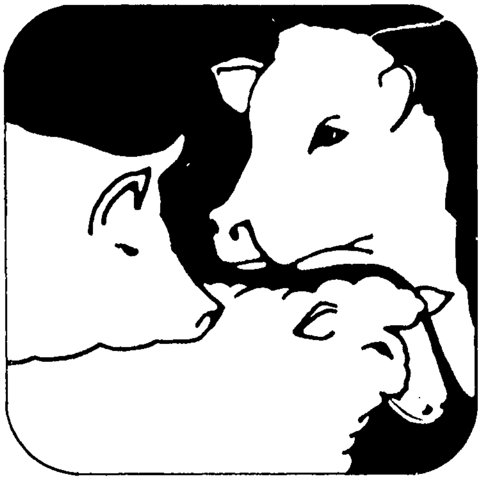
LMS-190 MARCH 1973

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



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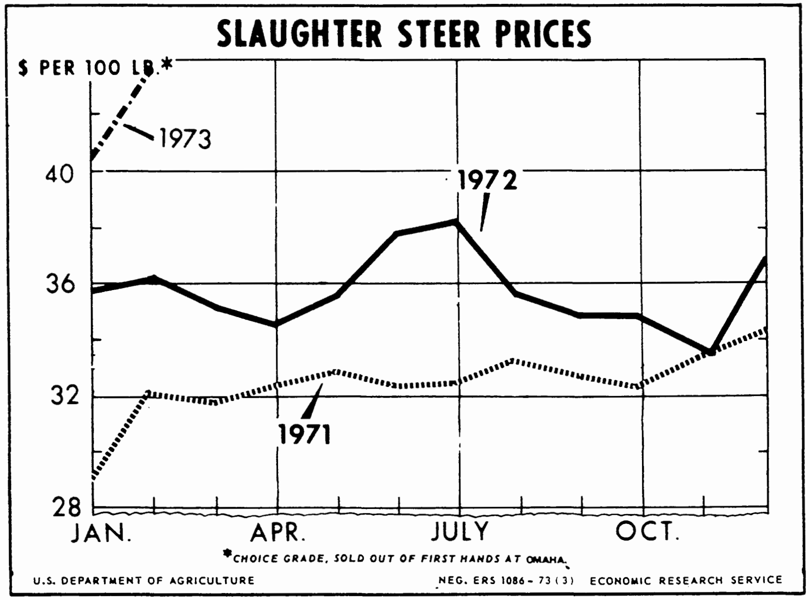
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1973
1972
1971
40
36
32
28
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA.
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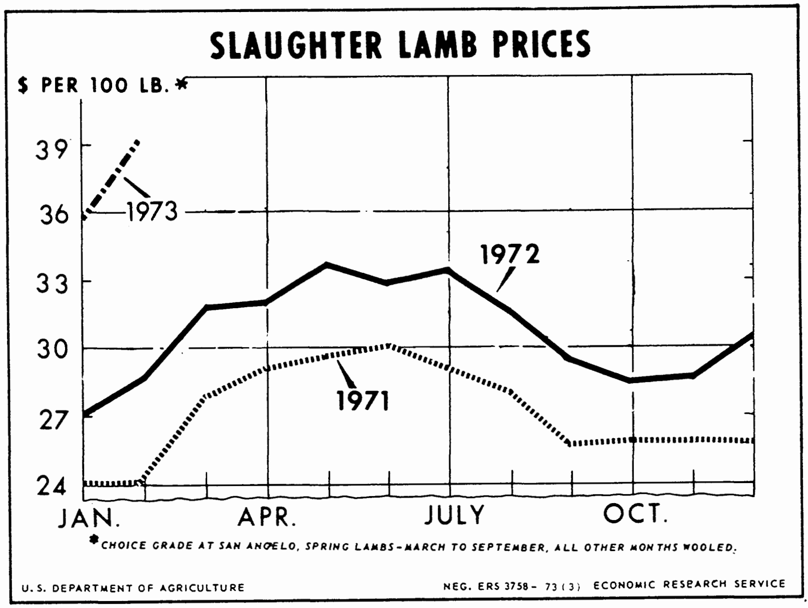
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
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1971
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36
33
30
27
24
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*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO, SPRING LAMBS-MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
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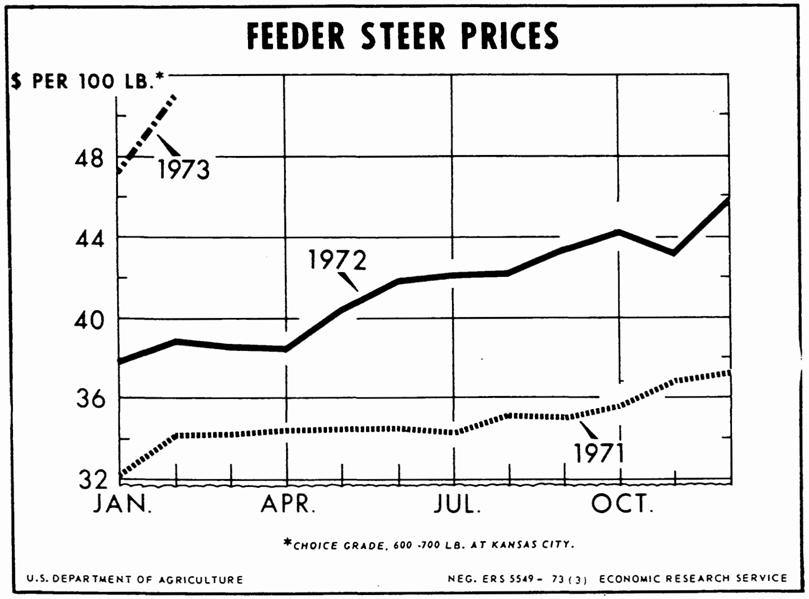
FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
1973
1972
1971
48
44
40
36
32
JAN.
APR.
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OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, 600 -700 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
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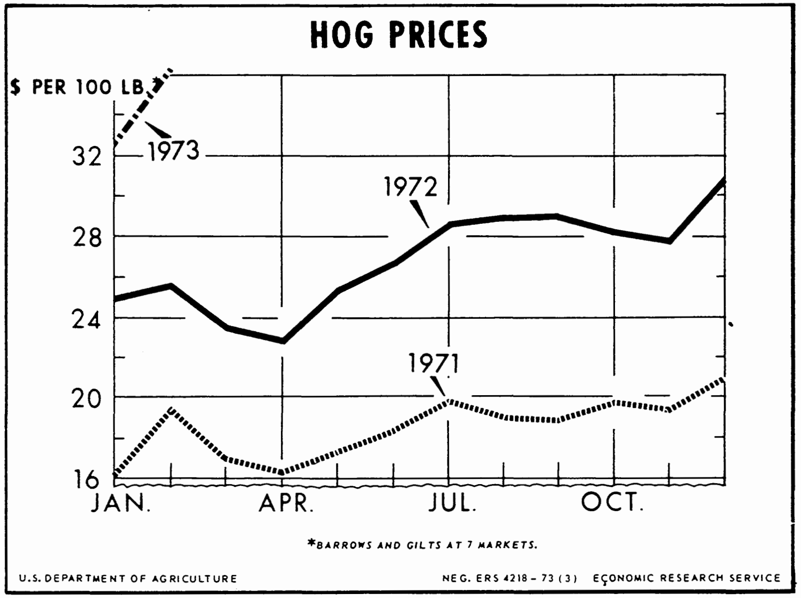
HOG PRICES
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1973
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1971
32
28
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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

CONTENTS

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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
March 12, 1973

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SUMMARY

Larger beef supplies in 1973 and further increases for the next several years are indicated by the January 1 cattle inventory. The Nation's cattle herd rose more than 4 million head during 1972 to 122 million at the beginning of this year. This was the sharpest annual increase since 1962. The accelerated upswing in the cattle inventory may lead to a bulge in beef production and price declines some time during the middle 1970's.

Beef cattle accounted for all of the 1973 inventory gain. Cow numbers increased more than 2 million to a total of almost 53 million. Also, the 1973 calf crop probably will increase 4 percent or more, compared with a 2.5 percent gain last year.

Total cattle and calf slaughter in 1972 decreased slightly, reflecting a holdback of beef cows and heifers for continued herd building. However, fed cattle marketings rose 6 percent. This was a larger gain than in 1971, and a similar rise is expected this year.

Fed cattle marketings in the first half of 1973 will be up moderately. On January 1, there were 4 percent more cattle on feed. Western feedlots carried 14 percent more. Corn Belt inventories were off 2 percent.

First half placements on feed will largely govern the pace of fed cattle marketings in the second half. A larger feeder cattle supply and a strong fed cattle market will result in some increase in first half placements, despite higher costs of both feed and feeder cattle.

The increase in fed beef production and somewhat larger beef imports will provide for an increase this year in per capita beef consumption of 2 to 3 pounds to another record high.

Choice slaughter steers at Omaha advanced from a fall low of $32.50 per 100 pounds in late November to $44.50 in early March, even though beef output is up this year. Prices are expected to weaken at times this spring when marketings of fed cattle and hogs are large, but remain well above a year earlier. Strong consumer demand continues to support the cattle market.

Hog slaughter this winter has been moderately smaller than last winter. Spring slaughter may only

be off a little, based on the number of lightweight hogs on farms late last year. But in the second half of 1973, hog slaughter will be larger. For the year, slaughter will exceed 1972. Farmers have indicated the December-May pig crop will be 7 percent larger than a year ago. The increased output has been encouraged by substantially higher hog prices in 1972. Based on Corn Belt intentions, percentage gains in slaughter may be a little larger in the summer than in the fall.

Hog prices have risen sharply. By early March, barrows and gilts at 7 markets were around $39.50 per 100 pounds, $12 above mid-November 1972 and more than $15 above a year earlier. Prices are expected to decline in the near term in response to seasonally larger output in March and April, then rise some beginning in late spring to a summer high which may be below current prices. Prices will move seasonally lower through the late summer and in the fall, and after midsummer will average below 1972 prices.

There were 17.7 million sheep and lambs on farms January 1, down 5 percent from a year ago, with the loss coming from the breeding herd. This means another drop in the lamb crop this year.

Sheep and lamb slaughter rates in January-February were down 9 percent. Slaughter is expected to continue down throughout the year. A smaller 1973 lamb crop, together with high prices that will slow the liquidation, will reduce lamb sales for slaughter.

Lamb prices have risen sharply this winter. Choice spring lambs at San Angelo sold at $45.25 in early March but are not expected to rise much further, in contrast to the spring rise last year. A more typical price pattern is expected this year, with quotations moving generally lower from early spring to summer-fall lows.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

CATTLE

Big Gain in Inventory

Higher cattle prices in recent years have encouraged stockmen to expand their herds. On January 1, 1973, there were 122 million cattle and calves on farms, up from 118 million the year before. The 1972 increase of 4 million head in the cattle inventory followed a 3-million increase in 1971 and increases of just over 2 million in 1969 and in 1970. Thus, the buildup in the cattle inventory is accelerating.

Most of the inventory increase in recent years has been in beef cows and calves. At the beginning of 1973, beef cow numbers had risen to 41.1 million head, up 6 percent. Replacement beef heifers increased to 7.5 million head, up 7 percent. The number of animals weighing less than 500 pounds was up about 2 percent, totaling 32.3 million. The dairy herd declined slightly again during 1972.

The expanding cow herd provides the potential for larger supplies of beef during the next several years. This year's calf crop will be up again and will permit larger fed cattle marketings in 1974 and 1975. Last year's calf crop was up 2.5 percent. With more than a 4 percent increase in the total number of cows on farms this year, the increase in the 1973 calf crop may top 4 percent.

Total cattle and calf slaughter was down slightly in 1972. Withholding of beef cows and heifers by cattlemen for expansion purposes limited 1972 slaughter. This is typical of the buildup phase of the cattle inventory cycle. When inventories are building, cattle slaughter holds steady or increases slowly. But when inventory gains pick up momentum, as in 1972, more rapid increases in cattle slaughter follow within a year or so. Such increases in slaughter reflect

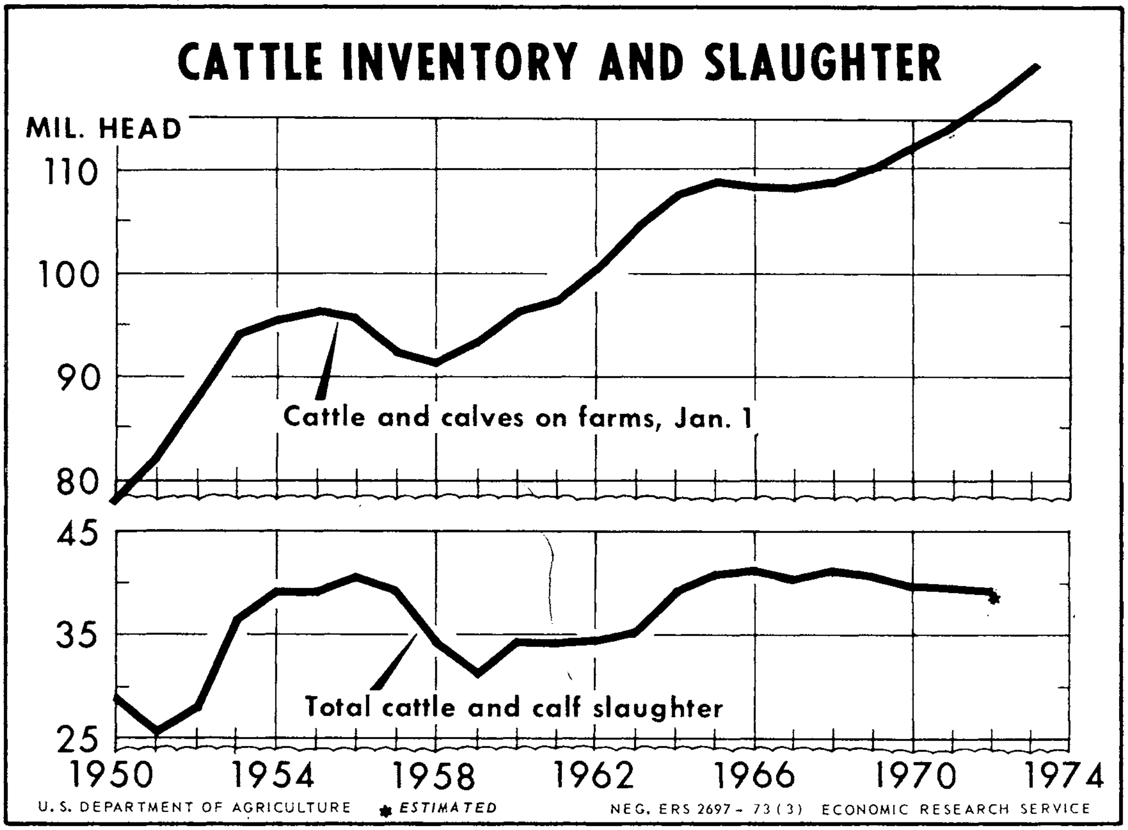
Table 1.—Number of cattle and calves on farm and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1965 to date

Year	Beef cows	Beef cow replacements	Milk cows	Dairy cow replacements	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	33,770	5,900	13,725	4,215	6,100	14,780	28,138	2,155
1968	34,570	6,110	13,115	4,080	6,120	14,820	28,461	2,195
1969	35,490	6,150	12,550	3,990	5,930	14,905	28,780	2,220
1970	36,689	6,431	12,091	3,880	6,132	15,265	29,609	2,272
1971	37,877	6,664	11,909	3,843	6,113	15,610	30,235	2,327
1972	38,807	6,987	11,778	3,828	6,399	15,999	31,688	2,376
1973	41,102	7,470	11,651	3,875	6,430	16,655	32,342	2,465

Table 2.—Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1965 to date

Year	Number on farms January 1				Index numbers, by groups (1967=100)			
	All cattle and calves	All sheep and lambs	Hogs[1]	Chickens[1]	Total livestock and poultry	Meat animals	Milk cattle	Poultry
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*				
1965	109,000	25,127	57,030	401,813	101	101	112	92
1966	108,862	24,734	50,519	400,242	99	99	106	93
1967	108,783	23,953	57,125	428,705	100	100	100	100
1968	109,371	22,223	58,818	424,361	100	100	96	97
1969	110,015	21,350	60,829	417,971	101	101	92	95
1970	112,369	20,423	57,046	422,096	102	102	89	96
1971	114,578	19,686	67,433	433,903	105	105	87	99
1972	117,862	18,710	62,507	425,576	107	107	87	97
1973	121,990	17,726	61,502	406,528	110	110	86	93

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



increases in calf crops in preceding years, which in turn provide more cattle for slaughter as well as more cows for breeding herds.

Total cattle slaughter this year likely will rise moderately. Fed cattle marketings will be up in 1973 enough to more than offset prospective declines in slaughter of young cattle that are marketed with very limited grain feeding. Cow slaughter is expected to be about the same as a year earlier, but a further decline in calf slaughter is likely.

It takes considerable time for price changes to affect production decisions by cattlemen and for these decisions, in turn, to be reflected in slaughter supplies. This is one reason cattlemen typically overadjust to higher fed cattle prices and expand their herds to the point where slaughter supplies become larger than the market can support at current prices. At this point, prices decline. And as prices weaken, cattlemen become discouraged and no longer hold extra heifers for expansion. This adds

Calf Crop

Year	Number	Percentage change from preceding year	Ratio to breeding stock on farms January 1
	1,000 head	*Percent*	
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	43,922	+0.3	90
1966	43,537	-0.9	91
1967	43,803	+0.6	92
1968	44,315	+1.2	93
1969	45,177	+1.9	94
1970	45,871	+1.5	94
1971	46,739	+1.9	94
1972	47,889	+2.5	95

more cattle to the slaughter market as cattlemen reduce their herds, further weakening cattle prices.

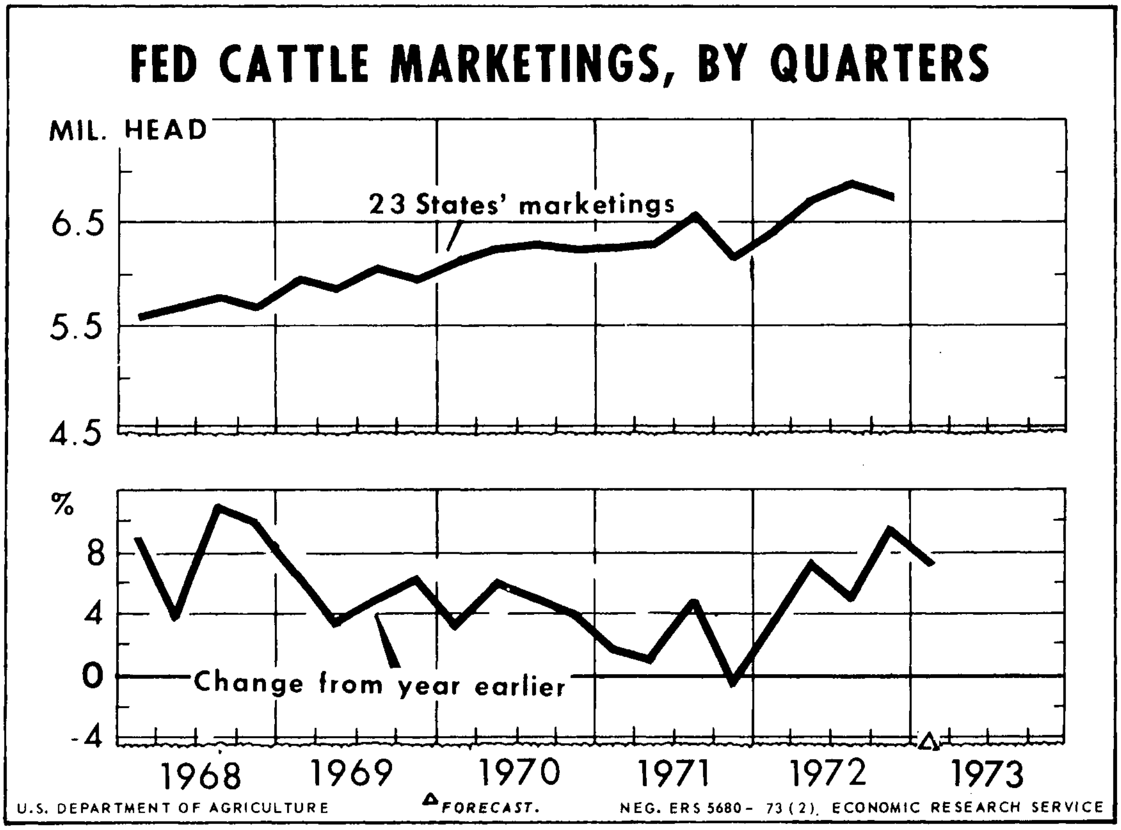
Within the next year or so growth in the inventory will be large enough to precipitate rather sizable year-to-year increases in slaughter. Large beef production will be accompanied by weaker cattle prices. However, consumer demand for meat will continue strong and will help shore up cattle prices through the 1970's.

Fed Cattle Marketings Up Moderately

Fed cattle marketings have been moderately larger this winter than last. Cattle feeders in 23 major feeding States planned to increase first quarter marketings 7 percent this year. Corn Belt feeders expected a 3 percent increase while feeders in the West intended a 13 percent increase.

Marketings in the first quarter may fall short of these intentions. Marketings during January were up 9 percent in 7 States that report monthly, but this increase was smaller than the 11 percent gain intended earlier for the entire first quarter. Moreover, in the first quarter of 1972, all of the increase in fed cattle marketings came in February. This would point to the sharpest year-to-year increases this year in January and March. Severe winter weather earlier this year slowed weight gains and probably helped slow marketings so far in 1973.

Second quarter marketings likely will be moderately larger than in April-June 1972 because on January 1 there were 9 percent more cattle on feed in weight groups that make up over half of spring



marketings. This, together with some probable increase in winter placements, will maintain a strong flow of cattle to market this spring. In this event, marketings during April-June would also be larger than winter shipments.

Average weights of slaughter cattle now are only a little heavier than a year ago, so beef production this winter will be up only a little more than the number of cattle killed. High feed costs during the next several months will be a major factor encouraging cattle feeders to ship cattle to market as soon as the desired grade is reached. Thus, fed cattle marketed in the spring and summer are expected to be somewhat lighter than a year ago.

Heavier market weights added significantly to the beef supply in late 1972. Cattle slaughter in the fourth quarter was up 3 percent, but beef production was up 6 percent, primarily because of heavier market weights.

Average liveweight of Choice steers, 7 markets

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January	1,138	1,139	1,128	1,139
February	1,142	1,142	1,122	1,140
March	1,142	1,134	1,135	
April	1,139	1,133	1,139	
May	1,141	1,139	1,134	
June	1,137	1,130	1,119	
July	1,112	1,099	1,106	
August	1,095	1,080	1,081	
September	1,089	1,091	1,095	
October	1,098	1,102	1,122	
November	1,114	1,116	1,130	
December	1,128	1,124	1,150	
Year	1,124	1,122	1,124	

Choice steers at Omaha in early March were about $44.50 per 100 pounds, up $9 from a year earlier and $12 above fall lows. Winter beef and pork production has been off seasonally. However, beef output has been larger than a year earlier.

The cattle market has been given a boost from exceptionally strong consumer demand for meat. Consumer incomes are rising and the total work force is expanding. Also, social security benefits were recently raised 20 percent, other social programs such as the food stamp program are increasing, there has been a general rise in wages, and IRS payments for over-withholding income taxes are in the mails currently.

The basic demand situation will continue to favor a strong fed cattle market this spring. However, weekly cattle slaughter will rise above winter levels and run moderately larger than in April-June 1972. Pork output rises seasonally in March and April. Thus, fed cattle prices are expected to weaken in early spring but to remain substantially higher than in 1972 when second quarter steer prices at Omaha averaged $36 per 100 pounds.

Choice steer prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
January	27.82	28.23	29.11	35.74	40.62
February	27.63	29.30	32.23	36.19	43.35
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	35.66	
June	33.99	30.29	32.39	37.88	
July	31.56	31.12	32.44	38.21	
August	30.40	30.14	33.24	35.66	
September	28.77	29.32	32.62	34.85	
October	27.72	28.67	32.34	34.85	
November	27.67	27.21	33.58	33.56	
December	27.98	26.71	34.40	36.79	
Average	29.66	29.34	32.42	35.83	

Second Half Marketings To Be Larger

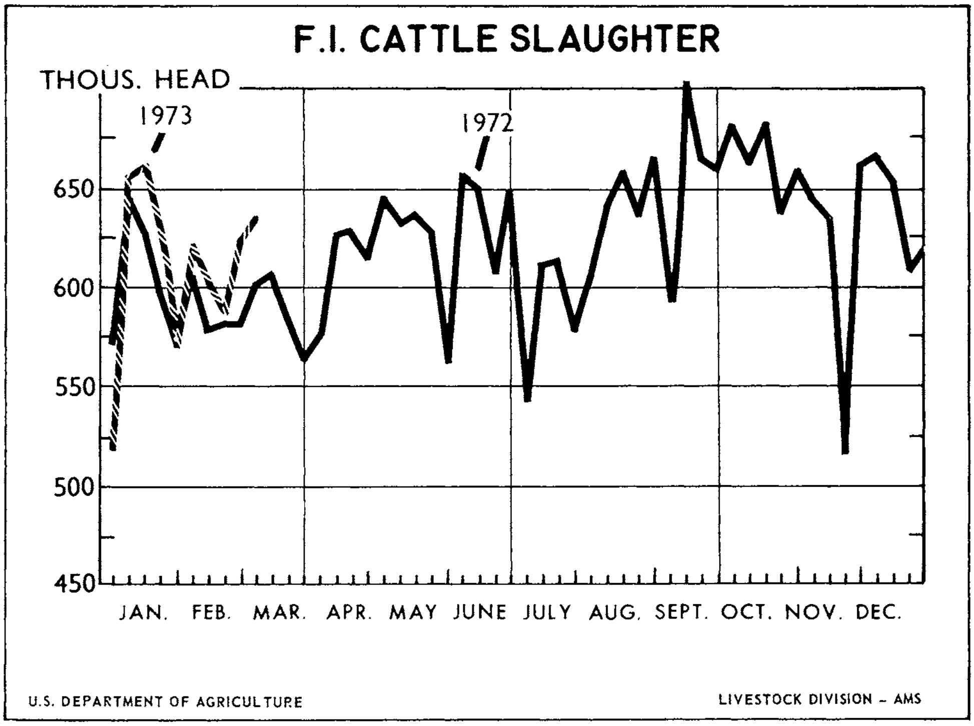
Fed cattle marketings in the second half of 1973 likely will remain moderately above year-earlier levels, similar to the increase apparently occurring in the first half. The feeder cattle supply this year will permit larger placements on feed this winter and spring, and cattle feeders will want to keep the expanding capacity of their facilities fully utilized. A high fed cattle market will encourage cattle feeders to maintain the level of feeding activity, but high feeder cattle prices and much higher feed costs will limit placements. Most of the increase will be in Western feedlots where commercial feeders are expanding facilities.

With more fed cattle coming to market in the summer, July-September marketings will be larger than any other quarter this year, and will set a new high for quarterly marketings. However, cattle feeders may ship cattle at lighter weights this summer. This will temper increases in fed beef production. Fall marketings likely will be larger than in the fourth quarter of 1972, but down from summer levels.

Choice steers at Omaha averaged $35.65 per 100 pounds during the second half of 1972. This year, prices may decline some in the second half as beef production increases and the cyclical upswing in pork output gets underway. But second half prices likely will average above prices in July-December 1972.

Feeder Cattle Prices Continue to Rise

Feeder cattle prices have been rising almost steadily since early 1971. In early March, Choice



yearling steers at Kansas City were selling for $54.50 per 100 pounds. This compared with a $43-$46 market last fall and about $32 in early 1971. The rapid rise reflects both the general strength of the fed cattle market because of strong consumer demand for meat and the cyclical downswing in hog slaughter that has been underway since late 1971.

The feeder cattle market has been further tightened by the increased demand for heifers to add to the beef breeding herd during the past several years. As stockmen hold back extra heifers, as in 1972 when

Feeder cattle prices per 100 pounds, Kansas City

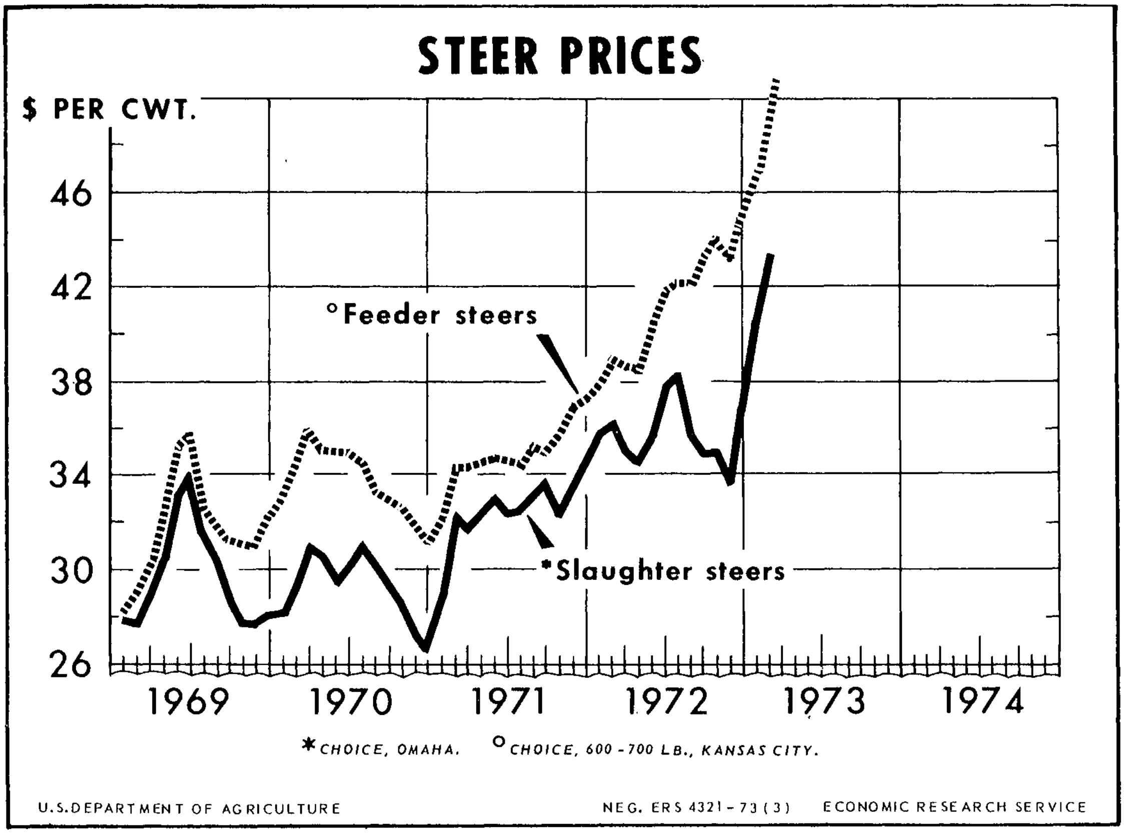
Month	Choice feeder steers 600-700 lbs.[1]			Choice feeder steer calves[2]		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	32.20	37.92	47.33	36.18	41.50	51.95
Feb.	34.24	38.86	50.98	38.48	43.94	56.10
Mar.	34.26	38.64		38.17	44.69	
Apr.	34.46	38.54		38.62	45.16	
May	34.52	40.43		39.19	46.67	
June	34.52	41.94		39.15	47.32	
July	34.36	42.02		39.10	47.10	
Aug.	35.18	42.07		39.36	48.32	
Sept.	34.97	43.29		39.33	48.70	
Oct.	35.64	44.15		39.95	49.81	
Nov.	36.88	43.17		41.70	48.37	
Dec.	37.20	45.77		41.81	49.90	
Av.	34.87	41.40		39.25	46.79	

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

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*
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
May	35.70	37.20	-1.50
June	37.91	37.92	-.01
July	38.38	38.86	-.48
August	35.70	38.64	-2.94
September	34.69	38.54	-3.85
October	34.92	40.43	-5.51
November	33.59	41.94	-8.35
December	36.85	42.02	-5.17
1973			
January	40.65	42.07	-1.42
February	43.54	43.29	+.25

[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 CWT.
46
42
38
34
30
26
°Feeder steers
*Slaughter steers
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
*CHOICE, OMAHA. °CHOICE, 600 - 700 LB., KANSAS CITY.
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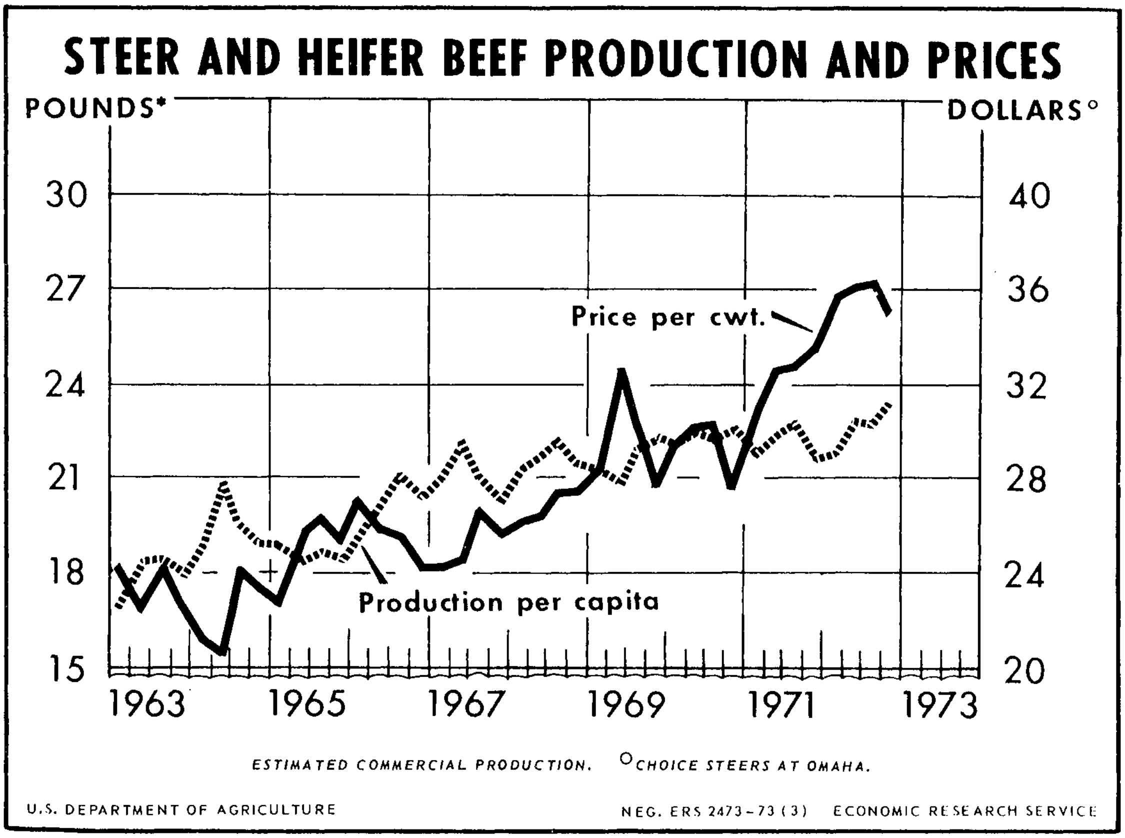
STEER AND HEIFER BEEF PRODUCTION AND PRICES
POUNDS*
DOLLARS°
30
27
24
21
18
15
40
36
32
28
24
20
Price per cwt.
Production per capita
1963
1965
1967
1969
1971
1973
*ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION. °CHOICE STEERS AT OMAHA.
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beef cow numbers rose 2.3 million head, the number of feeder cattle available for feedlot replacement is limited.

Recent rises in feeder cattle prices, coupled with higher feed costs, may put many cattle feeders in a difficult position later this year. Based on field reports of the cost of gain, cattle placed on feed in recent weeks will probably have to be sold on a $40 or higher market to avoid showing a loss. This situation likely will limit further rises in feeder cattle prices this spring when the volume of movement is seasonally light.

Feeder cattle prices in the second half will likely decline somewhat as the heavy fall movement from pastures and ranges begins. However, prices next fall likely will remain above prices in October-December of 1972 when they averaged $44.35 per 100 pounds. Prices usually decline in the fall, but did not in 1971 and 1972.

Cow Slaughter To Stay Low

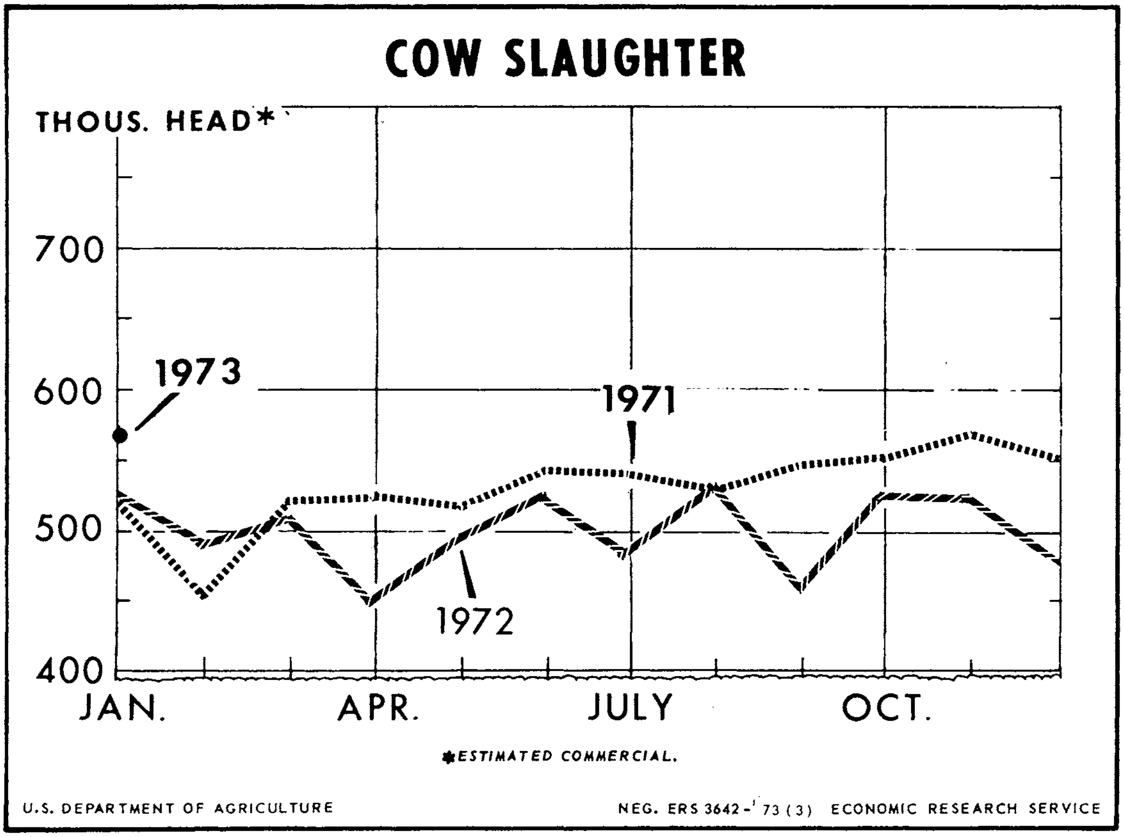
Higher feeder cattle prices in 1972 encouraged cattlemen to hold more aged cows to produce another calf. Cow slaughter fell 6 percent. Cows accounted for only 17 percent of all cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection last year. This was down from 18 percent of the total in 1971 and the lowest on record.

Cow slaughter in the first half of 1973 is expected to run a little less than in the first 6 months of 1972 because market conditions continue to favor breeding herd expansion. Slaughter may be up a little later in the year, reflecting the buildup in the cow herd in recent years.

Cow slaughter in January (estimated commercial) was up 9 percent from a year earlier but about half the increase reflected the extra kill day this January.

Utility cow prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
January	20.93	19.98	22.61	26.67
February	22.18	20.98	23.80	31.43
March	23.24	22.03	24.73	
April	23.23	21.48	24.70	
May	22.64	22.30	25.51	
June	22.58	22.03	26.00	
July	20.85	21.68	26.22	
August	20.48	21.72	26.18	
September	21.13	21.84	26.57	
October	20.84	22.30	26.19	
November	19.04	21.45	24.98	
December	18.77	21.64	25.02	
Average	21.32	21.62	25.21	



Utility cow prices at Omaha have gone up rapidly this winter along with prices of other livestock. In early March they were $33.60 per 100 pounds, up from $25.40 in the fall. Prices have risen because pork output has trailed year-earlier levels and the demand for processing meats has risen. Beef imports have continued to increase.

Cow prices may not rise any further this spring when slaughter is seasonally low, but prices will continue much higher than in the second quarter of 1972 when Utility cows at Omaha were about 25.40

HOGS

Hog slaughter last year was off 10 percent from 1971 with declines throughout the year. In January and February 1973, weekly slaughter rates were down 4 percent. A changing slaughter pattern in the months ahead will reflect producer's responses to 1972's rising hog prices and increasingly favorable hog-corn price ratios.

Spring Slaughter New Year Earlier

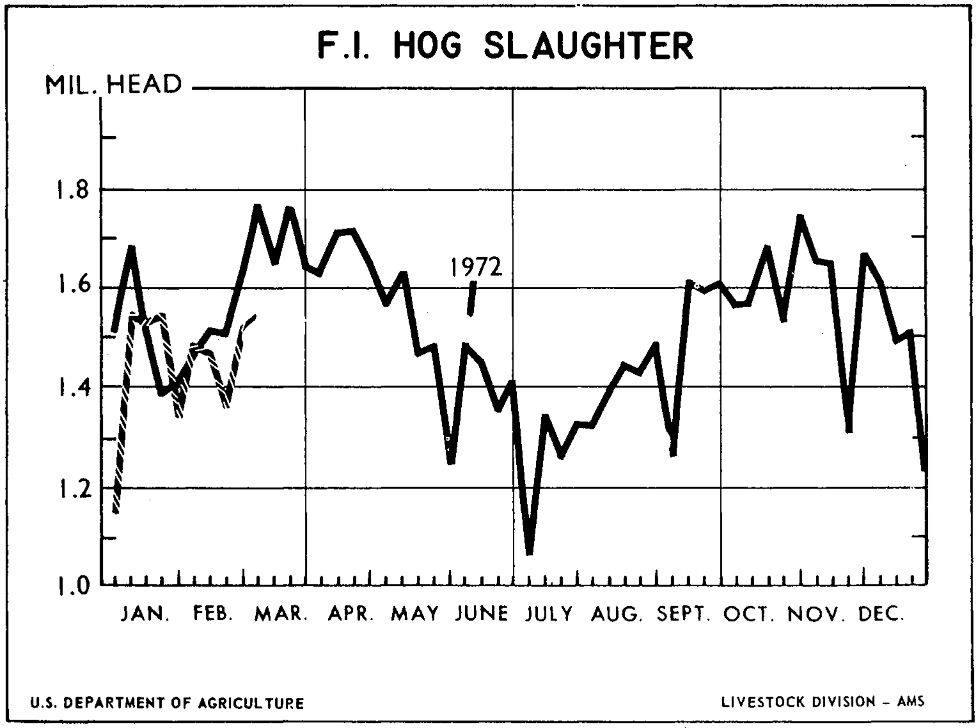
Hog slaughter in the spring likely will be near year-earlier levels. Last December 1 there was about the same number of market hogs on farms in weight groups that typically supply the bulk of spring slaughter supplies. Slaughter will rise seasonally during March and April from the January-February level, but then decline seasonally in May and June.

Hog slaughter weights typically increase in the spring to a high during May and June. With higher feed prices this year, hog producers may move hogs at lighter weights. However, recent shipping weights have not been much different from a year ago although feed prices have been up sharply. In January the average hog commercially slaughtered weighed 239 pounds, the same as in January 1972.

Average liveweight of barrows and gilts, 7 markets

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
January	242	235	238	237
February	236	231	234	232
March	238	231	236	
April	243	236	240	
May	246	241	242	
June	243	239	241	
July	234	234	234	
August	227	230	230	
September	230	229	231	
October	234	234	237	
November	238	239	239	
December	237	238	236	
Average	237	235	237	

The summer-fall price decline in 1972 was substantially less than usual. An unusually sharp upturn in November and December shot prices to their annual peak of $31.60 in December, $2 above summer highs. Prices continued the upward trend in January and February and by early March, barrows



and gilts at 7 markets were about $39.50, $15.50 above a year ago and a record high.

The rapid rise in prices in late fall and winter reflected smaller pork supplies and the strong cattle market. The unusual strength in red meat prices is resulting from unprecedented consumer demand. The source of such a rapid demand shift has not been clearly identified but the result can be seen in prices of slaughter livestock and meat.

Hog prices are expected to decline into the spring. Then, as marketings drop off seasonally, prices will rise to a summer peak. First half prices will average well above a year earlier when barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged $24.85. Among pork's competitors, moderate declines in broiler supplies will likely be more than offset by some increase in beef output.

Hogs prices per 100 pounds, 7 markets[1]

Month	Barrows and gilts			Sows		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	16.25	24.84	32.51	12.74	20.41	26.32
Feb.	19.43	25.61	36.23	16.68	22.90	31.22
Mar.	17.13	23.56		15.28	21.43	
Apr.	16.19	22.89		14.47	20.89	
May	17.43	25.32		14.84	22.12	
June	18.38	26.74		15.07	22.42	
July	19.84	28.57		15.86	23.59	
Aug.	19.05	28.86		15.77	25.22	
Sept.	18.91	29.10		16.08	25.92	
Oct.	19.80	28.09		16.95	25.05	
Nov.	19.39	27.79		16.32	23.04	
Dec.	20.98	30.78		16.26	24.26	
Av.	18.45	26.76		15.54	23.26	

[1] Average for all weights at Midwest markets.

Second Half Slaughter To Rise

Hog slaughter in the summer and fall will rise moderately above July-December 1972. The December 1972-May 1973 pig crop was forecast 7 percent larger than a year earlier. Pigs born in these months supply the bulk of second half slaughter.

Judging from Corn Belt Farrowing intentions, hog slaughter this summer will show a larger percentage gain over a year earlier than it will in the fall. Corn Belt producers planned to increase the number of sows farrowing in December-February by 10 percent but to increase farrowings in March-May by 7 percent. The seasonal decline in summer slaughter may not be as large as in other recent years.

The *Hog and Pigs* report to be issued on March 20 will show later developments in farrowings and farmers' plans for 1973.

The turnaround in hog production that is beginning with the 1973 spring pig crop is in response to the much improved price situation for pork producers in 1972. The hog-corn ratio (Omaha basis) averaged nearly 21 during 1972, up from less than 14 in 1971. Although feed grain prices rose sharply last year, hog prices rose faster and the relationship of hog prices to corn prices favored expanded hog output. In early 1973, hog prices continued to rise and by early March the hog-corn price ratio was 25 to 1.

Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha basis

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973
January	22.8	11.0	19.7	21.4
February	23.5	13.2	20.6	23.3
March	21.7	11.6	19.0	
April	19.6	11.3	18.2	
May	18.8	11.8	19.7	
June	18.8	12.2	21.5	
July	19.5	13.9	22.8	
August	16.3	15.1	23.5	
September	14.5	16.3	22.6	
October	13.2	17.2	21.8	
November	11.5	16.7	20.6	
December	10.8	16.6	20.5	
Average	17.6	13.9	20.9	

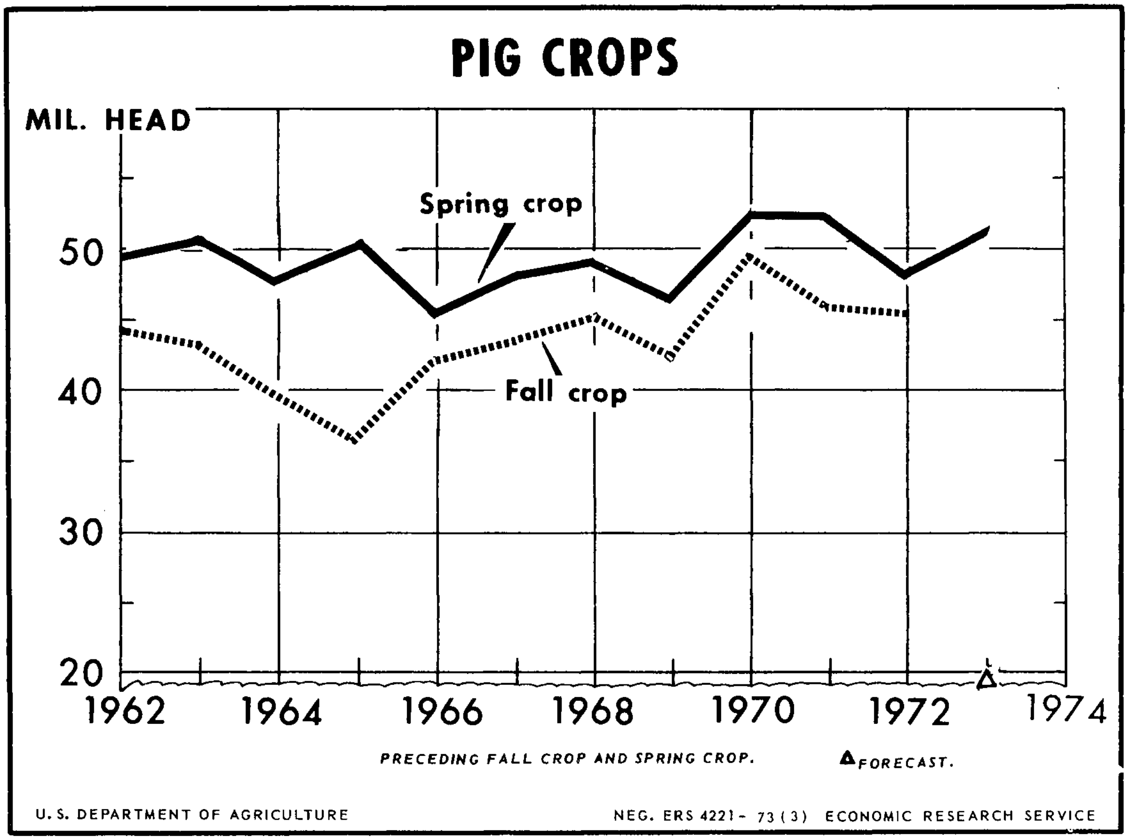
Hog prices will probably continue generally favorable relative to feed prices in the second half. Although hog prices are expected to trend downward from summer to fall, feed grains are likely to move in the same direction. Hog prices may drop below year-earlier levels in the summer as slaughter rates run above year-earlier levels. The summer-fall decline this year will be much sharper than last year when prices fell from $29.40 in September to $27.40 in early November.

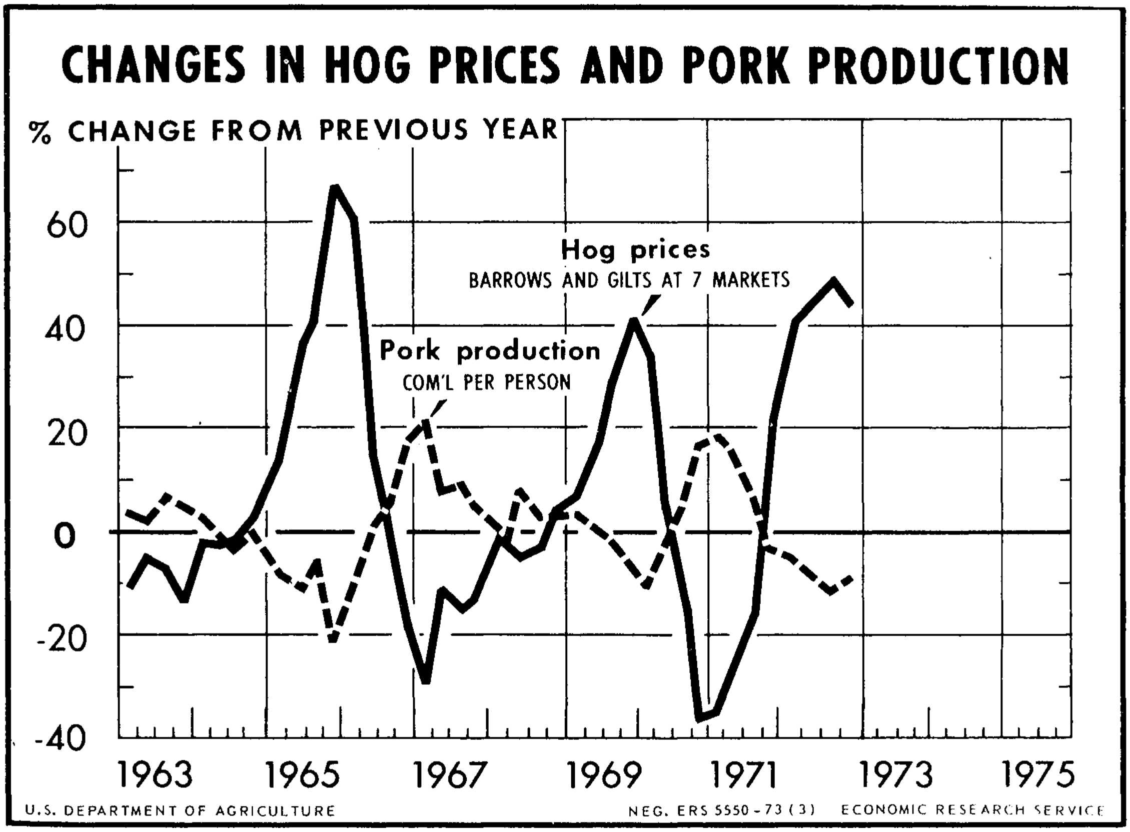
Hog slaughter in the second half will likely be 6 to 8 percent larger than a year earlier. At this level, slaughter would be the third largest for any like period in the past decade, exceeded only by 1970 and 1971.

Consumption of pork per person in 1973 will be around 67 pounds per person, well above the 63 pound average during the 1960's.

Fall Farrowings to Continue Up

Hog producers are currently planning summer and fall farrowings. Hog prices are at record levels and are favorable relative to the price of feed, despite the high level of the feed grain market. Therefore, returns to hog producers continue fully as favorable as during the last half of 1972 when plans for the spring's expanded production were formulated. Thus, the June-November pig crop likely will be up at least as much as the 7 percent rise currently estimated for December-May. Also, since 1950, sharp increases or decreases in the spring pig crop have always been


PIG CROPS
MIL. HEAD
50
40
30
20
Spring crop
Fall crop
1962
1964
1966
1968
1970
1972
1974
PRECEDING FALL CROP AND SPRING CROP.
FORECAST.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 4221- 73 (3) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


CHANGES IN HOG PRICES AND PORK PRODUCTION
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
60
40
20
0
-20
-40
Hog prices
BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS
Pork production
COM'L PER PERSON
1963
1965
1967
1969
1971
1973
1975
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 5550-73 (3) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

followed by a change in the same direction in the fall crop. Increases in the fall pig crop will be reflected in first half 1974 hog slaughter.

The feeder pig market has shared record prices with the slaughter hog market and is running well above year-earlier levels. However, price advances have been smaller, relative to slaughter hog price changes, than in other recent years. Feeder pig price swings usually are substantially wider than those for slaughter hogs. This time, however, price advances have been roughly similar. Farmers who buy feeder pigs rather than raising their own have a clearer choice in selling corn for cash or marketing it through hogs.

While the livestock-feed market situation tends to favor continued increases in hog production there are some factors that will dampen rapid changes. For example, recent high feed grain prices will tend to limit increases in hog production during the balance of 1973 and 1974. The livestock feed market is the highest in several years. Corn prices in late 1972 and early 1973 averaged over $1.50 per bushel at Omaha, the highest since 1956. However, the supply of corn at the beginning of this year was about the same as a year earlier, and large enough to support some expansion in hog production as well as in cattle feeding. Also, the 1973 crop is expected to exceed last year's 5.5 billion bushel output. Feed grain prices are expected to trend downward during most of the balance of 1973 and livestock-feed price ratios will probably continue to favor some expansion in livestock production.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Inventory Continues Down

The total number of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches declined to 17.7 million head at the beginning of this year. This was down a million head, or 5 percent, from a year earlier and was the smallest inventory on record. Numbers have been dropping steadily since 1960 when the count totaled more than 33 million. All areas of the country shared in the decline.

The proportion of total inventory of stock sheep accounted for by the 5 leading sheep States—Texas, Wyoming, California, Montana, and South Dakota—has increased since 1960. On January 1, 1973, about 48 percent of the stock sheep inventory was in these States, compared with 45 percent in 1960. Sheepmen in these 5 States cut inventories 6 percent in 1972, the same average as producers in all other States combined.

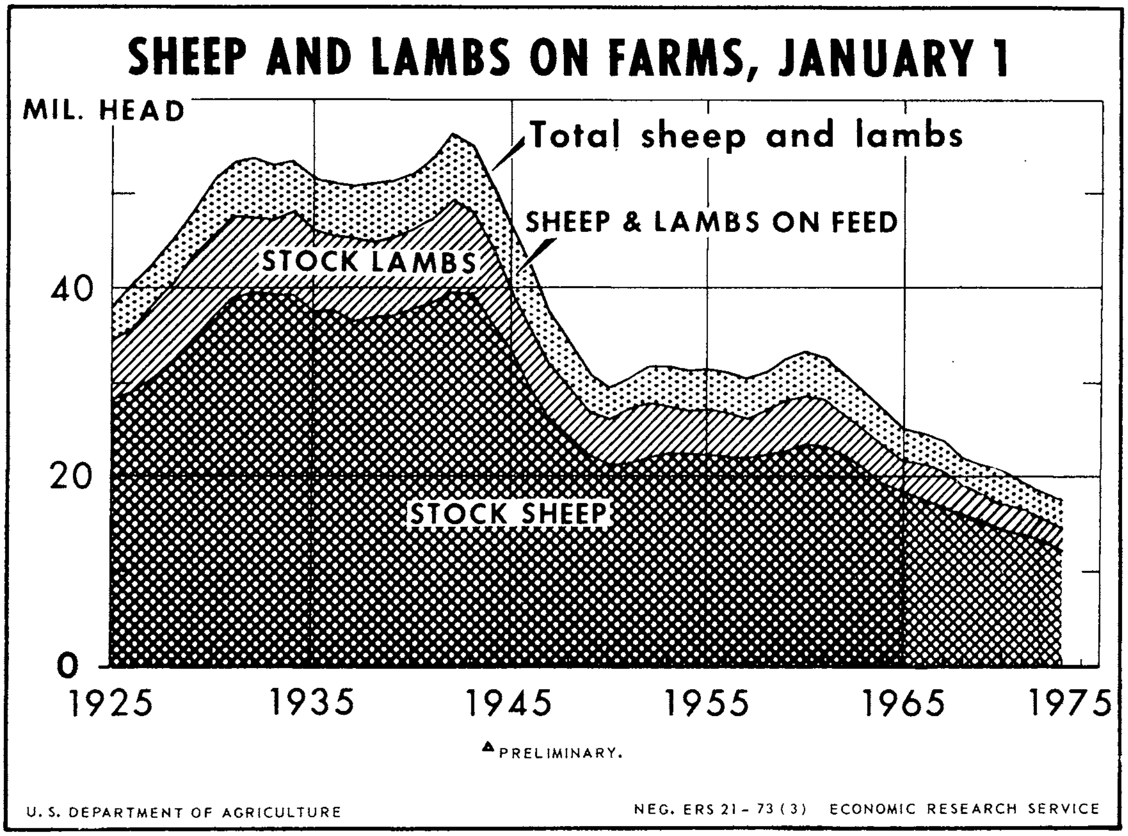


Table 3.—Balance sheet for sheep and lambs, United States, 1960 to date

Year	Number of farms Jan. 1	Born during year	Net exports	Slaughter	Deaths	Adjustment factor	Number on farms Dec. 31
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*
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	+6	23,953
1967	23,953	15,017	+108	13,034	3,629	+38	22,223
1968	22,223	14,444	+91	12,119	3,369	+273	21,350
1969	21,350	13,723	+83	10,923	3,382	-242	20,423
1970	20,423	13,439	+121	10,802	3,195	-58	19,686
1971	19,686	12,930	+208	10,967	3,089	+358	18,710
1972	18,710	12,537	+146	10,516	3,100	+241	17,726
1973[2]	17,726	11,900	+150	10,000	2,900		16.5-17.0

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

Stock sheep numbers dropped to 14.9 million head on January 1, 1973, down 6 percent from a year earlier and about half the 1960 inventory. However, ewe lambs were down only 4 percent. This suggests that the breeding herd this year may decline less than in other recent years. The number of ewe lambs in the 5 leading sheep States increased 4 percent. Texas, Wyoming, and California accounted for the increase; Montana dropped 13 percent and South Dakota stayed even. Sheepmen in these areas were perhaps encouraged by the sharply higher lamb and wool market last year.

Nevertheless, declining stock sheep numbers mean smaller lamb crops, and with 6 percent fewer ewes on farms at the beginning of this year, the 1973 lamb crop likely will be down about the same, depending on the lambing rate. With favorable lambing conditions, the lamb crop could be down less than 6 percent. A smaller lamb crop will mean lower slaughter rates in 1973. Also, if sheepmen in some States tend to continue holding more ewe lambs this year, slaughter would be off further.

First Half Slaughter To Be Down

Sheep and lamb weekly slaughter rates in January and February were down 9 percent. This will put first quarter slaughter well below a year ago.

Lamb slaughter likely will continue down in the spring, but perhaps by a smaller margin. Spring slaughter supplies depend to a considerable extent on new crop lambs that reach slaughter weight at that time. On January 1, there were 1.2 million lambs that were born during October-December 1972, 2 percent more than a year earlier. This small recovery follows a 20 percent reduction last year. The incentive to hold more lambs this year will detract some from slaughter shipments.

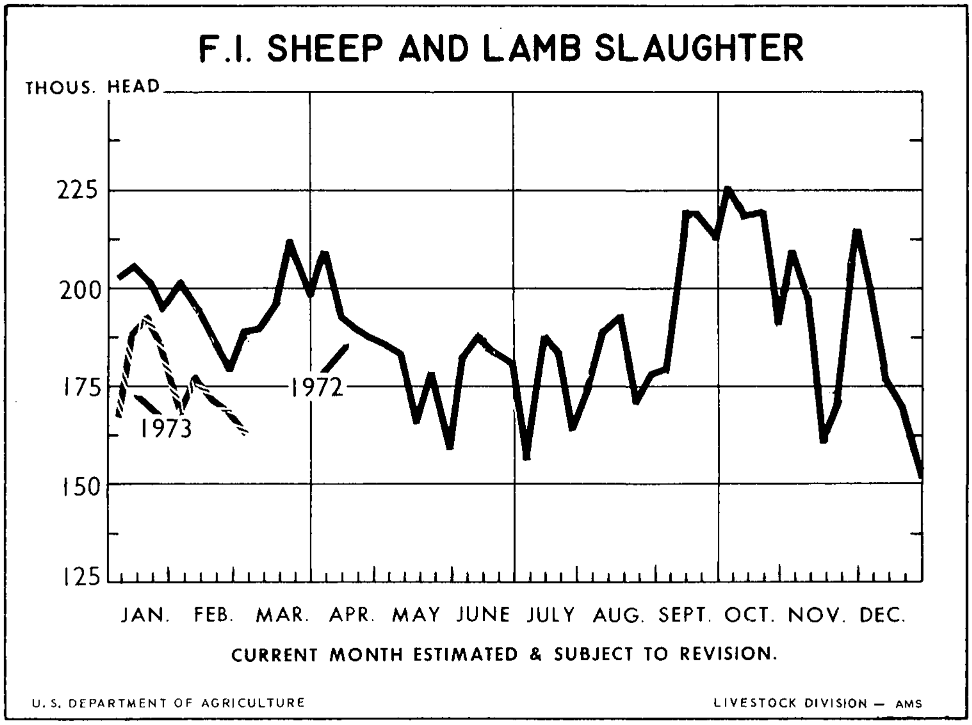
Lamb Crop

Year	Number	Percentage change from preceding year	Ratio to breeding stock on farms January 1
	1,000 head	*Percent*	
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	15,017	-5.4	93
1968	14,444	-3.8	94
1969	13,723	-5.0	93
1970	13,439	-2.1	97
1971	12,930	-3.8	95
1972	12,537	-3.0	97

Choice lamb prices per 100 pounds, San Angelo

Month	Slaughter lambs			Feeder lambs		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	24.06	27.19	35.75	24.00	27.69	34.30
Feb.	24.12	28.69	39.12	24.75	28.38	39.06
Mar.	28.05	32.00		28.05	32.25	
Apr.	29.06	31.12		27.44	32.00	
May	29.69	33.75		26.76	32.55	
June	30.05	32.88		25.65	29.81	
July	29.06	33.31		24.69	29.88	
Aug.	28.12	31.52		25.75	29.70	
Sept.	25.70	29.44		24.95	29.56	
Oct.	26.06	28.50		25.19	29.38	
Nov.	26.00	28.52		26.44	30.45	
Dec.	25.94	[1] 30.42		26.69	31.25	
Av.	27.16	30.70		25.86	30.24	

[1] Shorn.



Slaughter lamb prices have been high this winter. In February Choice slaughter lambs at San Angelo averaged $39.10. This was $10.45 above February 1972. In early March, spring lambs were bringing $45.25, up $13.25 from a year ago. Last year, March-May prices on new crop lambs advanced about $2. This spring, prices are expected to move in a more typical pattern, from an early spring peak to a gradual downward trend through late spring into summer. Fed cattle price movements will influence the lamb market to some degree.

Second Half Slaughter To Continue Lower

July-December slaughter likely will run moderately smaller than a year earlier. The smaller lamb crop will reduce the available supply of slaughter lambs. If higher wool and lamb prices lead to some rebuilding, this would tend to reduce slaughter supplies even further. Last year the lamb crop was 3 percent smaller than in 1971 but sheep and lamb slaughter was off 4 percent. This year, sheep and lamb slaughter likely will be down more than the lamb crop.

The July-November lamb price decline last year was about $6. This was somewhat sharper than in other recent years. This year, with prices expected to show some decline in the spring, the summer drop may be less than last year. However, prices will continue higher than last July-December's $30.30. Demand for red meats and shorter lamb supplies will continue to hold slaughter animal prices well above previous levels.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MEAT

In January, meat imports totaled 215 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent), 3 percent more than a year earlier. Larger imports of beef and veal accounted for most of the increase, but mutton and goat imports were several times as large as in January 1972. Beef and veal imports totaled 166.5 million pounds, up 16 percent. Pork imports totaled 44.4 million pounds, down 30 percent. Imports of lamb were 1.7 million pounds, down 42 percent, but mutton and goat imports were 2.4 million pounds, compared with 135,000 pounds in January 1972.

U.S. exports of red meat totaled 12.8 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in January, 70 percent more than in January 1972. Exports of lamb and mutton at 200,000 pounds were 10 percent smaller. Exports of beef and veal (6.5 million pounds) and pork exports (6.1 million pounds) were up sharply.

Imports Subject To Meat Import Law

Public Law 88-482, enacted in August 1964, provides for import quotas under specified conditions to limit imports of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef, veal, mutton and goat in line with changes in U.S. production of these meats.

Table 4.—Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-73

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	88.3	86.2	76.8	101.0	94.4	104.9	158.6	80.4	63.2	130.3	1,132.6
1972[1]	86.9	80.8	75.4	105.4	107.9	106.4	106.8	164.6	163.8	145.1	119.0	93.4	1,355.5
1973	106.2												

[1]Rejections for calendar year 1969 equaled 13.5 million pounds, 17.4 million pounds for 1970, 21.0 million pounds for 1971, and 17.8 for 1972.

Table 5.—U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1972 and 1973

Months	Beef and veal			Lamb and mutton[1]			Pork			Total meat		
	1972	1973	Change	1972	1973	Change	1972	1973	Change	1972	1973	Change
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*
IMPORTS												
January	143	167	+16	3	4	+33	63	44	-30	209	215	+3
February	130			5			45			179		
March	120			6			50			176		
April	144			27			44			215		
May	152			27			36			215		
June	157			14			31			202		
July	162			16			41			219		
August	229			24			37			290		
September	230			15			31			276		
October	214			5			45			264		
November	177			3			46			226		
December	138			3			40			181		
Total	1,996			148			509			2,653		
EXPORTS												
January	4.03	6.50	+61	0.22	0.20	-10	3.28	6.10	+86	7.53	12.80	+70
February	3.89			.11			3.53			7.53		
March	4.93			.16			4.29			9.38		
April	5.45			.10			10.43			15.98		
May	5.70			.23			19.40			25.33		
June	5.04			.12			13.73			18.89		
July	4.78			.19			6.48			11.45		
August	4.48			.21			5.39			10.08		
September	4.73			.11			8.32			13.16		
October	5.01			.22			17.58			22.81		
November	7.45			.20			7.18			14.83		
December	6.57			.15			6.81			13.53		
Total	62.06			2.02			106.42			170.50		

[1] Includes goat meat.

The law provides, however, that the President may take action to increase allowable imports or to suspend quotas if he finds that this is required by overriding economic or national security interests of the United States, or if the supply of these meats will be inadequate to meet domestic demand at reasonable prices, or that trade agreements entered into after the enactment of the law ensure that the purpose of the law to limit imports will be carried out. The President invoked quotas for 1973 but immediately suspended them. Since June 1972 there have been no restrictions on meat imports subject to the meat import law.

The Secretary of Agriculture announced on December 29 that calendar 1973 imports of meat subject to the meat import law were estimated at 1,450 million pounds (product weight), up from 1,355 million last year.

The Secretary stated that the situation will be reviewed quarterly, and should marketing conditions change substantially, the suspension of import limitations will be reconsidered.

Imports of these meats in January totaled 106 million pounds compared with 87 million pounds in January 1972.

Table 6.—Rank of States in Number of Cattle and Calves on farms January 1, 1973

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	15,350	Texas	6,320	Wisconsin	1,831
2	Iowa	7,770	Oklahoma	2,283	Minnesota	926
3	Nebraska	6,915	Missouri	2,260	New York	914
4	Kansas	6,850	Nebraska	2,112	California	789
5	Oklahoma	5,660	Kansas	2,058	Pennsylvania	678
6	Missouri	5,550	South Dakota	1,906	Iowa	452
7	California	4,710	Iowa	1,810	Ohio	434
8	South Dakota	4,496	Montana	1,685	Michigan	422
9	Wisconsin	4,283	Mississippi	1,249	Texas	360
10	Minnesota	4,038	Kentucky	1,176	Kentucky	324
11	Colorado	3,756	Florida	1,136	Missouri	320
12	Illinois	3,330	Tennessee	1,124	Illinois	280
13	Montana	3,197	North Dakota	1,120	Tennessee	244
14	Kentucky	3,033	Colorado	1,102	Indiana	232
15	Tennessee	2,520	Arkansas	1,038	Florida	200
16	North Dakota	2,435	Alabama	995	Vermont	195
17	Mississippi	2,415	California	915	Washington	185
18	Florida	2,237	Louisiana	910	South Dakota	174
19	Ohio	2,134	Georgia	909	Virginia	172
20	Alabama	2,112	Illinois	840	Nebraska	168
21	Georgia	2,062	Wyoming	784	Kansas	162
22	Arkansas	2,028	New Mexico	680	North Carolina	162
23	Indiana	2,025	Oregon	669	Idaho	160
24	Idaho	1,888	Idaho	659	Louisiana	154
25	New York	1,764	Minnesota	602	Mississippi	147
26	Louisiana	1,763	Virginia	593	Maryland	146
27	Pennsylvania	1,745	Indiana	498	Georgia	145
28	New Mexico	1,615	Ohio	399	Oklahoma	134
29	Michigan	1,576	Washington	391	North Dakota	129
30	Virginia	1,565	North Carolina	363	Alabama	120
31	Wyoming	1,565	Arizona	345	Arkansas	96
32	Oregon	1,514	Nevada	340	Oregon	94
33	Arizona	1,420	Utah	339	Colorado	79
34	Washington	1,389	Wisconsin	313	Utah	75
35	North Carolina	1,040	South Carolina	295	South Carolina	63
36	Utah	840	West Virginia	221	Maine	61
37	South Carolina	662	Michigan	196	New Jersey	59
38	Navada	651	Pennsylvania	146	Connecticut	58
39	West Virginia	490	New York	106	Massachusetts	57
40	Maryland	408	Hawaii	90	Arizona	50
41	Vermont	339	Maryland	59	West Virginia	43
42	Hawaii	242	Vermont	15	New Hampshire	34
43	Maine	136	New Jersey	14	Montana	32
44	New Jersey	126	Maine	11	New Mexico	30
45	Connecticut	113	Massachusetts	8	Wyoming	14
46	Massachusetts	111	Connecticut	6	Navada	14
47	New Hampshire	70	Delaware	5	Hawaii	13
48	Delaware	31	New Hampshire	4	Delaware	12
49	Rhode Island	12	Alaska	2	Rhode Island	6
50	Alaska	9	Rhode Island	1	Alaska	2
	United States	121,990		41,102		11,651

Table 7.—Rank of States in number of cattle on feed, sheep and lambs on farms, January 1, 1973 and pigs saved 1972

Rank	Cattle on feed		All sheep and lambs		Number of pigs saved[1]	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		*1,000 head*		*1,000 head*
1	Texas	2,245	Texas	3,214	Iowa	20,883
2	Iowa	1,981	Wyoming	1,705	Illinois	11,544
3	Nebraska	1,581	Colorado	1,214	Missouri	7,250
4	Kansas	1,250	South Dakota	1,161	Indiana	7,151
5	California	1,181	California	1,059	Minnesota	5,666
6	Colorado	1,050	Montana	955	Nebraska	5,207
7	New Mexico	655	Utah	905	Ohio	3,680
8	Illinois	585	New Mexico	743	Kansas	3,330
9	Minnesota	494	Idaho	707	North Carolina	3,071
10	South Dakota	378	Iowa	660	South Dakota	2,944
11	Missouri	310	Ohio	627	Wisconsin	2,939
12	Ohio	300	Arizona	502	Georgia	2,611
13	Indiana	276	Oregon	464	Kentucky	2,197
14	Oklahoma	272	Minnesota	437	Texas	1,856
15	Michigan	245	North Dakota	396	Tennessee	1,836
16	New Mexico	226	Nebraska	370	Alabama	1,572
17	Idaho	205	Kansas	325	Michigan	1,162
18	Washington	180	Illinois	275	South Carolina	999
19	Montana	160	Indiana	235	Virginia	855
20	Wisconsin	143	Michigan	221	Mississippi	797
21	Pennsylvania	87	Missouri	215	Pennsylvania	789
22	Oregon	69	Virginia	175	Oklahoma	665
23	Georgia	65	Nevada	171	Arkansas	578
24	Florida	58	Pennsylvania	144	North Dakota	573
25	Nevada	50	West Virginia	142	Colorado	540
26	Utah	48	Washington	129	Florida	450
27	North Dakota	47	Wisconsin	124	Montana	348
28	North Carolina	45	Oklahoma	120	Maryland	293
29	Virginia	39	New York	98	Louisiana	266
30	Kentucky	38	Kentucky	62	California	242
31	Alabama	37	Tennessee	26	Idaho	192
32	Wyoming	31	Louisiana	20	Oregon	168
33	South Carolina	26	Maryland	19	New York	134
34	Maryland	21	Alaska	16	Arizona	124
35	Arkansas	18	Maine	14	Washington	122
36	Hawaii	15	North Carolina	12	Delaware	92
37	New York	14	New Jersey	10	New Mexico	92
38	Tennessee	14	Mississippi	8	Massachusetts	87
39	Mississippi	14	Massachusetts	7	West Virginia	85
40	Louisiana	12	Arkansas	6	New Jersey	73
41	West Virginia	11	Vermont	6	Hawaii	67
42	New Jersey	5	New Hampshire	5	Utah	64
43			Alabama	5	Wyoming	58
44			Connecticut	5	New Hampshire	15
45			Florida	4	Nevada	13
46			Georgia	3	Rhode Island	11
47			Delaware	2	Connecticut	11
48			Rhode Island	2	Maine	10
49			South Carolina	1	Vermont	6
50			Hawaii	---	Alaska	2
	Other States	4				
	United States	14,485		17,726		93,720

[1] Total pigs saved from December-May and June-November pig crops.

Supply and distribution commercially produced meat, by months, carcass weight, July 1972 to date

Meat and period	Supply: Production[1]	Supply: Beginning stocks	Supply: Imports	Distribution: Exports and shipments	Distribution: Ending stocks	Distribution: Military	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Total	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Per person[2]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Pounds*
Beef:								
July	1,688	253	160	8	259	20	1,813	8.8
August	1,985	259	226	8	281	17	2,164	10.5
September	1,883	281	226	8	302	22	2,060	10.0
3rd quarter	5,556	253	612	24	302	59	6,037	29.3
October	2,012	302	209	8	329	22	2,166	10.5
November	1,897	329	172	12	351	22	2,015	9.8
December	1,813	351	133	10	367	21	1,884	9.1
4th quarter	5,722	302	514	30	367	65	6,065	29.4
Year	22,212	366	1,960	113	367	302	23,746	115.6
Veal:								
July	33	9	2	(3)	9	1	34	0.1
August	38	9	3	1	10	1	38	.2
September	34	10	4	1	11	1	35	.2
3rd quarter	105	9	9	2	11	3	107	.5
October	37	11	5	1	11	1	39	.2
November	35	11	5	2	12	2	36	.2
December	31	12	5	2	13	2	33	.1
4th quarter	103	11	15	5	13	5	108	.5
Year	426	9	36	11	13	16	433	2.1
Lamb and mutton:								
July	37	20	16	(3)	21	(3)	52	0.3
August	43	21	24	1	21	(3)	66	.3
September	44	21	15	1	19	(3)	59	.3
3rd quarter	124	20	55	2	19	(3)	177	.9
October	50	19	5	1	19	(3)	54	.3
November	45	19	3	1	17	1	48	.2
December	42	17	3	(3)	16	(3)	45	.2
4th quarter	137	19	11	2	16	1	147	.7
Year	533	19	148	8	16	3	671	3.3
Pork:								
July	902	319	41	14	254	7	988	4.8
August	1,089	254	37	15	204	5	1,156	5.6
September	1,074	204	31	15	192	10	1,088	5.3
3rd quarter	3,065	319	109	44	192	22	3,232	15.7
October	1,201	192	45	27	208	12	1,198	5.8
November	1,218	208	46	20	243	10	1,204	5.8
December	1,087	243	40	18	214	10	1,111	5.4
4th quarter	3,506	192	131	65	214	32	3,513	17.0
Year	13,456	330	509	223	214	121	13,729	66.8
All meat:								
July	2,660	601	219	22	543	28	2,887	14.0
August	3,155	543	290	25	516	23	3,424	16.6
September	3,035	516	276	25	524	33	3,242	15.8
3rd quarter	8,850	601	785	72	524	84	9,553	46.4
October	3,300	524	264	37	567	35	3,457	16.8
November	3,195	567	226	35	623	35	3,303	16.0
December	2,973	623	181	30	610	33	3,073	14.8
4th quarter	9,468	524	671	102	610	103	9,833	47.6
Year	36,627	724	2,653	355	610	442	38,578	187.8

[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	1972 Yearly average	1972 Jan.	1972 Feb.	1973 Jan.	1973 Feb.
	Dollars per 100 pounds				
CATTLE AND CALVES					
Beef steers, slaughter, Omaha					
Prime	36.65	36.59	37.25	41.28	44.57
Choice	35.83	35.74	36.19	40.62	43.35
Good	34.42	34.33	34.88	38.96	41.46
Standard	31.52	30.24	31.11	35.26	37.31
Utility	29.81	28.70	29.91	34.20	36.40
All grades	35.48	35.35	35.74	40.25	42.76
Choice 900-1100 pounds, California	36.04	35.62	35.97	42.15	43.75
Choice 900-1100 pounds, Colorado	35.78	35.81	36.38	41.24	43.71
Cows, Omaha					
Commercial	24.86	22.24	23.29	26.49	31.22
Utility	25.21	22.61	23.80	26.67	31.43
Cutter	23.78	21.60	22.40	24.66	29.60
Canner	22.34	20.10	20.81	22.87	27.60
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	55.09	47.88	52.15	58.74	64.12
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City[1]	38.89	36.61	36.92	44.25	48.06
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	33.20	31.40	32.60	37.10	40.50
Cows	24.30	21.80	23.20	26.30	29.50
Steers and heifers	35.60	34.40	35.30	40.40	43.30
Calves	43.90	39.60	41.20	49.10	52.50
Beef steer-corn price ratio[2]	27.9	28.3	29.1	26.8	27.6
HOGS					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Omaha					
180-200 pounds	26.94	---	---	---	---
200-220 pounds	27.73	25.84	26.71	33.81	37.47
220-240 pounds	27.58	25.70	26.58	33.55	37.46
Barrows and gilts, 7 markets[3]	26.76	24.84	25.61	32.51	36.23
Sows, 7 markets[3]	23.26	20.41	22.90	26.32	31.22
Price received by farmers	26.00	22.70	25.70	31.00	34.20
Hog-corn price ratio[4]					
Omaha, barrows and gilts	20.9	19.7	20.6	21.5	23.3
Price received by farmers, all hogs	22.3	20.8	23.6	22.3	25.3
SHEEP AND LAMBS					
Sheep					
Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo	10.07	8.94	11.56	12.70	17.69
Price received by farmers	7.20	6.03	6.42	9.33	10.40
Lamb					
Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo	30.70	27.19	28.69	35.75	39.10
Feeder, Choice, San Angelo	30.24	27.69	28.38	34.30	39.06
Price received by farmers	28.75	26.30	27.70	32.60	34.90
ALL MEAT ANIMALS					
Index number price received by farmers (1967=100)	146	135	143	167	182
	Dollars per 100 pounds				
MEAT					
Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700 pounds	55.63	57.52	57.58	62.85	66.85
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds	54.58	56.62	57.03	61.50	65.90
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	51.41	48.00	50.42	54.78	63.62
Lamb carcass, Choice and Prime, 45-55 pounds	64.11	62.50	63.62	70.70	76.54
Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds	60.17	58.88	58.58	72.41	76.65
	Cents per pound				
Retail, United States average					
Beef, Choice grade	113.8	111.5	115.8	122.3	
Pork, retail cuts and sausage	83.2	76.3	81.3	94.1	
Lamb, Choice grade	118.3	113.0	115.1	125.6	
Index number all meats (BLS)					
Wholesale (1967=100)	128.4	124.2	129.5	143.1	152.4
Retail (1967=100)	129.2	121.1	127.5	137.7	
Beef and veal	136.6	130.8	136.1	142.9	
Pork	121.6	109.2	119.4	135.0	

[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	1972			1973	
		Year average or total	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1967-100)		108	104	101	109	
7-State Cattle on Feed Report						
Number on feed	1,000 head	---	9,110	9,293	9,943	10,060
Placed on feed	1,000 head	---	1,787	1,267	1,887	1,232
Marketings	1,000 head	---	1,604	1,539	1,750	1,594
Slaughter under Federal Inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	32,251	2,556	2,457	2,807	
Steers	1,000 head	17,737	1,407	1,355	1,525	
Heifers	1,000 head	8,532	647	627	721	
Cows	1,000 head	5,400	460	432	514	
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	582	42	43	47	
Calves	1,000 head	2,420	226	217	209	
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	9,903	847	801	835	
Hogs	1,000 head	78,738	6,395	6,280	6,641	
Percentage sows	Percent	6	5	5	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,049	1,062	1,058	1,059	
Calves	Pounds	210	211	206	209	
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	105	107	108	108	
Hogs	Pounds	240	239	235	239	
Average production						
Beef, per head	Pounds	629	631	627	635	
Veal, per head	Pounds	118	118	116	120	
Lamb and mutton, per head	Pounds	52	54	54	54	
Pork, per head	Pounds	160	158	159	162	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	67	66	68	68	
Lard, per head	Pounds	19	19	17	17	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	8	8	7	8	
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	20,228	1,607	1,537	1,776	
Veal	Mil. lb.	282	26	25	25	
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	514	45	43	45	
Pork	Mil. lb.	12,545	1,008	995	1,077	
Lard	Mil. lb.	1,465	123	105	111	
Commercial slaughter[1]						
Numbered slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	35,774	2,888	2,774	3,100	
Calves	1,000 head	3,051	289	277	254	
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	10,289	881	831	858	
Hogs	1,000 head	78,737	7,017	6,829	7,097	
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	22,212	1,792	1,715	1,942	
Veal	Mil. lb.	426	40	37	36	
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	533	47	44	46	
Pork	Mil. lb.	13,456	1,103	1,078	1,149	
Lard	Mil. lb.	1,541	131	112	3,173	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	Mil. lb.	---	366	338	367	396
Veal	Mil. lb.	---	9	9	13	15
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	---	19	16	16	14
Pork	Mil. lb.	---	330	301	214	200
Total meat and meat products[2]	Mil. lb.	---	796	746	670	688

[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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