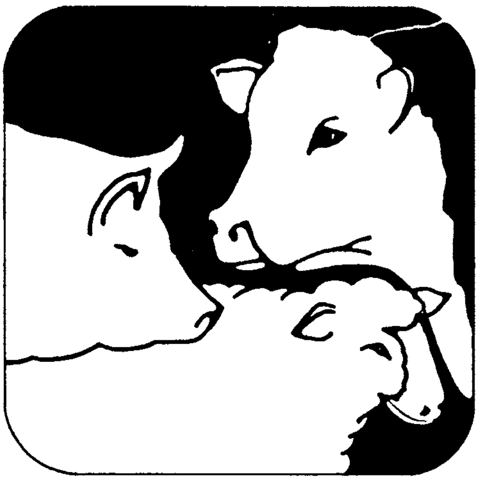
LMS-185

MAY 1972

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



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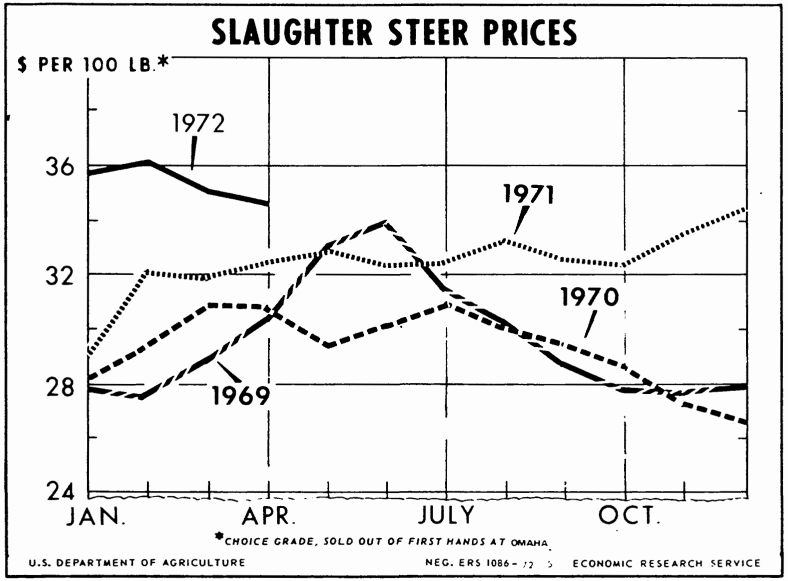
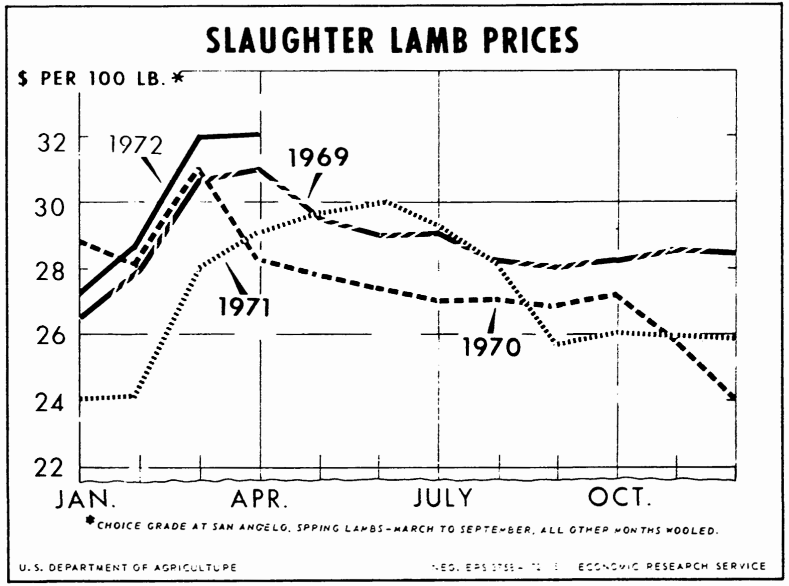

SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1972
1971
1970
1969
36
32
28
24
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1972
1969
1971
1970
32
30
28
26
24
22
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO. SPRING LAMBS–MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
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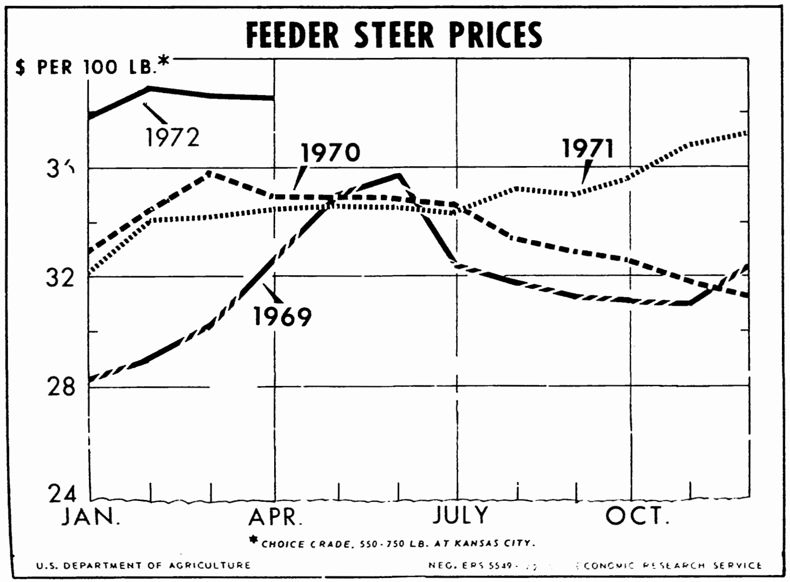
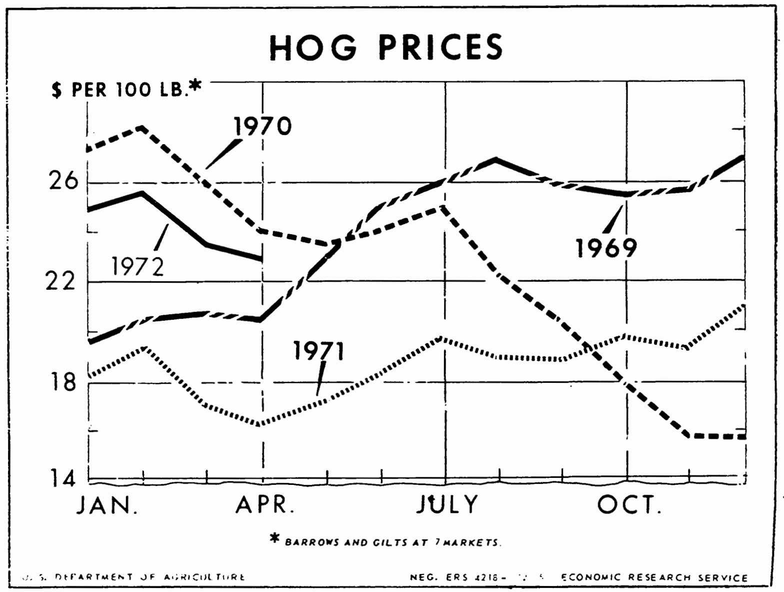

FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1972
1970
1971
1969
32
28
24
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, 550-750 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


HOG PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1970
1972
1969
1971
26
22
18
14
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
May 2, 1972

Principal contributors:
Donald Seaborg
John T. Larsen
George R. Rockwell

Economic and Statistical Analysis Division

Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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

SUMMARY

Output of red meat this spring and summer will run nearly the same as a year earlier. Larger beef production will be offset by sharply reduced pork output and smaller supplies of veal and lamb and mutton. Fed cattle prices have slipped from February levels and likely will continue drifting lower into summer. Hog prices will increase seasonally to a midsummer high well above last year.

On April 1, feedlots in 23 major States held 9 percent more cattle than on this date in 1971. Cattle feeders plan to boost spring marketings 6 percent over a year earlier.

Fed cattle marketings in the summer likely will rise above spring levels and remain moderately above a year earlier. There were 11 percent more cattle on feed in weight groups that usually supply the bulk of the fed cattle marketings in the third quarter, and spring placements on feed are expected to be large.

Choice steers at Omaha in late April were $34.65 per 100 pounds, $2.35 above a year earlier. Prices rose early in 1972, reaching nearly $37 by mid-February. But they declined as slaughter supplies increased. They will probably drift a bit lower with larger marketings of fed cattle in prospect for late spring and summer. The extent of the decline will depend partly on market weights which tend to increase as prices slide. If cattle feeders keep shipping cattle as soon as they reach the desired degree of finish, any further price decline may be fairly small.

Prospects favor less cow slaughter this spring than last, when drought in the Southwest forced many animals to market. Cow slaughter this past winter was just a little larger than in early 1971. Summer slaughter may again be up because of the larger cow herd.

Hog slaughter during the rest of 1972 likely will remain at least moderately smaller than a year earlier. Commercial slaughter was off 8 percent during January-March. On March 1 there were 6 percent fewer market hogs on Corn Belt farms. These hogs will supply most of the slaughter hogs this spring and summer. Pork producers plan to have 7 percent fewer sows farrow during March-May, providing fewer hogs for fall slaughter.

Barrows and gilts at 7 markets in late April were $23.25 per 100 pounds, $7 above a year earlier. Prices rose to nearly $28 in late January, but toppled as

slaughter supplies picked up a little in late winter. Prices will rise this spring as slaughter declines seasonally. This year's summer price peak will top the 1970 summer high of $25.40. Price weakness is likely next fall as slaughter rises seasonally, but the average may be moderately above the $20 of October-December 1971.

Higher average hog prices so far in 1972, coupled with lower corn prices, will encourage producers to expand output. But no real expansion in farrowings is likely to develop before early 1973.

Slaughter of sheep and lambs in the first quarter fell 2 percent below a year ago. With fewer stock animals and a smaller 1972 lamb crop in prospect, moderately lower slaughter rates are expected through the remainder of the year.

Fed lamb prices advanced from $27 to $28.50 during January and February. Spring lambs reached $32.50 at San Angelo in late April, $3.50 higher than a year ago. Prices are expected to drift seasonally lower this spring and summer but to average above last year's April-September average of $28.60 at San Angelo.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

CATTLE

Commercial cattle slaughter in January-March totaled 8.7 million head, up slightly fron a year earlier. Cow slaughter, as well as steer and heifer slaughter (estimated commercial), showed small increases.

Gains in Fed Cattle Marketings to Continue

On April 1 there were 12.8 million cattle and calves on feed in 23 major feeding States, an increase of more than a million animals, or 9 percent, over a year earlier. The North Central States had 6 percent more, while Western States had 14 percent more. Among North Central States, only Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Dakotas had decreases. Missouri was unchanged. All Western States had increases except Oregon. Texas showed the largest increase with a 291,000 head jump, or 19 percent, over a year earlier. Kansas had a 270,000 head increase, up 35 percent, for the sharpest percentage increase. California feedlots swelled by 161,000 head, or 19 percent.

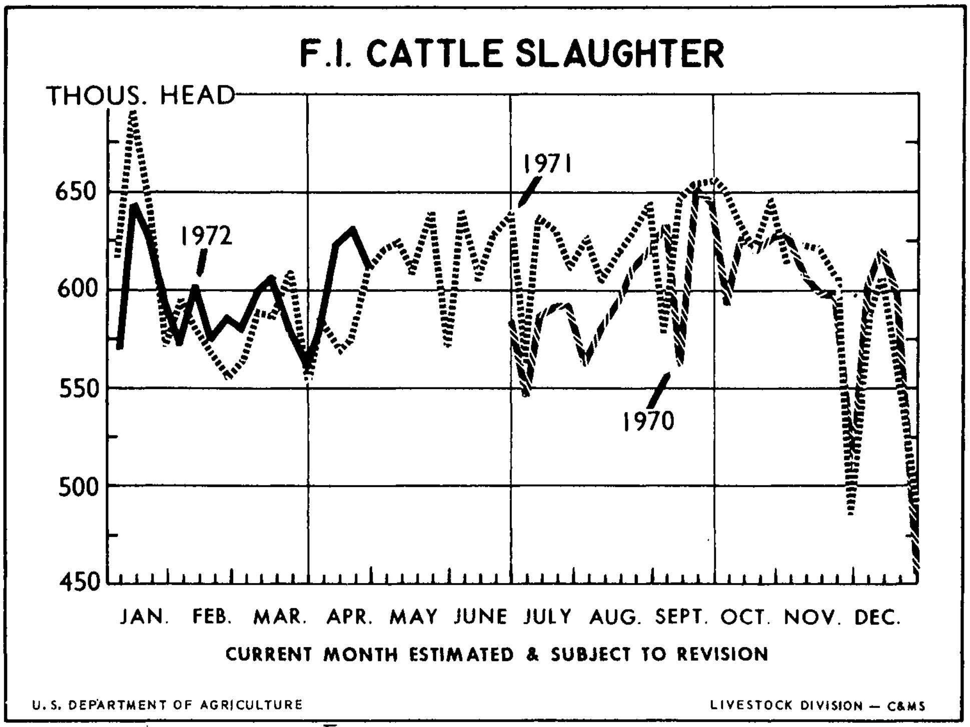
Cattle feeders marketed 3 percent more cattle during January-March than a year earlier but plan to market 6 percent more during April-June. This level of marketings would lift spring marketings about 4 percent above the winter level. The intended increase in spring marketings is split rather evenly between the West and the Corn Belt.

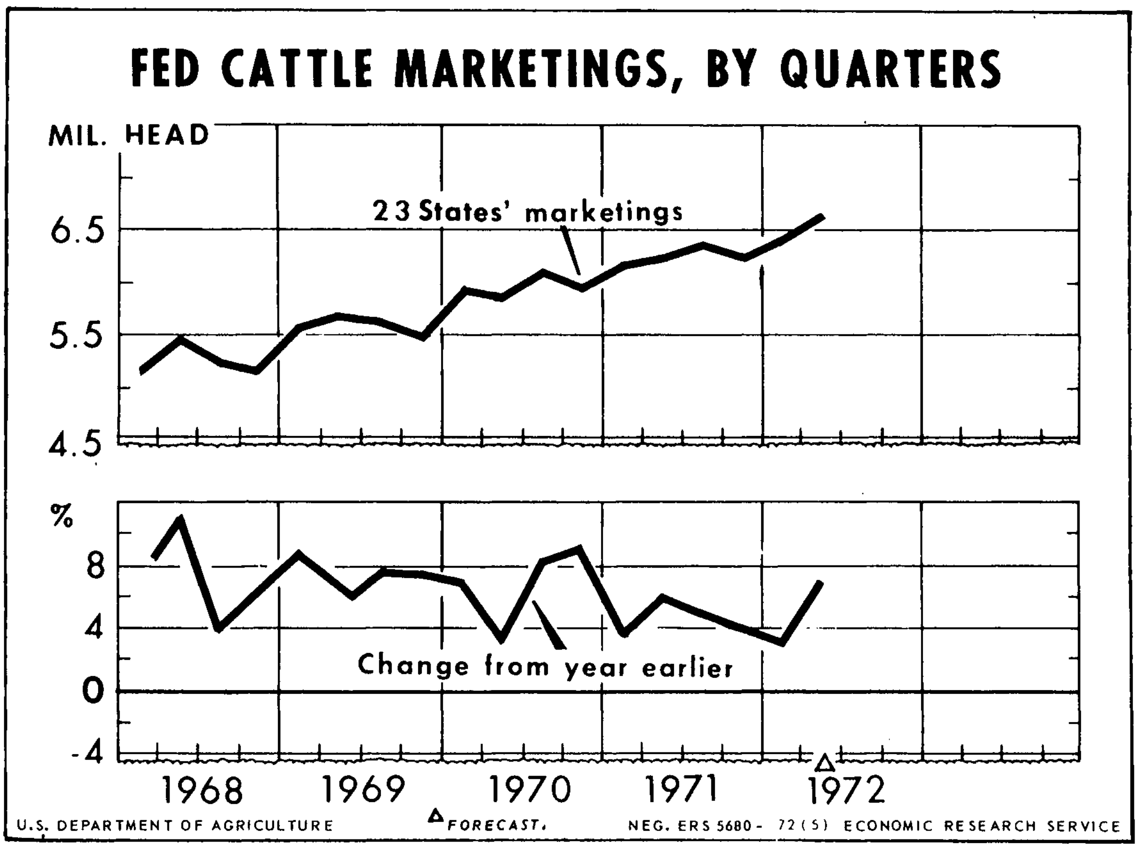
Fed cattle prices rose sharply in early winter to cap the general uptrend that started in early 1971. Choice steers at Omaha rose from $28 per 100 pounds in January 1971 to $34.60 in early January this year, then jumped to $36.75 by early February. In addition to somewhat smaller meat supplies and strong consumer demand, high byproduct values contributed to the higher cattle market in recent months. For example, prices of cattle hides have nearly doubled in the past several months.

The cattle market began to slip in late February as slaughter supplies rose above a year earlier and hog slaughter increased over early winter levels. In late April

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

Item	1970	Change from 1969	1971	Change from 1970	1972	Change from 1971
	Thou. hd.	*Pct.*	*Thou. hd.*	*Pct.*	*Thou. hd.*	*Pct.*
North Central States						
East	1,780	-0.4	1,591	-10.6	1,612	+1.3
West	5,729	+2.9	5,362	-6.4	5,757	+7.4
Total	7,509	+2.1	6,953	-7.4	7,369	+6.0
Texas and Oklahoma	1,435	+20.6	1,805	+25.8	2,110	+16.9
Other Western States	2,671	+4.2	2,954	+10.6	3,313	+12.2
Total	11,615	+4.6	11,712	+0.8	12,792	+9.2


F.I. CATTLE SLAUGHTER
THOUS. HEAD
650
600
550
500
450
1971
1972
1970
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


FED CATTLE MARKETINGS, BY QUARTERS
MIL. HEAD
6.5
5.5
4.5
23 States' marketings
%
8
4
0
-4
Change from year earlier
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FORECAST.
NEG. ERS 5680- 72 (5) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Choice steers were bringing around $34.65 at Omaha, still about $2.35 higher than a year earlier.

The fed cattle market is expected to ease some this spring in the face of increasing slaughter supplies. However, the price pressure may be limited as pork output declines seasonally in the spring and continues well below a year ago. Strong consumer demand for meat will also help slow any decline in the cattle market in the coming months. April-June fed cattle prices will average above 1971's second quarter average of $32.60.

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	35.13
April	30.41	30.64	32.44	34.53
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	

Weights May Rise

Fed beef production in the winter increased about 3 percent, close to the increase in fed cattle slaughter. This spring, increases in fed beef production may slightly outpace the increase in marketings. A weaker fed cattle market and lower feed costs may tempt some feeders to hold cattle on feed a little longer than normal, upping market weights. Market weights of fed cattle at 7 markets were down early in the year but are now above. Commercial slaughter weights of all cattle were up a little in the first quarter, reflecting a larger proportion of fed cattle in the slaughter mix.

If cattle feeders carry out their intentions to market 6 percent more fed cattle this spring than last, fed cattle weights will probably continue near a year ago. On April 1 there were 5 percent more steers weighing over 900 pounds and heifers weighing over 700 pounds. Cattle in these weight groups will supply the bulk of spring marketings. Thus, feeders will have to keep cattle moving to market as soon as they reach the desired finish if marketings are to be up 6 percent. On balance, whether feeders ship cattle about in line with their April 1 intentions, or cut marketings and increase weights, the net gain in beef production probably will be about the same.

After operating for several months on a negative feeding margin (lower prices received for fed cattle than the prices paid for the same cattle when they were purchased as feeder cattle), cattle feeders enjoyed a small positive margin early this year. This was temporary. Feeders this spring and summer will again be on a negative margin. During January-March 600-700 pound Choice feeder steers were $38-$39 per 100 pounds at Kansas City.

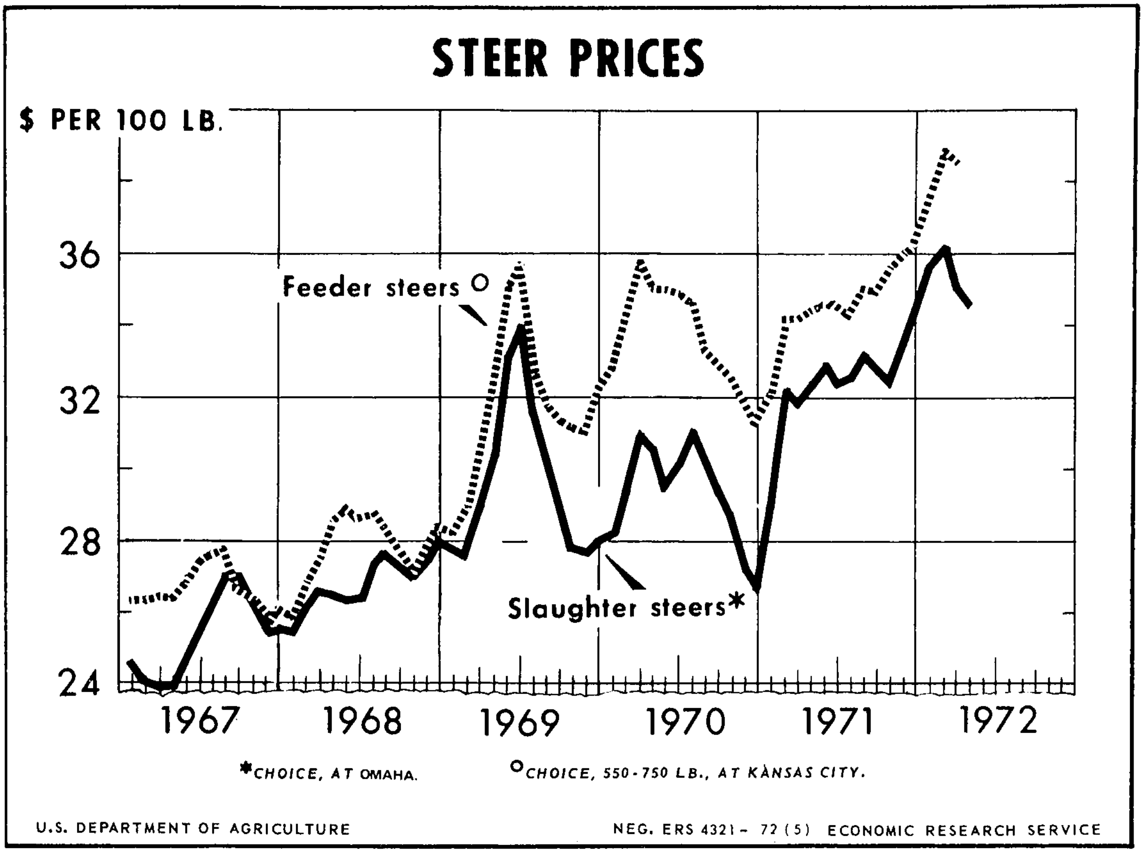
Current fed cattle prices per 100 pounds, compared with feeder cattle prices 5 months earlier

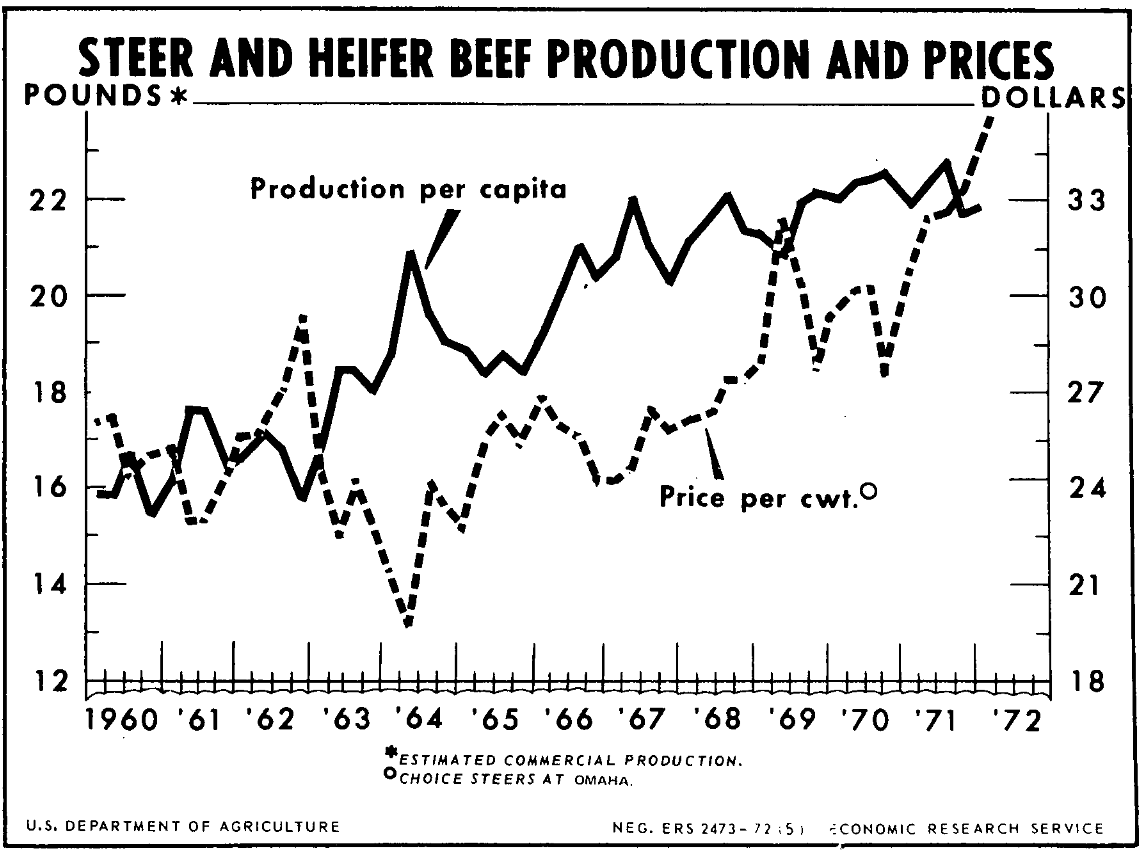
Year	Fed cattle[1]	Feeder cattle[2]	Margin
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
1970			
January	28.38	31.76	-3.38
February	29.30	31.29	-1.99
March	30.99	31.15	-.16
April	30.79	31.12	-.33
May	29.57	32.38	-2.81
June	30.36	32.83	-2.47
July	31.12	34.44	-3.32
August	30.09	35.85	-5.76
September	29.21	35.01	-5.80
October	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
March	35.17	35.64	-.47
April	34.52	36.88	-2.36

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

Summer Marketings to Continue Large

Summer shipments of fed cattle to slaughter will continue above a year ago. On April 1 there were 11 percent more cattle on feed than a year ago in the combined total of steers weighing 700-900 pounds and heifers weighing 500-700 pounds. Cattle in these weight groups on April 1 represent about 60 percent of July-September marketings with the balance coming from spring placements and shortfeds. Considering the modest 2 percent increase in winter placements, and the supply of feeder cattle on farms and ranches on January 1, there are enough potential feeder cattle to enable feeders to substantially increase spring placements. But there may not be enough replacements that are heavy enough to be fed out by summer to have much effect on summer marketings. On balance, summer marketings will likely be moderately larger than a year earlier and perhaps a bit larger than in the spring.


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.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 4321-72 (5) 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 (5) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

If fed cattle marketings develop as anticipated, the cattle market will continue soft into the summer but the July-September average probably will still exceed 1971's third quarter. Although summer beef supplies will be larger, smaller pork, veal and lamb output, and continued strong consumer demand for red meats will support cattle prices.

Large Feeder Cattle Supplies

There were more feeder cattle early this year with most of the increase in younger cattle. Placements in January-March were up only 2 percent with a 10 percent gain in the West but a 3 percent decline in the Corn Belt. Thus, based on the inventory report and cattle on feed reports, there is still a good supply of feeder cattle—generally younger and lighter weight than a year ago. Spring placements probably will be somewhat larger than last spring with most of the gain in the West and Southwest.

Feeder cattle prices typically rise in the winter and early spring and decline through the summer and fall. The $2.75 rise in the second half last year was unusual and was the result of a strong fed cattle market and an expanding feeding industry competing for the supply of feeder cattle. The feeder market advanced sharply early this year, with Choice yearling steers reaching nearly $39 at Kansas City. Feeder cattle prices have continued about steady since early March even though fed cattle prices declined. Prices this spring, instead of rising seasonally, may show some contraseasonal weakness reflecting the fed cattle price pattern. However, prices will continue to run well above a year earlier.

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	38.64	39.74	38.17	44.69
April	35.01	34.46	38.54	39.40	38.62	45.16
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.

Range conditions were generally favorable in the 17 Western and Plains States in mid-April but some parts of the Southwest are dry. Good feed this spring and summer would help bolster the feeder cattle market, but continued dry conditions in the Southwest could force some early movement. Some seasonal weakness may develop in the second half, but feeder cattle prices will continue well above the fed cattle market.

The Western States continue to gain in relative importance in cattle feeding. They accounted for only about a third of total fed cattle marketings in 1960. In 1965 their share rose to about 36 percent and last year exceeded 40 percent. In recent years most of the gain in the West has been in the Plains and Southwest, notably Texas.

The role of heifers in cattle feedings has changed little in recent years. They still represent a little under 30 percent of total numbers on feed. However, the price spread between feeder heifers and feeder steers this spring at most terminal markets is wider than a year ago, reflecting a sharper rise in the price of steers than for heifers.

Cow Slaughter Up; But Will be Down This Spring

Cow slaughter was up slightly in the winter. Commercial cow slaughter totaled 1.5 million head during January-March, 1 percent above these months last year. Spring slaughter is expected to drop below last spring when movements of cows from drought areas hiked April-June 1971 slaughter rates. After midyear, cow slaughter likely will again rise above a year earlier.

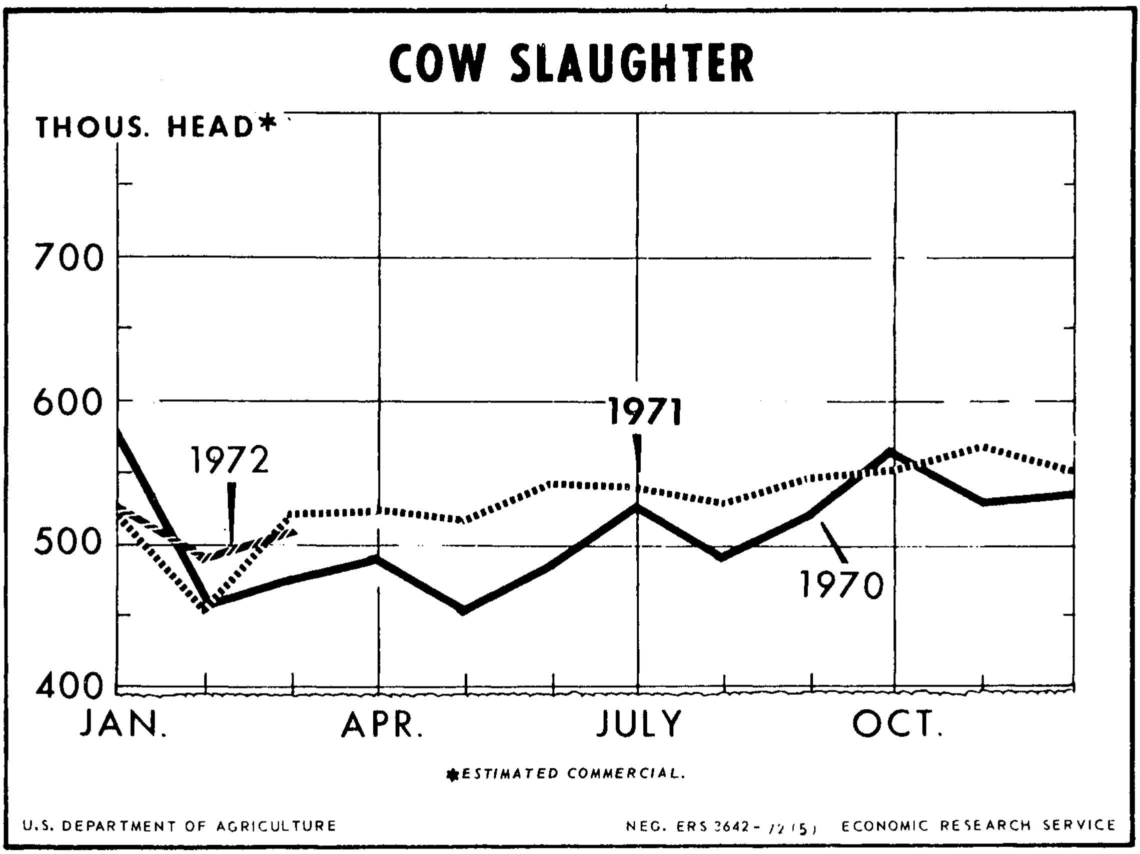
Cow prices advanced during the winter. Utility Grade animals brought $25.70 in mid-March, up $3 from early January and $3.70 from a year earlier. The seasonal advance is probably past. Prices have declined $1 since mid-March and may hold about steady in the spring. While some seasonal downturn is likely after midyear, it will not be great and prices will continue to run above a year ago. Larger beef imports this year will add some downward pressure to prices, but this effect will be largely offset by smaller pork supplies.

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	24.73
April	20.64	23.23	21.48	24.70
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	

Calf Slaughter Continues Lower

Calf slaughter dropped 9 percent in 1971. A smaller dairy calf crop and strong demand for animals to be fed to maturity continue to limit the slaughter calf supply.



Commercial calf slaughter in the first quarter this year was 12 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Farmers have been getting record prices for veal calves this year. Choice vealers at South St. Paul in late April brought $54.70 per 100 pounds, nearly $8 above a year ago and $8 above early January. Calf slaughter will continue below a year earlier and prices above for the balance of 1972.

HOGS

Prices Fluctuate Widely

Hog prices rose rapidly in late 1971 and early 1972. In early November barrows and gilts at 7 markets were about $19 per 100 pounds. By the last week in January, they were topping $27.65. There were reductions in slaughter supplies and strong consumer demand for meat. Hog producers had reduced output in response to the very low hog prices and high corn prices that developed in the second half of 1970 and persisted through the early part of 1971. This began to be reflected in slaughter supplies late in 1971. Hog slaughter dropped below a year earlier in December 1971 and was down substantially in the first few weeks of 1972.

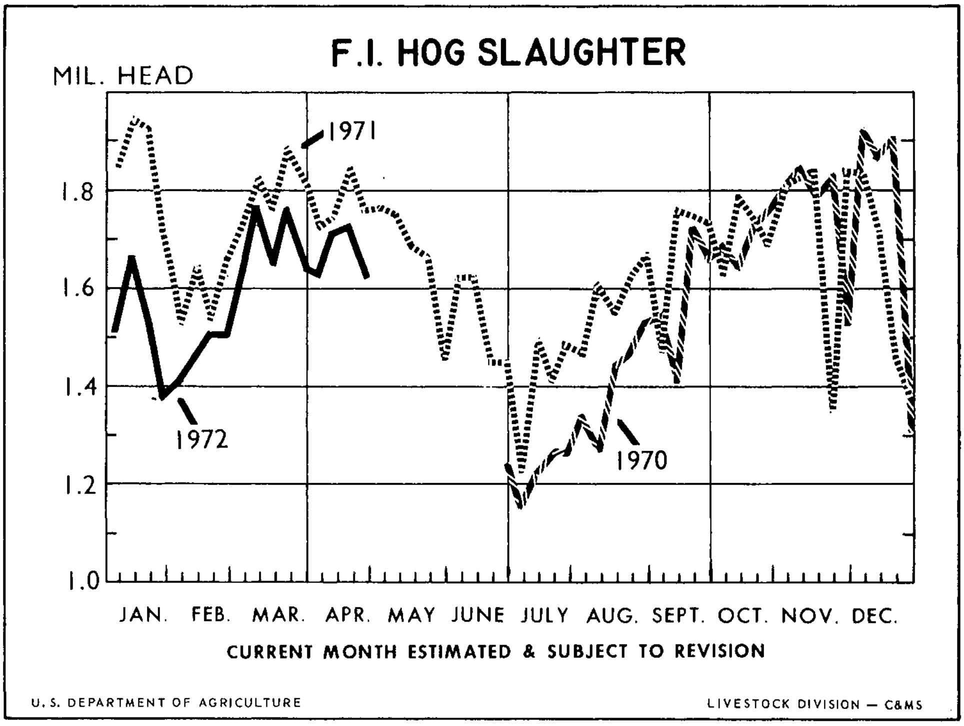
Although still running below year-earlier levels, slaughter supplies increased in late winter and hog prices declined by late April to about $23.25. This was about $4.50 below the late January peak but still about $6 higher than in the early spring of 1971.

Hog prices have followed the same pattern as in early 1971, but at a higher level. This spring and summer they likely will rise seasonally as they did in 1971, but next fall probably will decline seasonally instead of increasing as they did last fall.

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	23.56	23.75	15.28	21.43
April . . .	24.02	16.19	22.89	21.60	14.47	20.89
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.



Summer Peak Above $25

Hog slaughter this spring likely will decline seasonally, running 6 to 8 percent below 1971 rates. On March 1, Corn Belt producers had 6 percent fewer market hogs than a year earlier. These pigs will supply the bulk of spring slaughter supplies. The Corn Belt accounts for about three-fourths of all hogs raised.

Prices will strengthen as supplies fall off. Last spring, prices of barrows and gilts at 7 markets rose from about $16 per 100 pounds in late April to a summer high of $20 in the first week of July. This year prices will rise during the spring and by midyear will be running above $25.

Average live weights have been several pounds heavier so far this year. In late April, market weights were averaging about 240 pounds per hog, about 3 pounds heavier than a year ago. Weights typically rise seasonally to a high in late spring and then fall in the summer.

With lower corn prices and a generally rising hog market, pork producers over the next few months probably will continue feeding hogs to heavier weights than in 1971. Thus, pork production is not expected to be down quite as much as the reduction in number of hogs marketed would indicate. This, along with larger beef and broiler supplies, would have a tempering effect on spring hog price gains.

Second Half Slaughter to Stay Small

Corn Belt pork producers intend to have 8 percent fewer sows farrow during December 1971-May 1972. Pigs born during these months supply most of the hogs for slaughter in the second half of 1972. However, since the number of pigs saved per litter likely will be about normal this year rather than the unusually small number saved a year ago, the 1972 spring pig crop probably will be down something less than 8 percent.

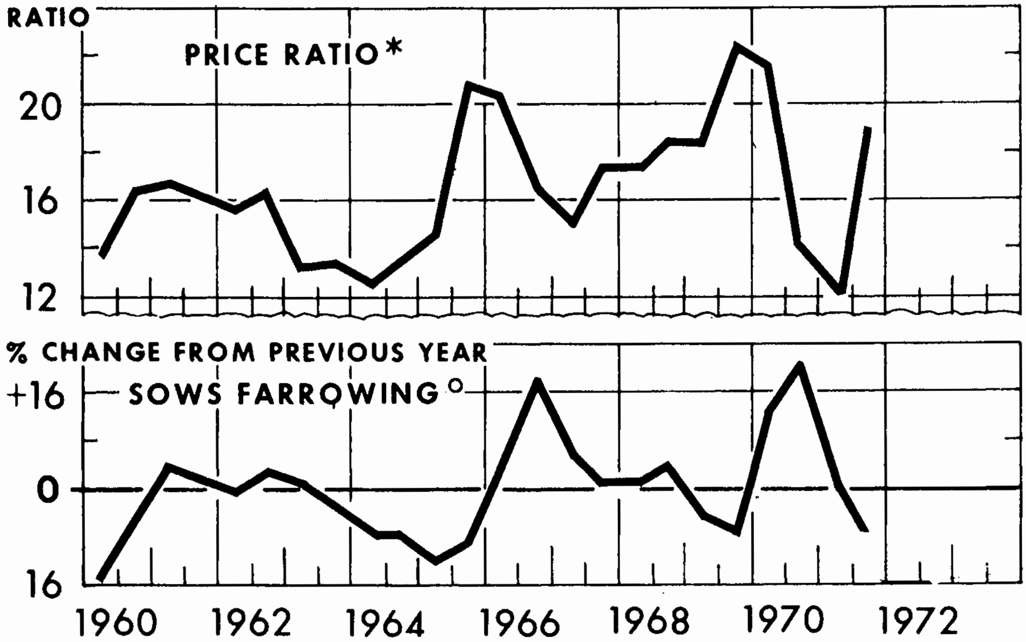
Corn Belt producers had 6 percent fewer market hogs weighing less than 60 pounds on March 1. These hogs will supply the bulk of summer slaughter supplies. Most of the hogs slaughtered next fall will come from March-May farrowings—now indicated to be 7 percent smaller than in these months of 1971.

Market hogs and pigs in 10 Corn Belt States, by weight groups, as of March 1

Weight group	1971	1972	Change
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
Under 60 lbs.	13,144	12,418	-6
60-119 lbs.	8,119	7,833	-4
120-179 lbs.	9,495	8,814	-7
180-219 lbs.	5,612	5,257	-6
220 lbs. & over	1,098	1,021	-7
Total market hogs and pigs	37,468	35,343	-6

Hog slaughter will rise seasonally beginning in late summer to a high next fall. But hog slaughter in the second half of 1972 likely will run 6 to 8 percent less than in July-December 1971. Hog weights later this year may remain fairly heavy and partially offset the sizable decline in number of hogs slaughtered. After peaking in July or August, at $5 to $6 higher than the 1971

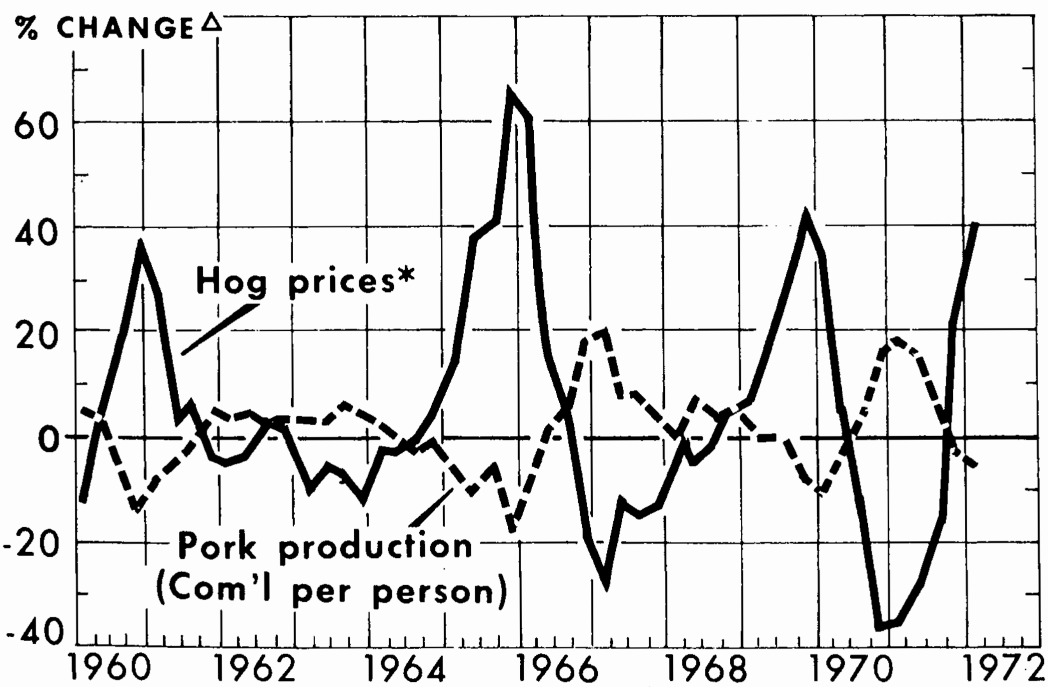
HOG-CORN RATIO VS. FARROWINGS



*SEMIANNUAL, U.S. FARM BASIS. °DECEMBER - MAY AND JUNE - NOVEMBER.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. ERS 8486 - 72 (5) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

CHANGES IN HOG PRICES AND PORK PRODUCTION



△PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. *BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. ERS 5550 - 72 (5) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE summer high, hog prices likely will decline in the fall as slaughter supplies rise seasonally. Barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged about $20 per 100 pounds during October-December 1971. Prices this fall are expected to run moderately higher.

Fewer Fall Sows

Corn Belt producers plan to have 7 percent fewer sows farrow during June-August this year. Late fall farrowings may also be down, but probably not this much.

Reduced slaughter supplies in recent months reflect the discouraging profit situation in the second half of 1970 and in early 1971. Hog prices declined while corn prices rose because of the short corn supply due to the Southern corn leaf blight and dry weather in the Western Corn Belt. Producers began reducing output in March-May 1971 and have continued to have fewer sows farrow in 1972.

Higher hog prices this year along with lower corn prices will encourage pork producers to expand output in the first half of 1973. In the past, pork producers have let higher returns run on for 6 months or more before taking steps to increase output. This still seems to be true.

Hog-corn price ratios dropped to an unusually low level in late 1970 and in early 1971, falling to only about 12 to 1. During 1968-70, the ratio averaged 18.8 to 1. This year, however, ratios are much higher, averaging 21.4 during the first 4 months, and likely will encourage producers to expand output. But expansion takes time, and slaughter supplies will be smaller than the year before through all of 1972 and perhaps until mid-1973. The gestation period for hogs is about 4 months and it takes 6 months or so to raise pigs to slaughter weight. Thus, the current levels of hog prices and the favorable feed-price ratios likely will not affect slaughter supplies for more than a year.

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	21.2
April	17.6	20.7	11.3	19.9
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	

The 1972 pig crop will be down but will not be exceptionally small. Even if the number of sows farrowing in 1972 is off 7 percent as indicated by recent *Hogs and Pigs* reports, the annual total will exceed 5 out of the past 10 years.

Feeder Pig Prices Strong

Feeder pig prices have responded to higher slaughter hog prices and to plentiful supplies of corn. In late 1970, 40 to 50 pound feeder pigs at South Missouri markets were about $11 per head when slaughter hog prices were low and corn prices were rising. Feeder pig prices are currently running about $28 per head.

The demand for feeder pigs is strong and the supply is limited. Pork producers bid the price of feeder pigs up during early spring while slaughter hog prices dropped. With renewed interest in finishing hogs this year, feeder pig prices likely will remain strong most of the year.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Inventory to Drop Further

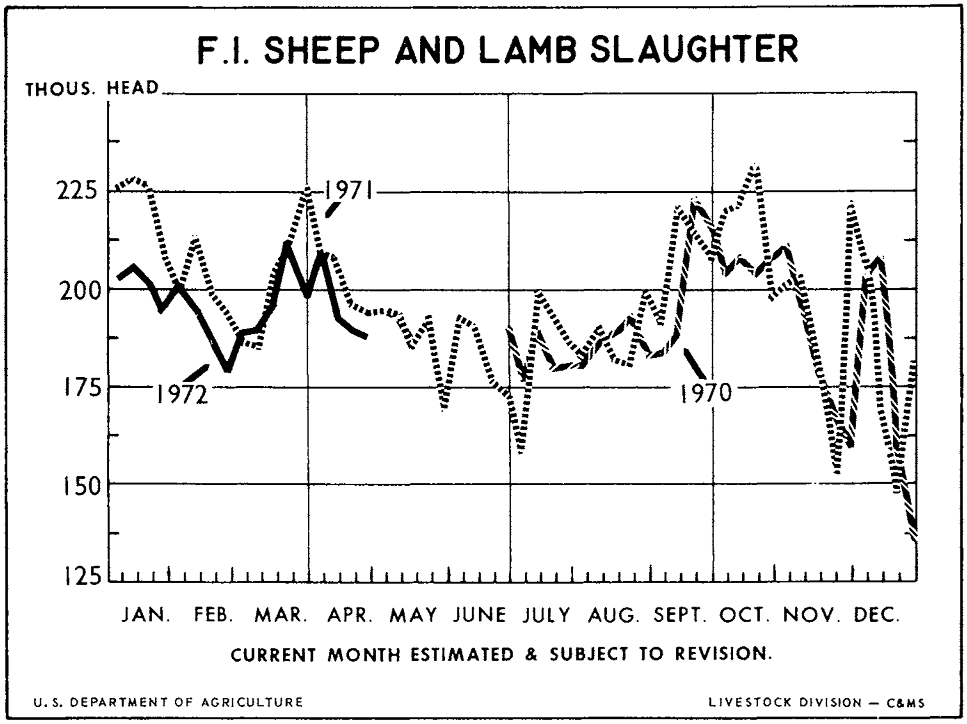
There were 15.8 million head of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of this year, about 7 percent fewer than a year earlier. This was the twelfth consecutive year of decline in the inventory and the smallest number on record.

Six percent fewer breeding ewes on farms at the beginning of this year point to a smaller lamb crop again in 1972. There were 19 percent fewer lambs born during October-December 1971. Seventy percent of this sharp decline was accounted for by Texas where drought conditions in 1971 made heavy inroads on stock sheep numbers.

Some further liquidation of the sheep and lamb inventory is expected in 1972, but the decline may not be as large as the 1.1 million head drop in 1971. This year, lamb prices will be higher and wool prices have improved. If pasture conditions continue generally favorable through the summer in the West and drought conditions improve in the Southwest, the liquidation rate may slow. Market prices of wool in 1971 were as low as in some years of the Depression of the 1930's. The low prices required the highest compensatory payments ever made under the Wool Act of 1954.

Producers in other States, where sheep operations are generally on a smaller scale, will continue to reduce numbers. The trend to larger and more specialized agricultural enterprises will probably continue to reduce sheep inventories because sheep are a relatively small part of many farm enterprises, especially in the Midwest and East.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in 1971 was up 2 percent. In the first quarter of 1972, however, slaughter dropped 2 percent below last year, despite more lambs reported on feed early this year. The feedlot count was up 9 percent on March 1. However, 19 percent fewer lambs were born last October-December. These new crop lambs will provide a substantial proportion of spring slaughter supplies and the substantial reduction of their number is expected to more than offset the increase in the number on feed. Slaughter rates, which continued lower in April, likely will drop further this spring. Spring slaughter is



likely to be down rather sharply from a year earlier. Next summer and fall, slaughter likely will continue under a year earlier, but by a narrower margin than in the spring.

Higher Prices to Continue

A strong market dominated the lamb price picture in the first quarter. Good advances on fed lambs in January and February, rising from $26 to $28.50, were followed by a $3.50 jump in spring lamb prices in March. Spring lambs reached $32.50 at San Angelo in late April, $3.50 higher than a year ago.

The flow of lambs to market this year has been generally smoother than in the last couple of years. In the winter and spring of 1970 and 1971, sharp changes in the weekly slaughter supply resulted in unusually sharp changes in prices. For example, bunched marketings of spring lambs last year in April severely checked the normal spring price advance and the peak in prices was delayed several weeks, reaching $30.50 in June. This year the spring price peak of $32.50 at San Angelo occurred in late April. Prices are expected to drift seasonally downward this spring and summer but to average above last year's April-September average of $28.60 at San Angelo.

Choice lamb prices per 100 pounds, San Angelo

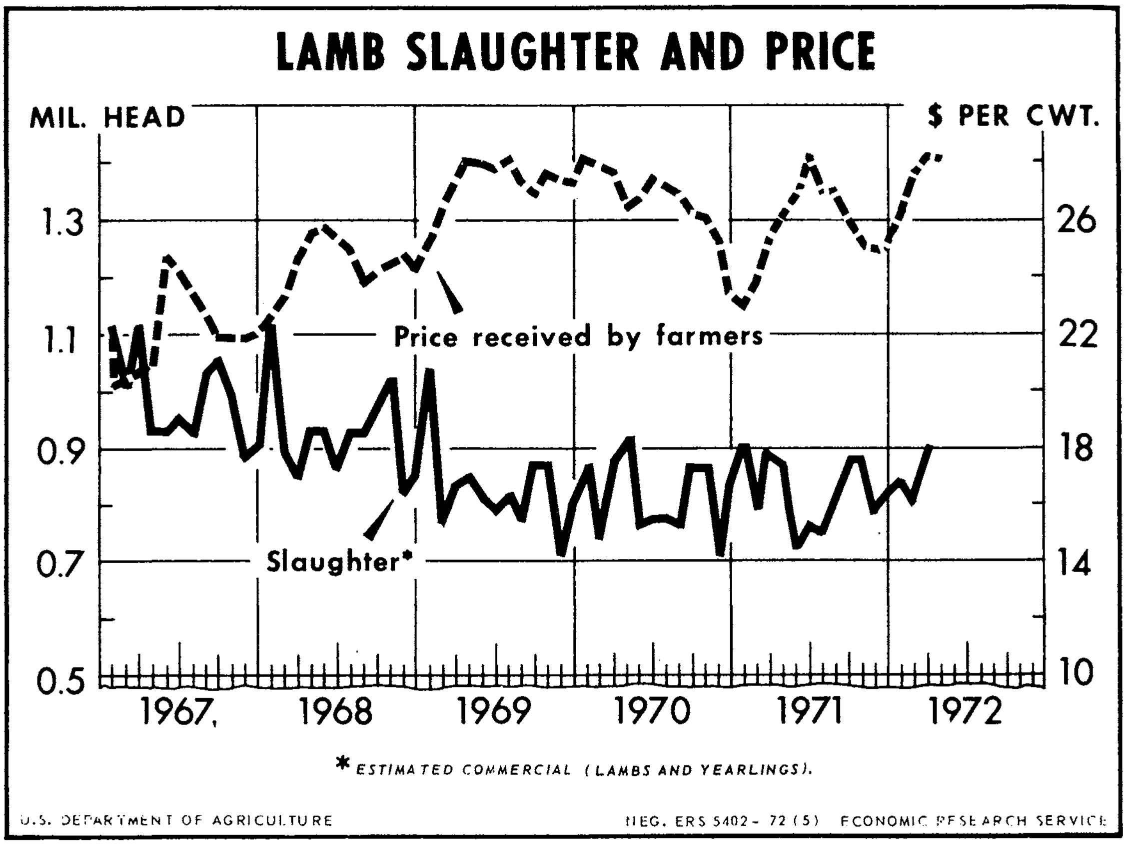
Month	Slaughter lambs			Feeder lambs		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
Jan. ...	28.81	24.06	27.19	29.81	24.00	27.69
Feb. ...	28.06	24.12	28.69	29.50	24.75	28.38
March ..	31.06	28.05	32.00	30.88	28.05	32.25
April ...	28.35	29.06	32.12	28.50	27.44	32.00
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	

Smaller Discounts On Heavy Lambs

So far this year the average weight of commercially slaughtered lambs has been about the same as a year earlier, near 108 pounds. And 30-45 pound carcasses have been running between $2 and $3 above 55-65 pound carcasses—the smallest spread in recent years. This compares with a spread of up to $7 a year earlier.

Price discounts on heavy lamb carcasses vary from year to year, depending on the relative supply of heavy lambs on the price level of the lamb market. Discounts often are wide in the fall and winter when fed lambs make up a substantial proportion of the slaughter supply. The largest discounts usually occur in the winter when lambs are held in feedlots overlong and weights become excessive, or in late winter or early spring when spring lamb and fed lamb marketings become bunched.

This year, producers meshed the marketings of spring lambs and fed lambs smoothly, resulting in a generally even flow of slaughter animals to market. This, together with a higher price level and normal weights, has contributed to the narrow spread. This spring, the spread



is expected to narrow seasonally and by late spring all weights will be back to the same price level. Discounts on heavy weight carcasses may disappear earlier than usual.

1971 Wool Production and Prices Down

Shorn wool production in 1971 totaled 159.1 million pounds (grease basis)—down 2 percent from 1970. Pulled wool output totaled 12.8 million pounds, down 16 percent. Wool production will decline further in 1972 because of fewer sheep and lambs.

Wool market prices paid to ranchers and farmers averaged 19.4 cents per pound, down 16.1 cents from 1970 and the lowest since the early 1930's. Reduced production and the sharp price break resulted in a $26 million (45 percent) decrease in the market value of the 1971 clip. The extremely low market price also resulted in a Federal payment of 271 percent of net returns from

Table 2.—Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1961-71

Year	Shorn wool					Pulled wool production
	Number sheep shorn[1]	Weight per fleece	Production	Price per pound[2]	Value	
	1,000 head	*Pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*Cents*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 pounds*
1961	30,454	8.51	259,161	42.9	111,445	34,500
1962	29,193	8.45	246,636	47.7	117,579	29,900
1963	27,264	8.53	232,446	48.5	112,426	28,800
1964	25,455	8.34	212,333	53.2	112,877	25,100
1965	23,756	8.48	201,463	47.1	94,999	23,300
1966	22,923	8.51	195,053	52.1	101,204	24,100
1967	22,022	8.58	188,919	39.8	75,163	22,400
1968	20,761	8.55	177,591	40.5	71,867	20,500
1969	19,554	8.47	165,655	41.8	69,485	17,100
1970	19,135	8.45	161,726	35.5	57,176	15,200
1971[3]	18,944	8.40	159,084	19.4	31,165	12,800

[1] Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards. [2] 1961 and 1962, the marketing year was April through March. For 1963, the marketing year was April through December. Beginning in 1964 the marketing year is January through December.

[3] Preliminary.

sales to producers under the National Wool Act of 1954. This was up substantially from 1970's payment rate of 102.8 percent and the highest payment rate under the National Wool Act.

Mohair production in Texas totaled 14.9 million pounds in 1971. This was 17 percent less than a year earlier and less than half the 1965 output. The average price received by farmers and ranchers for mohair was 30.1 cents per pound compared with 39.1 cents in 1970. Reduced production and lower prices dropped market value of the 1971 clip 36 percent, to $4.5 million. However, mohair producers received supplemental Federal payments that averaged 50.1 cents per pound for the 1971 clip.

Table 3.—Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1961-71[1]

Year	Number goats clipped[2]	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound[3]	Value
	1,000 head	*Pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*Cents*	*1,000 dollars*
1961	4,021	6.6	26,411	85.6	22,615
1962	4,236	6.4	27,215	71.4	19,430
1963	4,363	6.6	29,007	88.1	25,562
1964	4,568	6.5	29,736	94.3	28,053
1965	4,803	6.7	32,420	65.5	21,251
1966	4,659	6.3	29,576	53.7	15,896
1967	4,113	6.6	27,127	40.9	11,100
1968	3,966	6.6	26,022	45.2	11,754
1969	3,046	6.7	20,493	65.9	13,505
1970	2,725	6.6	17,985	39.1	7,032
1971[4]	2,189	6.8	14,885	30.1	4,480

[1] States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California. Starting in 1969, data is for Texas only. [2] In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall. [3] For the years 1961 and 1962, the marketing year was April through March. For 1963, the marketing year was April through December. Beginning in 1964 marketing year is January through December. [4] Preliminary.

FOREIGN TRADE

The value of U.S. exports of meat animals, meat, and meat products in 1971 totaled $609 million. The value of imports of these products was $1,293 million.

U.S. trade in these products with other countries followed a typical pattern in 1971, with red meat accounting for the bulk of imports and byproducts of the meat packing industry accounting for the bulk of exports. This reflects the fact that wholesale meat prices generally are higher in the United States, so most of the meat produced in this country is consumed here and some meat from other countries finds a ready market in the United States. Conversely, markets abroad are more attractive for part of the large U.S. output of byproducts of meat packing.

Exports

The value of exports of tallow, greases, and lard combined was $266 million, up 9 percent from 1970. Exports of hides and skins were valued at $155 million, up from $144 million in 1970. Also larger than in 1970 were exports of variety meats, $78 million, up from $70 million, and exports of live animals, valued at $37 million, up from $33 million.

Red meat exports were valued at $54 million in 1971, down from $61 million in 1970. Pork exports were valued at $25 million and beef and veal exports at $18 million. Exports of casings, valued at $12 million, and wool and mohair at $7 million, both were down a little from 1970.

Imports

The carcass weight equivalent of red meat imports totaled 2,317 million pounds in 1971, 3 percent less than in 1970. The decline was due mostly to somewhat smaller imports of beef and veal. Lamb and mutton imports also were smaller; pork imports were a little larger. The 1971 volume of imports was equal to 6.1 percent of U.S. red meat production.

Beef and veal imports totaled 1,756 million pounds in 1971 (carcass weight equivalent), 3 percent less than in 1970. Boneless fresh or frozen beef and canned beef accounted for most of the decline in the beef import total.

Boneless fresh or frozen beef is by far the largest meat import item. It is similar to U.S. cow beef and is used mainly for hamburger, luncheon meats, and other meat products. Imports of boneless beef were 1,447 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, compared with 1,484 million pounds in 1970. Boneless beef amounted to more than four-fifths of beef and veal imports in 1971, and accounted for more than three-fifths of all red meat imports.

Imports of fresh or frozen bone-in beef were 22 million pounds in 1971, a little more than 1 percent of beef and veal imports. Canned beef imports, which are mostly canned corned beef from Argentina, totaled 128 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent, down from 167 million pounds in 1970. Imports of other processed beef have become larger during the last 2 years because of larger cooked beef imports from Argentina. Other processed beef imports totaled 135 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1971, up from 115 million pounds the year before. Imports of beef and veal were equal to 7.8 percent of U.S. production in 1971.

Pork imports amounted to 459 million pounds in 1971 (carcass weight equivalent), up from 448 million pounds in 1970. Imports of canned hams and shoulders totaled 357 million pounds and accounted for more than three-fourths of the pork import total. Imports of these products are mainly from Denmark, the Netherlands, and Poland, in that order. Imports of fresh or frozen pork were 62 million pounds, up from 56 million pounds in 1970. Pork imports were equal to 3.1 percent of U.S. production in 1971, about the same as in other recent years.

Imports of lamb were 38 million pounds in 1971, down from 43 million pounds in 1970. The 1971 import volume was equal to 7.6 percent of estimated U.S. lamb and yearling production. Imports of mutton and goat were more than half again as large as lamb imports, 65 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) down from 79 million pounds in 1970. Mutton and goat meat imports are used in making luncheon meats and other meat products and supplement the small U.S. production of mutton and goat meat. In recent years sheep have accounted for only 6 to 7 percent of the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered under Federal inspection. Estimated U.S. total mutton production was 47 million pounds in 1971. Imports of lamb and mutton combined were equal to 18.5 percent of U.S. lamb and mutton production in 1971.

Imports of dutiable cattle (those not for breeding) were 969,085 head in 1971, down from 1,142,900 head in 1970. Most were feeder cattle from Mexico and Canada. There were less than 26,000 head of cattle weighing 700 pounds and over imported in 1971, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes. There were about 36,000 cattle for dairy purposes imported in 1971. In addition, about 22,000 breeding cattle came in. Feeder cattle prices have been relatively favorable in Canada in the past 3 years and imports from Canada have declined. Cattle imports, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, in 1971 were 180,673 head from Canada, 752,206 head from Mexico, and 215 head from other countries.

About 78,000 hogs were imported in 1971, compared with 68,000 in 1970. Imports of sheep and lambs were 5,454 head, down from 11,716 in 1970.

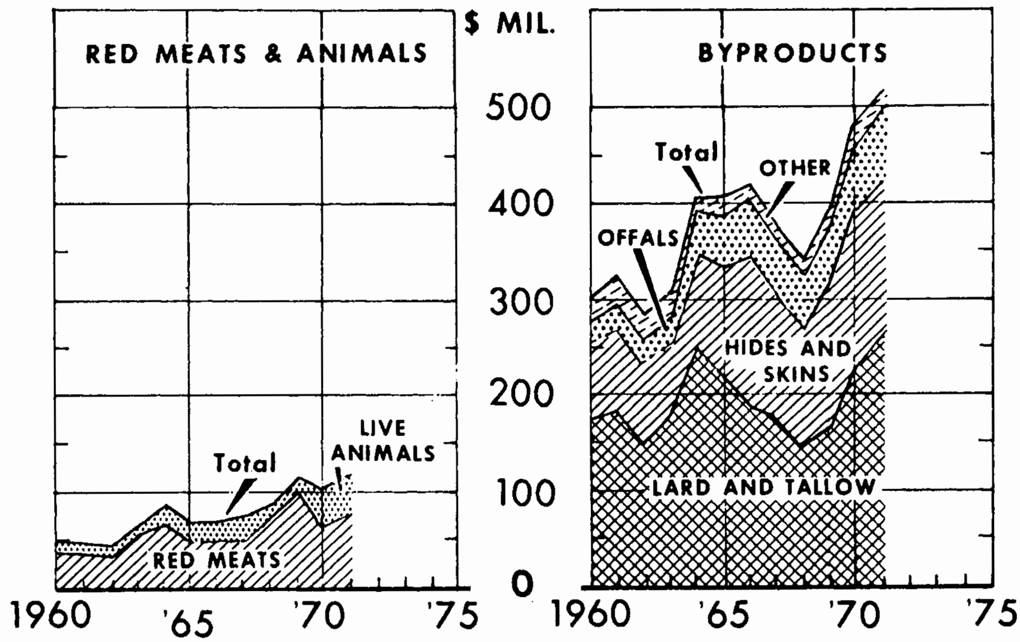
Imports of Meat Subject to Meat Import Law

Public Law 88-482, generally referred to as the Meat Import Law, was enacted in August 1964. It provides that if imports of certain fresh, chilled, or frozen meats—primarily frozen boneless beef and mutton—are estimated for a calendar year 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 Secretary of Agriculture is required to maintain vigilance over prospective import quantities of these meats and to estimate calendar year imports before the beginning of each quarter of the year. The adjusted base quota for 1972 is 1,042.4 million pounds (product weight). The amount of estimated imports which would trigger imposition of the quota is 110 percent of the adjusted base quota, 1,146.6 million pounds.

Calendar 1972 imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law were estimated in March to be above the level which would trigger imposition of quotas. The President then issued a proclamation, pursuant to Section 2(c) (1) of the Law, which limited imports of these meats. At the same time he suspended that limitation on the basis that this action was required by overriding economic interests of the United States, after giving special weight to the importance to the Nation of the economic well-being of the domestic cattle industry. But he provided for a new restraint level on imports of these meats through negotiation with the governments of principal supplying countries. Calendar 1972 imports of these meats are estimated at 1,240 million pounds. This estimate is based primarily upon the program of voluntary restraint of shipments of these meats to the United States by principal supplying countries.

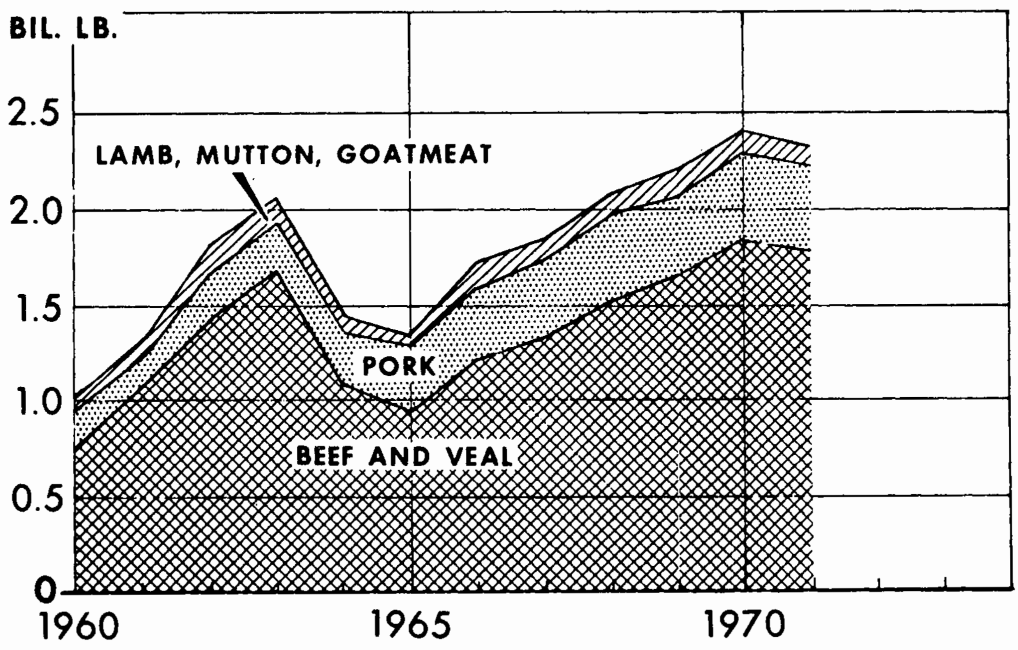
Imports were limited similarly in 1971. Imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law totaled 1,133 million pounds in 1971, including 21 million pounds of rejections.

U.S. EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. FAS 2408 - 72 (4) FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

U.S. IMPORTS OF RED MEATS



CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. FAS 2409 - 72 (4) FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

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	80.8	75.2										

[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.—U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1971 and 1972

Months	Beef and veal			Lamb and mutton[1]			Pork			Total meat		
	1971	1972	Change	1971	1972	Change	1971	1972	Change	1971	1972	Change
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*
IMPORTS												
January ..	128	143	+12	9	3	-68	35	63	+81	172	209	+21
February .	100	130	+30	6	5	-18	38	45	+18	144	179	+25
March	137	120	-12	10	6	-40	47	50	+7	194	176	-9
April	134			9			38			181		
May	119			12			40			171		
June	165			13			41			219		
July	150			9			42			201		
August ...	175			3			38			216		
September	237			20			41			298		
October ..	121			6			18			145		
November .	97			3			32			132		
December .	193			3			49			245		
Total ...	1,756			103			459			2,318		
EXPORTS												
January ..	3.45	4.03	+17	0.17	0.22	+30	4.55	3.28	-28	8.17	7.53	-8
February .	4.22	3.89	-8	.17	.11	-34	3.68	3.53	-4	8.07	7.53	-7
March	5.61	4.93	-12	.24	.16	-36	3.36	4.29	+28	9.22	9.38	+2
April	5.27			.17			3.78			9.22		
May	4.43			.18			4.88			9.49		
June	4.63			.13			4.65			9.41		
July	3.63			.11			3.46			7.20		
August ...	3.54			.21			7.12			10.86		
September	4.10			.18			7.52			11.80		
October ..	3.25			.13			6.62			10.00		
November .	5.82			.21			12.41			18.44		
December .	4.92			.20			10.35			15.47		
Total ...	52.87			2.10			72.38			127.35		

[1] Includes goat meat.

Table 6.—U.S. imports of livestock and livestock products, 1966-71

Item	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971[1]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
Meat (carcass weight equivalent)						
Beef						
Boneless, fresh or frozen	986.7	1,116.0	1,224.7	1,348.9	1,484.2	1,447.4
Fresh or frozen	20.7	11.7	26.8	19.6	24.3	22.1
Total fresh or frozen	1,007.4	1,127.7	1,251.5	1,368.5	1,508.5	1,469.5
Canned	126.6	136.7	165.2	164.4	167.1	127.8
Pickled or cured	.6	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.0
Other processed	47.6	47.3	81.7	80.3	114.8	135.4
Total	1,182.2	1,313.5	1,499.7	1,614.8	1,792.2	1,733.7
Veal						
Fresh or frozen	22.0	14.2	18.3	25.7	23.5	21.8
Pork						
Fresh or frozen	42.0	47.4	48.4	42.9	55.5	62.3
Hams and shoulders, not cooked	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.0
Hams and shoulders, canned	267.6	284.6	306.5	314.7	339.7	357.4
Other	69.9	58.6	58.8	49.0	51.7	37.9
Total	381.3	392.5	416.1	408.8	448.4	458.6
Lamb	14.9	12.3	22.9	43.9	43.5	38.2
Mutton and Goat	121.1	108.6	124.0	108.4	79.0	64.6
Total red meat	1,721.5	1,841.1	2,081.0	2,201.6	2,386.6	2,316.9
Variety Meats (product weight)	3.3	3.5	3.8	5.6	9.8	6.5
Wool (clean basis)						
Dutiable	162.5	109.1	129.8	93.5	79.8	42.7
Duty-free	114.6	78.2	119.6	95.7	73.3	83.9
Total wool	277.2	187.3	249.4	189.2	153.1	126.6
	1,000 pieces	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*
Hides and Skins						
Cattle	221	233	494	276	386	276
Calf	242	481	508	358	189	67
Kip	438	357	286	334	353	168
Sheep and lamb	27,893	20,300	30,822	20,715	18,686	19,283
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Live Animals						
Cattle[2]	1,081,474	740,448	1,024,235	1,021,054	1,142,900	969,085
Hogs[3]	22,698	34,926	21,678	13,430	67,832	77,532
Sheep and Lambs	8,310	12,403	26,579	22,805	11,716	5,454

[1] Preliminary. [2] Dutiable: not for breeding. [3] For 1966 imports reported in pounds; pounds converted to 200-pound hog equivalent. Beginning 1967 reported in numbers.

Table 7.—U.S. exports of livestock and livestock products, 1966-71

Item	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971[1]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
Meat (carcass weight equivalent)						
Beef						
Fresh or frozen	17.5	17.1	15.2	16.2	18.3	28.9
Canned	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.0
Pickled or cured	12.8	15.9	13.3	10.5	12.3	13.4
Other Processed	4.9	5.2	6.3	6.7	5.7	6.1
Total	38.2	41.0	37.0	35.4	38.7	50.4
Veal						
Fresh or frozen	.5	.7	.5	.6	.5	1.7
Total (includes canned)	.9	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	2.4
Pork						
Fresh or frozen	17.1	19.2	47.9	98.6	35.0	38.9
Hams and shoulders, not cooked	13.6	12.4	15.5	23.7	7.1	6.8
Hams and shoulders, canned	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.1
Other canned	2.8	3.0	3.8	3.8	3.1	3.7
Other	21.3	19.7	23.1	25.2	20.4	19.9
Total	58.4	57.9	93.3	153.8	68.4	72.4
Lamb and mutton	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.3	1.8	2.1
Total red meat	99.8	102.7	134.3	192.8	110.0	127.3
Variety Meats (product weight)	213.3	222.3	225.2	239.8	239.5	277.5
Animal Fats						
Lard	157.6	188.6	175.3	261.9	365.9	282.3
Inedible tallow and greases[2]	1,972.0	2,220.8	2,234.0	1,894.7	2,240.8	2,606.0
Edible tallow and greases[3]	16.4	17.1	11.2	13.0	20.5	10.0
Mohair (clean content)	10.7	10.3	15.9	12.9	10.9	12.4
	1,000 pieces	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*	*1,000 pieces*
Hides and Skins						
Cattle	14,189	[4] 11,852	[4] 12,879	[4] 14,778	[4] 15,222	[4] 15,962
Calf	2,076	1,969	1,818	1,238	1,074	11,968
Kip	519	496	390	414	241	254
Sheep and lamb	2,429	3,757	3,344	3,928	3,822	5,934
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Live Animals						
Cattle	35,317	55,322	35,745	39,186	88,037	92,618
Hogs	9,649	12,932	13,714	18,620	24,845	17,347
Sheep, Lambs, and Goats	59,054	120,733	117,677	106,237	132,856	213,806

[1] Preliminary. [2] Includes inedible animal oils, greases, fats, and tallow. [3] Includes oleo oil, oleo stearin, and oleo stock, and edible tallow. [4] Excludes pieces that are reported in pounds, which were reported in pieces in previous years.

Table 8.—U.S. imports, exports, and net imports of beef and veal, pork, lamb and mutton, and total meat in relation to domestic production 1965-71[1]

Year	Production	Imports	Exports	Net imports	Percentage of U.S. production		
					Imports	Exports	Net imports
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
				Beef and veal			
1965	19,747	941.8	53.9	887.9	4.8	0.3	4.5
1966	20,636	1,204.2	39.1	1,165.1	5.8	.2	5.6
1967	21,011	1,327.7	42.2	1,285.5	6.3	.2	6.1
1968	21,614	1,518.0	38.2	1,479.8	7.0	.2	6.8
1969	21,831	1,640.5	36.7	1,603.8	7.5	.2	7.3
1970	22,272	1,815.7	39.8	1,775.9	8.2	.2	8.0
1971[2]	22,450	1,755.5	52.8	1,702.7	7.8	.2	7.6
				Pork			
1965	11,141	333.0	55.3	277.7	3.0	0.5	2.5
1966	11,339	381.3	58.4	322.9	3.4	.5	2.9
1967	12,581	392.5	57.9	334.6	3.1	.5	2.7
1968	13,063	416.1	93.3	322.8	3.2	.7	2.5
1969	12,953	408.8	153.8	255.0	3.2	1.2	2.0
1970	13,434	448.4	68.4	380.0	3.3	.5	2.8
1971[2]	14,793	458.6	72.4	386.2	3.1	.5	2.6
				Lamb and mutton			
1965	651	72.5	2.0	70.5	11.1	0.3	10.8
1966	650	136.0	2.3	133.7	20.9	.4	20.6
1967	646	120.9	2.6	118.3	18.7	.4	18.3
1968	602	146.9	2.8	144.1	24.4	.5	23.9
1969	550	152.3	2.3	150.0	27.7	.4	27.3
1970	551	122.5	1.8	120.7	22.2	.3	21.9
1971[2]	554	102.8	2.1	100.7	18.6	.4	18.2
				Total meat			
1965	31,539	1,347.3	111.2	1,236.1	4.3	0.4	3.9
1966	32,625	1,721.5	99.8	1,621.7	5.3	.3	5.0
1967	34,238	1,841.1	102.7	1,738.4	5.4	.3	5.1
1968	35,239	2,081.0	134.3	1,946.7	5.9	.4	5.5
1969	35,334	2,201.6	192.8	2,008.8	6.2	.5	5.7
1970	36,257	2,386.6	110.0	2,276.6	6.6	.3	6.3
1971[2]	37,797	2,316.9	127.3	2,189.6	6.1	.3	5.8

[1] Carcass weight equivalent. [2] Preliminary.

Table 9.—Meat animals, meat and meat products: Value of United States imports and exports, 1969-71

Commodity	Imports for consumption			Exports		
	1969	1970	1971[1]	1969	1970	1971[1]
	Million dollars	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*
Live animals:						
Cattle and calves	103.0	121.5	116.8	16.7	29.3	32.5
Hogs	1.0	4.3	4.2	1.7	2.4	1.8
Sheep and lambs	.6	.4	.2	1.0	1.3	2.6
Meat:						
Beef and veal	568.7	679.8	734.7	21.7	24.6	18.1
Pork	238.7	271.9	262.9	61.8	26.2	25.1
Lamb, mutton and goat	31.5	29.9	24.2	1.0	.8	1.0
Processed meats[2]	4.9	6.5	5.1	9.4	9.6	9.8
Tallow, greases, and lard	1.2	.4	.4	164.5	244.1	266.0
Variety meats	1.7	2.5	2.0	61.7	69.5	78.2
Casings	23.9	27.5	27.7	10.3	13.1	11.7
Hides and skins	62.2	51.0	51.4	151.4	144.4	155.1
Wool and mohair	119.1	87.7	63.8	9.6	7.9	7.3
Total	1,156.5	1,283.4	1,293.4	510.9	573.2	609.2

[1] Preliminary. [2] Imports are other sausage. Exports include sausage, canned meats, and canned specialities.

Table 10.—U.S. imports of cattle from specified countries, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, 1962-71

Year	700 pounds and over				Under 200 pounds			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
	Head	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*	*Head*
1962	72,205	36,732	0	108,937	41,315	24,925	0	66,240
1963	51,018	18,123	22	69,163	36,618	27,120	1	63,739
1964	45,880	1,777	0	47,657	50,714	13,162	0	63,876
1965	136,549	14,054	0	150,603	64,070	16,921	0	80,991
1966	90,872	14,505	3	105,380	104,196	22,293	5	126,494
1967	17,958	3,936	26	21,920	87,184	10,553	1	97,738
1968	57,145	1,344	20	58,509	134,344	13,052	0	147,396
1969	42,482	4,099	56	46,637	126,683	32,459	1	159,143
1970	30,340	1,299	158	31,797	123,454	45,475	---	168,929
1971[1]	24,230	1,097	205	25,532	126,221	32,467	1	158,689
	200 to 699 pounds				Total			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
1962	351,336	690,228	0	1,041,564	464,856	751,885	0	1,216,741
1963	148,486	540,099	353	688,938	236,122	585,342	376	821,840
1964	86,713	315,962	700	403,375	183,307	330,901	700	514,908
1965	359,486	504,285	0	863,771	560,105	535,260	0	1,095,365
1966	280,522	547,287	319	828,128	475,587	584,085	327	1,060,002
1967	121,900	485,929	13	607,842	227,042	500,418	40	727,500
1968	114,628	687,912	7	802,547	306,117	702,308	27	1,008,452
1969	18,522	773,829	5	792,356	187,687	810,387	62	998,136
1970	17,122	889,809	61	906,992	170,916	936,583	219	1,107,718
1971[1]	30,222	718,642	9	748,873	180,673	752,206	215	933,094

[1] Preliminary.

Table 11.—Meat exports: United States exports and shipments by countries, 1966 to date

Product and year	Exports, by destination, product weight: Canada	Mexico	France	Bahamas	West Germany	Jamaica	Japan	Netherlands	Venezuela	All other	Total	Shipments to territories[1]	Total exports and shipments: Product weight	carcass weight equivalent
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
Beef and veal:														
1966	13.1	0.2	0.5	4.0	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.3	(2)	9.4	28.8	32.2	61.0	87
1967	17.5	.2	.3	5.8	.1	1.2	.4	.2	(2)	5.6	31.3	36.4	67.6	94
1968	11.9	.4	.4	7.1	.1	1.1	.4	.1	(2)	5.5	27.0	37.5	64.5	94
1969	10.2	.4	.1	7.7	(2)	1.0	.6	.1	.1	5.5	25.7	33.6	59.3	87
1970	11.6	.4	.3	7.5	(2)	1.6	1.1	.2	(2)	6.6	29.3	45.9	75.2	104
1971[4]	24.5	.2	.3	7.0	.2	1.8	1.7	.2	---	6.1	42.0	50.3	92.3	121
Lamb and mutton:														
1966	.6	(2)	(2)	.4	---	(2)	---	---	(2)	.6	1.6	1.1	2.7	5
1967	.2	.1	(2)	.5	---	(2)	---	---	(2)	1.0	1.8	1.7	3.5	6
1968	.3	(2)	(2)	.7	---	(2)	(2)	---	(2)	.9	1.9	1.9	3.8	7
1969	.1	(2)	(2)	.8	---	(2)	(2)	---	(2)	.5	1.4	1.6	3.0	6
1970	(2)	.1	---	.5	---	(2)	(2)	---	.1	.4	1.1	3.3	4.4	7
1971[4]	.1	1.1	---	.6	(2)	(2)	(2)	---	(2)	.5	1.3	3.5	4.8	8
Pork:														
1966	28.4	2.2	2.4	2.6	.3	2.6	.1	.3	3.3	8.7	50.9	67.2	118.1	140
1967	27.3	1.9	.3	3.5	.2	2.9	.6	.2	2.9	10.8	50.6	74.4	125.0	146
1968	36.4	2.9	.2	4.0	.1	3.2	25.1	.2	1.6	11.4	85.1	78.7	163.8	187
1969	64.4	3.9	.2	4.1	.4	2.2	57.4	.1	.8	11.6	145.1	63.4	208.5	236
1970	23.5	2.7	.1	3.5	.1	1.3	16.2	(2)	1.1	12.7	61.2	85.5	146.7	177
1971[4]	13.6	2.1	.2	3.5	.1	2.2	25.7	.4	.9	16.6	65.3	93.4	158.7	183
Total:[3]														
1966	44.2	2.8	3.2	7.6	.9	4.4	.6	.8	3.3	28.8	96.6	130.9	227.5	232
1967	47.8	2.7	.8	11.6	.6	5.0	1.4	.5	3.0	26.6	100.0	142.6	242.6	246
1968	50.9	4.2	.8	13.7	.5	5.0	26.1	.4	1.6	27.9	131.1	153.6	284.7	288
1969	78.1	6.2	.7	14.5	.6	3.7	58.6	.3	1.0	26.3	190.0	138.3	328.3	329
1970	38.9	3.8	.8	12.9	.3	3.7	17.8	.3	1.2	28.0	107.7	180.3	288.1	288
1971[4]	42.6	2.8	1.7	12.5	.7	4.2	28.3	.6	.9	30.7	125.0	190.8	315.8	312

[1] Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, Guam and Wake. Puerto and Virgin Islands only in 1970. [2] Less than 50,000 pounds. [3] Including sausage, bologna and frankfurters canned and not canned, sausage ingredients, meat and meat products n.e.c.

[4] Preliminary.

Source: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

Table 12.—Meat imports: United States, by countries, 1964 to date

Product and year	Imports, by country of origin, product weight												Total imports	
	Canada	Mexico	Argentina	Brazil	Denmark	West Germany	Poland	Netherlands	Ireland	Australia	New Zealand	All other	Product weight	Carcass weight equivalent
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
Beef and veal:														
1964	28.8	48.9	54.4	10.4	.1	(2)	.1	(2)	20.1	377.1	168.3	92.2	800.4	1,085
1965	71.4	46.3	54.8	24.5	.2	.1	.1	.1	7.8	307.5	103.6	84.6	701.0	942
1966	57.2	57.1	80.6	18.3	.1	(2)	.1	.1	38.4	404.1	145.0	92.3	893.3	1,204
1967	26.7	47.8	108.1	9.6	.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	80.6	425.6	170.9	109.6	979.0	1,328
1968	46.7	65.6	132.6	31.6	.1	(2)	.1	(2)	56.7	444.2	203.1	147.3	1,128.0	1,518
1969	44.0	66.5	130.0	34.3	.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	66.0	491.1	223.7	160.8	1,216.6	1,640
1970	80.6	78.6	141.1	28.8	.4	(2)	(2)	(2)	69.0	535.8	241.6	174.2	1,350.1	1,816
1971[3]	80.1	79.1	88.4	63.1	2.2	(2)	(2)	(2)	64.0	505.4	241.8	186.6	1,310.7	1,755
Lamb and mutton:														
1964	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.4	8.8	0.8	44.7	79
1965	.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30.3	11.4	.4	42.6	72
1966	.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63.8	11.1	.2	75.4	136
1967	.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56.8	9.4	.2	66.6	121
1968	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62.2	.7	.1	84.9	147
1969	.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73.9	23.4	.1	98.1	153
1970	.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60.1	22.2	.1	83.0	122
1971[3]	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58.0	12.4	.1	70.5	103
Pork:														
1964	50.7	—	(2)	—	66.4	.7	43.9	38.2	.2	(2)	(2)	10.5	210.6	268
1965	57.0	(2)	—	—	85.2	.9	52.9	46.2	2.2	—	(2)	20.9	262.3	333
1966	47.5	—	—	—	116.9	1.8	51.6	65.0	1.6	(2)	(2)	13.9	298.3	381
1967	54.8	(2)	.3	—	102.3	1.4	57.2	74.6	.2	.1	(2)	16.0	306.9	392
1968	55.5	(2)	(2)	.1	111.9	1.4	55.1	82.2	.3	(2)	(2)	17.6	324.1	416
1969	49.9	(2)	.1	—	108.6	1.8	53.6	85.6	.2	.2	(2)	15.6	315.6	409
1970	63.2	(2)	(2)	—	120.6	1.4	56.0	86.7	.1	.3	(2)	19.3	347.6	449
1971[3]	69.4	(2)	(2)	—	128.1	1.7	54.9	82.6	.1	.4	—	19.4	356.6	459
Total:[1]														
1964	80.1	48.9	54.4	10.4	66.5	.7	44.0	38.2	20.3	411.5	176.9	103.8	1,055.7	1,432
1965	125.9	46.3	54.8	24.7	85.4	1.0	53.0	46.3	10.0	337.7	115.0	105.9	1,006.0	1,347
1966	105.0	57.1	80.5	18.3	117.0	1.8	51.7	65.1	40.0	467.9	156.1	106.5	1,267.0	1,721
1967	81.7	47.8	108.6	9.6	102.4	1.4	57.2	74.6	80.8	482.5	180.3	125.6	1,352.5	1,841
1968	102.2	65.6	132.6	31.7	112.1	1.4	55.2	82.2	56.9	506.4	203.8	165.0	1,544.6	2,081
1969	94.6	66.5	130.1	34.3	108.8	1.8	53.6	85.6	66.2	565.2	247.1	176.5	1,639.1	2,202
1970	144.4	78.6	141.1	28.8	130.4	2.2	56.0	86.7	69.1	596.2	263.8	193.9	1,791.2	2,387
1971[3]	149.6	79.1	88.4	63.1	137.3	2.3	54.9	82.6	64.1	563.8	254.2	206.2	1,745.6	2,317

[1] Includes quantities of other canned, prepared or preserved meat n.e.s., assumed to be mostly beef. [2] Less than 50,000 pounds. [3] Preliminary.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.—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
1972	111.5	115.8	115.8										
							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
1972	144.3	148.6	149.7										
							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
1972	76.3	81.3	79.4										
							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
1972	113.4	115.1	115.1										

Some Contrasts in the Marketing of Cattle

By John T. Larsen

Abstract: Fed cattle move to slaughter in a fairly steady flow, despite wide variations in placements of cattle on feed. Differences in placements are the result of a wide variety of climatic conditions, feeder cattle and feed supplies, type and size of feeding operations, and management techniques.

Key words: Fed cattle, feeder cattle, placements, marketings, seasonal variation.

The number of cattle placed on feed changes with the seasons and the patterns of seasonal movement vary considerably among different areas of the country. Peak placement periods are frequently unique to an area, reflecting availability of feeder cattle and feed supplies, types and size of feeding operations, climate, and management techniques. But despite the wide variations in placements, fed cattle marketings for slaughter are generally quite evenly distributed throughout the year.

In Iowa the number of cattle placed on feed fluctuates sharply during the year with the peak occurring in December and the low point in July (figure 1). The placing of the bulk of cattle on feed in the late fall and winter is typical of relatively small-scale feeding operations in the Corn Belt. Ninety percent of the cattle marketed from Iowa feedlots are from feedyards of under 1,000 head capacity (tables 1 and 2).

The Corn Belt feeder sometimes raises his own cattle but usually buys them from Western ranches or nearby farms. Feeder cattle bought in the fall are often used to clean up stalk fields which delays their being put on full feed until late in the fall or early winter. Many farmers in this area feed grain they have produced and feed only one turn of cattle through their lots each year. When these cattle are shipped to slaughter, most of these cattle feeders wait until the next harvest to place more cattle.

Only a part of the highly seasonal nature of feedlot placements in Iowa carries through to marketings. Movement of fed cattle to slaughter drops 20 to 30 percent below average in the late winter and early spring as a result of the decline in summer placements.

The relatively even flow of fed cattle to slaughter suggests that feeder cattle placements vary greatly in weight and that farmers apply equally variable management techniques. The time from peak placements to peak marketings shown in Figure 1 also indicates a fairly lengthy average feeding period of 7 to 9 months and ranging from 3 to 15 months.

Texas feeders follow a different placement pattern (figure 2). Commercial feedlots dominate cattle feeding in this State. Over 95 percent of the cattle marketed from Texas feedyards in 1971 were from lots with capacity of over 1,000 head. With cattle moving into the feedlots on a year—round basis, placement variation through the year is not as wide as in the Corn Belt. The bulge in May placements largely reflects movement of cattle off wheat pasture into feedlots. The October bulge reflects a general drying of pastures in the West and in the Plains States. Heavy buying by commercial feeders at this time is also due to seasonally low prices. Full lots, from heavy fall placements, and a relatively short supply of feeder cattle result in a drop in winter placements. Producers in this area often buy all or a substantial proportion of their feed. Since the large feedlots usually keep animals only long enough to meet minimum grade requirements, movement through Texas feedyards probably averages 2-½ turns per year.

Texas feeders move cattle to slaughter much more uniformly than they buy them. However, slight dips and bulges in the seasonal pattern of marketings are tied to the seasonal pattern of placements. A much shorter feeding period than in the Corn Belt, around 150 days, is apparent.

Table 1.—Feedlot size for selected States, 1971

State	Total lots	Under 1,000 head capacity	Percent of total	Over 1,000 head capacity	Percent of total
	Number	*Number*	*Percent*	*Number*	*Percent*
Iowa	39,000	38,830	100	170	([1])
Texas	1,525	1,300	85	225	15
Nebraska	18,322	17,800	97	522	3
Colorado	839	622	74	217	26
California	410	139	34	271	66
Arizona	61	8	13	53	87
6 States	60,157	58,699	98	1,458	2

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.

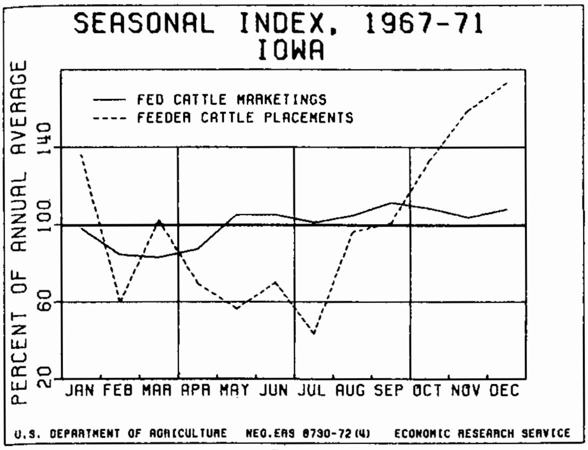


Figure 1

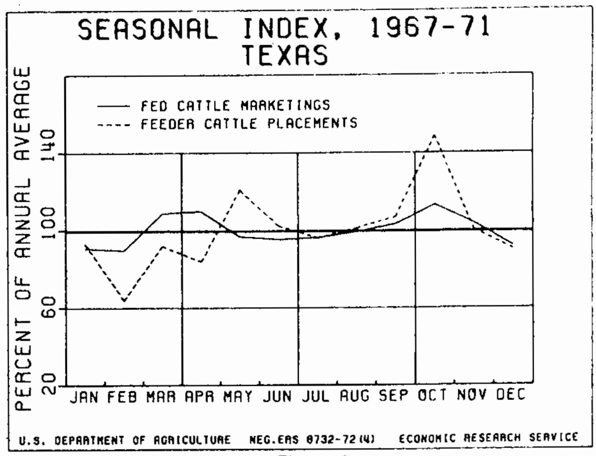


Figure 2

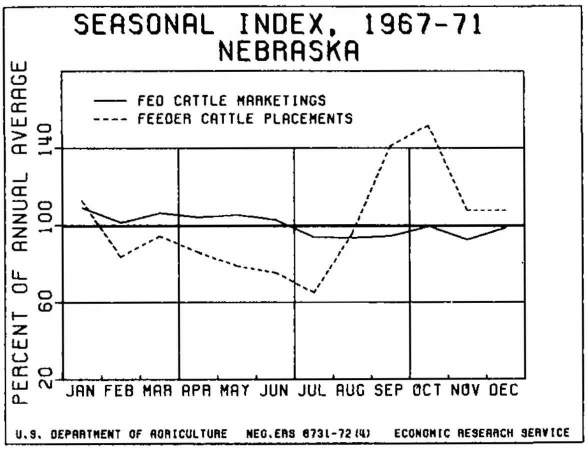
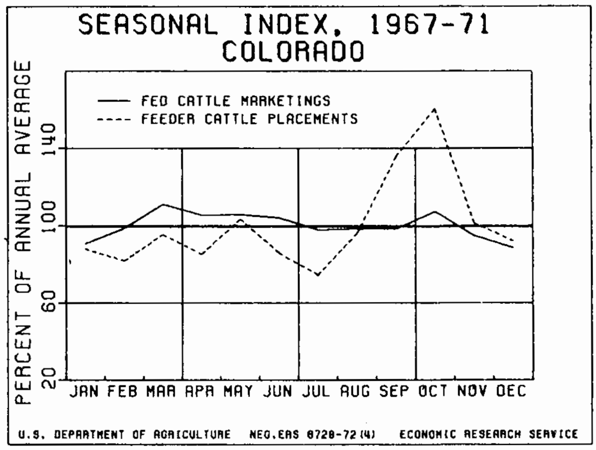


Figure 3



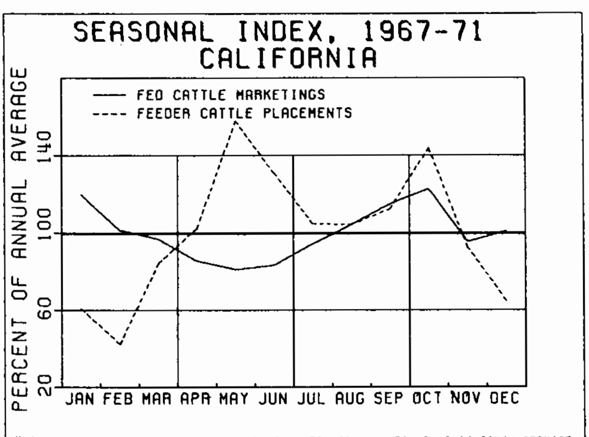


Figure 5

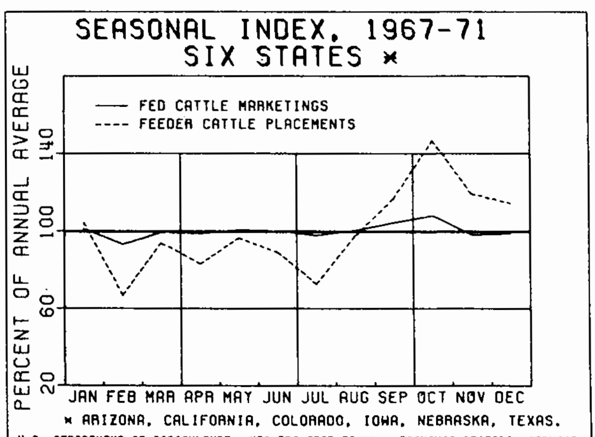


Figure 6

Table 2.—Fed cattle marketings from selected States, 1971

State	Cattle marketed	Under 1,000 head capacity	Percent of total	Over 1,000 head capacity	Percent of total
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
Iowa	4,025	3,615	90	410	10
Texas	3,663	99	3	3,564	97
Nebraska	3,744	1,684	45	2,060	55
Colorado	2,151	240	11	1,911	89
California	1,990	13	1	1,977	99
Arizona	901	2	([1])	899	100
6 States	16,474	5,653	34	10,821	66

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.

Nebraska has a mixture of large lots and of small farmer-feeder operations (figure 3). Most of the smaller lots are located in the eastern part of the State. Marketings are distributed rather evenly between these types of feedlots with slightly more cattle coming from the larger lots. The pattern of placements generally reflects typical management practices of both commercial and farmer-feeder type feedlots. There is an absence of a spring bulge in placements typical of commercial feeders in the Southwest and the fall placements are not up as sharply as in Iowa. Marketings of fed cattle are relatively steady throughout the year.

In Colorado the bulk of fed cattle move through large lots plus a few smaller lots (figure 4). The pattern of placements shows a slight blip in May from inshipments off wheat pasture. But the larger bulge in late summer and fall suggests the bulk of feeder cattle shipped into Colorado lots are from Western and Plains State ranges. Almost none of the wide variation in placements is reflected in patterns of cattle marketings for slaughter.

California's unique pattern of peak spring placements indicates feeders draw a substantial part of their feeder cattle supplies from their own pastures that dry up in the spring (figure 5). Another rise in the early fall movement of feeder cattle is similar to the fall jump in other commercial feeding States. Nearly all fed cattle in California move through big lots.

Marketings in California reflect the seasonal pattern of placements more than in other feeding States. This indicates less variation in the weight and condition of feeder cattle placed on feed and a less flexible length of feeding period. The May peak in placements is followed by an October peak in marketings, and the October peak in placements is followed by a January bulge in marketings. This suggests a different quality or weight of cattle purchased in the spring than in the fall, requiring a longer period on feed to reach full finish. Spring placements are probably lighter weight cattle that require a longer feeding period of 140 to 160 days than heavier, fleshier animals purchased in the fall and marketed in 90 to 120 days.

The patterns for 6 States combined reflect characteristics of small feeders and commercial feeders (figure 6). The pattern of placements is not significantly different than Nebraska's, but changes are somewhat less severe. The combined marketing pattern of fed cattle is smoother than for any individual State. Only a third of total 6-States marketings is from smaller lots. Two percent of the lots account for two-thirds of the fed cattle marketed.

The pattern of fed cattle shipments during the year shows that cattle feeders are keenly aware of the advantages of orderly marketing. They provide a steady, even flow of beef to consumers each month of the year. This is accomplished in an open market system where individual operators are free to buy and sell at will, with competition being the only controlling force.

Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by months, carcass weight, January 1972 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*
Beef:								
January	1,792	365	141	10	354	26	1,908	9.3
February	1,715	354	129	9	308	29	1,852	9.0
March	1,866	308	118					
1st quarter	5,373	365	388					
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Veal:								
January	40	9	2	1	9	1	39	.2
February	37	9	1	([3])	8	1	38	.2
March	41	8	2					
1st quarter	118	9	5					
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Lamb and mutton:								
January	47	19	3	1	17	([3])	51	.2
February	44	17	5	1	13	1	51	.2
March	51	13	6					
1st quarter	142	19	14					
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Pork:								
January	1,103	330	63	15	308	10	1,163	5.7
February	1,078	308	45	12	287	15	1,120	5.5
March	1,319	287	50					
1st quarter	3,500	330	158					
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Total meat:								
January	2,982	723	209	27	688	38	3,161	15.4
February	2,874	688	180	22	616	46	3,061	14.9
March	3,277	616	176					
1st quarter	9,133	723	565					
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								

[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	1971 March	1971 April	1972 February	1972 March	1972 April
	Dollars per 100 pounds				
CATTLE AND CALVES					
Beef steers, slaughter, Omaha					
Prime	32.68	33.30	37.25	35.75	35.26
Choice	31.81	32.44	36.19	35.13	34.53
Good	30.48	30.68	34.88	33.96	33.42
Standard	27.20	27.67	31.11	31.06	30.78
Utility	25.76	26.25	29.91	29.94	29.68
All grades	31.42	31.96	35.74	34.73	34.20
Choice 900-1100 pounds, California	32.75	33.16	35.97	35.40	34.66
Choice 900-1100 pounds, Colorado	31.93	32.68	36.38	35.00	34.44
Cows, Omaha					
Commercial	21.64	20.98	23.29	24.33	24.40
Utility	22.03	21.48	23.80	24.73	24.70
Cutter	20.69	20.17	22.40	23.30	23.28
Canner	19.16	18.68	20.81	21.79	21.70
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	43.28	45.85	52.15	53.17	54.00
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City[1]	31.88	32.07	36.92	36.95	36.93
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	28.60	29.10	32.60	32.40	31.90
Cows	20.80	20.70	23.20	23.70	23.30
Steers and heifers	30.60	31.20	35.30	34.70	34.00
Calves	35.50	35.40	41.20	41.70	41.40
Beef steer-corn price ratio[2]	21.8	22.3	29.1	28.2	27.3
HOGS					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Omaha					
180-200 pounds	---	---	---	---	---
200-220 pounds	17.69	17.08	26.71	24.38	23.72
220-240 pounds	17.63	16.96	26.58	24.15	23.53
Barrows and gilts, 7 markets[3]	17.13	16.19	25.61	23.56	22.89
Sows, 7 markets[3]	15.28	14.47	22.90	21.43	20.89
Price received by farmers	16.90	16.00	25.70	23.30	22.50
Hog-corn price ratio[4]					
Omaha, barrows and gilts	11.6	11.3	20.6	19.0	18.2
Price received by farmers, all hogs	11.8	11.3	23.6	21.2	19.9
SHEEP AND LAMBS					
Sheep					
Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo	9.85	8.75	11.56	11.45	10.38
Price received by farmers	7.29	7.09	6.42	6.78	6.56
Lambs					
Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo	28.05	29.06	28.69	32.00	32.12
Feeder, Choice, San Angelo	28.05	27.44	28.38	32.25	32.00
Price received by farmers	25.30	26.50	27.70	28.20	28.10
ALL MEAT ANIMALS					
Index number price received by farmers (1967=100)	117	117	143	139	137
	Dollars per 100 pounds				
MEAT					
Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700	51.45	52.62	57.58	54.92	53.72
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds	50.84	52.20	57.03	54.62	53.19
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	45.80	45.27	50.42	50.99	50.58
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	58.25	61.38	63.62	63.45	61.72
Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds	38.96	38.19	58.58	51.56	50.32
	Cents per pound				
Retail, United States average					
Beef, Choice grade	102.2	104.0	115.8	115.8	
Pork, retail cuts and sausage	69.9	68.7	81.3	79.4	
Lamb, Choice grade	107.0	107.5	115.1	115.1	
Index number all meats (BLS)					
Wholesale (1967=100)	110.9	111.5	129.5	124.8	
Retail (1967=100)	115.6	115.7	127.5	127.9	
Beef and veal	122.4	124.2	136.1	137.1	
Pork	106.0	103.6	119.4	118.2	

[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	1971		1972		
		March	April	February	March	April
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1967=100)		109	108	107	105	
6-State Cattle on Feed Report						
Number on feed	1,000 head	7,239	7,147	8,193	7,971	7,884
Placed on feed	1,000 head	1,305	1,203	1,118	1,295	
Marketings	1,000 head	1,397	1,314	1,340	1,382	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,681	2,545	2,457	2,698	
Steers	1,000 head	1,513	1,420	1,355	1,542	
Heifers	1,000 head	664	619	627	657	
Cows	1,000 head	461	463	432	454	
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	43	43	43	45	
Calves	1,000 head	299	248	217	255	
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	920	899	801	903	
Hogs	1,000 head	8,266	7,794	6,280	7,794	
Percentage sows	Percent	5	5	5	4	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,052	1,045	1,058	1,054	
Calves	Pounds	187	198	206	192	
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	107	105	108	109	
Hogs	Pounds	235	238	235	238	
Average production						
Beef, per head	Pounds	622	623	627	624	
Veal, per head	Pounds	105	112	116	108	
Lamb and mutton, per head	Pounds	53	52	54	54	
Pork, per head	Pounds	148	154	159	158	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	63	64	68	66	
Lard, per head	Pounds	23	21	17	19	
Lard per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	10	9	7	8	
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lbs.	1,662	1,580	1,537	1,679	
Veal	Mil. lbs.	31	28	25	27	
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lbs.	49	47	43	49	
Pork	Mil. lbs.	1,225	1,195	995	1,227	
Lard	Mil. lbs.	193	162	105	149	
Commercial slaughter[1]						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	3,047	2,888	2,774	3,030	
Calves	1,000 head	377	321	277	319	
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	956	952	831	949	
Hogs	1,000 head	8,988	8,458	6,829	8,402	
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,866	1,771	1,715	1,866	
Veal	Mil. lb.	48	44	37	41	
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	51	49	44	51	
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,333	1,293	1,078	1,319	
Lard	Mil. lb.	203	171	112	157	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	Mil. lb.	308	302	354	308	275
Veal	Mil. lb.	8	9	9	8	9
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	20	20	17	13	12
Pork	Mil. lb.	339	387	308	287	316
Total meat and meat products[2]	Mil. lb.	745	789	774	708	703

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

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