | |
| Percentage sows | Percent | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | |
| Average live weight per head | | | | | | |
| Cattle | Pounds | 1,040 | 1,060 | 1,055 | 1,062 | |
| Calves | Pounds | 206 | 198 | 196 | 211 | |
| Sheep and lambs | Pounds | 104 | 107 | 109 | 107 | |
| Hogs | Pounds | 240 | 239 | 235 | 239 | |
| Average production | | | | | | |
| Beef, per head | Pounds | 619 | 632 | 627 | 631 | |
| Veal, per head | Pounds | 116 | 113 | 110 | 118 | |
| Lamb and mutton, per head | Pounds | 51 | 53 | 54 | 54 | |
| Pork, per head | Pounds | 155 | 154 | 154 | 159 | |
| Pork, per 100 pounds live weight | Pounds | 65 | 64 | 65 | 67 | |
| Lard, per head | Pounds | 21 | 22 | 20 | 19 | |
| Lard per 100 pounds live weight | Pounds | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | |
| Total production | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lbs. | 19,372 | 1,618 | 1,437 | 1,607 | |
| Veal | Mil. lbs. | 324 | 28 | 26 | 26 | |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lbs. | 522 | 48 | 44 | 45 | |
| Pork | Mil. lbs. | 13,445 | 1,153 | 978 | 1,015 | |
| Lard | Mil. lbs. | 1,839 | 166 | 129 | 119 | |
| **Commercial slaughter[1]** | | | | | | |
| Number slaughtered | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,000 head | 35,576 | 2,918 | 2,617 | 2,888 | |
| Calves | 1,000 head | 3,691 | 322 | 307 | 289 | |
| Sheep and lambs | 1,000 head | 10,730 | 936 | 834 | 881 | |
| Hogs | 1,000 head | 94,492 | 8,257 | 7,029 | 7,017 | |
| Total production | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 21,690 | 1,814 | 1,616 | 1,792 | |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 516 | 44 | 41 | 40 | |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 545 | 50 | 45 | 47 | |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | 14,606 | 1,268 | 1,075 | 1,110 | |
| Lard | Mil. lb. | 1,946 | 177 | 139 | 127 | |
| **Cold storage stocks first of month** | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | --- | 338 | 326 | 365 | 354 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | --- | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | --- | 19 | 21 | 19 | 16 |
| Pork | Mil. lb. | --- | 336 | 353 | 330 | 308 |
| Total meat and meat products[2] | Mil. lb. | --- | 759 | 771 | 795 | 770 |

[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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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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