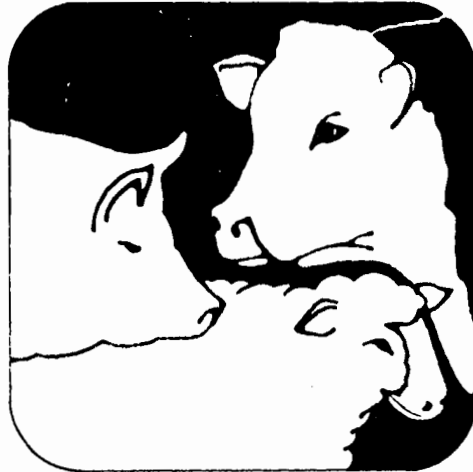


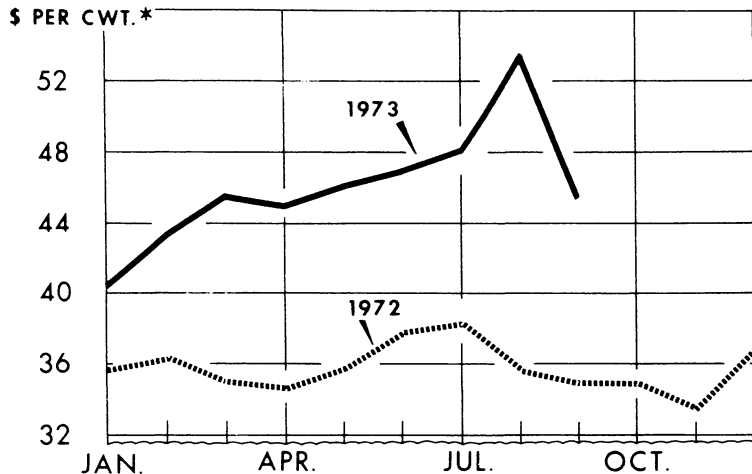
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation



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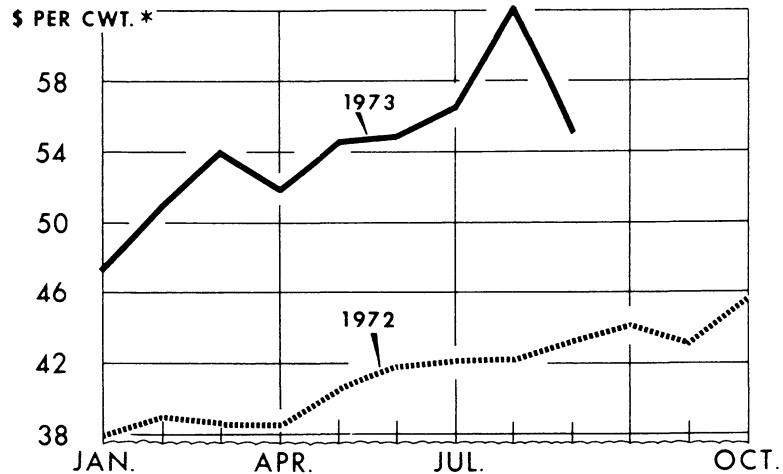
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SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES



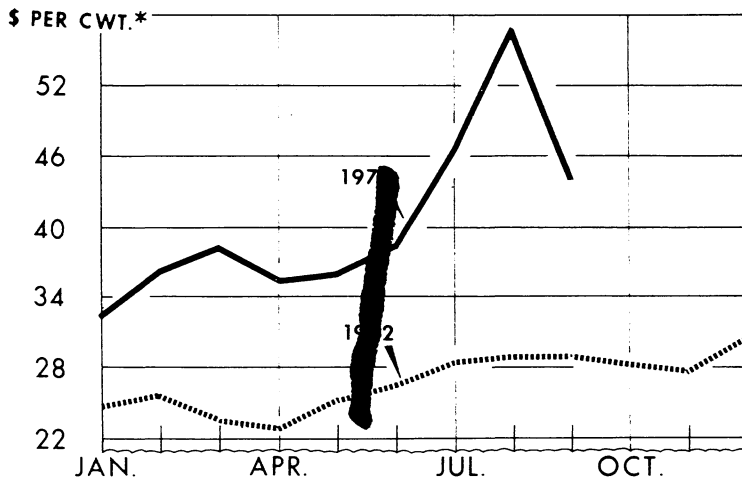
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA.

FEEDER STEER PRICES



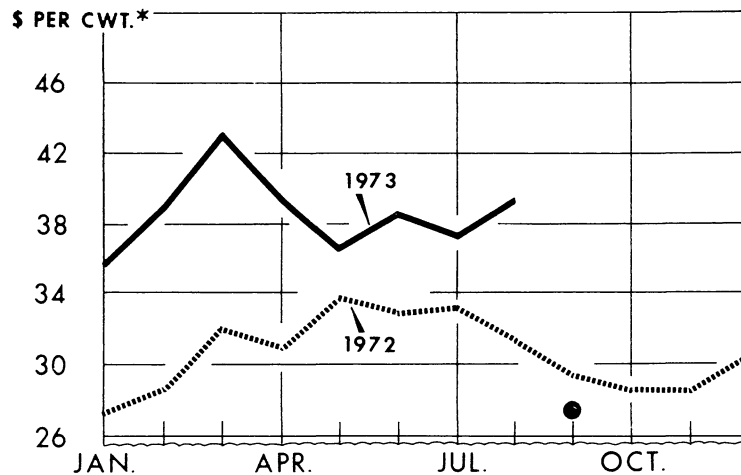
*CHOICE GRADE, 600-700 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.

HOG PRICES



BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS

SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES



*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO, SPRING LAMBS-MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED

● NO CONFIRMED SALES IN SEPTEMBER

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
October 10, 1973

Written by

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• • •

Beef and pork supplies this fall will be up sharply from summer, and prices for slaughter livestock have been falling. Thus, retail meat prices should decline.

Pork supplies this fall and winter will be up sharply from summer and near year-earlier levels. On September 1, there were about the same number of hogs on Corn Belt farms as a year earlier in weight groups for fall marketings. Winter slaughter is expected to drop around 5-7 percent from fall but be near January-March this year. Spring output will decline seasonally.

Farmers as of September 1 were not planning to expand farrowings this fall even though hog prices have been record high. Record high feed prices in 1973, and the general disorder and confusion in the livestock markets during the freeze on meat prices, appear to have made farmers cautious about expansion. Thus, pork output at least through the summer of 1974 probably will not differ much from the rates during the past year.

Barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged \$41 per 100 pounds in early October, down \$17.50 from mid-August highs but \$12 above a year earlier. Some further weakness is expected this fall as slaughter rises seasonally, but prices are expected to stay at least \$7 above the October-December 1972 average of \$29. Prices likely will advance in the winter as slaughter drops below fall levels and beef output dips. By spring, despite a seasonal reduction in pork supplies, hog prices may be declining because of increased beef output.

Beef production this fall should be up more than 10 percent from summer and about the same as a year ago. There were 4 percent more cattle on feed at midyear in weight groups that typically supply more than half of fourth quarter marketings, and cattle held back during the summer will be added to fall supplies. However, nonfed beef output will be down from a year earlier.

Beef production during the first half of 1974 will dip, then rise. In January-March it may be down about 8-10 percent from fall and around 4-6 percent below a year earlier. April-June supplies could be up as much as 10 percent from winter and 10-15 percent above the low spring slaughter this year.

Choice steers at Omaha were about \$42 per 100

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

pounds in early October. This was \$15 below mid-August highs, but \$7 above a year earlier. Fed cattle prices may continue near early October levels this fall. In the first quarter next year, prices will rise as marketings drop below autumn and year-earlier rates, but weaken again in the spring as marketings rise again.

Feeder cattle prices mirrored declines in prices of fed cattle in September and will be under pressure this fall. In late summer there were an estimated 10-12 percent more cattle available for feedlot placements than a year earlier. We began the year with an increased cattle inventory and placements on feed in the spring and summer were down sharply.

With the large supply of feeders, and some easing of feed costs, fall placements likely will be larger. Placements are expected to increase in most cattle feeding areas, with increases in the West greater than in the Corn Belt. High corn prices may encourage some Corn Belt farmers to sell corn for cash rather than marketing it through cattle.

Sheep and lamb slaughter will be down this fall and winter because the supply of feeder lambs is sharply reduced. Lamb prices, running near \$28-\$30 per 100 pounds at most markets in late September, probably will run steady to a little stronger this fall. Prices in late September were down about \$13 from the March peak.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Table A.—Livestock Prices

	1972				1973			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV ¹
	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>
Choice steers, Omaha	35.69	36.02	36.24	35.06	43.17	46.00	49.04	(40-42)
Barrows & Gilts, 7 markets . . .	24.67	24.98	28.85	28.89	35.62	36.67	49.04	(36-38)
Choice slaughter lambs, San Angelo	29.29	32.92	31.42	29.18	39.35	38.22	38.00	(31-33)

¹ Forecast.

Table B.—Commercial Meat Production

	1972				1973			
	I	II	III	IV	I	III	III	IV ¹
Beef (mil. lb.)	5,370	5,566	5,559	5,723	5,386	5,041	5,028	(5,700)
Percent change from year earlier	+1%	+2%	0	+6%	0	-9%	-10%	(0)
Pork (mil. lb.)	3,503	3,386	3,064	3,507	3,262	3,178	2,819	(3,500)
Percent change from year earlier	-5%	-8%	-11%	-8%	-7%	-6%	-8%	(0)
Lamb and Mutton (mil. lb.)	142	130	124	137	125	126	129	(125)
Percent change from year earlier	-2%	-2%	-4%	0	-12%	-3%	+4%	(-10%)

¹ Forecast. NOTE: Fourth quarter price forecasts in Table A are based on fourth quarter production estimates shown in Table B.

HOGS

Hog producers are not planning to expand production over the next several months even though hog prices have been record high. With feed prices at record levels during the past several months, and

considering the general disorder and confusion recently in the livestock markets producers have been discouraged from expanding production. Even so, pork supplies this fall will be near year-earlier levels, and up sharply from summer output in contrast to substantially smaller supplies so far this year.

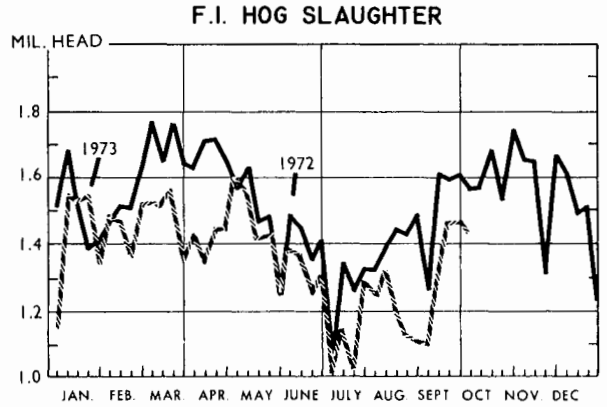
Table 1.—Farrowing intentions for early spring pigs and actual farrowings, percentage change from a year earlier, 1960 to date

Year	Reported farrowings						
	December-February intentions ¹	December-February		March-May		December-May	
		Selected States	U.S.	Selected States	U.S.	Selected States	U.S.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1960	-4	-20	-18	-12	-14	-15	-15
1961	+4	+4	+1	+7	+5	+6	+4
1962	+4	+4	+2	-2	-2	0	0
1963	+4	+1	+1	+3	+2	+3	+2
1964	-1	-7	-9	-5	-6	-6	-7
1965	-13	-8	-8	-13	-12	-11	-11
1966	0	+1	+2	+6	+7	+4	+5
1967	+6	+9	+9	+2	+3	+4	+6
1968	-2	+3	+4	+1	0	+1	+2
1969	+4	-2	+1	-9	-8	-7	-5
1970	+4	+7	+8	+16	+16	+13	+13
1971	+5	+9	+11	-5	-3	0	+2
1972	-11	-11	-13	-8	-10	-10	-11
1973	+7	+7	+3	-2	-1	+1	0
1974	0						

¹ Intentions for 10 States reported in September.

Fall Slaughter to Show Sharp Seasonal Increase

Commercial hog slaughter was down 9 percent from a year earlier during the first half of 1973 reflecting a smaller fall pig crop in 1972. Summer slaughter was about 10 percent below last year and last spring. Hog slaughter this fall is expected to run near year-earlier levels and more than 20 percent above the summer just ended. The recent 10 States Hogs and Pigs report showed about the same number of hogs on farms September 1 as a year ago in weight groups that are normally marketed in the fall. These States account for more than three-fourths of all hogs produced. If fall slaughter increases as much as implied by the Hogs and Pigs report, the seasonal increase will about double last year's fourth quarter rise of 11 percent over the third quarter.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS

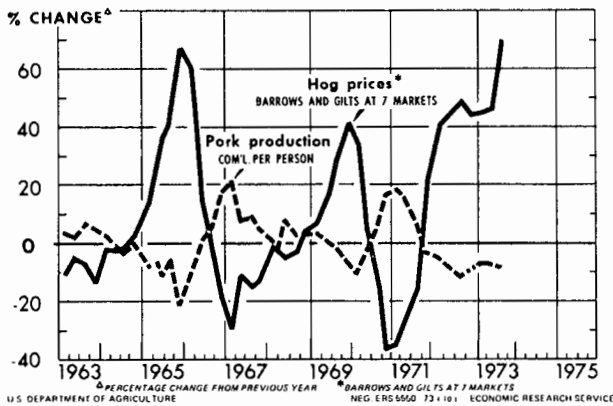
Market hogs and pigs in 10 Corn Belt States, by weight groups, as of September 1

Weight group	1971	1972	1973	Change from 1972
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head		Percent
Under 60 lbs.	15,670	15,305	15,429	+1
60-119 lbs.	10,344	10,089	10,353	+3
120-179 lbs.	8,969	8,296	8,215	-1
180-219 lbs.	5,077	4,596	4,446	-3
220 lbs. +	970	865	865	0
Total market hogs and pigs . . .	41,030	39,151	39,308	0

Strong consumer demand has boosted prices for smaller supplies of hogs and pork substantially in 1973, despite price ceilings on retail and wholesale meats in the spring and most of the summer. In the first half, with slaughter down 9 percent, prices averaged \$36 per 100 pounds for barrows and gilts at 7 markets, 46 percent above the January-June 1972 level. After ceilings were lifted in mid-July, prices rose \$17 in 4 weeks to near \$60 by mid-August. This was double the price of a year earlier. But only 4 weeks later, in mid-September, hogs had fallen back to their mid-July levels of \$45. And by early October they were averaging around \$41.

With beef output this fall matching a year earlier, and pork production rising seasonally to reach last

CHANGES IN HOG PRICES AND PORK PRODUCTION



fall's level, hog prices are expected to weaken, but stay mostly \$7 to \$9 above the fourth quarter average of 1972—\$29 for barrows and gilts at 7 markets.

Hogs prices per 100 pounds, 7 markets¹

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	38.13	15.28	21.43	34.47
Apr.	16.19	22.89	35.56	14.47	20.89	32.33
May	17.43	25.32	35.89	14.84	22.12	32.46
June	18.38	26.74	38.55	15.07	22.42	33.87
July	19.84	28.57	46.64	15.86	23.59	40.56
Aug.	19.05	28.86	56.68	15.77	25.22	50.62
Sept.	18.91	29.10	43.79	16.08	25.92	40.34
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	

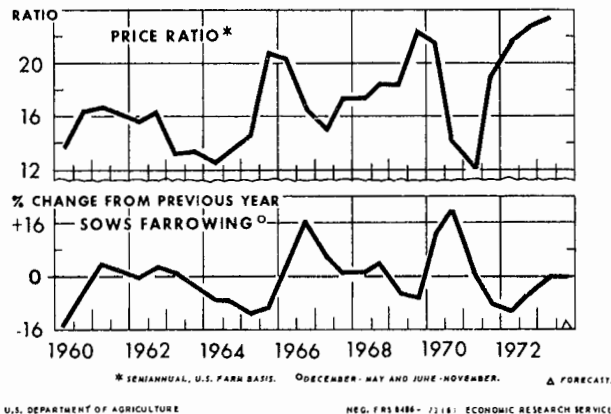
¹ Average for all weights at Midwest markets.

First Half 1974 Slaughter Unchanged

Hog slaughter during the first half of 1974 is expected to be about the same as in the first half of 1973. First quarter slaughter will reflect the almost unchanged September 1 inventory of hogs on Corn Belt farms in weight groups that will supply most of first quarter slaughter. Slaughter next spring will come largely from September-November 1973 farrowings, now indicated to be the same as a year ago. The lack of expansion in this period reflects producers' reluctance to increase the number of sows bred during a time of high feed prices, price controls, and uncertain market conditions, even though at one point hog prices were double those of a year earlier.

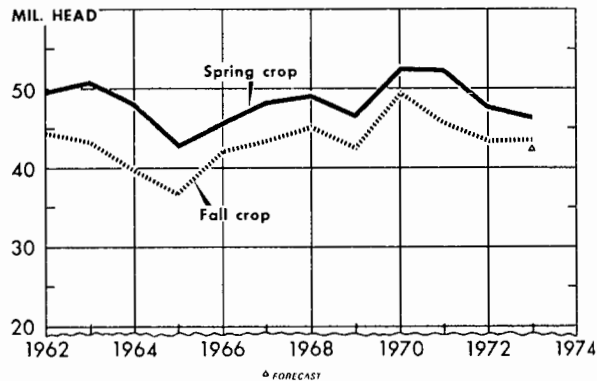
The high hog market this summer may have encouraged some producers outside the Corn Belt to increase the number of sows bred. A larger proportion of these farmers raise feeder pigs because they lack

HOG-CORN RATIO VS. FALLOWINGS



sufficient corn to carry hogs to slaughter weights. Thus, their alternatives are more limited than for Corn Belt farmers. Since the corn belt accounts for about three fourths of pork production, it would take significant expansion outside the corn belt to have much impact nationally.

PIG CROPS



Hog prices will probably strengthen in the first quarter next year. Supplies of pork will be about the same as January-March 1973 and smaller beef supplies will lend further strength to hog prices. However, prices may slip in the spring despite seasonally declining pork supplies. A substantial rise in beef production will probably depress both the cattle and hog markets at that time.

Little Change for Spring Pig Crop

Hog producers in 10 Corn Belt States have indicated plans to have about the same number of sows farrow in December 1973-February 1974 as in these months last year. Thus, producers' ideas concerning longer range programs reflect no change from earlier this year when they were planning summer and fall farrowings. With feed grain prices at higher levels, the "inners and outers" are apparently content to stay out and sell their grain for cash.

Table 2.—Hog-corn price ratio during fall breeding Season, United States and North Central Region, arrayed according to United States ratio, and number of sows farrowing following spring 1960 to date

Year	Hog-corn price ratio September-December ¹		Number of sows farrowing following spring	Increase or decrease from preceding spring in sows farrowing	
	United States	North Central States		Number	Percentage
			1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
1969	22.7	23.4	7,134	811	12.8
1972	22.3	22.8	6,535	25	-0.4
1965	21.5	22.0	6,208	318	5.4
1971	18.3	19.0	6,510	-793	-10.9
1968	17.9	18.3	6,323	-336	-5.0
1967	17.0	17.3	6,659	100	1.5
1960	17.0	17.7	7,018	236	3.5
1973	² 16-18				
1961	16.3	16.6	6,996	-22	-0.3
1962	16.2	16.8	7,099	103	1.5
1966	15.7	16.0	6,559	351	5.7
1964	13.3	13.4	5,890	-706	-10.7
1963	13.1	13.0	6,596	-503	-7.1
1970	12.7	12.9	7,303	169	2.4

¹ Based on prices received by farmers. ² Forecast.

The hog-corn price ratio has been averaging above 20 to 1 since early 1972 and hog prices this year have been record high. Not too many years ago this would have signaled expansion in hog production long before now. But instead of expansion, production has continued to decline in 1973 and only recently has there been indications of some stability. Thus, factors other than the relationship between hog and corn prices have become increasingly important considerations in producers' planning processes.

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	25.4
April	19.6	11.3	18.2	23.4
May	18.8	11.8	19.7	19.5
June	18.8	12.2	21.5	17.0
July	19.5	13.9	22.8	19.9
August	16.3	15.1	23.5	20.8
September	14.5	16.3	22.6	18.4
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	

Today's emerging hog producer is a man with a large investment in facilities and know-how, and is less responsive to substantial short run price changes. It has become increasingly expensive to get into a farrowing operation, largely because of the cost of new facilities and increasingly strict anti-pollution regulations. Also this year, protein feed became a much more important cost item. Changes in hog production may come more slowly in the future than in the past.

Feeder Pig Market Down

Feeder pig prices have generally followed the course of the slaughter hog market this year with mid-August prices nearly double their early January levels. Feeder pigs weighing 40-60 pounds in Southern Missouri were near \$26 in early January, trended upward to \$49.50 in mid-August, then slipped back to \$38 by early October. They likely will weaken further this fall. Higher feed prices and a lower slaughter hog market will likely pull feeder pig prices down. In the first half of 1974, feeder pigs will continue to follow trends of slaughter hog prices.

Slaughter Weights Unchanged

Although hog slaughter was down 9 percent in the first half, pork production was off only 6 percent. However, average commercial slaughter weights in the first half this year were unchanged from last year's 239 pound January-June average. Higher pork

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	233
April	243	236	240	238
May	246	241	242	241
June	243	239	241	240
July	234	234	234	234
August	227	230	230	229
September	230	229	231	232
October	234	234	237	
November	238	239	239	
December	237	238	236	
Average	237	235	237	

and lower lard yields eased the impact of lower hog slaughter.

During the summer, barrows and gilts at 7 markets averaged 232 pounds, about the same as a year earlier but down seasonally 8 pounds from spring weights. Market weights this fall will rise seasonally from summer and probably continue near a year earlier. Pork yields will continue higher and lard yields lower than last year, but the differences between hog slaughter and pork production may not be as wide as in the first half. When supplies are down and prices are relatively high, packers tend to trim less closely than otherwise. As production increases this fall and prices decline, packers may respond with a closer trim. Thus, any change in pork production may more nearly match changes in hog slaughter.

Japan's Pork Purchases to Continue Small

Earlier this year Japan entered the American pork market with purchases of 80 million pounds of fresh pork for delivery in the first half of the year. Although this was a small quantity relative to production during the delivery period, the novelty of a foreign interest in domestic meats was a stimulating factor in the hog market.

Rising hog prices since early 1973 have discouraged additional purchases by the Japanese. If the hog market declines to levels more competitive with other foreign suppliers of meat to Japan, additional purchases might be made. However, at this point any substantial export of pork products to Japan appears to be unlikely within the next year or so.

Reduced Weight Gains Have Affected Marketings

High feed prices since last spring have caused many hog producers to adjust their feeding rations. This has affected the rate of gain and the time involved in producing slaughter weight hogs. Consequently, hog marketings this fall may lag expectations based on past trends.

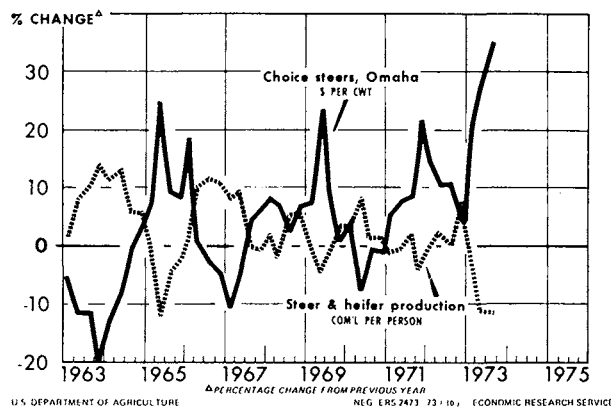
CATTLE

In the first half of 1973 cattle slaughter was down 5 percent from a year earlier. Fed cattle slaughter was off 2 percent, accounting for part of the decline. Cow slaughter was up slightly but non-fed steer and heifer slaughter was very light.

Changes in Economic Stabilization Program regulations last summer caused major disruptions in the livestock market. After ceilings on all foods except beef were lifted on July 18 the market overreacted. Hog prices jumped \$17 per 100 pounds to over \$58 within 3 weeks. This helped pull cattle prices up

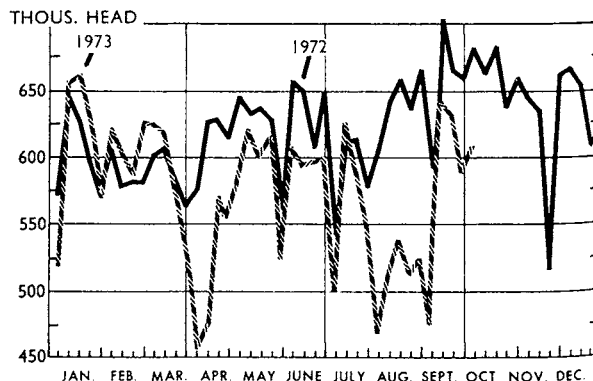
from around \$47 per 100 pounds in mid-July to \$56.50 in mid-August despite the continued ceiling on beef. Beef packers were forced out of the market because freeze regulations kept them from passing higher live cattle costs on to buyers of carcass beef. Some packers closed their doors, but many turned to custom killing for retailers who bought cattle on the live market and sold the beef at less than cost in order to keep their counters stocked. Some cattle feeders, anticipating a sharp rise in cattle prices after ceilings on beef were to be lifted on September 12, began to hold cattle back. Cattle prices began dropping after mid-August and continued downward into September.

CHANGES IN BEEF PRICES AND PRODUCTION



Cattle slaughter last summer dropped sharply and beef supplies became limited. Weekly slaughter rates under Federal inspection during the 6 weeks ended September 8 averaged 20 percent below a year earlier and 12 percent less than during the preceding six weeks. There were 20 percent fewer fed cattle marketed during August in the 7 major feeding States that account for more than 70 percent of all cattle fed. This was 5 percent fewer than were shipped to slaughter in these States during July. Weekly slaughter increased after the price freeze on beef was

F.I. CATTLE SLAUGHTER



lifted on September 10 running 20 percent above August rates but still below a year earlier. On balance, cattle slaughter last summer totaled about 8.1 million head, down 10 percent from third quarter 1972 and about the same as in the spring.

Marketings to Be Up This Fall

Fed cattle marketings this fall are expected to be up around 3-5 percent from a year ago. This would be more than 10 percent larger than summer shipments. Even though spring placements were 11 percent less than last year, the sharp drop in summer marketings resulted in a moderate increase in late summer inventories. On September 1 there were 6 percent more cattle on feed in 7 States than a year ago and about the same as on August 1. Since placements have been off sharply beginning last spring, this increase was largely the result of the holdback of cattle on feed in late July and continuing through August. Some of these animals will be added to fourth quarter marketings. In addition to this unusual carryover, a 4 percent increase of medium weight cattle on feed at midyear will further contribute to some increase in fall marketings. Steers weighing 700-900 pounds on July 1 and heifers weighing 500-700 pounds normally account for more than half of the October-December slaughter of fed cattle. There has been a close relationship in past years between the number of cattle in these weight groups on July 1 and fourth quarter marketings.

In July, there were 11 percent fewer cattle placed on feed than last year in 7 major feeding States. In August, placements were down 5 percent. The number of cattle placed on feed in September, probably approached a year ago. If placements in the 7 States were representative of the U.S. industry, total summer placements were 6-8 percent under a year earlier but larger than in the spring.

The October 18 Cattle on Feed Report will carry data on October 1 inventory for 23 major feeding States. It will give a more accurate picture of fall and winter supplies than can be currently estimated.

Cattle Market Wild

Choice steer prices at Omaha ranged from \$32.50 per 100 pounds last November to \$56.50 in August. Following the general rise in prices from November 1972 into March 1973, the market was relatively steady until the price freeze on pork was lifted on July 18. Cattle prices chased the booming hog market and Omaha steers jumped from about \$47 in mid-July to \$56.50 mid-August. However, the over-reaction to the disrupted market on the upside was followed by a period of rapidly declining prices. The expected bulge in prices after the ceiling on beef was lifted did not appear. Instead, a sharp rise in slaughter rates, excessive numbers of over-finished cattle, and

general uncertainties associated with the unusual conditions resulted in further price declines after the freeze was lifted. By early October, Choice steers were bringing around \$42 per 100 pounds, up \$7 from a year earlier.

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	45.55
April	30.41	30.64	32.44	34.53	44.97
May	33.18	29.52	32.88	35.66	46.05
June	33.99	30.29	32.39	37.88	46.98
July	31.56	31.12	32.44	38.21	48.05
August	30.40	30.14	33.24	35.66	53.61
September	28.77	29.32	32.62	34.85	45.45
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	

Prices Above \$40 This Fall

Fed cattle prices are expected to continue near recent levels. Prices this fall are expected to average \$5 or more above last fall's \$35 average. Fed cattle marketings will be large and beef imports will be up from a year ago. Cow slaughter will be up seasonally and perhaps a little larger than last year. In addition, while demand for beef will continue favorable, consumers would be reluctant to pay spring and summer prices for larger supplies.

More Fed Cattle Next Year

Fed cattle marketings in the first half of 1974 are expected to exceed the year-earlier level with a large increase in the second quarter more than offsetting smaller winter offerings. January-March marketings could be down 5 percent or more from a year earlier and as much as 10 percent from the fall of 1973. Feeder cattle placements were down sharply last spring and were moderately lower in the summer. Such a decline in placements must show up as reduced marketings later, mostly by late fall extending into the winter. Spring marketings, on the other hand, will rise dramatically.

They could be 12-15 percent above this past spring and from winter. If fed cattle movements in the first half next year approach the foregoing estimate, there will be 2-4 percent more fed cattle marketed than during January-June this year, but only slightly more than January-June 1972. These increases will be augmented by a small increase in non-fed beef output next year for a net increase in total beef production.

In the summer of 1973 the Nation's feeder cattle supply was estimated to be more than 10 percent

larger than a year ago. This was the result of the sharp curtailment in spring and summer placements, a 6 percent larger 1973 beef calf crop, and slightly more live cattle imports. With a much larger supply of feeders, and lower feeder cattle prices, late summer and fall placements are expected to be up despite the high cost of feed.

The number of cattle placed will be up more in the West than in the Corn Belt but general increases are expected in most cattle feeding areas.

Cattle placed at this time will provide the bulk of market supplies next spring and summer. The 6 percent decline in fed cattle marketings this past spring, largely the result of harsh weather, poor feedlot conditions, and the cutoff of DES, will accentuate the relative change in marketings next year.

Bloom is Off The Feeder Market

Feeder cattle prices have been rising steadily in recent years, and jumped sharply in the summer of 1973. Choice 600-700 pound feeder steers at Kansas City were selling near \$47 at the beginning of 1973, up \$9 from a year earlier. By mid-August they had risen to a peak of \$65, more than \$22.50 above the same period in 1972. Then the market slipped about \$15 through late August and September, paralleling the sharply declining fed cattle market.

The rising feeder market of recent years has reflected the generally steady rise of fed cattle prices and the growth of commercial feeding in response to strong consumer demand for fed beef.

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	54.01	38.17	44.69	62.72
Apr.	34.46	38.54	51.82	38.62	45.16	60.42
May	34.52	40.43	54.55	39.19	46.67	62.59
June	34.52	41.94	54.85	39.15	47.32	62.42
July	34.36	42.02	56.49	39.10	47.10	64.40
Aug.	35.18	42.07	62.40	39.36	48.32	72.52
Sept.	34.97	43.29	55.06	39.33	48.70	62.80
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.

The fall feeder market is expected to continue lower but average above last year's October-December average of \$44.40 at Kansas City. Continued generally favorable pasture and range conditions,

and good prospects for wheat pasture will help protect feeder cattle prices from further sharp declines. But a lower fed cattle market, high feed costs, and large feeder cattle supplies will exert downward pressure on prices through the fall.

Feeder cattle prices in early 1974 will likely mirror some of the expected strength in the fed market. But if fed marketings rise sharply in the spring as expected and prices decline, the feeder market may slip somewhat in contrast to an April-June rise in 1973.

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

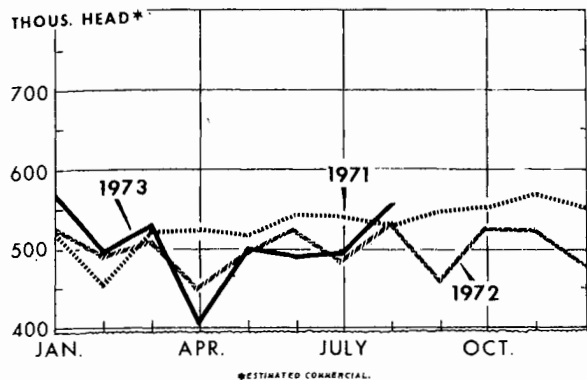
Year	Fed cattle ¹	Feeder cattle ²	Margin
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1971			
January ...	29.10	33.28	-4.18
February ..	32.18	32.86	-.68
March	31.89	32.66	-.77
April	32.41	31.79	+62
May	32.86	31.28	+1.58
June	32.35	32.20	+15
July	32.44	34.24	-1.80
August	33.10	34.26	-1.16
September .	32.58	34.46	-1.88
October ...	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
March	45.65	44.15	+1.50
April	45.03	43.17	+1.86
May	45.74	45.77	-.03
June	46.76	47.33	-.57
July	47.66	50.98	-3.32
August	52.94	54.01	-4.39
September .	45.12	51.82	-6.70

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

Cow Slaughter May Be Up A Little

Cow slaughter this year was up slightly from a year earlier through September. Slaughter last winter was up nearly 5 percent but dropped in the spring and summer. Heavier culling of dairy herds last winter was largely responsible for the larger slaughter rates in that period. The lower slaughter rate in the spring and summer reflected a high feeder cattle market and favorable pasture conditions.

COW SLAUGHTER



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REG. ERS 3842-73 (10); ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Cow slaughter this fall is expected to run a little above last year. This level of slaughter would be 5-7 percent or more above the summer or about the same as last January-March. Pasture conditions and feed supplies are good enough to prevent forced selling of beef cows this fall. However, the rapid growth of the breeding herd during the past few years, accompanied by a low rate of cow slaughter, would suggest that the cow inventory contains a relatively large number of older cows. Culling of aged cows will contribute to some of the increase in fall slaughter.

Cow slaughter in 1974 may show some further increase. A lower feeder market and more aged cows could result in a little deeper culling. Further addition of heifers to the breeding herd next year is likely, but the increase will be smaller than the 2.5 million head expansion expected in 1973.

Cow prices have been uneven but very high this year. Utility cows at Omaha advanced sharply in the winter to \$36 by mid-March. Prices were steady in the spring but advanced to \$39 in mid-August. They trailed off to \$30 again in September but bounced back to \$36 by early October, \$9 above a year ago.

Strong demand for processing beef and smaller supplies of fed and non-fed beef and pork were largely

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	33.90
April	23.23	21.48	24.70	33.59
May	22.64	22.30	25.51	34.26
June	22.58	22.03	26.00	33.09
July	20.85	21.68	26.22	34.21
August	20.48	21.72	26.18	37.56
September	21.13	21.84	26.57	34.58
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	

responsible. Also, beef imports through August totaled 1256 million pounds, up only 36 million pounds, or 3 percent from a year earlier.

Cow prices will be seasonally lower this fall but likely will stay around \$30 per 100 pounds. Cow beef production will be larger, and perhaps up a little from last year and beef imports are expected to be up 20 percent. Also, fed beef output will be up. However, no change is likely in pork supplies compared to last fall and demand for processing beef will continue strong.

Increases in cow prices in 1974 will likely be much less than the \$14 January-August rise in 1973. Domestic beef supplies and beef imports are expected to increase. The amount of increased imports, however, will depend on available supplies in exporting countries and the price and currency relationships between the U.S. market and other importing countries.

Calf Slaughter Continued Down

Calf slaughter during January-August trailed year-earlier rates by 28 percent and further substantial reductions are likely during the rest of 1973. The shrinking dairy herd, together with strong feedlot demand for replacement cattle, has held feeder calf prices well above slaughter calf prices. However, slaughter calf prices are up sharply too. Choice 100-250 pound vealers at South St. Paul averaged \$64 per 100 pounds through August, \$10 above a year ago. In September, Choice vealers averaged \$68 per 100 pounds, \$9 above a year ago. Prices this fall are expected to continue near current levels and well above last fall.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

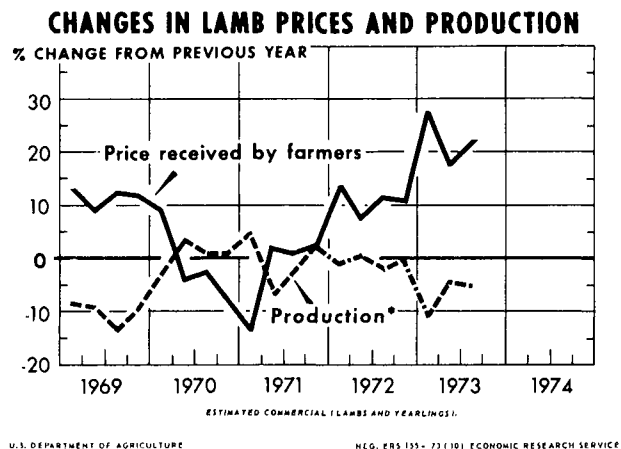
Slaughter Down

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter through September of this year shows a reduction of about 6 percent from the same period in 1972, with most of the decline in January-April. Changes have been erratic compared with 1972. Commercial slaughter, which was down 12 percent from a year earlier in January-April, up 6 percent in May, and off 11 percent in June, showed another increase of 5 percent in July and August, and then dropped again an estimated 6 percent in September. Commercial slaughter during the fourth quarter will stay below a year earlier and be about the same as in the summer.

Although slaughter was off 6 percent through September, lamb and mutton production was down only 4 percent due to heavier weights of slaughter lambs. Live weight of commercial slaughter during January-August averaged about 2 pounds heavier than the 105 pound January-August 1972 average. Exceptionally favorable pasture conditions in most

sheep producing areas were largely responsible for the additional weight.

Smaller production during the first quarter was partially offset by a 40 percent increase in imports, but imports have since fallen substantially from 1972 levels. April-August imports were 78 percent less than the same period last year. Imports of lamb and mutton through August amounted to 7 percent of commercial production compared with 31 percent in 1972. About 18 percent of the lamb imported this year originated in Australia and 82 percent in New Zealand.



Sheepmen shipped an unusually large number of ewes to slaughter during the first 8 months of 1973 with most of the increase coming in late spring and summer. Normally about 93 percent of the federally inspected slaughter is composed of lambs and yearlings and the remaining 7 percent is mostly ewes. In July and August, slaughter was up 5 percent from a year ago with sheep accounting for most of the increase. Sheep accounted for 14 percent of total federally inspected slaughter in July, representing the largest proportion since October 1952. Drought conditions in the Northwest contributed to the selloff.

Also, the relatively dull lamb market this spring and summer, in contrast to sharp rises in cattle and hog prices, probably was discouraging to sheep producers despite a higher wool market.

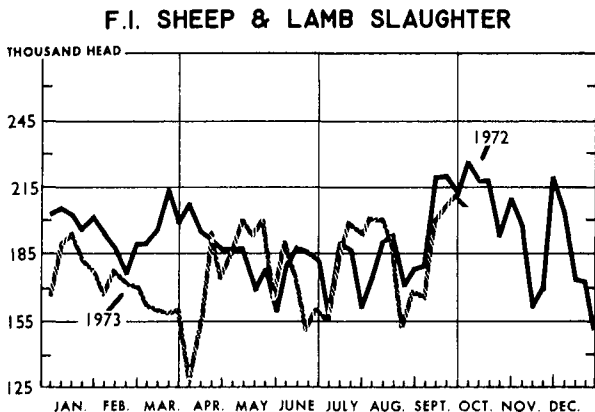
Most of the increase in slaughter during the summer came from the Mountain and Pacific States, which account for almost half of the total slaughter. Since early August, higher slaughter rates have continued in the Pacific States due to the continuing dry conditions, but slaughter has dropped below 1972 levels in the Mountain States where range and feed conditions continue to be excellent.

Indications for the fall and winter months are for a smaller supply of slaughter lambs. A higher rate of slaughter off grass in the spring and summer reduced the supply of feeder lambs which provide the bulk of fall and winter fed lamb marketings. A drop of 10 percent or more in this fall's lamb slaughter could be up coming. Continued lower slaughter supplies next spring and summer can be expected because of a further decline in the breeding herd this year and a smaller 1974 early lamb crop.

Prices Off

In the first part of January Choice fed lamb prices at San Angelo were near \$33.50 per 100 pounds. By early March spring lambs were selling near \$46. Prices dropped seasonally through March-April even though slaughter remained below a year earlier. From May through August lamb prices ranged mostly between \$35 and \$40 at San Angelo. The removal of the price ceiling on pork and lamb boosted prices of lamb to \$46.00 at Dixon, California in mid-August. However, this was an overreaction on that market and wasn't representative of the national market, which remained about steady. The following week, California lambs dropped \$7.

A weaker cattle and hog market this fall will exert downward pressure on the lamb market. Prices of



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	43.17	28.05	32.25	39.19
Apr.	29.06	31.12	39.50	27.44	32.00	40.75
May	29.69	33.75	36.70	26.76	32.55	36.05
June	30.05	32.88	38.46	25.65	29.81	35.31
July	29.06	33.31	37.31	24.69	29.88	34.50
Aug.	28.12	31.52	39.42	25.75	29.70	38.40
Sep.	25.70	29.44	(²)	24.95	29.56	35.06
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. ² No sales.

Choice lambs are expected to be steady in the range of \$30-\$32 at most markets. This will still be \$1-\$3 above the average of last fall.

Perhaps an increasingly important factor in the lamb market is the fact that as the number of sheep and lambs marketed has declined over the years, the number of buyers has also declined. Thus, competition for the relatively small supply of slaughter lambs has probably lessened. Even so, the lack of midsummer response in the lamb market compared to other classes of livestock was due largely to increased supplies from a year earlier while supplies of other livestock were substantially below 1972 levels.

Prices of 45-55 pound Choice carcasses at Chicago this year ranged mostly \$70-\$75 per cwt. until mid-August. With the relaxation of price controls at that time, carcass prices spurted to \$95 for 2 weeks. Resistance in other classes of red meat then pushed the lamb market back down. In early October carcasses were selling near \$64, still \$3 above a year earlier.

Excessive market weights and price discounting due to overfinish will probably not be a problem this fall and winter. With high feed prices, holding will not be profitable and slaughter weights of fed lambs will likely run near or below a year ago. Chicago carlot prices for light and heavy carcasses were the same all through August and September. Some increase in discounting of heavyweight carcasses will develop in the fall when more fed lambs are marketed. The spread between light and heavier weights probably won't exceed last fall's \$3 average between 30-45 pound and 55-65 pound groups. Last spring, the spread was as great as \$14.

Feeders

Despite a smaller feeder lamb supply this year and prospects for another reduction next year, prices are not expected to rise significantly. Competition for the reduced feeder supply has not been substantial as feeder lamb prices have remained below slaughter prices in recent months. During the summer, Choice feeders at San Angelo averaged near \$35 per 100 pounds. This was more than \$3 below slaughter lamb prices but \$5 above a year ago. Feeders were still selling more than \$1 per 100 pounds below the fed market in early October. Through December the feeder market will follow the slaughter lamb market. Uncertain prospects and high feed prices will discourage lamb feeders, and they are unlikely to bid aggressively for the available supply of feeder lambs. Feeder prices may stabilize near \$30 through the end of this year.

Slaughter Prospects

The 1973 lamb crop is 9 percent smaller than the

1972 crop. Texas and Wyoming together provide the largest number of lambs and account for about 29 percent of the total breeding ewe inventory. The lamb crop in these States was down almost 15 percent from 1972, partly due to severe late winter storms at lambing time. No State increased the lamb crop from 1972, but Pennsylvania, Michigan, and South Dakota showed almost no change. These three States together accounted for 10 percent of the 1973 crop.

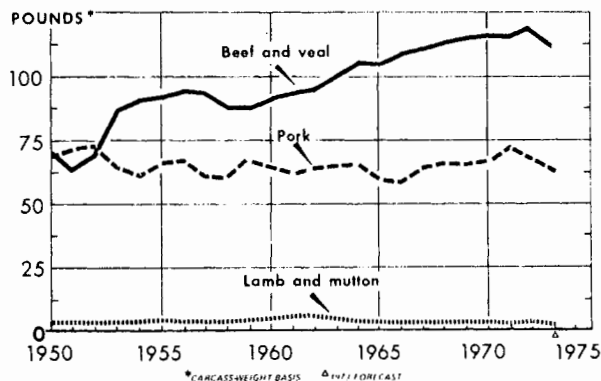
Another fairly sizable drop in the inventory is in prospect this year. Sheep and lamb slaughter would have to be down about 20 percent this year in order to stabilize the inventory at the January 1 level. At the current rate of slaughter, the inventory next January 1 will be down about 8 percent to around 16.2 million head, compared to 17.7 million January 1, 1973. This would be another record low and about one-third of the 1942 inventory, when sheep and lamb numbers reached their peak.

MEAT CONSUMPTION AND PRICES

Red meat consumption reached an all-time high in 1971, at 192 pounds per person. In 1972 it edged down to 189 pounds. Consumption this year will be down 6 percent from 1972—about 178 pounds, the lowest annual total since 1967.

Beef consumption per person totaled 54.1 pounds in the first half of 1973, down 3 pounds from a year earlier. Per capita pork consumption for the first half totaled 31.4 pounds, also down 3 pounds. Veal consumption totaled about a pound, down slightly to a new record low. Lamb and mutton consumption was about 1.4 pounds, down nearly half a pound.

MEAT CONSUMPTION PER PERSON



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 195 442 ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Third Quarter Consumption Down

Per capita consumption of red meat in the third quarter of 1973 is estimated to have been just over 42 pounds, down about 4½ pounds from July-September 1972. This is .6 pound below April-June, and the

Meat consumption by quarters

Year	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
	<i>Pounds per person</i>	<i>Pounds per person</i>	<i>Pounds per person</i>	<i>Pounds per person</i>	<i>Pounds per person</i>
Beef					
1969	27.2	26.7	28.6	28.3	110.8
1970	28.3	27.9	29.0	28.5	113.7
1971	27.7	28.1	29.3	27.9	113.0
1972	28.1	28.9	29.3	29.7	116.0
1973 ¹	27.9	26.2	26.9	29.9	110.9
Veal					
1969	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.3
1970 .....	.8	.7	.7	.7	2.9
1971 .....	.7	.6	.7	.7	2.7
1972 .....	.6	.5	.5	.6	2.2
1973 ¹ .....	.6	.4	.4	.4	1.8
Pork					
1969	17.0	16.0	15.5	16.5	65.0
1970	15.4	15.6	16.3	19.1	66.4
1971	18.3	17.8	18.0	18.9	73.0
1972	17.7	16.7	15.8	17.2	67.4
1973 ¹	16.0	15.4	14.1	17.0	62.5
Lamb & Mutton					
1969	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	3.4
1970 .....	.9	.9	.8	.7	3.3
1971 .....	.8	.8	.8	.7	3.1
1972 .....	.8	.9	.9	.7	3.3
1973 ¹ .....	.7	.7	.7	.7	2.8
Red Meat					
1969	46.0	44.3	45.8	46.4	182.5
1970	45.4	45.1	46.8	49.0	186.3
1971	47.5	47.3	48.8	48.2	191.8
1972	47.2	47.0	46.5	48.2	188.9
1973 ¹	45.2	42.7	42.1	48.0	178.0

¹ Preliminary.

lowest summer rate since 1965. Consumption rates for the third quarter are expected to show beef down over 2.4 pounds from last year's 29.3 pounds and pork off 1.7 pounds from July-September 1972's 15.8 pounds. Consumption rates of veal and lamb and mutton were also below a year earlier.

Fourth Quarter Prospects

Beef consumption during fourth quarter will be above the 27 pounds per person probably consumed during the third quarter, and about the same as the 30 pounds consumed during the fourth quarter last year. For the year then, beef consumption would total about 111 pounds per person, down 4 percent from 1972.

Per capita consumption of pork this fall will be seasonally larger than in summer but will probably total slightly less than the 17.2 pounds consumed in the fourth quarter last year. Thus, for the year, pork consumption is expected to be about 5 pounds less than the 67.4 pounds consumed in 1972. This would be the least since 1966 when 58.1 pounds were consumed.

Expected reductions in veal output the rest of this year will result in an annual consumption rate of about 1.8 pounds per person compared with 2.2 pounds in 1972. This will continue the trend of many years, as an increasing percentage of the calf crop is placed on feed rather than going to slaughter.

Some increases in imports during the fourth quarter may largely offset reduced domestic production of lamb and mutton for little change from last year or from the third quarter. This would mean a 1973 consumption rate of 2.8 pounds per person compared with 3.3 pounds in 1972.

Retail Prices to Decline

The wholesale and retail price ceilings imposed on beef from March 29 until September 10 maintained an average retail price of about \$1.36 per pound from April through July. In August, however, by limiting meat specials to a minimum and advancing most cuts to the maximum allowed, the estimated composite price rose to \$1.44 per pound.

Lower pork supplies this year resulted in higher

Table 3.—Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1968 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
Beef, choice grade													
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	112.0	111.4	113.5	117.3	115.8	112.9	112.8	112.3	114.6	113.8
1973	122.1	130.3	135.3	136.0	136.0	135.5	136.3	144.2					
Veal, retail cuts													
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	142.8	148.6	149.7	151.0	151.8	154.3	156.5	157.4	157.7	158.5	159.5	160.1	154.0
1973	162.2	168.5	175.8	179.0	179.0	178.7	180.1	186.2					
Pork													
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	78.2	79.4	82.0	85.6	86.0	86.6	87.5	87.2	88.5	83.2
1973	94.1	97.1	103.0	102.7	102.4	104.1	107.5	131.5					
Lamb, Choice grade													
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	113.0	115.1	115.2	115.6	115.2	118.4	120.6	120.7	120.1	120.5	121.4	124.3	118.3
1973	125.6	131.3	138.5	139.0	138.9	138.1	140.5	148.7					

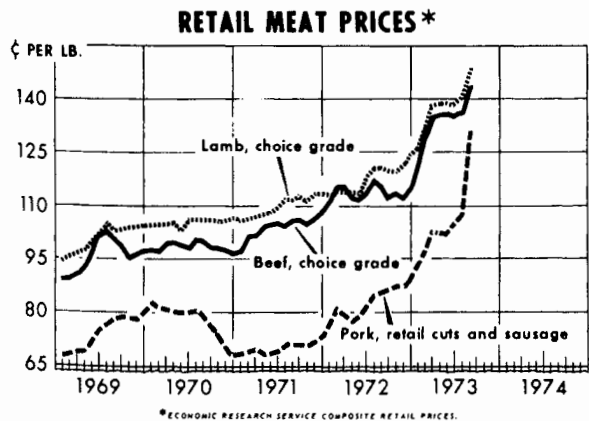
retail prices. The composite retail pork price rose from 94 cents per pound in January to \$1.07 per pound in July. Then it jumped to \$1.31 in August after pork ceilings were lifted and beef supplies were low.

Consumer resistance to rapidly rising meat prices this year was partly reflected in the changing demand for, and the price relationships between, various cuts of meat. Increased demand for the lower valued cuts boosted their prices more than for the

premium cuts. From January through August, porterhouse steak increased from \$1.88 per pound to \$2.17, a rise of 15 percent while hamburger rose from \$.78 per pound to \$1.04, up 33 percent; canned hams changed from \$1.37 per pound to \$1.71, up 25 percent and picnics jumped from \$.65 per pound to \$.97, a 50 percent advance.

With pork and beef supplies this fall up sharply from summer and prices for slaughter livestock considerably lower, retail prices should decline. As retail prices decline, price relationships between the various cuts of meat will probably move back to a more normal spread, with prices of lower valued cuts declining more than premium cuts.

Retail Choice lamb prices have not increased as rapidly as pork prices. The composite retail price for lamb rose from \$1.26 in January to \$1.49 in August. This was an increase of 18 percent compared with a 40 percent jump for pork. Retail beef prices also increased 18 percent during this period. The beef increase was limited due to the extended price controls. Lamb price increases were limited because live and wholesale prices didn't follow the upward trend to the same extent as other meat. Some downward pressure will be exerted on retail lamb



*ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE COMPOSITE RETAIL PRICES.

prices this fall due to lower prices of beef and pork.

Growing consumer demand for beef has been an upward force in the red meat market for many years. However, demand may be less of a strengthening influence during the months ahead than it has been in the past several years. Restricted supplies and

high prices for meat this past spring and summer plus stocking of home freezers may have encouraged consumers to seek substitutes for meat more vigorously than ever before. If this is the case, and such attitudes are widespread, upward pressure on retail meat prices will be reduced.

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
	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>
1959-63 average													
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	89.9	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	98.4	88.3	97.9	113.0	91.5	105.9	153.7					

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
	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Mil. lb.</i>	<i>Pct.</i>
IMPORTS												
January	143	167	+16	3	4	+33	63	44	-30	209	215	+3
February	130	148	+14	5	7	+52	45	39	-13	179	194	+8
March	120	128	+7	6	8	+34	50	37	-25	176	173	-1
April	144	141	-2	27	5	-81	44	48	+9	215	194	-10
May	152	163	+7	27	7	-73	36	48	+32	215	218	+1
June	157	139	-12	14	3	-75	31	45	+43	202	187	-7
July	162	160	-1	16	5	-71	41	38	-7	219	203	-7
August	229	227	-1	24	4	-81	37	42	+14	290	273	-6
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	5.04	+30	.11	.20	+73	3.53	12.14	+244	7.53	17.38	+131
March	4.93	6.83	+39	.16	.25	+61	4.29	33.55	+681	9.38	40.63	+333
April	5.45	6.37	+17	.10	.22	+146	10.43	31.15	+199	15.98	37.74	+136
May	5.70	7.99	+40	.23	.17	-23	19.40	29.72	+53	25.33	37.88	+50
June	5.04	8.51	+69	.12	.16	+35	13.73	14.54	+6	18.89	23.21	+23
July	4.78	6.93	+45	.19	.22	+13	6.48	5.68	-12	11.45	12.83	+12
August	4.48	6.76	+51	.21	.28	+29	5.39	4.10	-24	10.08	11.14	+11
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.

**Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by month, carcass weight,
July 1973 to date**

Meat and period	Supply			Distribution				
	Production ¹	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption	
							Total	Per person ²
	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Beef:								
July	1,694	322	159	11	299	14	1,851	8.9
August	1,659	299	226	12	263	6	1,903	9.2
September								
3rd quarter								
October								
November								
December								
4th quarter								
Veal:								
July	24	11	1	(³)	10	(³)	26	0.1
August	25	10	1	1	9	(³)	26	.1
September								
3rd quarter								
October								
November								
December								
4th quarter								
Lamb and mutton:								
July	43	16	5	(³)	14	(³)	50	0.2
August	44	14	4	(³)	13	(³)	49	.2
September								
3rd quarter								
October								
November								
December								
4th quarter								
Pork:								
July	890	253	38	12	202	6	961	4.7
August	973	202	42	11	179	15	1,012	4.9
September								
3rd quarter								
October								
November								
December								
4th quarter								
All meat:								
July	2,651	602	203	23	525	20	2,888	13.9
August	2,701	525	273	24	464	21	2,990	14.4
September								
3rd quarter								
October								
November								
December								
4th 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	1972		1973		
	July	August	June	July		August
<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>					
CATTLE AND CALVES					
Beef steers, slaughter, Omaha					
Prime	39.07	36.32	47.80	49.31	54.85
Choice	38.21	35.66	46.98	48.05	53.61
Good	36.46	34.22	45.30	46.12	51.60
Standard	32.56	31.42	42.04	43.18	47.40
Utility	31.36	30.00	40.00	40.65	45.93
All grades	37.65	35.18	46.66	47.77	53.13
Choice 900-1100 pounds, California	37.50	34.80	46.06	47.25	54.10
Choice 900-1100 pounds, Colorado	38.26	35.06	47.11	47.66	53.35
Cows, Omaha					
Commercial	25.80	25.76	33.46	34.36	38.08
Utility	26.22	26.18	33.09	34.22	37.56
Cutter	24.80	24.95	31.50	32.90	35.63
Canner	23.51	23.63	29.82	31.30	33.91
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	56.92	57.24	66.05	65.70	69.66
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City ¹	38.81	38.20	49.38	53.23	56.40
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	34.60	33.60	43.80	44.20	51.70
Cows	25.00	25.30	32.90	33.50	37.90
Steers and heifers	37.00	35.60	46.20	47.10	55.20
Calves	45.10	45.00	58.70	58.80	68.50
Beef steer-corn price ratio ²	30.4	29.1	20.7	20.6	19.6
HOGS					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Omaha					
180-200 pounds	---	---	---	---	---
200-220 pounds	29.55	29.11	39.41	45.63	56.95
220-240 pounds	29.40	29.07	39.35	45.64	57.01
Barrows and gilts, 7 markets ³	28.57	28.86	38.55	46.64	56.68
Sows, 7 markets ³	23.59	25.22	33.87	40.56	50.62
Price received by farmers	27.50	28.00	37.20	41.00	56.50
Hog-corn price ratio ⁴					
Omaha, barrows and gilts	22.8	23.5	17.0	19.9	20.8
Price received by farmers, all hogs	24.1	24.3	18.7	20.2	21.1
SHEEP AND LAMBS					
Sheep					
Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo	7.88	9.80	14.44	16.25	19.40
Price received by farmers	7.08	7.32	11.20	11.70	15.10
Lamb					
Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo	33.31	31.52	38.46	37.31	39.42
Feeder, Choice, San Angelo	29.88	29.70	35.31	34.50	38.40
Price received by farmers	31.40	30.20	36.20	35.00	42.60
ALL MEAT ANIMALS					
Index number price received by farmers (1967=100)	153	151	198	204	253
<i>Dollars per 100 pounds</i>					
MEAT					
Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700 pounds	58.69	54.56	70.92	71.90	---
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds	58.13	53.33	69.75	---	---
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	52.88	52.73	64.94	68.96	---
Lamb carcass, Choice and Prime, 45-55 pounds	69.99	65.35	75.16	76.06	85.90
Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds	64.10	61.68	71.10	91.92	94.47
<i>Cents per pound</i>					
Retail, United States average					
Beef, Choice grade	117.3	115.8	135.5	136.3	144.2
Pork, retail cuts and sausage	85.6	86.0	104.1	107.5	131.5
Lamb, Choice grade	120.6	120.7	138.1	140.5	148.7
Index number all meats (BLS)					
Wholesale (1967=100)	134.4	131.4	161.9	165.8	192.1
Retail (1967=100)	131.3	132.5	156.7	157.8	180.0
Beef and veal	139.4	140.2	163.5	164.3	175.4
Pork	124.0	125.4	151.4	153.4	197.0

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		
		July	August	June	July	August
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1967-100)		93	105	97	89	93
7-State Cattle on Feed Report						
Number on feed	1,000 head	9,117	8,914	9,455	9,491	9,122
Placed on feed	1,000 head	1,277	1,549	1,592	1,132	1,464
Marketings	1,000 head	1,480	1,782	1,556	1,501	1,420
Slaughter under Federal Inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,488	2,926	2,560	2,441	2,363
Steers	1,000 head	1,325	1,576	1,411	1,311	1,203
Heifers	1,000 head	672	808	647	626	614
Cows	1,000 head	440	482	447	450	489
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	52	60	55	54	57
Calves	1,000 head	164	208	117	118	115
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	735	840	727	807	844
Hogs	1,000 head	5,276	6,512	5,711	4,996	5,569
Percentage sows	Percent	7	7	6	8	7
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,034	1,035	1,047	1,056	1,039
Calves	Pounds	225	213	231	213	204
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	101	101	106	105	104
Hogs	Pounds	240	236	245	246	240
Average production						
Beef, per head	Pounds	621	625	630	638	625
Veal, per head	Pounds	127	119	133	122	115
Lamb and mutton, per head	Pounds	49	50	52	49	50
Pork, per head	Pounds	159	157	165	168	166
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	66	67	67	68	69
Lard, per head	Pounds	19	19	18	17	15
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	Pounds	8	8	8	7	6
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,544	1,824	1,608	1,552	1,472
Veal	Mil. lb.	21	25	16	14	13
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	36	42	38	42	42
Pork	Mil. lb.	838	1,023	940	839	924
Lard	Mil. lb.	102	121	105	83	82
Commercial slaughter¹						
Numbered slaughtered						
Cattle	1,000 head	2,758	3,215	2,790	2,691	2,692
Calves	1,000 head	214	260	151	154	159
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	766	872	753	835	888
Hogs	1,000 head	5,686	6,947	6,072	5,330	5,888
Total production						
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,692	1,987	1,738	1,694	1,659
Veal	Mil. lb.	33	38	25	24	25
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	37	43	39	43	44
Pork	Mil. lb.	902	1,089	995	890	973
Lard	Mil. lb.	107	126	110	87	86
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	Mil. lb.	256	260	338	322	299
Veal	Mil. lb.	9	9	12	11	10
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	19	21	15	16	14
Pork	Mil. lb.	320	256	259	253	202
Total meat and meat products²						
	Mil. lb.	710	638	700	675	590

¹ Federally Inspected and other commercial. ² Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed.

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