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Summary

MEAT SUPPLIES DECLINE, BUT A SLUGGISH ECONOMY MAY MODERATE PRICE GAINS

Meat supplies are falling from recent record highs, and livestock prices are strengthening. Reduced feed prices and larger forage stocks, combined with rising livestock prices, are improving feeding margins. However, following losses since mid-1979, sustained profits will be necessary to encourage increased cattle feeding and hog production. While feed prices are expected to remain below last year's levels, feeding costs are expected to rise seasonally. For continued improvement feeding in margins, higher livestock prices will be needed to offset any rise in feed costs. Meat supplies will be down in the second half of the year, and prices are expected to rise. The extent of the price increase will depend on the strength of economic recovery and improvement in consumer purchasing power.

Since late fall, most producers have marketed livestock on schedule, avoiding last winter's large price discounts for overweight animals. The harsh winter weather has slowed weight gains and may result in lower slaughter weights and longer feeding periods. Weather has also strongly influenced prices this winter, as meat production declined. Pork output has fallen the most, because nearly 80 perent of production is concentrated in the North Central region, which has had an especially harsh winter. Weather hasn't hit cattle weight gains as hard outside the North Central region, and slaughter has been larger in these other areas. Broiler production has also been erratic because of weather-related slaughter and transportation problems. Increased meat production, along with some price declines, is likely as the weather improves.

Beef production is expected to rise slightly this winter, as increased nonfed slaughter offsets a small decline in fed cattle marketings. Production declines will likely

occur in the second quarter, as fed beef supplies decrease further and nonfed slaughter falls as spring grazing begins. Pork production may decline 8 to 9 percent this winter and spring. Total meat and poultry supplies are forecast to drop 3 to 5 percent.

Choice steer prices at Omaha are forecast to average $62 to $64 per cwt this winter before rising to the mid-$60's this spring. Hog prices at the 7 major markets may average $46 to $48 this winter and near $50 this spring. Higher prices will likely remain through late spring, as meat supplies decrease and the economy improves.

Retail prices for meat and poultry rose about 4 percent in 1981, well below the 10-percent jump in the Consumer Price Index. Prices of Choice beef increased less than 1 percent. Pork prices rose nearly 9 percent, as supplies declined 4 percent. The sluggish economy will continue to moderate price increases in the first half of 1982, despite relatively large cutbacks in supplies. Prices for Choice retail beef may rise 3 to 5 percent in the first half, and pork 7 to 10 percent. Broiler prices will probably average near year-earlier levels because supplies will continue to increase.

COMMERCIAL MEAT PRODUCTION AND PRICES
(All Percent Changes Shown Are From A Year Earlier)

Item	1980		1981				1982	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
				Mil. lb.				
PRODUCTION								
Beef	5,384	5,586	5,553	5,428	5,532	5,669	5,625	5,275
% change	+3	+3	+6	+3	+3	+1	+1	−3
Pork	3,756	4,250	4,073	3,879	3,608	4,156	3,700	3,575
% change	0	−2	−1	−10	−4	−2	−9	−8
Lamb & Mutton	72	81	85	77	79	88	90	80
% change	+6	+12	+6	0	+10	+9	+6	+4
Veal	95	104	100	94	104	115	105	95
% change	−4	+4	+10	+6	+9	+11	+5	+1
Total Red Meat	9,307	10,021	9,811	9,478	9,323	10,028	9,520	9,025
% change	+2	+1	+3	−2	0	0	−3	−5
Broilers[2]	2,776	2,720	2,826	3,084	3,063	2,865	2,880	3,120
% change	−3	+2	+3	+5	+10	+5	+2	+1
Turkeys[2]	691	694	379	534	752	751	375	525
% change	−4	−4	+4	+4	+9	+8	−1	−2
Total Red Meat & Poultry	12,774	13,435	13,018	13,100	13,138	13,644	12,775	12,670
% change	0	+1	+3	0	+3	+2	−2	−3
				$/cwt.				
PRICES								
Choice steers, Omaha, 900-1100 lb.	70.82	65.51	61.99	66.68	66.53	60.17	62-64	65-67
Barrows & Gilts, 7 mkts	46.23	46.44	41.13	43.63	50.42	42.63	46-48	47-50
Slaugh. Lambs, Ch., San Ang.	68.83	63.97	57.33	65.45	59.43	51.38	51-53	55-58
				cents/lb.				
Broilers 9-city avg.[3]	53.3	49.9	49.3	46.7	47.0	42.1	43-45	45-47
Turkeys, NY[4]	68.3	73.0	61.3	63.6	62.7	55.1	55-57	56-58

[1]Forecast. [2]Federally inspected. [3]Wholesale weighted average. [4]Wholesale, 8-16 lb. young hens.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Economic Considerations

The present recession is expected to bottom out this winter and a strong rebound is likely in the second half of the year. Real per capita income in the second half is expected to substantially exceed the 1979 levels, when the current economic stagnation began. Rising production, combined with the 10-percent tax cut scheduled for July 1, is expected to boost the real (inflation-adjusted) Gross National Product (GNP) at annual rates of about 5 percent during the second half of the year. Real GNP declined by 5.2 percent last fall, and although moderating, is expected to fall again this winter. The spring quarter should show little growth. This stagnation, combined with record-large total meat supplies resulted in sharply lower livestock prices since 1979. Meat supplies are declining and prices have strengthened modestly. Any additional price strength, particularly in the second half of 1982, will depend on the strength of economic recovery and improvement in consumer purchasing power.

The unemployment rate has risen, and as typical in the early stages of recovery, is expected to remain high for at least the next few months. High unemployment is dampening wage increases and, together with weak prices for raw industrial inputs (including agricultural commodities), is improving the outlook for bringing down inflation. This level of unemployment combined with an increase in productivity that is typical of the early stages of recovery, is expected to lower inflation well below the 10 percent rate in 1981.

Excess business inventories, accumulated because of slack demand, are expected to be worked down in the next few months, ending the recession and permitting the recovery to start. Production cutbacks will end as the large inventories are worked off. At the present time, only about 70 percent of industrial capacity is being utilized. The prime rate rose again in early February from 15.75 to 16.5 percent. Nevertheless, inflation is down, and one of the primary factors necessary for falling interest rates is continued reductions in inflation and, consequently, inflationary expectations.

Economic improvement in second-half of 1982 is almost certain and the tax cut will improve real disposable consumer incomes. However, a sustained recovery with increased investment is necessary to raise consumer purchasing power late this year and into the future.

Feed and Forage Prospects

Feed and forage supplies were much improved from the drought affected 1980 harvest and the reduced January 1, 1981, stocks. Larger forage stocks and reduced grain and soybean meal prices have provided livestock and poultry producers with much needed relief from the poor feeding margins that have existed since mid-1979. However, continued-large total meat supplies and a sluggish economy are expected to hold down grain-consuming animal units again in 1982.

Feed

Final 1981 feed grain production was record-large, exceeding the 1979's high by 4 percent and the 1980/81 crop by 25 percent. Feed grain stocks on January 1 were also record large. Ending feed grain stocks for 1981/82 are estimated at 65 million metric tons, 30 million above last year and 11 million above 1979/80. An estimated 38 million metric tons of the carryover is expected to be in the farmer-owned reserve and another 9 million in the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) inventory, leaving 18 million as free stocks. The movement of feed grains into the farmer-owned reserve may have an impact on livestock producer's decisions this year.

Reduced acreage programs and a more favorable farmer-owned reserve program have been announced for the 1982 crop. Present reserve stocks provide a sizable buffer to meet expected domestic and export needs. However, unexpected shocks to the system, internationally or domestically, would be required to force prices higher and enable the reserve stocks to flow back into the market.

Farmers participating in the reserve agree to keep their corn in the reserve for 3 years or until the U.S. 5-day moving average market price reaches \$3.15 a bushel. When this price is reached, farmers may remove corn without penalty by repaying the loan.

The farm price of corn is forecast to average \$2.40 to \$2.55 a bushel this year, compared with \$3.11 last year and \$2.52 2 years ago. Grain sorghum prices are also expected to decline sharply because of a 52-percent production increase over the drought-reduced 1980 harvest. Grain sorghum prices may average \$2.25 to \$2.35 a bushel, a decline of about 20 percent from the \$2.94 recorded a year ago. Although feed grain prices are lower throughout the country, the lowest prices continue to be recorded in the North Central region. Mid-January corn price comparisons with a year ago reveal declines of 81 to 76 cents a bushel with prices dropping to \$2.25 in South Dakota, to \$2.44 in Illinois, and to \$2.78 in Texas. Prices in Georgia declined .99 cents a bushel to \$2.73.

The soybean harvest was the second largest on record and 13 percent more than the 1980 crop, despite a 2-percent decline in harvested acreage. Soybean stocks on January 1, 1982, were 8 percent above a year ago. Soybean meal prices at Decatur are expected to average \$175 to \$195 a ton, about 25 percent below 1980/81's \$218.20.

Forage Supplies

Because of favorable growing conditions, forage stocks were rebuilt during 1981. Hay stocks on January 1, 1982, were 9 percent above a year ago. Corn silage and sorghum silage production increased 5 and 31 percent, respectively, from a year ago, with improved feeding quality. This was the largest corn silage production since 1978 and further bolsters feeding supplies for cattlemen in the Northern Plains and North Central regions. However, the severe winter is placing additional demands on the forage supplies, in sharp contrast to the mild winter and reduced forage demands of last year. Livestock entered the new year in good condition in almost all areas. Since early December, rainfall has substantially improved prospects for good spring grazing conditions in the Southeast, the only area with widespread drought problems last fall. Wheat grazing in the High Plains was much improved from a year ago, but cold temperatures and the need for additional moisture in January reduced forage supplies. Some cattle were moved off wheat pasture in January. Much needed rainfall was received, beginning in late January. Consequently, moderating temperatures in late winter should provide additional grazing. Wheat reduced acreage provisions announced in late January allow participants who agree to not-plant 15 percent of their wheat acreage to make hay or graze this acreage through the normal spring grazing season. Recent moisture levels suggest excellent grazing in most areas.

CATTLE

Downward revisions in the 1980 calf crop and 1981 cattle inventory, combined with a smaller-than-expected 1981 calf crop have set a firm base for stronger price forecasts in 1982. However, the weakness in the general economy and its drag on consumer's purchasing power continues to temper price increases for livestock and meat.

Cattle Inventory Growing Slower Than Expected

While the expansion phase of the cycle continues, growth is slower than previously expected. The 1981 cattle inventory was revised downward from 115 million to 114.3 million head. In addition, the size of the 1980 calf crop was revised downward by 350,000 head to 45 million. The January 1, 1982, estimate of the 1981 calf crop was 44.7 million head, a 900,000 decline from the July 1, 1981, midyear estimate. The January 1, 1981, estimate of the cow herd was revised downward by 270,000 to 49.6 million head, with nearly all the decrease in beef cows.

The January 1, 1982, cattle inventory was 115.7 million head, a 1-percent rise from last year and 4 percent above 1980. Beef cow numbers rose 1 percent from 1981 and 6 percent over 1980. The number of heifers being saved for possible beef herd expansion increased by 8 and 12 percent, compared with 1981 and 1980, respectively. The number of replacement heifers increased by nearly 500,000 versus a 200,000-head rise a year ago. The proportion of replacement heifers entering the cow herd declined from 87 percent in 1980 to 78 percent in 1981. Sharpest year-to-year drops in the number of heifers calving and thus entering the herd occurred in the second half of the year. Returns to cow calf enterprises in all regions have been poor. This poor situation was magnified for producers in the Southeast by drought conditions which continued until late 1981. It appears that reduced supplies and poor quality of forage due to the prolonged drought in 1980-81 may have had a large impact on the 1981 outcome. Heifers bred in the spring of 1980 calved and entered the herd in relatively large proportions. Greatest impact of the drought appears to have been on the heifers to be bred in late fall 1980, which normally would have calved in the second half of 1981. The proportion of heifers entering the herd in the second half of the year was the lowest since data collec-

January 1 cattle inventory and calf crop

Year	Cattle	Cows	Cows/ cattle	Calf crops	Calf crop/ cows
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
1950	77,963	37,946	49	34,899	92
1951	82,083	39,415	48	35,825	91
1952	88,072	41,225	47	38,273	93
1953	94,241	44,030	47	41,261	94
1954	95,679	46,045	48	42,601	93
1955	96,592	46,240	48	42,112	91
1956	95,900	45,460	47	41,376	91
1957	92,860	44,115	48	39,905	90
1958	91,176	42,790	47	38,860	91
1959	93,322	42,680	46	38,938	91
1960	96,236	43,325	45	39,416	91
1961	97,700	44,045	45	40,180	91
1962	100,369	45,086	45	41,441	92
1963	104,488	46,399	44	42,268	91
1964	107,903	47,868	44	43,809	92
1965	109,000	48,780	45	43,922	90
1966	108,862	47,990	44	43,537	91
1967	108,783	47,495	44	43,803	92
1968	109,371	47,685	44	44,315	93
1969	110,015	48,040	44	45,177	94
1970	112,369	48,780	43	45,871	94
1971	114,578	49,786	43	46,738	94
1972	117,862	50,585	43	47,682	94
1973	121,539	52,553	43	49,194	94
1974	127,788	54,478	43	50,873	93
1975	132,028	56,931	43	50,183	88
1976	127,980	54,971	43	47,384	86
1977	122,810	52,441	43	45,931	88
1978	116,375	49,634	43	43,818	88
1979	110,864	47,852	43	42,603	89
1980	111,192	47,865	43	44,998	94
1981	114,321	49,586	43	44,714	90
1982	115,691	50,362	44		

Cattle Balance Sheet

Year	On farms Jan. 1	Imports	Calf crop	Total supply	Slaughter: Cattle	Slaughter: Calves	Death loss	Exports	Total disap-pearance	To balance	On farms Dec. 31
	1,000 head										
1950	77,963	461	34,899	113,323	18,614	10,501	3,742	8	32,865	+1,625	82,083
1951	82,083	239	35,825	118,147	17,084	8,902	3,863	8	29,857	-218	88,072
1952	88,072	140	38,273	126,485	18,625	9,388	4,034	11	32,058	-186	94,241
1953	94,241	198	41,261	135,700	24,465	12,200	4,060	15	40,740	+719	95,679
1954	95,679	86	42,601	138,366	25,889	13,270	4,063	21	43,243	+1,469	96,592
1955	96,592	314	42,112	139,018	26,587	12,864	4,052	35	43,538	+420	95,900
1956	95,900	159	41,376	137,435	27,755	12,999	3,912	37	44,703	+128	92,860
1957	92,860	728	39,905	133,493	27,068	12,353	3,801	44	43,266	+949	91,176
1958	91,176	1,152	38,860	131,188	24,368	9,738	3,810	26	37,942	+76	93,322
1959	93,322	709	38,938	132,969	23,722	8,072	3,876	51	35,721	-1,012	96,236
1960	96,236	663	39,416	136,315	26,029	8,615	4,100	32	38,776	+161	97,700
1961	97,700	1,043	40,180	138,923	26,471	8,080	4,018	24	38,593	+39	100,369
1962	100,369	1,250	41,441	143,060	26,911	7,857	4,125	19	38,912	+340	104,488
1963	104,488	852	42,268	147,608	28,070	7,204	4,040	23	39,337	-368	107,903
1964	107,903	547	43,809	152,259	31,678	7,632	4,232	62	43,604	+345	109,000
1965	109,000	1,128	43,922	154,050	33,171	7,788	4,248	54	45,261	+73	108,862
1966	108,862	1,100	43,537	153,499	34,173	6,863	4,049	35	45,120	+404	108,783
1967	108,783	752	43,803	153,338	34,297	6,110	4,045	55	44,507	+540	109,371
1968	109,371	1,039	44,315	154,725	35,418	5,616	4,012	36	45,082	+372	110,015
1969	110,015	1,042	45,177	156,234	35,573	5,011	4,123	39	44,746	+881	112,369
1970	112,369	1,168	45,871	159,408	35,356	4,203	4,297	88	43,944	-886	114,578
1971	114,578	991	46,738	162,307	35,905	3,825	4,442	93	44,265	-180	117,862
1972	117,862	1,186	47,682	166,730	36,134	3,201	5,126	104	44,565	-626	121,539
1973	121,539	1,039	49,194	171,772	34,102	2,404	6,487	273	43,266	-718	127,788
1974	127,788	568	50,873	179,229	37,353	3,175	6,110	204	46,842	-359	132,028
1975	132,028	389	50,183	182,600	41,464	5,406	6,992	196	54,058	-562	127,980
1976	127,980	984	47,384	176,348	43,199	5,527	5,190	205	54,121	-583	122,810
1977	122,810	1,133	45,931	169,974	42,381	5,692	6,000	107	54,180	+681	116,375
1978	116,375	1,253	43,818	161,446	39,970	4,302	5,680	122	50,074	-508	110,864
1979	110,864	732	42,603	154,199	34,005	2,927	5,600	66	42,594	-409	111,192
1980	111,192	681	44,998	156,871	34,116	2,679	5,450	66	42,311	-239	114,321
1981	114,321	659	44,714	159,694	35,219	2,894	5,112	88	43,313	-690	115,691

U.S. imports of cattle from specified countries, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, 1965-81

Year	700 pounds and over				Under 200 pounds			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
				Head				
1965	136,551	14,077	0	150,628	64,070	16,921	0	80,991
1966	90,872	14,505	3	105,380	104,196	22,293	5	126,494
1967	17,958	3,936	26	21,920	87,184	10,553	1	97,738
1968	57,145	1,344	20	58,509	134,344	13,052	0	147,396
1969	42,528	4,099	52	46,679	126,683	32,459	1	159,143
1970	30,367	1,299	158	31,824	123,458	45,475	0	168,933
1971	24,278	1,100	205	25,583	126,221	32,467	1	158,689
1972	27,443	3,738	182	31,363	130,770	42,502	64	173,336
1973	54,168	22,744	505	77,417	128,418	15,213	220	143,851
1974	19,341	35,331	636	55,308	74,138	3,464	0	77,602
1975	143,092	5,389	1,145	149,626	9,553	592	0	10,145
1976	263,007	10,508	757	274,272	115,045	4,769	0	119,814
1977	251,919	5,375	420	257,714	129,105	3,962	0	133,067
1978	203,163	8,117	37	211,317	142,525	12,445	2	154,972
1979	136,397	1,045	25	137,467	144,170	1,963	0	146,133
1980	148,489	107	30	148,626	131,498	4,439	0	135,937
1981 1/	130,160	103	81	130,344	144,769	884	0	145,653
	200 to 699 pounds				Total			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
1965	359,486	504,285	0	863,771	560,107	535,283	0	1,095,390
1966	280,522	547,287	319	828,128	475,590	584,085	327	1,060,002
1967	121,900	485,929	13	607,842	227,042	500,418	40	727,500
1968	114,628	687,912	7	802,547	306,117	702,308	27	1,008,452
1969	18,522	773,829	5	792,356	187,733	810,387	58	998,178
1970	17,122	889,809	61	906,992	170,947	936,583	219	1,107,749
1971	30,222	718,642	9	748,873	180,721	752,209	215	933,145
1972	69,637	869,527	4	939,168	227,850	915,767	250	1,143,867
1973	147,754	634,697	1,400	783,851	330,340	672,654	2,125	1,005,119
1974	17,787	395,905	85	413,777	111,266	434,700	721	546,687
1975	30,745	190,062	44	220,851	183,390	196,043	1,189	380,622
1976	70,104	492,491	112	562,707	448,156	507,768	869	956,793
1977	146,496	584,653	98	731,247	527,520	593,990	518	1,122,028
1978	79,068	794,451	23	873,542	424,756	815,013	62	1,239,831
1979	53,729	376,941	56	430,726	334,296	379,949	81	714,326
1980	54,570	327,695	60	382,325	334,557	332,241	90	666,888
1981 1/	50,012	320,040	4	370,056	324,941	321,027	85	646,053

1/ Preliminary.

Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1966 to date 1/

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
							Beef, Choice grade 2/						
1966	82.9	85.1	86.1	86.6	85.8	83.7	83.5	83.7	84.2	83.3	82.3	85.6	84.4
1967	82.3	82.8	82.7	82.3	81.5	83.9	85.3	86.0	87.6	87.3	86.4	87.3	84.6
1968	86.3	87.1	87.7	87.7	87.9	87.9	89.2	89.1	90.5	89.8	90.2	90.6	88.7
1969	91.6	91.8	93.1	95.5	100.1	104.3	105.0	103.6	101.7	97.8	99.1	99.5	89.6
1970	100.2	100.0	102.3	102.8	102.4	101.5	103.8	103.5	101.9	101.0	100.8	99.7	101.7
1971	100.5	104.7	105.8	107.6	108.6	109.5	108.6	109.6	109.9	109.1	110.4	112.7	108.1
1972	116.0	120.4	120.5	116.6	116.1	118.3	122.3	120.8	117.9	117.8	117.4	119.8	118.7
1973	127.7	136.3	141.7	142.4	142.5	142.0	143.0	151.3	152.1	142.8	141.8	141.3	142.1
1974	150.4	157.8	149.7	143.6	142.3	139.3	145.5	151.3	149.5	144.5	142.1	139.7	146.3
1975	140.5	136.5	134.5	141.8	156.7	167.3	170.8	165.0	162.3	161.9	160.7	160.1	154.8
1976	158.1	151.8	143.9	151.2	151.1	150.1	147.5	144.9	143.4	142.6	145.1	148.5	148.2
1977	147.1	144.0	142.7	143.5	148.4	147.3	148.4	149.4	149.2	152.0	152.5	155.7	148.4
1978	159.5	161.7	167.0	176.0	185.9	195.2	191.6	189.3	187.4	187.6	187.8	193.6	181.9
1979	204.9	215.3	225.9	232.8	240.2	233.6	232.2	220.9	226.6	224.3	226.2	232.6	226.3
1980	234.5	234.8	236.2	233.3	230.4	230.6	237.8	242.2	244.9	241.6	242.3	242.9	237.6
1981 3/	239.5	237.5	235.6	230.9	234.3	238.9	242.9	242.7	243.8	241.5	239.0	238.0	238.7
							Veal, retail cuts						
1966	85.1	89.2	98.4	90.3	88.5	90.7	91.1	90.6	91.3	91.3	90.5	91.4	90.0
1967	92.0	90.1	91.4	92.8	93.3	93.7	93.9	96.1	96.3	96.7	97.4	97.2	94.2
1968	99.8	99.2	100.0	102.0	100.0	102.5	101.7	101.4	101.9	101.1	101.9	100.9	101.0
1969	102.5	103.7	104.6	107.5	108.6	112.5	114.0	115.0	115.1	115.2	114.6	116.3	110.8
1970	117.2	119.3	120.8	123.3	123.9	124.9	125.7	126.6	127.0	127.4	127.6	127.9	124.3
1971	128.9	129.4	130.6	132.9	133.7	134.8	138.5	139.3	139.6	140.3	140.6	140.9	135.8
1972	142.8	148.6	149.7	151.0	151.7	154.2	156.4	157.3	157.6	158.4	159.4	159.9	153.9
1973	162.2	169.1	176.9	180.5	181.1	181.3	183.2	188.7	188.5	190.6	186.2	191.6	181.7
1974	194.5	198.4	199.1	194.8	193.3	193.7	192.4	194.8	196.1	192.4	189.1	190.6	194.1
1975	187.0	183.5	179.6	180.2	182.9	183.1	186.6	181.6	178.2	176.8	176.7	177.4	181.1
1976	174.4	173.7	173.3	171.7	173.9	177.2	176.5	175.4	172.9	170.4	170.1	169.8	173.3
1977	176.7	178.4	175.2	175.8	174.9	175.2	174.6	175.6	174.3	172.3	175.8	174.5	175.3
1978	176.5	180.3	183.0	186.0	191.3	210.3	223.0	225.8	228.9	234.0	236.8	237.6	209.5
1979	247.0	254.8	252.2	273.1	289.1	294.4	294.1	293.2	294.2	296.6	298.5	299.8	282.3
1980	301.6	303.8	305.9	310.2	310.0	311.4	309.8	311.4	309.8	309.1	314.1	316.4	309.5
1981 4/	314.6	314.7	314.1	316.4	314.9								
							Pork 2/						
1966	79.3	79.5	76.8	71.9	70.5	72.8	73.4	75.1	73.7	71.1	68.8	67.5	73.4
1967	66.9	65.6	63.9	62.6	65.4	69.4	70.4	69.6	68.7	66.0	66.0	64.3	66.6
1968	64.8	66.1	66.5	65.7	66.1	67.2	68.8	68.4	68.2	67.2	66.5	66.4	66.8
1969	67.3	67.9	68.4	68.5	71.0	74.3	76.2	77.6	78.2	78.0	77.4	79.0	73.6
1970	81.4	18.1	80.7	79.3	79.4	79.4	80.0	79.1	76.1	74.0	70.2	67.9	77.4
1971	67.9	68.9	69.4	68.2	67.7	69.1	70.9	71.1	70.5	70.8	70.9	72.4	69.8
1972	75.8	80.8	78.9	77.7	78.9	81.5	85.1	85.5	86.1	87.0	86.7	88.0	82.7
1973	93.6	96.6	102.5	102.2	101.9	103.6	107.0	130.9	125.7	116.5	114.8	115.2	109.2
1974	116.2	116.7	111.4	104.3	99.0	93.3	103.3	108.3	109.5	108.5	111.0	112.3	107.8
1975	114.6	114.5	113.3	115.4	122.6	130.1	143.3	149.7	153.3	158.2	153.5	147.1	134.6
1976	143.9	141.3	138.4	136.3	138.3	140.1	141.8	137.1	132.4	124.6	117.3	117.0	134.0
1977	119.5	121.0	120.9	118.8	120.8	125.6	132.0	130.2	130.7	126.8	127.4	130.5	125.4
1978	133.8	138.0	139.2	141.6	141.4	144.2	144.2	144.4	145.5	149.4	150.4	150.5	143.6
1979	154.2	157.1	156.9	150.7	149.3	144.5	142.4	135.9	135.6	134.3	132.2	136.3	144.1
1980	135.3	133.2	133.3	127.8	123.6	124.4	136.2	145.7	150.7	153.8	156.3	153.8	139.5
1981 3/	151.5	148.4	146.2	142.7	144.9	146.6	154.9	158.1	159.5	160.4	158.2	157.4	152.4
							Lamb, Choice grade						
1966	81.8	85.8	87.6	86.4	85.6	86.6	86.8	86.3	85.2	84.9	86.1	84.5	85.6
1967	84.6	83.4	83.3	82.9	84.6	88.8	89.5	89.3	90.3	89.6	90.2	89.9	87.2
1968	89.8	90.4	92.0	92.5	93.3	93.7	94.5	93.6	93.1	94.5	94.2	93.5	92.9
1969	94.5	95.9	96.4	97.1	100.1	101.8	104.4	102.9	103.4	103.9	103.7	104.8	100.7
1970	104.8	104.8	104.7	105.6	103.9	105.7	106.0	106.3	106.3	105.9	105.9	106.4	105.5
1971	105.9	106.5	107.0	107.4	108.0	109.6	111.4	111.5	112.6	110.9	112.7	113.0	109.7
1972	113.0	115.3	115.5	116.0	115.7	119.0	121.2	121.5	121.0	121.5	122.5	123.7	118.8
1973	125.6	130.2	136.1	135.5	134.2	132.2	133.4	140.4	145.4	135.2	131.3	131.7	134.3
1974	132.6	138.2	141.9	141.3	141.8	144.4	151.4	151.5	154.1	151.8	152.2	155.9	146.4
1975	156.0	157.1	154.5	158.2	164.2	169.2	174.9	173.5	175.7	175.0	176.5	177.0	167.6
1976	178.3	178.3	181.8	184.0	189.0	194.1	193.6	191.2	185.7	184.9	193.6	182.6	185.6
1977	181.4	182.8	181.3	178.3	183.5	188.5	192.6	192.9	188.3	189.2	193.6	189.7	186.8
1978	199.8	206.8	214.0	220.3	224.7	236.7	222.2	222.6	220.7	221.7	223.2	222.6	219.6
1979	235.4	244.4	244.4	248.6	250.7	251.1	248.0	244.8	244.8	242.9	247.3	245.4	245.7
1980	249.0	249.1	252.9	252.8	247.2	250.1	253.9	254.4	255.0	256.2	256.2	255.8	252.7
1981 4/	253.1	252.3	251.8	250.5	255.0								

1/Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts. Compiled by Economics Research Service. 2/Series revised. See Special Article in LMS-222, August 1978. 3/ERS data through May, BLS series since June. 4/Discontinued.

Heifers entering cow herd January-June and July-December

	January 1 cow inventory	Intended herd replacements January 1	Total[1] disappearance Jan.-June	July 1 cow inventory	Heifers entering herd Jan.-June	Percent entering herd	Intended herd replacements July 1	Total[2] disappearance July-Dec.	January 1 cow inventory following yr.	Heifers Percent herd July-Dec.	entering herd
			1,000 head			*Percent*			*1,000 head*		
1973	52,553	11,306	3,550	54,037	5,034	44.5	11,144	3,496	54,478	3,927	35.2
1974	54,478	12,134	3,625	56,960	6,107	50.3	11,780	4,702	56,931	4,67	39.7
1975	56,931	12,971	5,212	58,053	6,336	48.8	11,306	7,197	54,974	4,120	36.4
1976	54,971	11,148	5,628	53,938	4,595	41.2	10,475	5,811	52,441	4,314	41.2
1977	52,441	10,414	5,221	52,190	4,970	47.7	9,846	5,429	49,635	2,874	29.2
1978	49,635	9,744	4,961	48,413	3,739	38.4	9,340	4,253	47,852	3,692	39.5
1979	47,852	9,459	3,413	47,815	3,376	35.7	9,885	3,235	47,865	3,285	33.2
1980	47,865	10,097	3,304	49,941	5,380	53.3	10,214	3,748	49,586	3,393	33.2
1981	49,586	10,481	3,595	51,004	5,013	47.8	10,861	3,768	50,362	3,126	28.8
1982	50,362	11,153									

[1]Death loss 1 percent of January 1 cow inventory plus estimated commercial cow slaughter. [2]Death loss 1/2 percent of January 1 cow inventory plus estimated commercial cow slaughter.

tion was started in 1973. The July 1 survey indicated 31.5 million calves, 69 percent of the calf crop, would be born in the first half of 1981. In actuality, 31.7 million calves were born in the first half, but they accounted for 71 percent of the year's crop. The number of calves producers expected to be born in the second half of the year fell 1.2 million head short, representing more than the decline in the total calf crop. Calves born as a proportion of cows on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1981 in the Southeastern States dropped well below the National average of 90 percent. The proportion was 45 percent in Alabama, 72 percent in Lousiana, 76 percent in Florida, and in the 80-percent range in most other Southeastern States. The extremely hot temperatures in the summer of 1980 occurred after, or had little impact, on heifers bred to calve in first half 1981. The real impact may have been that heifers bred in the fall of 1980, after the heat subsided, continued under such a poor nutritive plane that larger numbers of heifers and cows either did not conceive or aborted during the poor winter. Sharply higher hay and supplemental feed prices undoubtedly contributed to producers' failure to provide the necessary supplemental feeding to maintain production. Heat and the poor forage supplies may also have had an impact on bull potency. Fertility checks on the bulls at the beginning of the fall 1980 breeding season could have provided some very inexpensive insurance on the 1981 calf crop.

A larger cow herd and a sharp increase in replacement heifers, continue to point towards expansion in the cattle inventory. Given the excellent forage conditions in 1981, an increase in the calf crop is likely in 1982. Last year's calf crop was 90 percent of the January 1, 1981 cow inventory, compared with 94 percent in 1980. A calf crop that is above 90 percent of the cow herd at the beginning of the year is typical of the expansion phase of the cycle when a larger number of heifers calve and enter the cow herd. In 1982, 91 percent of the 50.4 million cows in inventory on January 1 calving would provide a 45.8-million-head calf crop, a 5-percent increase from 1981. The smaller- than-expected calf crop in 1981 and the resulting lower total cattle inventory provides the basis for a price outlook that is more optimistic than previously expected.

Feeder Cattle Supplies Larger Than a Year Ago

Despite a smaller than expected calf crop and continued large nonfed steer and heifer slaughter, feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots remain 2 percent (800,000 head) above a year ago. The number of calves under 500 pounds on January 1 was nearly the same as a year ago, but a 32-percent decline in the number of calves on feed resulted in a 1-percent (250,000 head) increase in feeder calf supplies. The number of steers and nonreplacement heifers weighing over 500 pounds declined from last year. However, a 6-percent drop in the number of steers and heifers over 500 pounds in feedlots resulted in nearly a 5-percent gain (550,000 head) in the number of yearling cattle outside feedlots.

This fall and winter has been an excellent season for grazing stocker cattle on wheat pasture. Many of the calves from last spring's calf crop were held over this winter to take advantage of the favorable forage supplies. As these cattle are marketed later this winter and spring, nonfed slaughter and feedlot placements are likely to increase. Fewer calves will be weaned this spring than a year ago, due to the sharply reduced second-half 1981 calf crop, causing a tightening in the feeder cattle supply. With this tighter supply, feeder cattle prices should strengthen as the spring-summer grazing demand improves and may be further heightened this year by the

January 1 feeder cattle supply

Item	1979	1980	1981	1982	1982/81
Calves 500 lb.[1]					
On farms	27,263	27,590	28,904	28,862	−0.1
On feed[2]	1,324	1210	897	609	−32.1
TOTAL	25,939	26,380	28,007	28,253	+0.9
Steers & heifers 500+lb.[3]					
On farms	23,887	23,149	22,804	22,696	−0.5
On feed [2]	11,866	10,924	10,618	9,948	−6.3
TOTAL	12,021	12,225	12,186	12,748	+4.6
Total supply	37,960	38,605	40,193	41,001	+2.0

[1]Less than. [2]Estimated U.S. steers and heifers. [3]Not including heifers for cow replacement.

increased demand for stocker cattle for wheat graze-out programs.

As cattle come off the wheat graze-out program in late spring, the number available for feedlot placement or nonfed slaughter will rise. This is likely to result in a continuation of placing heavier, fleshier yearlings on feed through spring. Then, as the 1982 spring calf crop is weaned later in the year, the placement pattern should shift more toward longer calf feeding programs.

A strenghtening economy during the year, and indications of another large grain crop could result in increased feeding demand and reduced nonfed slaughter in the second half of the year.

Number of Cattle Enterprises and Inventory Values Decline

The number of farms and ranches with cattle increased by 840 to 1.623 million operations during 1981. Undoubtedly this increase was primarily operations with stocker cattle enterprises because of the favorable grazing year. Although existing cow-calf-yearling enterprises are expanding, there is little incentive for new entrants because of the poor returns and large capital investment necessary at current high interest rates.

The average value of the cattle and calf inventory on January 1, 1982 declined to $415 per head, from $502 in 1980 and $475 in 1981. The total herd value on January 1, 1982, was $48 billion, compared with $55.8 billion in 1980 and $54.3 billion in 1981. Thus, while the cattle inventory rose 4 percent from 1980 to 1982, the total value of the inventory declined 14 percent.

Feedlot Decline Continues

The number of feedlots in the 23 major cattle-feeding States declined by about 9,000 in 1981, to 104,000. Marketings declined 1 percent, from 23.2 to 23 million head. All of the decline in feedlot numbers occurred in lots with less than 1,000 head of capacity. Marketings from these small lots declined by 250,000 head. The number of lots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more increased by about 100 to 2,241 lots. Marketings from this group increased about 50,000 head. The number of these lots with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,999 head increased by 100, undoubtedly representing expansion of smaller feedlots into this larger capacity group.

1981 Recap

Cattle slaughter increased 3 percent in 1981. Cow and heifer slaughter rose 5 percent, while steer slaughter expanded 2 percent. Cattle slaughter as a proportion of the beginning of the year's inventory remained at the 33 percent recorded in 1980. Cow slaughter also remained at 13 percent of the January 1 inventory. Both figures are well below the historical average slaughter rates recorded during the expansion phase of a cattle cycle. This suggests that herd expansion is continuing.

Commercial beef production increased 3 percent in 1981. Commercial average dressed weights were a record 636 pounds, 1 pound above the previous record set in 1980. These weights are heavy—even considering the upward trend in slaughter weights that has occurred as cattlemen shifted to crosses with some of the larger cattle breeds. Slaughter weights were especially burdensome during the winter quarter, averaging 648 pounds.

Federally inspected cattle slaughter

Week ended 1981	Cattle		Steers		Cows	
	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
	Thousands					
Jan. 3[1]	513	531	256	273	100	106
9	665	691	321	347	149	143
16	707	694	367	353	134	128
23	628	682	321	337	121	142
30	637		320		126	
Feb. 6	628		322		111	
13	637		336		111	
20	604		304		112	
27	610		314		110	
Mar. 6	616		334		104	
13	594		334		109	
20	628		337		112	
27	618		334		109	
Apr. 3	607		323		105	
10	613		309		108	
17	591		304		108	
24	566		280		108	
May 1	628		322		121	
8	588		303		110	
15	640		343		109	
22	653		347		117	
29	559		296		99	
June 5	636		348		108	
12	632		338		105	
19	639		333		114	
26	612		307		116	
July 3	565		291		101	
10	598		299		105	
17	604		294		118	
24	632		317		113	
Aug. 31	621		309		112	
7	636		311		112	
14	653		314		117	
21	652		313		120	
28	676		323		128	
Sept. 4	688		335		137	
11	589		284		103	
18	664		307		125	
25	655		204		132	
Oct. 2	636		300		129	
9	664		321		127	
16	660		320		126	
23	665		311		140	
30	676		315		144	
Nov. 6	655		303		140	
13	660		310		139	
20	689		331		151	
27	544		273		108	
Dec. 4	651		314		148	
11	670		318		160	
18	657		336		131	
25	486		254		89	

[1]Corresponding date: January 3, 1981.

Beef supplies and prices

	Commercial cattle slaughter 1/									Prices			
	Steers and heifers												
	Fed R	Non-fed	Total	Cows	Bulls and stags	Total	Average dressed weight	Commercial production 2/	Per capita consumption 3/	Retail	Choice feeders 600-700 lb. Kansas City	Choice steers Omaha 900-1100 lb.	Farm 4/
	1,000 head						Lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Cents/lb.	$/cwt.		
1977:													
I	6,735	984	7,719	2,535	212	10,466	601	6,287	31.2	144.6	37.77	37.88	33.07
II	6,422	1,384	7,806	2,162	225	10,193	604	6,158	30.4	146.4	41.10	40.77	35.20
III	6,442	1,545	7,987	2,398	244	10,629	595	6,321	31.5	149.0	41.16	40.47	34.70
IV	6,370	1,207	7,577	2,769	222	10,568	588	6,220	30.7	153.4	40.70	42.42	34.97
Year	25,969	5,120	31,089	9,864	903	41,856	597	24,986	123.8	148.4	40.18	40.38	34.40
1978:													
I	7,073	635	7,708	2,317	184	10,209	598	6,106	29.9	162.7	47.89	45.77	40.30
II	6,919	598	7,517	2,148	211	9,876	601	5,938	29.2	185.7	58.00	55.06	49.63
III	6,805	737	7,542	1,993	208	9,743	608	5,923	29.1	189.4	62.71	53.75	50.07
IV	7,053	464	7,517	2,012	195	9,724	621	6,043	29.6	189.7	66.52	54.76	52.93
Year	27,850	2,434	30,284	8,470	798	39,552	607	24,010	117.8	181.9	58.78	52.34	48.50
1979:													
I	6,981	202	7,183	1,564	149	8,896	624	5,547	27.8	215.4	80.93	65.42	64.70
II	6,387	140	6,527	1,370	147	8,044	631	5,076	25.7	235.5	86.83	72.51	70.27
III	6,212	532	6,744	1,340	164	8,248	633	5,222	25.7	226.6	82.38	65.88	64.60
IV	5,986	679	6,665	1,656	169	8,490	638	5,416	26.3	227.7	82.18	67.18	64.67
Year	25,566	1,553	27,119	5,930	629	33,678	631	21,261	105.5	226.3	83.08	67.75	66.00
1980:													
I	6,313	219	6,532	1,450	163	8,145	644	5,249	25.5	235.2	80.44	66.88	65.07
II	5,847	798	6,645	1,375	174	8,194	641	5,251	25.4	231.4	70.44	64.65	60.80
III	5,922	885	6,807	1,608	200	8,615	625	5,384	25.9	241.6	75.77	70.82	63.53
IV	5,922	843	6,765	1,901	187	8,853	631	5,586	26.5	242.3	74.26	65.51	60.40
Year	24,004	2,745	26,749	6,334	724	33,807	635	21,470	103.3	237.6	75.23	66.96	62.48
1981:													
I	6,196	633	6,829	1,576	171	8,576	648	5,553	26.1	237.5	70.59	61.99	58.53
II	5,796	962	6,758	1,522	200	8,480	640	5,428	25.5	234.7	66.62	66.68	60.03
III	6,166	833	6,999	1,647	216	8,862	624	5,532	26.4	243.1	65.04	66.53	59.20
IV 5/	5,660	1,263	6,923	1,875	184	8,982	631	5,669	26.1	239.5	62.72	60.17	54.10
Year 5/	23,818	3,691	27,509	6,620	771	34,900	636	22,183	104.2	238.7	66.24	63.84	57.96

1/Classes estimated. 2/May not add due to rounding. 3/Total, including farm production. 4/Annual is weighted average. 5/Preliminary.
R = Revised--23-State marketings expanded to U.S. by number on feed January 1.

Veal supply and prices

Year	Commercial				Prices		
	Slaughter	Average dressed weight	Production[1]	Per capita[2]	Retail	Choice vealers So. St. Paul	Farm[3]
	1,000 head	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*$/cwt.*	*$/cwt.*
1977							
I	1,438	140	201	1.0	177.7	53.42	35.23
II	1,304	143	186	.9	178.9	53.13	37.47
III	1,380	149	205	1.0	181.1	44.90	37.17
IV	1,395	144	201	1.0	183.3	41.33	37.17
Year	5,517	144	793	3.8	180.3	48.19	36.90
1978							
I	1,251	142	178	.9	179.9	43.95	45.30
II	1,005	148	149	.7	195.9	73.33	57.30
III	967	144	139	.7	225.9	80.21	62.57
IV	947	141	134	.7	236.1	79.47	68.57
Year	4,170	144	600	2.9	209.5	69.24	59.10
1979							
I	807	140	114	.6	251.3	89.90	86.97
II	630	156	98	.5	285.5	103.05	96.67
III	676	146	99	.5	293.8	92.57	89.47
IV	710	141	100	.5	298.3	80.12	85.83
Year	2,823	146	411	2.0	282.3	91.14	88.70
1980							
I	660	138	91	.4	303.8	71.59	86.80
II	570	156	89	.4	310.5	72.49	75.93
III	646	147	95	.4	310.3	79.04	75.10
IV	712	146	104	.5	313.2	79.01	72.10
Year	2,588	146	379	1.8	309.5	75.53	76.80
1981							
I	686	146	100	.5	314.5	78.75	69.83
II	595	158	94	.4	N.A.	83.68	68.57
III	713	146	104	.5	N.A.	76.85	62.07
IV[4]	802	143	115	.5	N.A.	69.38	58.93
Year[4]	2,796	148	414	1.9	N.A.	77.16	64.85

[1]May not add due to rounding. [2]Total, including farm production. [3]Annual is weighted average. [4]Preliminary. N.A. = not available.

Utility cow prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
				Dollars			
January	16.82	23.26	22.95	27.59	47.33	47.94	41.61
February	18.18	25.90	23.88	30.34	50.81	51.22	43.65
March	19.45	27.45	26.67	32.44	52.94	48.80	43.12
April	21.67	30.72	27.63	36.94	57.00	45.73	43.95
May	23.55	30.24	26.57	39.21	55.51	42.78	42.39
June	23.32	27.47	25.64	37.61	50.60	44.06	42.88
July	22.00	25.80	25.23	38.09	47.80	43.33	43.78
August	21.29	25.10	25.38	37.85	48.33	45.53	44.31
September	22.45	22.90	26.12	39.75	49.65	46.56	42.47
October	22.01	22.72	24.89	40.46	47.71	45.93	40.61
November	20.73	20.59	23.80	39.30	46.49	43.91	37.70
December	21.64	21.60	25.02	41.85	46.98	42.92	36.65
Average	21.09	25.31	25.32	36.79	50.10	45.73	41.93

Choice steer prices per 100 pounds, Omaha[1]

Month	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
				Dollars			
January	36.34	41.18	38.38	43.62	60.35	66.32	63.08
February	34.74	38.80	37.98	45.02	64.88	67.44	61.50
March	36.08	36.14	37.28	48.66	71.04	66.88	61.40
April	42.80	43.12	40.08	52.52	75.00	63.07	64.92
May	49.48	40.62	41.98	57.28	73.99	64.58	66.86
June	51.82	40.52	40.24	55.38	68.53	66.29	68.26
July	50.21	37.92	40.94	54.59	67.06	70.47	67.86
August	46.80	37.02	40.11	52.40	62.74	72.31	66.37
September	48.91	36.97	40.35	54.26	67.84	69.68	65.37
October	47.90	37.88	42.29	54.93	65.81	67.18	61.45
November	45.32	39.15	41.83	53.82	67.00	65.05	59.81
December	45.01	39.96	43.13	55.54	68.72	64.29	59.24
Average	44.61	39.11	40.38	52.34	67.75	66.96	63.84

[1]900-1100 lb.

Nonfed slaughter increased again in 1981, while fed slaughter declined by less than 1 percent. Fed slaughter remained the dominant class, representing 68 percent of the total. This proportion is down from 71 percent in 1980 and 76 percent in 1979.

Continued-high feed costs until late last year, high interest rates, and a weakening economy all served to hold down feeder cattle prices. Large total meat supplies, particularly in the fourth quarter, and real incomes below 1980's levels served to keep fed cattle prices below a year earlier. Choice steer prices averaged nearly $64 per cwt, $3 below the 1980 average. Poor cattle feeding margins and a pessimistic outlook for returns in 1982 resulted in a sharp decline in feeder cattle prices. Choice yearling feeder steers at Kansas City averaged $66 per cwt, $9 below 1980. This pessimism regarding the 1982 economic outlook brought on sharp declines in feedlot placements. The number of cattle on feed in the second half of 1981 was the lowest since 1974-75. Consequently, as the heavier feeder cattle were marketed off the good fall grazing, increased numbers wound up as nonfed steer and heifer slaughter.

Feeder cattle prices per 100 pounds, Kansas City

Month	Choice feeder steers 600-700 lbs.			Choice feeder steer calves[1]		
	1979	1980	1981	1979	1980	1981
			Dollars			
Jan.	75.29	80.52	72.58	85.19	91.64	77.45
Feb.	80.26	83.18	70.40	94.70	98.08	77.30
Mar.	87.25	77.62	68.80	101.04	90.39	77.65
Apr.	89.98	69.87	68.94	105.62	83.99	77.45
May.	88.32	69.18	65.79	106.68	81.00	72.50
June	82.19	72.25	65.12	96.38	79.65	72.02
July.	82.48	73.32	63.22	98.72	77.12	69.04
Aug.	79.31	76.40	65.75	98.39	83.65	70.95
Sept.	85.34	77.60	66.16	104.29	87.90	71.52
Oct.	81.29	76.05	64.07	94.04	84.32	66.56
Nov.	82.44	73.75	64.02	92.99	80.57	67.05
Dec.	82.80	72.98	60.06	93.84	77.38	63.16
Av.	83.08	75.23	66.24	97.66	84.64	71.89

[1]400-500 lbs.

Cattle Feeding Outlook—Guardedly Optimistic

Poor returns and uncertainty about economic recovery in 1982 continue to hold feedlot placements well below a year ago. The number of cattle on feed in the 23 major cattle-feeding States on January 1 was 9 percent below last year and 14 percent below the 1980 inventory. This was the lowest feedlot inventory for this date since 1975. The greatest year-to-year reductions were in the lighter weight categories which are marketed in the spring.

Feedlot marketings during October-December 1981 declined 4 percent from a year earlier, the lowest number for the quarter since 1975. Feedlot placements during the quarter declined 6 percent from fall 1980, resulting

Cattle on feed, placements, and marketings, 23 States

Item	1979	1980	1981	1981/1980
	1,000 head			*% change*
On feed Oct. 1	9,938	9,965	9,032	−9
Placements, Oct.-Dec.	8,102	7,366	6,899	−6
Marketings, Oct.-Dec.	5,756	5,703	5,449	−4
Other disappearance Oct.-Dec.	571	523	383	−27
On feed Jan. 1	11,713	11,105	10,099	−9
Steer & steer Calves	7,893	7,491	6,960	−7
500 lb	641	482	337	−30
500-699 lb	1,526	1,452	1,268	−13
700-899 lb	2,345	2,283	2,115	−7
900-1,099 lb	2,608	2,473	2,544	+3
1,100+lb	773	801	696	−13
Heifers & Heifer Calves	3,710	3,535	3,080	−13
500 lb.	516	377	242	−36
500-699 lb	1,159	1,068	882	−17
700-899 lb	1,297	1,325	1,230	−7
900+lb	738	765	726	−5
Cows	110	79	59	−25
Marketings, Jan.-Mar.	6,145	6,014	5,927	−1

[1]Intentions. [2]Oct.-Dec. previous year.

7 States cattle on feed, placements, and marketings

Year	On feed	Change previous year	Net placements	Change previous year	Marketings	Change previous year
	1,000 head	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
1977						
Sept.	6,726	+4.5	1,762	+8.9	1,530	+3.5
Oct.	6,958	+5.8	2,771	+25.1	1,589	+6.6
Nov.	8,140	+11.5	1,915	−5.7	1,488	+11.6
Dec.	8,567	+7.1	1,965	+16.5	1,605	+9.0
1978						
Jan.	8,927	+8.7	1,437	+13.9	1,750	+9.2
Feb.	8,614	+9.4	1,338	+7.0	1,676	+7.0
Mar.	8,276	+9.5	1,664	+16.0	1,678	−1.9
Apr.	8,262	+13.5	1,300	−11.6	1,701	+9.5
May	7,861	+9.2	1,825	+36.7	1,673	+13.1
June	8,013	+13.6	1,626	+18.9	1,657	+7.2
July	7,982	+16.1	1,489	+3.5	1,604	+11.2
Aug.	7,867	+14.5	1,642	+13.0	1,674	+4.8
Sept.	7,835	+16.5	2,352	+33.5	1,646	+7.6
Oct.	8,541	+22.8	2,626	−5.2	1,865	+17.4
Nov.	9,302	+14.3	1,730	−9.7	1,717	+15.4
Dec.	9,315	+8.7	1,567	−20.3	1,656	+3.2
1979						
Jan.	9,226	+3.3	1,378	−4.1	1,875	+7.1
Feb.	8,729	+1.3	1,135	−15.2	1,650	−1.6
Mar.	8,214	−0.7	1,419	−14.7	1,685	+0.4
Apr.	7,948	−3.8	1,255	−3.5	1,535	−9.8
May	7,668	−2.5	1,633	−10.5	1,603	−4.2
June	7,698	−3.9	1,421	−12.6	1,557	−6.0
July	7,562	−5.3	1,103	−25.9	1,462	−8.9
Aug	7,203	−8.4	1,268	−22.8	1,634	−2.4
Sept.	6,837	−12.7	1,962	−16.6	1,384	−15.9
Oct.	7,415	−13.2	2,241	−14.7	1,639	−12.1
Nov.	8,017	−13.8	1,690	−2.3	1,438	−16.2
Dec.	8,269	−11.2	1,541	−1.7	1,356	−18.1
1980						
Jan.	8,454	−8.4	1,175	−14.7	1,672	−10.8
Feb.	7,957	−8.8	1,066	−6.1	1,580	−4.2
Mar.	7,443	−9.4	1,193	−15.9	1,480	−12.2
Apr.	7,156	−10.0	1,107	−11.8	1,435	−6.5
May	6,828	−11.0	1,409	−13.7	1,384	−13.7
June	6,853	−11.0	1,332	−6.3	1,392	−10.6
July	6,793	−10.2	1,425	+29.2	1,331	−9.0
Aug.	6,887	−4.4	1,557	+22.8	1,399	−14.4
Sept.	7,045	+3.0	1,663	−15.2	1,457	+5.3
Oct.	7,251	−2.2	2,116	−5.6	1,576	−3.8
Nov.	7,791	−2.8	1,526	−9.7	1,353	−5.9
Dec.	7,964	−3.7	1,288	−16.4	1,389	+2.4
1981						
Jan.	7,863	−7.0	1,167	−0.7	1,525	−8.8
Feb.	7,505	−5.7	1,061	+0.5	1,440	−8.9
Mar.	7,126	−4.3	1,264	+6.0	1,538	+3.9
Apr.	6,837	−4.5	1,579	+42.6	1,386	−3.4
May	7,030	+3.0	1,424	+1.1	1,400	+1.2
June	7,054	+2.9	1,241	−6.8	1,439	+3.4
July	6,846	+0.8	1,017	−28.6	1,412	+4.9
Aug.	6,451	−6.3	1,364	−12.4	1,526	+9.1
Sept.	6,289	−10.7	1,759	+5.8	1,432	−0.3
Oct.	6,596	−9.0	1,962	−7.3	1,445	−8.3
Nov.	7,113	−8.7	1,510	−1.0	1,295	−4.3
Dec.	7,328	−8.0	1,203	6.6	1,330	−4.2
1982						
Jan.	7,201	−8.4				

in the lowest fall placement level since 1974. However, despite the reduced placements and lower January 1 inventory, feeders indicated intentions to market only 1 percent fewer cattle during this January-March than last winter.

Although feedlot inventories are down, a large proportion of fall placements were heavier yearlings. Consequently, the sharpest reduction in the number on feed was in the steers and heifers under 700 pounds. The number of steers weighing 900 to 1,099 pounds, which would be marketed this quarter, increased 3 percent from a year ago. Steers weighing 700 to 899 pounds and heifers weighing 700 pounds and over declined 5 to 7 percent. The number of steers weighing 1,100 pounds and over was down 13 percent.

Cattle feeders are more current with marketings than a year ago, when large numbers of overweight cattle resulted in downward price pressure. Federally inspected carcass weights of steers were averaging more than 15 pounds below a year ago in January. Slaughter weights for steers and heifers in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle areas were averaging 15 to 20 pounds lower. While fed cattle marketings for this winter should be slightly below last year, a more important factor for moderate price strength lies in holding down slaughter weights and feeders taking more control as to when they sell their cattle.

Although net feeding margins continue negative, lower feeding costs and feeder cattle prices, combined with expected improvement in fed cattle prices, should provide positive margins this spring. Feed and feeder cattle costs are being covered on fed cattle marketed this winter. Based on recent feed prices these costs should decline another $4 to $6 per cwt on cattle marketed this spring. Cattle feeders should monitor costs closely and be watchful for forward contracting or hedging opportunities.

Supplies of yearling cattle remain adequate for placements this winter to bolster the level of fed cattle marketings this spring. A sufficient number of yearlings are expected to be put on feed this winter to hold marketings near or slightly below the lower levels of last spring. These lower marketings, along with a tightening feeder cattle supply, that may result in lower nonfed slaughter, should hold this spring's beef production a little below a year earlier.

1982 Price Prospects Improved

A smaller 1981 calf crop resulting in a tightening feeder cattle supply this spring and summer, lower feeding costs, and smaller supplies of competing meats provide a stronger base for moderate price strength in 1982. However, improved demand through a strengthening economy and the resulting improvement in consumer purchasing power are more uncertain.

First-Half Beef Production to Decrease Slightly

Production this winter may increase only about 1 percent from a year ago. Lower fed cattle marketings and slaughter weights will be about offset by increased nonfed slaughter from the larger number of feeder cattle outside feedlots. In addition, cow slaughter should increase modestly because of the larger cow inventory and the severe winter. Cattle slaughter in January was

Steer prices, costs, and net margins[1]

Year	Steers Omaha	Feed & Feeder	Break-even	Net margin
		$ per cwt		
1978				
January	43.62	38.40	44.27	−0.65
February	45.02	36.92	43.12	+1.90
March	48.66	35.76	41.92	+6.74
April	52.52	35.80	41.95	+10.57
May	57.28	37.34	43.54	+13.74
June	55.38	38.57	44.82	+10.56
July	54.59	40.01	46.42	+8.17
August	52.40	42.03	48.70	+3.70
September	54.26	45.20	52.04	+2.22
October	54.93	47.74	54.71	+0.22
November	53.82	50.83	57.91	−4.09
December	55.54	49.63	56.66	−1.12
1979				
January	60.35	49.92	57.02	+3.33
February	64.88	50.59	57.81	+7.07
March	71.04	50.97	58.26	+12.78
April	75.00	51.72	59.04	+15.96
May	73.99	52.43	59.80	+14.19
June	68.53	55.33	62.88	+5.65
July	67.06	58.73	66.79	+0.27
August	62.74	61.90	70.39	−7.65
September	67.84	66.14	74.93	−7.09
October	65.81	68.02	77.02	−11.21
November	67.00	68.31	76.30	−9.30
December	68.72	64.70	73.40	−4.68
1980				
January	66.32	66.02	74.82	−8.50
February	67.44	62.70	71.32	−3.88
March	66.80	66.40	75.27	−8.47
April	63.07	63.89	72.84	−9.77
May	64.58	63.95	73.03	−8.45
June	66.29	64.37	73.52	−7.23
July	70.47	63.91	73.48	−3.01
August	72.31	64.92	74.81	−2.50
September	69.68	61.30	70.97	−1.29
October	67.18	56.66	66.71	+.47
November	65.05	56.76	66.63	−1.58
December	64.29	59.00	69.07	−4.78
1981				
January	63.08	61.01	70.51	−7.43
February	61.50	64.07	73.87	−12.37
March	61.40	65.42	75.31	−13.91
April	64.92	64.32	74.21	−9.29
May	66.86	63.79	73.62	−6.76
June	68.26	64.16	74.00	−5.74
July	67.86	63.95	74.46	−6.60
August	66.37	62.60	73.32	−6.95
September	65.37	61.20	71.85	−6.48
October	61.45	62.10	72.63	−11.18
November	59.81	59.40	69.59	−9.78
December	59.24	59.29	69.46	−10.22
1982				
January		58.20	68.58	
February		58.20	68.63	
March		56.48	66.95	
April		54.67	65.15	
May		54.53	65.01	
June		52.50	62.72	

[1]Selling price required to cover costs of feeding 600 lb. to 1,050 lb. slaughter in Corn Belt.

Great Plains Custom cattle feeding

Purchased during / Marketed during	Jan. 81 / July 81	Feb. / Aug.	Mar. / Sept.	Apr. / Oct.	May / Nov.	June / Dec.	July / Jan.82	Aug. / Feb.	Sept. / Mar.	Oct. / Apr.	Nov. / May	Dec. / June
	Selected Costs at Current Rates 1/											
	Dollars per head											
Expenses:												
600 lb. feeder steer	431.28	421.32	413.46	414.42	370.20	379.20	369.72	384.96	390.66	375.00	385.02	363.00
Transportation to feedlot (300 miles)	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96
Commission	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Feed:												
Milo (1,500 lb.)	90.90	87.30	86.70	82.95	84.45	82.95	82.20	70.95	64.05	67.35	67.95	67.80
Corn (1,500 lb.)	100.20	97.50	96.60	90.60	95.55	94.80	94.80	82.50	76.95	76.95	75.45	73.50
Cottonseed meal (400 lb.)	58.00	58.00	58.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	54.00	54.00	50.00	48.00	48.00
Alfalfa hay (800 lb.)	59.20	64.00	60.40	54.00	51.00	51.00	46.40	46.00	46.00	48.00	46.40	47.20
Total feed cost	308.30	306.80	301.70	283.55	287.00	284.75	279.40	253.45	241.00	242.30	237.80	236.50
Feed handling & management charge	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Vet medicine	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Interest on feeder & 1/2 feed	55.62	59.63	55.73	52.84	54.58	54.77	56.67	57.68	57.51	49.62	45.98	42.71
Death loss (1.5% of purchase)	6.47	6.32	6.20	6.22	5.55	5.69	5.54	5.77	5.86	5.62	5.78	5.46
Marketing 2/	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.	F.O.B.
Total	832.63	825.03	808.05	787.99	748.29	755.37	742.29	732.82	725.99	703.50	705.54	678.63
	Dollars per cwt.											
Selling price required to cover 3/												
Feed and feeder cost (1,056 lb.)	70.04	68.95	67.72	66.10	62.23	62.87	61.47	60.46	59.82	58.46	58.98	56.77
All costs	78.85	78.13	76.52	74.62	70.86	71.53	70.29	69.40	68.75	66.62	66.68	64.26
Selling price $/cwt. 4/	68.53	66.96	67.47	63.97	63.09	61.14						
Net margin/cwt.	-10.32	-11.17	-9.05	-10.65	-7.77	-10.39						
Cost per 100 lb. gain:												
Variable costs less interest	67.75	67.42	66.38	62.75	63.31	62.89	61.79	56.64	54.17	54.38	53.52	53.19
Feed costs	61.66	61.36	60.34	56.71	57.40	56.95	55.88	50.69	48.00	48.46	47.56	47.30
Unit Prices:												
Choice feeder steer 600-700 lb. Amarillo $/cwt.	71.88	70.22	68.91	69.07	61.70	63.20	61.62	64.16	65.11	62.50	64.17	60.50
Transportation rate $/cwt./100 miles 5/	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Commission fee $/cwt.	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Milo $/cwt. 6/	6.06	5.82	5.78	5.53	5.63	5.53	5.48	4.73	4.27	4.49	4.53	4.52
Corn $/cwt. 6/	6.68	6.50	6.44	6.04	6.37	6.32	6.32	5.50	5.13	5.13	5.03	4.90
Cottonseed meal $/cwt. 7/	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.50	13.50	12.50	12.00	12.00
Alfalfa hay $/ton 8/	148.00	160.00	151.00	135.00	127.50	127.50	116.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	116.00	118.00
Feed handling & management charge $/ton	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Interest, annual rate	19.00	20.75	19.75	19.00	21.25	21.00	21.75	22.50	22.50	20.00	18.25	17.75

1/Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual feedlots. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. Steers are assumed to gain 500 lb. in 180 days at 2.8 lb. per day with feed conversion of 8.4 lb. per pound gain. 2/Most cattle sold F.O.B. the feedlot with 4 percent shrink. 3/Sale weight 1,056 pounds (1,100 pounds less 4 percent shrink). 4/Choice slaughter steers, 900-1100 lb., Texas-New Mexico direct. 5/Converted from cents per mile for a 44,000 pound haul. 6/Texas Panhandle elevator price plus $.15/cwt. handling and transportation to feedlots. 7/Average prices paid by farmers in Texas. 8/Average price received by farmers in Texas plus $30/ton handling and transportation to feedlots.

Corn Belt cattle feeding

Purchase during Marketed during	Jan. 81 July 81	Feb. Aug.	Mar. Sept.	Apr. Oct.	May Nov.	June Dec.	July Jan. 82	Aug Feb.	Sept. Mar.	Oct. Apr.	Nov. May	Dec. June
	Selected costs at current rates 1/											
	Dollars per head											
Expenses:												
600 lb. feeder steer	435.48	422.40	412.80	413.64	394.74	390.72	379.32	394.50	396.96	384.42	384.12	360.36
Transportation to feedlot (400 miles)	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28
Corn (45 bu.)	144.00	143.55	141.30	146.25	141.75	142.65	141.75	129.60	112.50	108.45	106.20	108.00
Silage (1.7 tons)	42.98	42.89	42.69	44.25	41.79	43.01	42.84	40.46	37.09	36.06	36.75	37.23
Protein supplement (270 lb.)	37.80	37.26	34.43	36.05	34.70	34.70	35.78	35.10	35.24	34.02	33.62	33.62
Hay (400 lb.)	11.25	11.25	11.40	11.85	10.70	11.45	11.45	11.40	11.30	11.10	11.90	12.00
Labor (4 hours)	13.84	16.04	16.04	16.04	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80
Management 2/	6.92	8.02	8.02	8.02	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40
Vet medicine 3/	4.76	4.78	4.81	4.85	4.86	4.87	4.86	4.88	4.89	4.87	4.87	4.85
Interest on purchase (6 mo.)	37.76	36.62	35.79	34.19	32.62	32.29	34.66	34.99	35.21	35.67	35.65	33.44
Power, equip, fuel, shelter, depreciation 3/	22.18	22.29	22.41	22.60	22.64	22.73	22.69	22.75	22.80	22.73	22.73	22.60
Death loss (1% of purchase)	4.35	4.23	4.13	4.14	3.95	3.91	3.79	3.94	3.97	3.84	3.84	3.60
Transportation (100 miles)	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31
Marketing expenses	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Miscellaneous & indirect costs 3/	9.63	9.67	9.74	9.79	9.81	9.85	9.83	9.86	9.88	9.85	9.79	9.77
Total	781.85	769.91	754.47	762.59	730.68	729.30	720.09	720.60	702.96	684.11	682.65	658.61
	Dollars per cwt.											
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (1,050 lb.)	63.95	62.60	61.20	62.10	59.40	59.29	58.20	58.20	56.48	54.67	54.53	52.50
Selling price/cwt. required cover all costs (1,050 lb.)	74.46	73.32	71.85	72.63	69.59	69.46	68.58	68.63	66.95	65.15	65.01	62.72
Feed costs per 100 lb. gain	52.45	52.21	51.07	52.98	50.88	51.51	51.52	48.12	43.58	42.14	41.88	42.41
Choice steers, Omaha	67.86	66.37	65.37	61.45	59.81	59.24						
Net margin/cwt.	-6.60	-6.95	-6.48	-11.18	-9.78	-10.22						
Prices:												
Feeder steer, Choice (600-700 lb.) Kansas City/cwt.	72.58	70.40	68.80	68.94	65.79	65.12	63.22	65.75	66.16	64.07	64.02	60.06
Corn/bu 4/	3.20	3.19	3.14	3.25	3.15	3.17	3.15	2.88	2.50	2.41	2.36	2.40
Hay/ton 4/	56.25	56.25	57.00	59.25	53.50	57.25	57.25	57.00	56.50	55.50	59.50	60.00
Corn silage/ton 5/	25.28	25.23	25.11	26.03	25.58	25.30	25.20	23.80	21.82	21.21	21.62	21.90
32-36% Protein supp./cwt 6/	14.00	13.80	12.75	13.35	12.85	12.85	13.25	13.00	13.05	12.60	12.45	12.45
Farm Labor/hour	3.46	4.01	4.01	4.01	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
Interest annual rate	17.34	17.34	17.34	16.53	16.53	16.53	17.74	17.74	17.74	18.56	18.56	18.56
Transportation rate/cwt. 100 mile 7/	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses 8/	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	1012	1017	1024	1031	1033	1037	1035	1038	1040	1037	1037	1031

1/ Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual for management, production level and locality of operation. 2/Assumes one hour at twice the labor rate. 3/Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 4/Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. 5/Corn silage price derived from an equivalent price of 5 bushels corn and 330 lb. hay. 6/Average price paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. 7/Converted from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. 8/Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

about 3 percent above a year ago, after adjusting for 1 less slaughter day. But, lower slaughter weights resulted in beef production being only 2 to 3 percent larger. However, with improved grazing prospects, nonfed slaughter is expected to decline in March, bringing total production for the quarter to only slightly above last year's 5.55 billion pounds.

As the demand for cattle to go on feed and for grazing programs strengthens, nonfed slaughter will be reduced, providing the first firm base for upward price movement since last summer. Fed beef slaughter is likely to be below last spring's low levels. Nonfed slaughter will likely decline as both feedlot and stocker demand increases. Nonfed slaughter is expected to decline seasonally but should remain large as the heavier, fleshier, wheat graze-out cattle are marketed in May and June. Beef production will likely be slightly below last year's level this spring.

Feedlot placements are likely to rise above year-earlier levels in the first half of the year. Fewer calves, than expected, will be weaned and available for either stocker programs or feedlot placements because of the sharp decline in calves born in the second half of 1981. Nearly 1.2 million fewer light-weight calves, than were expected on July 1, will be available this spring. However, despite fewer calves born than expected, the second-half 1981 calf crop was nearly the same size as in 1980. Mositure supplies are much improved over the drought-stressed conditions of last year, holding promise for continuation of last fall's excellent grazing conditions. The Southeast should show marked improvement since the drought ended last fall.

Basis for Price Strength Improves

Expected lower total meat supplies in the first half of the year has improved prospects for price strength. However, continued poor economic performance through spring will hold down price gains. Choice 900 to 1,100 pound steers at Omaha averaged nearly $61 in January. Prices are expected to strengthen further in March and may average $62 to $64 for the quarter.

Seasonal reductions in meat supplies in the second quarter, plus expected firm signs of economic recovery, should provide the basis for Choice steer prices to average in the mid-$60's. The highest prices are likely late in the quarter.

Choice 600- to 700-pound feeder steers at Kansas City averaged $60.10 in January. Although feeder cattle supplies are reduced, numbers are still more than adequate for increased placements and will likely result in a nonfed slaughter that is larger than during the winter of 1981. Over half a million more yearling steers and heifers were available on January 1. Feeder steer prices are likely to remain near fed cattle prices until late winter. However, prices should move to a modest premium by spring, as supplies decline and cattle feeding margins improve. Prices may average in the low $60's this winter before rising to the upper $60's this spring. Feeder calves, particularly lighter weight stockers, could show even more strength, although wide spreads are unlikely.

Second Half Prospects

The weather and economic recovery will be important factors in determining price strength in the last half of this year. Despite tightening feeder cattle supplies, feedlot placements are likely to rise above a year earlier if feeding margins improve as expected. Beef production in the second half may average near the larger levels of 1981. Fed beef production is likely to show the greatest year-to-year increases. Choice fed steer prices are expected to peak in the upper $60's in the third quarter, assuming economic recovery is well along, before declining modestly next fall, as production increases seasonally. Prices for yearling feeder steers should follow a similar pattern and remain at a modest premium to fed cattle. However, economic uncertainties will continue to heavily affect feeder cattle prices in 1982 and on into 1983.

HOGS

Over the past 3 years, hog producers have generally operated at a loss because of low prices and high production costs. However, now signs point to an improving costs/returns situation. Producers have continually reduced the pig crop on a year-over-year basis since early 1980. In December 1981, they indicated intentions to further lower crops in the first half of 1982. These reductions should lead to substantially higher hog prices. Large corn and soybean crops have resulted in lower grain and protein supplement prices, which have reduced feeding costs. The sharply lower feeding costs, along with moderating prices of other inputs, may lower the 1982 cash costs of farrow-to-finish operators below 1981. However, a major uncertainty exists about the retail demand for pork because of general economic conditions and the resulting reductions in consumer purchases.

1981 Recap

U.S. commercial pork production totaled 15.7 billion pounds in 1981, down 4 percent from a year earlier, but still the second largest on record. Commercial slaughter totaled around 91.5 million head, down 5 percent from a year earlier, but dressed weights averaged 1 percent higher. Barrows and gilts accounted for over 93 percent of the hogs slaughtered, and sows accounted for about 5 percent.

Barrow and gilt prices at the 7 markets averaged $44.45 per cwt in 1981, up 11 percent from 1980. Abundant supplies of pork, beef, and broilers—along with reduced consumer purchasing power—held hog prices in the low $40's per cwt until mid-May. As pork production declined sharply in late April, prices moved up rapidly from mid-May, reaching the low $50's in mid-June.

Hogs and pigs balance sheet

Year	Dec. 1 inventory[1]	Dec.-May pig crop[1]	Total supply	Commercial slaughter Dec.-May	Other disappearance[2]	June 1 inventory	June-Nov. pig crop	Total supply	Commercial slaughter June-Nov.	Other disappearance[2]
					1,000 head					
1964	62,060	47,682	109,742	43,776	6,189	58,777	39,862	99,639	39,285	4,248
1965	56,106	42,526	98,632	40,579	5,085	52,968	36,415	89,383	35,081	3,783
1966	50,519	45,471	95,990	35,331	4,462	56,197	42,132	98,329	37,238	3,966
1967	57,125	48,117	105,242	41,803	4,073	59,366	43,551	102,917	40,381	3,718
1968	58,818	49,077	107,895	43,093	4,271	60,531	45,078	105,609	41,652	3,128
1969	60,829	46,521	107,350	44,015	4,608	58,727	42,155	100,882	40,287	3,549
1970	57,046	52,126	109,172	40,749	3,784	64,639	49,588	114,227	43,326	3,616
1971	67,285	51,918	119,203	49,087	4,398	65,718	46,006	111,724	45,908	3,404
1972	62,412	47,523	109,935	45,108	4,201	60,626	43,051	103,677	41,203	3,457
1973	59,017	46,125	105,142	40,292	5,279	59,571	41,998	101,569	36,878	4,077
1974	60,614	44,792	105,406	41,183	5,345	58,878	38,952	97,830	40,194	2,943
1975	54,693	35,530	90,223	37,854	4,509	47,860	35,656	83,516	31,666	2,583
1976	49,267	42,177	91,444	34,691	2,823	53,930	42,218	96,148	38,051	3,163
1977	54,934	42,960	97,894	39,435	3,999	54,460	43,202	97,662	38,219	2,904
1978	56,539	42,481	99,020	38,947	4,833	55,240	46,031	101,271	38,462	3,453
1979	60,356	50,571	110,927	41,270	4,637	65,020	52,120	117,140	46,627	3,160
1980	67,353	52,286	119,639	49,286	5,114	65,255	49,256	114,511	46,216	3,783
1981	64,512	47,600	112,112	47,479	4,868	59,740	46,176	105,916	43,989	3,236
1982	58,691	41,500	100,191	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1]December previous year. [2]Includes imports, exports, death loss, farm slaughter, etc.

Commercial pork production declined modestly in the third quarter. However, a sharp rise in broiler production and larger beef output were negative price influences. Barrow and gilt prices averaged $50.42 per cwt. During the quarter, expectations of a large grain crop resulted in sharply lower feed costs, which improved producers' returns. In September, producers in the 14 quarterly reporting States indicated that they were moderating the rate of decline in hog production.

Commercial pork production in the fourth quarter totaled 4.156 billion pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier, but up 15 percent from the third quarter. Hog prices began declining in mid-September and dropped below $40 per cwt in December—as monthly production exceeded year earlier levels. Higher beef and poultry production and a weaker economy contributed to the price drop. Barrow and gilt prices averaged $42.63 per cwt, down about $4 from October-December 1980.

In the first half of 1981, production costs were up sharply from a year earlier because of higher feed costs, which were up by a fourth. The combination of higher costs and lower hog prices resulted in financial losses for hog producers. In the second half of 1981, declining feed prices moderated production costs. The moderating production costs, along with hog prices in the low $50's during the summer, provided hog producers with best returns of the year. Although feed prices continued to decline in the fourth quarter, the sharp drop in hog prices put producers in a position for poor returns.

Hog Inventory Down

In response to lingering poor returns, hog producers continued to reduce their breeding inventory. As a result, the U.S. inventory of hogs and pigs totaled 58.7 million head on December 1, 1981, down 9 percent from a year earlier and 13 percent lower than 2 years ago. The breeding herd was down 14 percent from a year earlier and the market hog inventory dropped 8 percent. In 1981, hog producers added only 3.5 million gilts to the breeding inventory, the fewest in the past decade.

The U.S. pig crop for 1981 totaled 93.8 million head, down 8 percent from a year earlier. As of December 1, 1981, producers indicated intentions to have 5.76 million sows farrow during December 1981-May 1982, 11 percent fewer than a year earlier. These intentions, combined with an average projected litter size, indicate a crop of 41.5 million head, down 13 percent from a year ago. The smaller projected litter size reflects a long term trend in litter size rather than last year's exceptionally high average. However, severe winter weather may further reduce the December 1981-February 1982 pig crop. The biggest danger is the lack of adequate heat for the baby pigs in the farrowing house. In addition, crowding in the cold weather promotes the spreading of swine diseases.

June-November Pig Crop Down 6 Percent

The June-November 1981 pig crop was estimated at 46.2 million head, down 6 percent from last year. In June producers had reported intention to farrow 11 percent fewer sows—the actual reduction was 8 percent. The average litter size increased from 7.21 to 7.38 pigs per litter, accounting for the smaller decline in the pig crop.

The June-August pig crop totaled 23.5 million head, down 3 percent. The number of sows farrowing was down 6 percent, but the record 7.37 pigs per litter was 3 percent higher than a year earlier. The September-November pig crop totaled 22.6 million head, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The number of sows that farrowed declined 11 percent from a year earlier, but the number of pigs saved increased 2 percent.

Pork supplies and prices

Year	Estimated commercial slaughter[1]: Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total	Average dressed weight	Commer-cial-produc-tion 2/	Per capita consump-tion 3/	Prices: Retail	Barrows and gilts 7 markets	Farm
	1,000 head				Lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Cents per lb.	$/cwt.	
1977:										
I	18,522	1,031	217	19,770	167	3,294	15.4	120.5	39.08	38.23
II	17,582	950	211	18,743	170	3,184	14.7	121.7	40.87	39.57
III	17,002	1,086	205	18,293	168	3,073	14.4	131.0	43.85	42.63
IV	19,139	1,167	191	20,497	171	3,500	15.9	128.2	41.38	29.83
Year	72,245	4,234	824	77,303	169	13,051	60.5	125.4	41.30	40.07
1978:										
I	18,200	1,011	194	19,405	167	3,243	15.0	137.0	47.44	45.09
II	17,940	906	196	19,042	171	3,265	14.7	142.4	47.84	46.83
III	17,343	1,025	185	18,553	170	3,160	14.7	144.7	48.52	46.93
IV	19,037	1,096	182	20,315	174	3,541	15.9	150.1	50.05	48.70
Year	72,520	4,038	757	77,315	171	13,209	60.3	143.6	48.46	47.09
1979:										
I	18,903	949	188	20,040	169	3,395	15.5	156.1	51.98	50.53
II	20,512	1,008	220	21,740	173	3,754	16.8	148.2	43.04	42.30
III	20,388	1,444	250	22,082	171	3,775	17.3	138.0	38.52	37.10
IV	23,365	1,602	270	25,237	172	4,346	19.1	134.3	36.40	35.07
Year	83,168	5,003	928	89,099	171	15,270	68.7	144.1	42.48	41.30
1980:										
I	22,778	1,200	258	24,236	170	4,125	18.6	133.9	36.31	35.43
II	23,395	1,353	292	25,040	172	4,299	19.1	125.3	31.18	29.90
III	20,379	1,483	296	22,158	170	3,756	17.3	144.2	46.23	44.50
IV	23,008	1,361	271	24,640	173	4,252	18.5	154.6	46.44	45.57
Year	89,560	5,397	1,117	96,074	171	16,432	73.5	139.5	40.04	38.80
1981:										
I	22,253	1,140	264	23,657	172	4,073	18.0	148.7	41.13	40.30
II	21,156	1,145	284	22,586	172	3,879	17.1	144.7	43.63	42.43
III	19,728	1,276	276	21,280	170	3,608	16.6	157.5	50.42	49.03
IV 4/	22,532	1,237	255	24,024	173	4,156	18.2	158.7	42.63	41.83
Year 4/	85,669	4,798	1,080	91,547	172	15,715	70.0	152.4	44.45	43.40

1/Classes estimated. 2/Totals may not add due to rounding. 3/Total, including farm production. 4/Preliminary.

Hogs and pigs, breeding inventory and sow slaughter, United States[1]

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
					Million head					
December 1 breeding[2]	8,650	8,605	7,389	7,574	8,011	8,604	9,605	9,655	9,148	7,844
December-May sow slaughter	2,239	2,257	1,077	1,505	2,023	2,008	1,965	2,585	2,337	
Gilts added-December-May	2,577	2,475	1,946	2,319	2,700	2,268	2,728	2,411	1,543	
June 1 breeding	8,988	8,823	7,358	8,388	8,688	8,857	10,368	9,481	8,358	
June-November sow slaughter	2,304	3,316	1,946	2,017	2,212	2,072	2,882	2,870	2,464	
Gilts added-June-November	1,921	1,882	2,162	1,640	2,128	2,820	2,169	2,553	1,950	

[1]Estimated commercial. [2]December previous year.

Hogs on farms December 1, farrowings, and pig crops

Item	1979	1980	1981	1982	1980/79	1981/80	1982/81
		1,000 head				*% change*	
Inventory	67,353	64,512	58,691		-3	-9	
Breeding	9,655	9,148	7,844		-19	-14	
Market	57,699	55,364	50,847		-12	-8	
60 lb.	22,845	22,139	19,465		-15	-12	
60-119 lb.	15,437	13,982	12,924		-16	-8	
120-179 lb.	11,284	11,000	10,453		-7	-5	
180 + lb.	8,133	8,243	8,005		-2	-3	
Sows farrowing							
Dec.-May	7,179	7,229	6,440	5,760[1]	-10	-11	-11
June-Nov.	7,306	6,829	6,258		-14	-8	
Pig crops							
Dec.-May	50,571	52,286	47,600	41,500	-6	-9	-13
June-Nov.	52,120	49,256	46,176		-11	-6	
Pigs per litter							
Dec.-May	7.04	7.23	7.39	7.20	+5	+2	-3
June-Nov.	7.13	7.21	7.38		+4	+2	

[1]Intentions.

Pork Production Down

The December 1, 1981, market hog inventory was estimated at 50.8 million head, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Hog slaughter in the first half of 1982 will be drawn largely from the December market hog inventory, which suggests a decline of about 9 percent.

Hogs to be slaughtered in the first quarter of 1982 will come largely from the 60- to 179-pound inventory, which was down 6 percent from a year earlier. Commercial pork production is forecast to decline 8 to 10 percent. This reduction is larger than suggested by the year-over-year change in the 60- to 179-pound inventory, because in the first quarter last year, producers in the 14 quarterly reporting States added the fewest number of gilts to the breeding inventory since 1978. This helped boost slaughter levels during this period.

Also, the marketing pattern that developed in the winter and spring of 1981 will contribute to the year-over-year decline in output this year. Last year, the mild weather enabled hogs to reach market weights earlier than normal. This winter, the major-hog producing States were hit by severe winter weather, which may slow hogs' progress toward reaching market weights. All factors combined could result in an 8- to 10-percent reduction in output this winter. Weekly federally inspected hog slaughter for the first 4 weeks in 1982 was down 8 percent from a year earlier.

Commercial pork production in the second quarter is projected to be down 7 to 9 percent from a year earlier. Hogs to be slaughtered in this quarter are drawn primarily from the December inventory of market hogs weighing under 60 pounds, which was down 12 percent. The projected production decline is smaller than would be indicated by the year-over-year changes in the under-60-pound inventory. But as indicated earlier, some hogs moved to market earlier last year, and this year's severe weather will likely delay some marketings until the spring, because hogs will probably reach market weights at a slower pace than they did last year.

Although commercial pork production is expected to be below a year earlier in both the winter and spring quarters, the pork supply would still be relatively large. Competing meat supplies are expected to be up slightly from last year's plentiful amounts, moderating cash-price gains. In addition, weak economic conditions continue to reduce consumers' purchasing power, that also limits cash-price gains.

The winter weather has caused some transportation problems which have resulted in temporary spot shortages. Packers have bid up hog prices above normal market rates this winter as they compete for the weather-reduced supply. From the second week of January to the first week of February hog prices rose about a fourth in an erratic manner. Daily price fluctuations were as great as $3 per cwt. However, hogs held off the market due to weather problems will be coming later in the quarter, and prices may drop sharply. Barrow and gilt prices at the 7 markets are forecast to average $46 to $48 per cwt in the first quarter. They may increase slightly to $47 to $50 average in the spring, as total pork production declines from the first to second quarter.

Commercial hog slaughter in the last half of 1982 may be 12 to 14 percent below a year earlier if producers follow through with their December intentions. Hog slaughter in the second half of the year comes primarily from the December-May pig crop. Based on producer intentions reported in December, the December 1981-May 1982 pig crop is projected at 41.5 million head, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

If the projected second-half pork production materializes, per capita consumption for the year could be the lowest since 1975. The output of poultry is expected to increase, which again will limit price gains. Consumer purchasing power is expected to improve, but consumer spending is expected to provide only limited support for higher hog prices. Hog prices are likely to rise from first-half levels and average in the low to mid-$50's per cwt.

Hog Production Becoming More Concentrated In the Corn Belt

The December hog and pig inventories showed dramatic differences in the change by State. On December 1, 1981, the 10 North Central States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) accounted for 78 percent of all hogs and pigs, compared with 74 percent the previous December. These 10 States make up about 82 percent of U.S. corn production. In two of these States, Nebraska and Iowa, inventories were up 5 and 1 percent, respectively. The inventory was down only 2 percent in Illinois. All three States have substantially higher corn crops and, consequently, much lower corn prices than last year. Inventories in Missouri and Wisconsin were down 15 and 18 percent, respectively. These States are important feeder pig producers, and the reduction partially reflects very poor returns.

Hog production in the Southern States has declined because of relatively higher grain prices caused by rising transportation costs. Because of the poor returns in the past 3 years, hog production is concentrating in the States with plentiful corn supplies and relatively cheaper prices.

Ending Stocks Down

Ending stocks of pork in cold storage in 1981 totaled 267 million pounds, down 23 percent from a year ago. This was the lowest ending level since 1979. Ending stocks of frozen pork bellies totaled 55 million pounds, down 44 percent from a year earlier and also the lowest since 1979.

Number of Hog Enterprises Down

During 1981, there were 581,060 hog enterprises, down 13 percent from a year earlier. The average number of hogs and pigs per enterprise was 101 head, up from 96 last year. Small operations (1 to 99 head) accounted for 77 percent of all enterprises, but only 14 percent of the inventory. Enterprises with 500 head and over make up 5 percent of the operations and 46 percent of the inventory. The medium-sized enterprises (100 to 499 head) accounted for 18 percent of the operations and 40 percent of the inventory.

Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha basis

Month	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
January	18.6	16.4	22.6	24.0	16.5	13.0
February	18.6	16.8	24.0	25.5	16.1	13.3
March	17.7	15.9	22.1	22.6	15.2	12.4
April	18.3	16.0	20.4	19.9	12.3	12.3
May	17.7	18.8	20.9	18.1	12.0	12.9
June	17.6	20.7	20.6	16.4	13.8	15.2
July	16.8	23.8	21.9	14.2	15.3	15.9
August	16.2	26.4	24.5	15.4	16.1	18.1
September	15.1	24.6	25.1	16.2	15.6	19.8
October	13.7	22.6	25.5	14.6	15.2	18.7
November	14.4	19.2	23.1	15.3	13.8	17.5
December	16.3	21.0	23.4	16.0	13.5	16.8
Average	16.8	20.1	22.8	18.2	14.6	15.5

Spring pig crop and hog slaughter

Year	March-May pig crop	Oct.-Dec. commercial hog slaughter	Slaughter as percent of pig crop
	1,000 head		*Percent*
1970	32,355	25,270	78.1
1971	30,959	24,264	78.4
1972	28,271	21,618	76.5
1973	27,075	20,218	74.7
1974	26,283	20,894	79.5
1975	20,243	16,813	83.1
1976	24,605	21,549	87.6
1977	24,428	20,497	83.9
1978	23,674	20,315	85.8
1979	28,674	25,237	88.0
1980	28,604	24,641	86.1
1981	26,554	24,024	90.5

Winter pig crop and hog slaughter

Year	Dec.-Feb. pig crop	July-Sept. commercial hog slaughter	Slaughter as percent of pig crop
	1,000 head		*Percent*
1970	19,771	20,620	104.3
1971	20,959	22,309	106.4
1972	19,252	19,441	101.0
1973	19,050	16,875	88.6
1974	18,509	19,705	106.5
1975	15,287	15,307	100.1
1976	17,572	17,983	102.3
1977	18,532	18,293	98.7
1978	18,807	18,553	98.6
1979	21,897	22,082	100.8
1980	23,682	22,166	93.6
1981	21,046	21,280	101.1

Hog prices, costs, and net margins[1]

Year	Barrows & gilts 7 markets	Feed and feeder	Break-even	Net margins
		$ per cwt.		
1977				
August	44.38	39.89	47.71	−3.33
September	41.40	39.25	47.21	−5.81
October	40.83	35.71	43.48	−2.65
November	39.33	34.15	41.96	2.63
December	43.99	33.45	41.22	+2.77
1978				
January	45.99	31.89	39.58	+6.41
February	48.83	30.64	38.25	+10.58
March	47.50	31.63	39.31	+8.19
April	46.04	31.00	38.62	+7.42
May	49.17	33.44	41.33	+7.85
June	48.31	36.97	45.40	+2.91
July	46.78	41.37	50.09	−3.31
August	48.77	43.88	52.71	−3.94
September	50.00	43.58	52.26	−2.26
October	52.23	39.60	48.01	+4.22
November	48.36	38.71	47.12	+1.24
December	49.57	40.35	49.02	+.55
1979				
January	52.13	40.85	49.63	+2.50
February	54.42	41.04	49.79	+4.63
March	49.38	39.56	48.27	+1.11
April	45.04	38.58	47.23	−2.19
May	43.79	37.67	46.43	−2.64
June	40.29	42.60	52.18	−11.89
July	38.73	43.17	52.85	−14.12
August	38.21	42.73	52.39	−14.18
September	38.62	38.58	47.83	−9.21
October	34.74	34.49	43.38	−8.64
November	36.01	33.58	42.32	−6.31
December	38.45	32.30	40.90	−2.45
1980				
January	37.49	33.96	42.73	−5.24
February	37.51	30.83	39.45	−1.94
March	33.94	31.98	41.04	−7.10
April	28.86	32.04	41.12	−12.26
May	29.50	33.71	43.13	−13.63
June	35.17	35.87	45.75	−10.58
July	43.16	33.29	43.03	+.13
August	48.30	30.25	39.88	+8.42
September	47.24	29.33	38.66	+8.58
October	48.15	30.61	40.06	+8.09
November	46.38	33.29	42.75	+3.63
December	44.80	39.08	49.08	−4.28
1981				
January	41.42	39.74	49.76	−8.34
February	42.43	42.07	52.31	−9.88
March	39.54	42.90	53.15	−13.61
April	39.79	43.57	53.90	−14.11
May	42.05	40.36	50.65	−8.60
June	49.04	42.34	53.48	−4.44
July	50.66	41.55	52.70	−2.04
August	50.92	43.82	55.08	−4.16
September	49.68	42.15	53.17	−3.49
October	45.62	42.51	53.63	−8.01
November	42.20	40.27	51.22	−9.02
December	40.06	41.44	52.66	−12.60
1982				
January		39.95	51.25	
February		36.64	47.70	
March		35.21	46.16	
April		34.30	45.10	

[1]Selling price required to cover costs of feeding 40-50 lb. feeder pig to 220 lb. slaughter hog in Corn Belt.

Federally inspected hog slaughter

Week ended 1981	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
			Thousands		
Jan. 2[1]	1,247	1,179	1,377	1,297	1,428
9	1,463	1,625	1,971	1,957	1,881
16	1,376	1,389	1,762	1,885	1,656
23	1,261	1,345	1,785	1,792	
30	1,527	1,383	1,777	1,816	
Feb. 6	1,437	1,381	1,769	1,773	
13	1,551	1,488	1,760	1,731	
20	1,348	1,367	1,642	1,672	
27	1,424	1,533	1,776	1,698	
Mar. 6	1,579	1,952	1,806	1,757	
13	1,508	1,663	1,898	1,832	
20	1,422	1,607	1,885	1,826	
27	1,452	1,646	1,858	1,840	
Apr. 3	1,508	1,644	1,736	1,848	
10	1,608	1,669	1,919	1,914	
17	1,504	1,609	2,024	1,823	
24	1,588	1,710	2,028	1,727	
May 1	1,498	1,759	1,918	1,771	
8	1,522	1,677	1,972	1,763	
15	1,377	1,598	1,916	1,771	
22	1,329	1,593	1,891	1,694	
29	1,138	1,390	1,582	1,422	
June 5	1,377	1,647	1,850	1,560	
12	1,283	1,631	1,747	1,617	
19	1,297	1,398	1,683	1,500	
26	1,266	1,600	1,669	1,434	
July 3	1,054	1,269	1,268	1,324	
10	1,378	1,630	1,573	1,401	
17	1,376	1,590	1,600	1,444	
24	1,318	1,595	1,530	1,442	
31	1,337	1,638	1,573	1,496	
Aug. 7	1,367	1,662	1,553	1,539	
14	1,329	1,692	1,611	1,554	
21	1,349	1,664	1,612	1,576	
28	1,404	1,673	1,656	1,590	
Sept. 4	1,251	1,509	1,497	1,658	
11	1,579	1,776	1,867	1,456	
18	1,581	1,764	1,812	1,785	
25	1,497	1,771	1,707	1,699	
Oct. 2	1,479	1,870	1,759	1,742	
9	1,533	1,950	1,791	1,769	
16	1,475	1,929	1,864	1,817	
23	1,478	1,909	1,861	1,786	
30	1,527	1,935	1,890	1,788	
Nov. 6	1,549	2,016	1,955	1,814	
13	1,651	1,826	1,810	1,789	
20	1,328	1,548	2,022	1,841	
27	1,642	1,981	1,514	1,511	
Dec. 4	1,613	1,940	1,952	1,947	
11	1,497	1,851	1,841	1,884	
18	1,489	1,746	1,816	1,864	
25	1,149	1,276	1,815	1,223	

[1]Corresponding dates: 1978, January 7; 1979, January 1, 1980, January 5, 1981 January 3.

Corn Belt hog feeding 1/

Purchase during Marketed during	Selected costs at current rates 2/													
	Nov. 80 Mar. 81	Dec. Apr.	Jan. 81 May	Feb. June	Mar. July	Apr. Aug.	May Sept.	June Oct.	July Nov.	Aug. Dec.	Sept. Jan. 82	Oct. Feb.	Nov. Mar.	Dec. Apr.
	Dollars per head													
Expenses:														
40 lb. feeder pig	37.20	37.74	31.50	36.86	36.33	39.33	36.10	37.88	32.88	38.55	40.23	34.20	31.88	29.11
Corn (11 bu.)	33.33	35.42	35.20	35.09	34.54	35.75	34.65	34.65	34.65	31.68	27.50	26.51	25.96	26.40
Protein supplement (130 lb.)	23.86	22.69	22.10	21.19	20.54	21.32	21.97	21.00	21.06	20.93	20.15	19.89	19.63	19.96
Labor & management (1.3 hr)	9.10	9.10	9.10	10.43	10.43	10.43	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19
Vet medicine 3/	2.33	2.37	2.40	2.41	2.43	2.44	2.45	2.46	2.45	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.44
Interest on purchase (4 mo.)	1.77	1.79	1.82	2.13	2.10	2.17	1.99	2.09	1.94	2.28	2.38	2.12	1.97	1.80
Power, equip., fuel, shelter, depreciation 3/	5.66	5.75	5.83	5.86	5.90	5.94	5.95	5.97	5.96	5.99	5.99	5.97	5.97	5.94
Death loss (4% of purchase)	1.49	1.51	1.26	1.47	1.45	1.57	1.44	1.52	1.32	1.54	1.61	1.37	1.27	1.16
Transportation (100 miles)	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48
Marketing expenses	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Miscel. & indirect costs 3/	.58	.59	.60	.60	.60	.61	.61	.61	.61	.61	.61	.61	.61	.61
Total	116.94	118.58	111.43	117.66	115.94	121.18	116.97	117.99	112.68	115.85	112.74	104.94	101.56	99.23
	Dollars per cwt.													
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (220 lb.)	42.90	43.57	40.36	42.34	41.55	43.82	42.15	42.51	40.27	41.44	39.95	36.64	35.21	34.30
Selling price/cwt. required to cover all costs (220 lb.)	53.15	53.90	50.65	53.48	52.70	55.08	53.17	53.63	51.23	52.66	51.25	47.70	46.15	45.10
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	31.77	32.28	31.83	31.27	30.60	31.71	31.46	30.92	30.95	29.23	26.47	25.78	25.33	25.76
Barrows and gilts 7 marketing/cwt.	39.54	44.80	42.05	49.04	50.66	50.92	49.68	45.62	42.20	40.06				
Net margin/cwt.	-13.61	-9.10	-8.60	-4.44	-2.04	-4.16	-3.49	-8.01	-9.02	-12.60				
Prices:														
40 lb. feeder pig (So. Missouri)	37.20	37.74	31.50	36.86	36.33	39.33	36.10	37.88	32.88	38.55	40.23	34.20	31.88	29.11
Corn 4/ $/bu.	3.04	3.22	3.20	3.19	3.14	3.25	3.27	3.15	3.15	2.88	2.50	2.41	2.36	2.40
38-42% protein supp. 5/ $/cwt.	18.35	17.45	17.00	16.30	15.80	16.40	16.90	16.15	16.20	16.10	15.50	15.30	15.10	15.35
Labor & management 6/ $/hr.	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.02	8.02	8.02	7.84	7.84	7.84	7.84	7.84	7.84	7.84	7.84
Interest rate (annual)	14.26	14.26	17.34	17.34	17.34	16.53	16.53	16.53	17.74	17.74	17.74	18.56	18.56	18.56
Transportation rate/cwt. (100 miles) 7/	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses 8/	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	983	998	1,012	1,017	1,024	1,031	1,033	1037	1035	1038	1040	1037	1,037	1,031

1/Although a majority of hog feeding operations in the Corn Belt are from farrow to finish, relative fattening expenses will be similar. 2/Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed rations and expense items do not necessarily concide with the experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management production level, and locality of operation. 3/Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 4/Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. 5/Average prices paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. 6/Assumes an owner-operator receiving twice the farm labor rate. 7/Converted to cents/cwt. from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. 8/Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

Hogs on farms December 1, farrowings and pig crops, 14 selected States

Item	1979	1980	1981	1982	1981/80	1982/81
		1,000 head			% change	
Inventory	57,130	54,780	50,800		−7	
Breeding	8,055	7,682	6,709		−13	
Market	49,075	47,098	44,091		−6	
60 lb.	19,430	18,775	16,999		−9	
60-119 lb.	13,108	11,869	11,195		−6	
120-179 lb.	9,668	9,438	9,006		−5	
180+lb.	6,869	7,016	6,891		−2	
Sows farrowing						
December-February	2,654	2,740	2,434	[1]2,281	−11	−6
March-May	3,486	3,356	3,075	[1]2,730	−8	−11
December-May	6,140	6,096	5,509	[1]5,011	−10	−9
June-August	3,154	2,838	2,735		−4	
September-November	3,023	2,917	2,676		−8	
June-November	6,177	5,755	5,411		−6	
Pig crops						
December-February	18,213	19,650	17,609		−10	
March-May	24,994	24,600	23,202		−6	
December-May	43,207	44,250	40,811		−8	
June-August	22,571	20,382	20,153		−1	
September-November	21,615	21,211	19,757		−7	
June-November	44,186	41,593	39,910		−4	
Pigs per litter						
December-February	6.86	7.17	7.23		+1	
March-May	7.17	7.33	7.55		+3	
December-May	7.04	7.26	7.41		+2	
June-August	7.16	7.18	7.37		+3	
September-November	7.15	7.27	7.38		+2	
June-November	7.15	7.23	7.38		+2	

[1]Intentions.

Sow slaughter balance sheet, 14 States

Item	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
				Million head			
December 1 breeding[1]	6.4	6.8	7.3	8.1	8.1	7.7	6.7
December-February							
Comm. sow slaughter[2]	.7	.9	.9	.8	1.1	1.0	
Gilts added	1.0	1.1	.5	1.0	1.1	.5	
March 1 breeding	6.7	7.0	6.9	8.3	8.1	7.2	
March-May							
Comm. sow slaughter[2]	.6	.8	.8	.8	1.1	.9	
Gilts added	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	.9	.8	
June 1 breeding	7.1	7.4	7.4	8.7	7.9	7.1	
June-August							
Comm. sow slaughter[2]	.7	.9	.9	1.2	1.3	1.1	
Gilts added	.4	.7	1.0	.7	.8	1.1	
September 1 breeding	6.8	7.2	7.5	8.3	7.4	7.1	
September-November							
Comm. sow slaughter	1.0	1.0	.9	1.3	1.2	1.0	
Gilts added	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5	.6	

[1]December previous year. [2]85% of estimated U.S. commercial sow slaughter.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

In early 1982, the sheep and lamb industry is characterized by an expanding inventory, plentiful supplies, low prices, large competing meat supplies, and uncertain economic conditions. However, large grain crops have resulted in lower feed costs, which are holding overall production costs near last year's level.

Inventory Rises 1 Percent

The sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 1982, totaled 13.1 million head, up 1 percent over a year ago. This was the third consecutive yearly increase after many years of decline. The inventories of stock sheep, ewes, and ewe lambs were up 2 percent. The 1981 lamb crop, 8.85 million head, was 7 percent higher than the previous year's crop. The 1981 lambing rate was 101 per 100 ewes, that were one-year-old and older, compared with 97 in 1980 and 95 in 1979. The lambing rate reflected the mild winter and favorable range and forage conditions last year.

Cost of production studies indicate positive returns per ewe above direct cash costs in 1980 and 1981. In 1982, positive returns are also expected, because lower feed costs may keep cash costs about the same as last year. The favorable returns may provide a limited incentive for expanding production this year.

Positive returns have resulted in an increase in the number of operations with sheep. The number of operations increased 4 percent from January 1, 1981, to January 1, 1982. The largest increases in number of operations with sheep were in Iowa, California, Indiana, and Illinois. However, this expansion has resulted in lower prices.

1981 Production Up; Prices Down Sharply

In 1981, farm prices for lambs averaged $54.93 per cwt, down 14 percent from 1981 and the lowest since 1977. Prices were consistently below 1980, except in May and June, when they averaged slightly above.

Commercial slaughter totaled about 6 million head, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The rise was the result of a 7-percent increase in the 1981 lamb crop. Lower dressed weights held commercial production to only a 6-percent gain, or a total of 328 million pounds.

First-half 1982 Production Up; Prices Below a Year Ago

There were 1.56 million sheep and lambs on feed for slaughter in 24 States on January 1, 1982, down 5 percent from a year ago. Sheep and lambs on feed were lower than a year earlier in all weight categories in the seven States for which data is available.

Although sheep and lambs on feed were down from a year earlier, there are probably enough lambs, based on the 7-percent higher 1981 crop to support a 5- to 7-percent increase in commercial mutton and lamb production in the first quarter.

Commercial slaughter during the second quarter is drawn largely from new-crop lambs (lambs that are born after September 30 of the previous year that are on hand January 1). The number of new-crop lambs on hand January 1, 1982, was up 7 percent from last year. So, spring slaughter may be up 3 to 5 percent from last year.

Slaughter lamb prices at San Angelo are forecast to average $51 to $53 per cwt in the first quarter, compared with $57 last year. Plentiful lamb and mutton supplies, along with ample supplies of competing meats and the weak economy, will keep lamb prices below a year ago.

In the second quarter, slaughter lamb prices should rise seasonally. New-crop lambs will be marketed and demand will increase for Easter and Passover. Prices usually rise about 10 percent from the winter to spring quarter. Thus, Choice slaughter lambs at San Angelo are forecast to average $55 to $58 per cwt. However, general economic conditions pose a major question mark.

CONSUMPTION AND RETAIL PRICES

Per capita red meat and poultry consumption on a retail-weight basis in 1981 declined less than 1 percent from 1980. Pork consumption decreased by 4 to 5 percent on a per capita basis as producers cut back production in reaction to lower returns. Beef consumption increased over a year earlier for the first time since 1976, because of the reversal of the downward trend in the cattle cycle. A 2-percent decline in red meat consumption was mostly offset by increases in poultry consumption. Both broiler and turkey consumption showed increases, and total per capita consumption of red meat and poultry held at near-record levels.

In the fourth quarter 1981 per capita beef consumption showed a slight decline over year-earlier levels. The largest reduction in per capita meat consumption was in pork, which declined around 5 percent on a per capita basis. Broiler consumption increased slightly, but the largest rise in per capita meat consumption came from turkeys, which increased 15 percent above fourth-quarter 1980.

Retail Prices

Large meat supplies, coupled with a mediocre general economy, gave little strength to retail prices in 1981. Retail prices of Choice beef averaged only $2.39 a pound in 1981, compared with $2.38 in 1980. This relatively weak price was due to increasing beef supplies, large total meat supplies and a stagnant economy. Retail pork prices climbed from $1.40 in 1980 to $1.52 a pound in 1981. This price strength was caused by reduced pork supplies—a decline of 4 to 5 percent. Nevertheless, supplies of competing meats muted the rise. Price increases for all meats were well below the 10 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for all items, in 1981.

Fourth-quarter retail beef and pork prices remained even with a year earlier, although total meat supplies remained flat. Rising unemployment and declining real incomes dampened demand for meats. Retail prices for Choice beef in the fourth quarter of 1981 was $2.40 a pound, compared with $2.42 a year earlier. Fourth quarter retail pork prices were $1.59, compared with $1.55 a year earlier.

1982 Price Picture Cloudy

Any increase in retail meat prices in the first half of 1982 will be dependent on the strength of the U.S. economy. Per capita supplies of meat and poultry should remain below 1981 levels throughout the first half of the year. Per capita consumption of beef and pork is expected to decline 1 to 3 percent and 9 to 10 percent, respectively, from year earlier. Per capita poultry consumption is expected to remain flat compared with first half 1981. All of this adds up to a 3- to 4-percent decline in meat supplies in the first half of 1982.

Reductions in meat supplies in the first half of 1982, tend to suggest that some price rise could be expected, above present levels. However, demand conditions remain pessimistic, so little increase in retail prices should be expected. Retail beef prices should be in the low-$2.40's range in the first quarter increasing to the mid-$2.40's in the second quarter, if the economy starts to pick up. Retail pork prices should remain around $1.60 a pound in the first half.

Lamb supplies and prices

Year	Commercial slaughter 1/ Lambs and yearling	Commercial slaughter 1/ Sheep	Commercial slaughter 1/ Total	Average dressed weight	Commercial production 2/	Per capita consumption 3/	Prices Retail	Prices San Angelo Choice slaughter	Prices San Angelo Choice feeder	Prices Farm 4/
	1,000 head			Lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Cents/lb.	Dollars per/cwt.		
1977:										
I	1,500	82	1,582	57	90	.5	181.8	52.98	54.87	49.00
II	1,465	160	1,625	53	86	.4	183.4	55.76	52.24	52.23
III	1,490	163	1,653	51	84	.4	191.3	51.88	50.80	50.33
IV	1,393	103	1,496	54	81	.4	190.8	56.06	62.59	53.97
Year	5,848	508	6,356	54	341	1.7	186.8	54.17	55.12	51.30
1978:										
I	1,273	68	1,341	56	75	.4	206.9	67.67	74.72	63.67
II	1,244	130	1,374	55	76	.4	227.2	69.14	72.38	64.07
III	1,234	99	1,337	55	73	.4	221.8	61.07	75.27	60.33
IV	1,231	86	1,317	58	76	.4	222.5	63.44	80.07	63.20
Year	4,986	383	5,369	56	300	1.6	219.6	65.33	75.61	62.80
1979:										
I	1,154	56	1,210	59	71	.4	241.4	68.97	85.02	69.63
II	1,159	106	1,265	56	71	.4	250.1	73.55	79.01	68.83
III	1,167	96	1,262	55	69	.4	245.9	65.41	71.83	64.03
IV	1,193	87	1,280	57	73	.4	245.2	67.08	74.28	65.83
Year	4,672	345	5,017	57	284	1.6	245.7	68.75	77.54	66.70
1980:										
I	1,310	69	1,379	58	80	.4	250.3	67.44	75.79	65.97
II	1,258	113	1,371	56	77	.4	250.0	65.42	62.27	61.37
III	1,251	126	1,377	52	72	.4	254.4	68.83	66.15	65.93
IV	1,348	104	1,452	56	81	.4	256.1	63.97	69.25	60.87
Year	5,167	412	5,579	56	310	1.6	252.7	66.42	68.36	63.60
1981:										
I	1,385	65	1,450	59	85	.4	252.4	57.33	61.00	55.03
II	1,314	123	1,437	54	77	.4	N.A.	65.45	61.64	61.83
III	1,391	129	1,520	52	79	.4	N.A.	59.43	54.19	55.37
IV 5/	1,501	100	1,601	55	88	.4	N.A.	51.38	50.63	48.50
Year 5/	5,591	417	6,008	55	328	1.6	N.A.	58.40	56.86	55.18

1/Class estimated. 2/May not add due to rounding. 3/Total, including farm production. 4/Annual average weighted. 5/Preliminary. N.A.=not available.

Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by months, carcass weight 1/

Meat and period	Supply: Production	Supply: Beginning stocks 2/	Supply: Imports	Distribution: Exports and shipments	Distribution: Ending stocks	Distribution: Military	Civilian consumption: Total 3/	Civilian consumption: Per person 4/
	Million pounds						Pounds	
Beef:								
1980								
October	2,026	220	216	21	244	12	2,185	9.6
November	1,703	244	162	16	279	9	1,804	8.0
December	1,858	279	190	14	328	19	1,963	8.7
1981								
January	1,936	328	168	22	370	18	2,022	8.9
February	1,721	370	165	23	348	14	1,871	8.2
March	1,896	348	115	27	343	17	1,972	8.7
April	1,811	343	146	21	339	15	1,925	8.5
May	1,761	339	127	18	329	11	1,869	8.2
June	1,856	329	145	18	298	32	1,982	8.7
July	1,818	298	157	16	273	17	1,967	8.6
August	1,825	273	161	20	246	19	1,974	8.7
September	1,889	246	190	21	235	17	2,052	9.0
October	1,966	235	160	25	245	12	2,079	9.1
November	1,802	245	106	20	234	13	1,886	8.3
December	1,901	234	103	21	261	10	1,946	8.5
Veal:								
1980								
October	38	7	4	(6)	6	1	42	.2
November	31	6	3	(6)	7	1	32	.1
December	35	7	4	1	9	1	39	.2
1981								
January	35	9	2	1	9	1	36	.2
February	30	9	3	1	8	(6)	33	.1
March	35	8	1	1	9	1	33	.1
April	32	9	1	(6)	9	1	32	.1
May	30	9	1	1	9	(6)	30	.1
June	32	9	(6)	1	8	2	30	.1
July	34	8	1	1	7	1	35	.2
August	33	7	1	1	7	1	33	.1
September	37	7	2	1	6	1	37	.2
October	40	6	4	(6)	7	1	43	.2
November	35	7	3	(6)	7	1	36	.2
December	40	7	1	1	8	(6)	39	.2
Lamb and Mutton:								
1980								
October	29	8	1	(6)	8	1	29	.1
November	24	8	3	1	10	1	25	.1
December	28	10	4	1	9	1	33	.2
1981								
January	30	9	1	(6)	9	(6)	31	.1
February	26	9	1	(6)	8	(6)	28	.1
March	29	8	2	1	8	(6)	31	.1
April	29	8	5	(6)	10	(6)	31	.1
May	24	10	5	1	10	(6)	28	.1
June	24	10	4	1	12	(6)	25	.1
July	24	12	3	(6)	12	(6)	26	.1
August	25	12	2	(6)	14	(6)	25	.1
September	30	14	6	(6)	13	(6)	36	.2
October	31	13	2	1	13	(6)	33	.1
November	27	13	(6)	1	11	(6)	28	.1
December	30	11	(6)	(6)	10	(6)	31	.1
Pork 5/								
1980								
October	1,485	222	51	27	270	5	1,457	6.4
November	1,339	269	47	44	322	7	1,283	5.7
December	1,427	321	50	40	350	12	1,294	6.2
1981								
January	1,416	349	48	40	353	10	1,410	6.2
Feburary	1,234	353	42	47	356	8	1,218	5.4
March	1,423	256	47	50	359	11	1,406	6.2
April	1,424	359	45	39	406	7	1,376	6.1
May	1,254	406	46	53	394	7	1,252	5.5
June	1,201	394	47	41	347	17	1,237	5.4
July	1,162	347	48	25	283	10	1,239	5.4
August	1,158	283	51	29	225	11	1,227	5.4
September	1,288	225	35	28	207	14	1,299	5.7
October	1,391	207	47	25	238	8	1,374	6.0
November	1,320	238	44	30	255	10	1,307	5.7
December	1,445	255	42	46	267	7	1,422	6.2
Total meat:								
1980								
October	3,577	457	268	49	527	19	3,707	16.4
November	3,097	527	214	61	617	18	3,142	13.8
December	3,349	617	248	65	695	33	3,421	15.1
1981								
January	3,417	696	219	62	741	28	3,500	15.4
February	3,011	741	211	72	720	22	3,149	13.9
March	3,383	720	165	78	719	29	3,442	15.2
April	3,296	719	197	61	764	24	3,363	14.8
May	3,069	764	178	72	742	18	3,179	14.0
June	3,113	742	196	59	665	51	3,276	14.4
July	3,038	665	209	42	576	28	3,267	14.3
August	3,041	576	214	50	491	31	3,259	14.3
September	3,244	491	233	51	462	32	3,423	15.0
October	3,428	462	212	51	502	20	3,528	15.4
November	3,184	502	153	50	508	24	3,258	14.3
December	3,416	508	147	68	546	18	3,438	15.0

1/ Excludes production from farm slaughter. 2/ Beginning 1977, excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. Figures revised for 1980 U.S. Census. 5/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed. 6/ Less than 500,000 lb.

Selected Marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1980 Dec.	1981 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
FEDERALLY INSPECTED:							1,000 head						
Slaughter													
Cattle	2,725	2,803	2,483	2,726	2,625	2,593	2,769	2,760	2,768	2,840	2,935	2,668	2,829
Steers	1,308	1,419	1,276	1,464	1,334	1,373	1,445	1,376	1,336	1,343	1,391	1,274	1,406
Heifers	781	772	714	735	745	698	770	814	862	880	888	775	763
Cows	582	558	444	470	485	461	488	503	504	548	592	563	604
Bulls and stags	54	54	49	57	62	61	65	68	66	70	63	55	55
Calves	214	215	190	213	190	158	175	203	197	227	236	217	254
Sheep and lambs	468	489	426	489	512	425	440	439	467	546	558	476	522
Hogs	7,788	7,768	6,873	7,988	7,993	7,004	6,682	6,539	6,580	7,320	7,872	7,308	7,923
							Percent						
Percentage sows	5.7	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.9	6.4	6.1	5.6	4.9	5.0	5.6
Average liveweight per head:							Pounds						
Cattle	1,087	1,100	1,103	1,105	1,097	1,087	1,077	1,060	1,057	1,064	1,076	1,083	1,087
Calves	212	218	220	217	223	242	237	223	215	206	211	205	208
Sheep and lambs	116	116	117	116	110	109	106	106	106	107	109	111	112
Hogs	247	246	242	241	242	243	245	242	239	240	242	246	247
Average dressed weight:													
Beef	644	653	657	659	653	648	642	630	629	633	638	640	640
Veal	132	133	134	133	137	148	145	136	130	125	129	125	128
Lamb and Mutton	59	59	59	59	55	54	53	52	52	53	54	55	56
Pork	175	175	173	171	172	173	173	172	170	170	172	174	175
Production:							Mil. lb.						
Beef	1,748	1,826	1,625	1,791	1,709	1,674	1,772	1,733	1,736	1,792	1,868	1,703	1,803
Veal	28	28	25	28	26	23	25	27	25	28	30	27	32
Lamb and mutton	27	29	25	28	28	23	23	23	24	29	30	26	29
Pork	1,358	1,356	1,183	1,366	1,371	1,207	1,156	1,118	1,113	1,241	1,347	1,271	1,385
COMMERCIAL:							1,000 head						
Slaughter:													
Cattle	2,928	3,004	2,657	2,915	2,807	2,751	2,922	2,915	2,929	3,018	3,117	2,853	3,012
Calves	240	238	209	239	212	182	200	228	225	260	271	247	284
Sheep and Lambs	486	505	440	505	537	442	459	460	490	570	574	491	536
Hogs	8,200	8,132	7,188	8,338	8,324	7,298	6,963	6,813	6,855	7,612	8,143	7,602	8,279
Production:							Mil. lb.						
Beef	1,858	1,936	1,721	1,896	1,811	1,761	1,856	1,818	1,825	1,889	1,966	1,802	1,901
Veal	35	35	30	35	32	30	32	34	33	37	40	35	40
Lamb and mutton	28	30	26	29	29	24	24	24	25	30	31	27	30
Pork	1,426	1,416	1,234	1,423	1,424	1,254	1,201	1,162	1,158	1,288	1,391	1,320	1,445
COLD STORAGE STOCKS FIRST OF MONTH:[2]:							Mil. lb.						
Beef	279	328	362	348	342	340	329	298	273	246	235	245	234
Veal	7	9	9	8	9	9	9	8	7	7	6	7	7
Lamb and mutton	10	9	9	8	8	10	10	12	13	14	13	13	11
Pork	321	349	351	356	361	404	394	347	283	225	207	238	255
Total meat and meat products[3]	679	750	792	783	776	817	795	717	628	539	509	547	552
FOREIGN TRADE:													
Imports: (carcass weight)													
Beef and veal	193	170	168	115	147	127	145	158	162	192	164	108	104
Pork	50	48	42	47	45	46	47	48	51	35	47	44	42
Lamb and mutton	4	1	1	2	5	5	4	3	2	6	2	4/	4/
Exports: Carcass weight):													
Beef and veal	14.2	18.1	19.7	24.9	18.4	16.2	13.3	13.1	16.6	18.9	22.8	20.3	18.2
Pork	28.9	26.1	32.2	35.4	30.9	34.5	26.2	14.1	13.9	16.6	20.3	29.3	27.6
Lamb and mutton	.2	.1	.1	.3	.2	.2	.1	.1	.1	2.2	4.0	3.8	2.1
Live animal imports:							Number						
Cattle	86,667	91,747	77,689	87,846	94,767	65,243	26,342	27,458	20,254	29,157	45,474	45,617	47,603
Hog	13,171	14,777	14,767	15,286	15,747	21,000	10,984	7,938	8,981	8,176	10,171	8,792	9,076
Sheep and lambs	1,290	29	85	0	0	101	104	40	1,150	536	4,361	18	436
Live animal exports:													
Cattle	12,647	7,961	9,743	9,024	7,367	4,108	7,973	8,152	4,844	5,261	5,729	10,508	7,148
Hogs	2,081	1,492	747	1,233	1,212	1,803	2,381	2,498	1,252	2,244	2,381	3,675	3,206
Sheep and lambs	13,982	13,340	7,382	14,904	20,849	20,961	15,473	18,062	15,049	8,660	26,375	26,089	33,738

[1]Federally inspected and other commercial. [2]Beginning Jan. 1977: excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. [3]Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed. [4]Less than 50,000 lbs.

Number of cattle, sheep, and hogs imported, United States, 1970 to date

Year	Cattle: 700 pounds and over: Cows for dairy purposes	Cattle: 700 pounds and over: Other	Cattle: 700 pounds and over: Total	Cattle: Under 700 pounds: Under 200 pounds	Cattle: Under 700 pounds: 200 to 699 pounds	Cattle: Under 700 pounds: Total
	Head					
1970	35,151	31,824	66,975	168,933	906,992	1,075,925
1971	35,940	25,583	61,523	158,689	748,873	907,562
1972	25,168	31,363	56,531	173,336	939,168	1,112,504
1973	18,325	77,417	95,742	143,851	783,851	927,702
1974	9,502	55,308	64,810	77,602	413,777	491,379
1975	2,306	149,626	151,932	10,145	220,851	230,996
1976	15,826	274,272	290,098	119,814	562,707	682,521
1977	5,611	257,714	263,325	133,067	731,247	864,314
1978	3,231	211,317	214,548	154,972	873,542	1,028,514
1979	6,628	137,467	144,095	146,133	430,726	576,859
1980	5,378	148,626	154,004	135,937	382,325	518,262
1981 2/	4,951	130,344	135,295	145,653	370,056	515,709

Year	Dutiable cattle	Breeding cattle 1/	Total cattle	Sheep and lambs	Hogs
	Head				
1970	1,142,900	24,762	1,167,622	11,716	67,832
1971	969,085	21,624	990,709	5,454	77,532
1972	1,169,035	17,441	1,186,476	13,765	89,032
1973	1,023,444	15,541	1,038,985	9,514	87,615
1974	556,189	12,082	568,271	900	196,347
1975	382,928	6,391	389,319	3,497	29,768
1976	972,619	11,225	983,844	4,607	45,577
1977	1,127,639	5,640	1,133,279	8,530	43,030
1978	1,243,062	9,678	1,252,740	11,195	202,446
1979	720,954	11,360	732,314	9,478	136,556
1980	672,266	8,503	680,769	20,518	247,288
1981 2/	651,004	8,193	659,197	6,860	145,695

1/ Imports not subject to duty. 2/Preliminary.

Beef, Choice yield Grade 3: Retail, carcass, and farm values, spreads, and farmers' share, 1970 to present 1/

Year	Retail price 2/	Gross carcass value 3/	Carcass by-product allow-ance 4/	Net carcass value 5/	Gross farm value 6/	Farm by-product allow-ance 7/	Net farm value 8/	Farm-retail spread: Total	Farm-retail spread: Carcass-retail	Farm-retail spread: Farm-carcass	Farmers' share 9/
	Cents/lb.										Percent
1970	101.7	71.1	1.3	69.8	70.2	6.3	63.9	37.8	31.9	5.9	63
1971	108.1	78.8	1.4	77.4	76.7	6.2	70.5	37.6	30.7	6.9	65
1972	118.7	83.5	1.5	82.0	85.0	9.4	75.6	43.1	36.7	6.4	64
1973	142.1	102.5	1.8	100.7	106.8	12.6	94.2	47.9	41.4	6.5	66
1974	146.3	101.8	1.8	100.0	101.5	10.1	91.4	54.9	46.3	8.6	62
1975	154.8	110.2	2.0	108.2	108.6	9.6	99.0	55.8	46.6	9.2	64
1976	148.2	93.1	1.7	91.5	94.4	10.4	84.1	64.1	56.7	7.4	57
1977	148.4	95.7	1.9	93.8	97.3	11.8	85.5	62.9	54.6	8.3	58
1978	181.9	121.6	2.3	119.3	126.1	15.0	111.1	70.8	62.6	8.2	61
1979	226.3	153.3	2.8	150.5	163.4	22.6	140.8	85.5	75.8	9.7	62
1980	237.6	157.7	2.3	155.4	161.9	16.9	145.0	92.6	82.2	10.4	61
1981	238.7	151.5	2.1	149.3	154.5	16.0	138.5	100.2	89.4	10.8	58
1976											
I	151.3	94.3	1.7	92.7	93.4	9.4	84.0	67.3	58.6	8.7	56
II	150.8	97.6	1.7	95.8	100.5	11.5	89.0	61.8	55.0	6.8	59
III	145.3	88.0	1.6	86.4	89.9	10.4	79.5	65.8	58.9	6.9	55
IV	145.4	92.6	1.7	90.9	94.0	10.2	83.8	61.6	54.5	7.1	58
1977											
I	144.6	89.9	1.7	88.2	91.2	11.5	79.7	64.9	56.4	8.5	55
II	146.4	95.5	1.9	93.6	98.6	12.5	87.0	59.4	52.8	6.6	59
III	149.0	96.1	2.1	93.9	97.3	11.6	85.7	63.3	55.1	8.2	58
IV	153.4	101.3	1.9	99.4	102.3	11.7	90.5	62.9	54.0	8.9	59
1978											
I	162.7	108.5	2.0	106.4	110.4	12.6	97.8	64.9	56.3	8.6	60
II	185.7	129.1	2.2	126.9	133.8	14.2	119.6	66.1	58.8	7.3	64
III	189.4	124.3	2.4	121.9	129.3	16.2	113.1	76.3	67.5	8.8	60
IV	189.7	124.5	2.4	122.1	131.0	17.2	113.8	75.9	67.6	8.3	60
1979											
I	215.4	148.8	2.7	146.1	158.4	21.1	137.3	78.1	69.3	8.8	64
II	235.5	160.8	3.1	157.7	175.3	27.0	148.3	87.2	77.8	9.4	63
III	226.6	149.3	2.7	146.6	158.7	22.3	136.4	90.1	79.9	10.2	59
IV	227.7	154.4	2.6	151.8	160.9	17.9	141.0	86.7	75.9	10.8	62
1980											
I	235.2	155.8	2.2	153.6	160.4	17.2	143.2	92.0	81.6	10.4	61
II	231.4	154.4	2.1	152.3	156.5	14.2	142.3	89.1	79.1	10.0	62
III	241.6	165.4	2.5	162.9	171.1	18.2	152.9	88.7	78.7	10.0	63
IV	242.3	155.1	2.3	152.8	159.5	18.1	141.4	100.9	89.5	11.4	58
1981											
I	237.5	147.5	2.0	145.4	150.1	16.0	134.1	103.4	92.1	11.3	56
II 10/	234.7	155.5	2.1	153.4	160.8	16.6	144.2	90.5	81.3	9.2	61
III	243.1	158.3	2.3	156.0	160.8	16.3	144.5	98.6	87.1	11.5	59
IV	239.5	144.5	2.1	142.4	146.4	15.2	131.1	108.4	97.1	11.3	55
1980											
Jan.	234.5	154.4	2.3	152.1	158.3	18.9	139.4	95.1	82.4	12.7	59
Feb.	234.8	156.8	2.2	154.6	162.4	17.4	145.0	89.8	80.2	9.6	62
Mar.	236.2	156.1	2.2	153.9	160.6	15.5	145.1	91.1	82.3	8.8	61
Apr.	233.3	150.4	2.2	148.2	152.8	14.6	138.2	95.1	85.1	10.0	59
May	230.4	154.3	2.1	152.2	156.2	13.5	142.7	87.7	78.2	9.5	62
June	230.6	158.5	2.1	156.4	160.7	14.6	146.1	84.5	74.2	10.3	64
July	237.8	165.6	2.4	163.2	170.8	17.3	153.5	84.3	74.0	9.7	65
Aug.	242.2	168.0	2.6	165.4	174.5	19.3	155.2	87.0	76.8	10.2	64
Sept.	244.9	162.5	2.4	160.1	168.0	18.0	150.0	94.9	84.8	10.1	61
Oct.	241.6	159.1	2.5	156.6	163.2	18.0	145.2	96.4	85.0	11.4	60
Nov.	242.3	153.8	2.3	151.5	158.0	18.9	139.1	103.2	90.8	12.4	57
Dec.	242.9	152.5	2.2	150.3	157.4	17.5	139.9	103.0	92.6	10.4	58
1981 10/											
Jan.	239.5	152.6	2.1	150.5	154.5	16.5	138.0	101.5	89.0	12.5	58
Feb.	237.5	146.6	2.0	144.6	149.2	15.3	133.9	103.6	92.9	10.7	56
Mar.	235.6	143.2	2.0	141.2	146.7	16.1	130.6	105.0	94.4	10.6	55
Apr.	230.9	148.7	2.0	146.7	155.0	17.1	137.9	93.0	84.2	8.8	60
May	234.3	157.3	2.2	155.1	162.3	16.7	145.6	88.6	79.1	9.5	62
June	238.9	160.6	2.2	158.4	165.2	16.0	149.2	89.7	80.5	9.2	63
July	242.9	162.2	2.3	159.9	164.2	16.3	147.9	95.0	83.0	12.0	62
Aug.	242.7	156.5	2.4	154.1	159.1	16.2	142.9	99.8	88.6	11.2	59
Sept.	243.8	156.2	2.3	153.9	159.1	16.3	142.8	101.0	89.9	11.1	59
Oct.	241.5	146.3	2.1	144.2	149.2	15.7	133.4	108.1	97.3	10.8	55
Nov.	239.0	144.3	2.2	142.1	146.6	15.2	131.4	107.6	96.9	10.7	55
Dec.	238.0	143.0	2.0	141.0	143.3	14.7	128.6	109.4	97.0	12.4	54

1/Revised series. 2/Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts from Choice Yield Grade 3 carcass. 3/Value of carcass quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. A wholesale carcass equivalent of 1,464 was used prior to 1970 it was increased gradually to 1,476 in 1976 and later years. 4/Portion of gross carcass value attributed to fat and bone trim. 5/Gross carcass value minus carcass byproduct allowance. 6/Market value to producer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. The farm product equivalent of 2.36 was used prior to 1970; it was increased gradually to 2.40 in 1976 and later years. 7/Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. 8/Gross farm value minus farm byproduct allowance. 9/Percent net farm value is of retail price. 10/ ERS data through May, BLS series since June.

Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1980 to date 1/

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
						Cents						
CHOICE BEEF:												
Ground Chuck												
1980	1.89	1.89	1.90	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.89	1.93	1.96	1.95	1.94	1.95
1981	1.93	1.92	1.89	1.86	1.84							
1980	1.82	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.81	1.79	1.78	1.84	1.86	1.86	1.85	1.86
1981	1.86	1.83	1.82	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.80	1.82	1.80	1.81	1.81
1982												
Chuck Roast, Bone In												
1980	1.61	1.61	1.63	1.58	1.55	1.50	1.57	1.60	1.59	1.62	1.63	1.61
1981	1.62	1.57	1.59	1.53	1.58							
1980	1.78	1.82	1.85	1.80	1.76	1.73	1.80	1.81	1.86	1.86	1.89	1.87
1981	1.86	1.85	1.83	1.78	1.79	1.79	1.82	1.82	1.84	1.81	1.83	1.78
1982												
Round Roast, Boneless												
1980	2.57	2.56	2.59	2.60	2.51	2.53	2.59	2.63	2.65	2.64	2.65	2.66
1981	2.64	2.67	2.61	2.60	2.64							
1980	2.61	2.62	2.58	2.57	2.58	2.56	2.60	2.62	2.64	2.66	2.66	2.61
1981	2.64	2.62	2.60	2.59	2.62	2.62	2.64	2.65	2.63	2.64	2.63	2.63
1982												
Rib Roast, Bone In												
1980	2.93	2.92	2.92	2.89	2.88	2.91	3.01	3.06	3.12	3.08	3.06	3.04
1981	3.05	3.01	2.95	2.90	2.98							
1980	2.92	2.91	2.92	2.84	2.85	2.86	2.91	2.98	3.05	3.05	3.02	3.04
1981	3.03	2.95	2.96	2.91	3.00	2.98	3.06	3.07	3.12	3.07	3.07	3.09
1982												
Round Steak, Boneless												
1980	2.57	2.52	2.53	2.54	2.51	2.51	2.57	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.60	2.62
1981	2.58	2.56	2.48	2.46	2.51							
1980	2.72	2.72	2.74	2.73	2.71	2.70	2.77	2.79	2.83	2.81	2.87	2.81
1981	2.83	2.84	2.80	2.80	2.82	2.86	2.89	2.90	2.86	2.94	2.92	2.90
1982												
Sirloin Steak, Bone In												
1980	3.17	3.18	3.22	3.20	3.24	3.32	3.44	3.46	3.46	3.36	3.32	3.33
1981	3.25	3.23	3.23	3.20	3.26							
1980	2.85	2.80	2.83	2.86	2.84	3.00	3.04	3.10	3.14	2.97	3.00	2.93
1981	2.92	2.88	2.89	2.88	3.04	3.06	3.21	3.12	3.16	3.04	2.84	2.85
1982												
Chuck Steak, Bone In												
1980	1.73	1.73	1.76	1.71	1.64	1.60	1.65	1.68	1.70	1.74	1.73	1.73
1981	1.73	1.69	1.69	1.65	1.64							
1980	1.70	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.66	1.60	1.61	1.65	1.74	1.75	1.78	1.74
1981	1.73	1.73	1.71	1.72	1.77	1.69	1.69	1.73	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.74
1982												
T-Bone Steak, Bone In												
1980	3.36	3.41	3.45	3.40	3.48	3.50	3.60	3.69	3.74	3.59	3.59	3.57
1981	3.54	3.48	3.42	3.42	3.51							
1980	3.46	3.42	3.44	3.46	3.50	3.61	3.76	3.86	3.88	3.69	3.65	3.63
1981	3.63	3.51	3.56	3.58	3.71	3.79	4.00	3.96	3.90	3.82	3.72	3.61
1982												

Porterhouse Steak, Bone In												
1980	3.48	3.48	3.53	3.50	3.59	3.59	3.68	3.79	3.82	3.67	3.67	3.65
1981	3.66	3.57	3.54	3.52	3.62							
1980	3.40	3.59	3.56	3.60	3.62	3.80	3.76	3.97	3.96	3.81	3.86	3.78
1981	3.75	3.74	3.76	3.68	3.80	3.96	4.12	3.97	3.98	3.84	3.71	3.79
1982												
PORK												
Bacon, Sliced												
1980	1.35	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.24	1.22	1.38	1.53	1.64	1.65	1.70	1.70
1981	1.63	1.63	1.58	1.50	1.55							
1980	1.45	1.41	1.36	1.32	1.27	1.27	1.37	1.47	1.62	1.64	1.68	1.71
1981	1.67	1.64	1.60	1.53	1.55	1.60	1.67	1.69	1.75	1.78	1.77	1.75
1982												
Chops, Center Cut												
1980	2.01	2.00	1.96	1.92	1.84	1.87	2.00	2.07	2.09	2.15	2.18	2.15
1981	2.16	2.11	2.12	2.10	2.08							
1980	1.96	1.91	1.88	1.87	1.80	1.82	1.93	2.01	2.07	2.06	2.06	2.07
1981	2.11	2.08	2.07	2.06	2.01	2.08	2.20	2.23	2.22	2.23	2.16	2.13
1982												
Ham, Rump or Shank Half												
1980	1.25	1.22	1.22	1.20	1.13	1.15	1.21	1.28	1.32	1.38	1.39	1.37
1981	1.35	1.26	1.25	1.22	1.26							
1980	1.25	1.19	1.21	1.13	1.11	1.08	1.12	1.25	1.29	1.35	1.40	1.40
1981	1.33	1.27	1.23	1.19	1.23	1.23	1.34	1.37	1.40	1.38	1.36	1.38
1982												
Ham, Rump Portion												
1980	1.21	1.16	1.19	1.14	1.07	1.08	1.18	1.24	1.29	1.37	1.38	1.34
1981	1.30	1.25	1.23	1.21	1.24							
1980	1.18	1.14	1.19	1.10	.99	1.02	1.08	1.20	1.22	1.27	1.30	1.28
1981	1.23	1.15	1.14	1.07	1.07	1.14	1.16	1.22	1.24	1.24	1.26	1.26
1982												
Ham, Shank Portion												
1980	1.10	1.05	1.09	1.03	.96	.97	1.07	1.13	1.17	1.26	1.25	1.22
1981	1.19	1.14	1.12	1.09	1.13							
1980	1.11	1.06	1.06	.97	.88	.88	.98	1.05	1.08	1.15	1.18	1.17
1981	1.10	1.06	1.04	1.00	1.02	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.14	1.16	1.16	1.18
1982												
Shoulder Roast, Blade Boston												
1980	1.29	1.28	1.28	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.28	1.44	1.46	1.48	1.47	1.46
1981	1.46	1.42	1.38	1.38	1.34							
1980	1.29	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.12	1.13	1.26	1.37	1.42	1.40	1.42	1.44
1981	1.42	1.37	1.32	1.34	1.31	1.35	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.51	1.41
1982												
Sirloin Roast, Bone In												
1980	1.41	1.41	1.38	1.36	1.31	1.33	1.43	1.48	1.50	1.50	1.55	1.51
1981	1.53	1.50	1.52	1.52	1.50							
1980	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.34	1.30	1.31	1.41	1.47	1.52	1.53	1.55	1.55
1981	1.56	1.52	1.51	1.50	1.50	1.52	1.63	1.64	1.61	1.63	1.58	1.60
1982												
Shoulder Picnic, Bone In												
1980	1.02	1.02	1.00	.96	.90	.91	.98	1.03	1.08	1.08	1.12	1.10
1981	1.11	1.08	1.05	1.02	1.01							
1980	1.01	.98	1.00	.98	.84	.84	.91	1.00	1.07	1.06	1.10	1.07
1981	1.07	1.00	1.00	.99	.98	1.01	1.05	1.08	1.11	1.09	1.08	1.07
1982												

--Continued

Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1980 to date 1/ --Continued

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
						Cents						
Sausage, Fresh, Pork, Loose												
1980	1.16	1.20	1.20	1.18	1.15	1.13	1.16	1.26	1.36	1.41	1.40	1.41
1981	1.41	1.38	1.36	1.33	1.34							
1980	1.41	1.34	1.37	1.35	1.32	1.30	1.31	1.38	1.50	1.54	1.56	1.56
1981	1.59	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.53	1.52	1.60	1.65	1.64	1.66	1.66	1.69
1982												
MISCELLANEOUS CUTS												
Ham, Canned, 3 or 5 lbs.												
1980	2.31	2.30	2.33	2.26	2.24	2.19	2.20	2.28	2.33	2.42	2.50	2.50
1981	2.54	2.50	2.45	2.38	2.40	2.38	2.39	2.42	2.48	2.50	2.52	2.54
1982												
Frankfurters, all Meat												
1980	1.68	1.71	1.72	1.69	1.64	1.62	1.60	1.71	1.79	1.82	1.84	1.84
1981	1.82	1.81	1.77	1.74	1.69	1.72	1.74	1.80	1.77	1.78	1.79	1.78
1982												
Bologna												
1980	1.97	2.00	2.00	1.94	1.89	1.86	1.92	2.00	2.09	2.11	2.18	2.20
1981	2.21	2.18	2.11	2.10	2.03	2.06	2.10	2.12	2.11	2.13	2.10	2.11
1982												
Beef Liver												
1980	1.22	1.19	1.21	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.08	1.11	1.17	1.21	1.20	1.23
1981	1.20	1.17	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.12	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.07
1982												

1/ Data from two series are included, the discontinued series (effective May, 1981) and a Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) series which replaces it. The cut name listed is the BLS cut terminology and the last three lines (1980, 1981, 1982) are the BLS data for this cut. Where available data for a similar cut from the discontinued series are listed above (1980, 1981) the BLS data. For additional information, contact Karen Parham, (202) 447-4997.

Pork: Retail, wholesale, and farm values, spreads, and farmers share, 1970 to present 1/

Year	Retail price 2/	Wholesale value 3/	Gross farm value 4/	Byproduct allowance 5/	Net farm value 6/	Farm-Retail Spread Total	Farm-Retail Spread Wholesale retail	Farm-Retail Spread Farm whole-sale	Farmers share 7/
	Cents/lb.								Percent
1970	77.4	63.4	43.0	3.7	39.3	38.1	14.0	24.1	51
1971	69.8	57.0	34.9	2.9	32.0	37.8	12.8	25.0	46
1972	82.7	71.3	49.6	3.4	46.2	36.5	11.4	25.1	56
1973	109.2	95.8	73.8	6.2	67.6	41.6	13.4	28.2	62
1974	107.8	85.5	63.6	6.4	57.2	50.6	22.3	28.3	53
1975	134.6	115.3	86.5	6.6	79.8	54.8	19.3	35.5	59
1976	134.0	105.2	75.8	4.8	71.0	63.0	28.8	34.2	53
1977	125.4	99.0	70.2	4.6	65.6	59.8	26.4	33.4	52
1978	143.6	107.7	82.5	5.9	76.6	67.0	35.9	31.1	53
1979	144.1	100.4	72.2	5.6	66.6	77.5	43.7	33.8	46
1980	139.4	98.0	68.3	5.1	63.2	76.2	41.4	34.8	45
1981	152.4	106.7	75.5	5.2	70.3	82.1	45.7	36.4	46
1976									
I	141.2	112.1	83.0	5.4	77.6	63.6	29.1	34.5	55
II	138.2	112.9	85.1	5.3	79.8	58.4	25.3	33.1	58
III	137.1	104.5	75.9	5.0	70.9	66.2	32.6	33.6	52
IV	119.6	91.5	59.2	3.7	55.5	64.1	28.1	36.0	46
1977									
I	120.5	95.0	66.4	4.5	61.9	58.6	25.5	33.1	51
II	121.7	96.6	69.4	4.8	64.6	57.1	25.1	32.0	53
III	131.0	100.9	74.5	4.8	69.7	61.3	30.1	31.2	53
IV	128.2	103.3	70.4	4.4	66.0	62.2	24.9	37.3	52
1978									
I	137.0	104.8	80.7	5.6	75.1	61.9	32.2	29.7	55
II	142.4	105.6	81.3	5.8	75.5	66.9	36.8	30.1	53
III	144.7	107.6	82.4	6.0	76.4	68.3	37.1	31.2	53
IV	150.1	112.7	85.3	6.1	79.2	70.9	37.4	33.5	53
1979									
I	156.1	113.8	88.2	6.9	81.3	74.8	42.3	32.5	52
II	148.2	100.1	73.1	5.7	67.4	80.8	48.1	32.7	45
III	138.0	93.4	65.6	5.1	60.5	77.5	44.6	32.9	44
IV	134.3	94.1	62.0	4.7	57.3	77.0	40.2	36.8	43
1980									
I	133.9	90.9	61.8	4.6	57.2	76.7	43.0	33.7	43
II	125.3	82.3	53.1	3.8	49.3	76.0	43.0	33.0	39
III	144.2	107.7	78.6	5.7	72.9	71.3	36.5	34.8	51
IV	154.3	111.2	79.1	5.8	73.3	81.0	43.1	37.9	48
1981									
I	148.7	103.4	70.0	4.8	65.2	83.5	45.3	38.2	44
II 8/	144.7	104.1	73.9	5.0	68.9	75.8	40.6	35.2	48
III	157.5	113.6	85.8	5.9	79.9	77.6	43.9	33.7	51
IV	158.7	105.6	72.4	5.0	67.4	91.3	53.1	38.2	42
1980									
Jan.	135.3	93.3	63.8	4.7	59.1	76.2	42.0	34.2	44
Feb.	133.2	91.3	63.8	4.8	59.0	74.2	41.9	32.3	44
Mar.	133.3	88.0	59.9	4.3	53.6	79.7	45.3	34.4	40
Apr.	127.8	79.7	49.3	3.7	45.6	82.2	48.1	34.1	36
May	123.6	79.5	50.3	3.7	46.6	77.0	44.1	32.9	38
June	124.4	87.6	59.6	4.1	55.5	68.9	36.8	32.1	45
July	136.2	101.5	73.4	5.2	68.2	68.0	34.7	33.3	50
Aug.	145.7	111.0	82.3	5.9	76.4	69.3	34.7	34.6	52
Sept.	150.7	110.6	80.0	5.9	74.1	76.6	40.1	36.5	49
Oct.	152.8	113.3	81.9	5.8	76.1	76.7	39.5	37.2	50
Nov.	156.3	111.7	78.9	6.0	72.9	83.4	44.6	38.8	47
Dec.	153.8	108.6	76.6	5.7	70.9	82.9	45.2	37.7	46
1981 8/									
Jan.	151.5	104.1	70.6	5.0	65.6	85.9	47.4	38.5	43
Feb.	148.4	104.6	72.1	4.8	67.3	81.1	43.8	37.3	45
Mar.	146.2	101.6	67.2	4.6	62.6	83.6	44.6	39.0	43
Apr.	142.7	101.2	67.4	4.6	62.8	79.9	41.5	38.4	44
May	144.9	101.5	71.1	4.8	66.3	78.6	43.4	35.2	46
June	146.6	109.5	83.1	5.6	77.5	69.1	37.1	32.0	53
July	154.9	114.5	86.8	5.9	80.9	74.0	40.4	33.6	52
Aug.	158.1	113.6	86.3	5.9	80.4	77.7	44.5	33.2	51
Sept.	159.5	112.7	84.3	6.0	78.3	81.2	46.8	34.4	49
Oct.	160.4	107.9	77.3	5.5	71.8	88.6	52.5	36.1	45
Nov.	158.2	105.3	71.8	5.0	66.8	91.4	52.9	38.5	42
Dec.	157.4	103.5	68.0	4.5	63.5	93.9	53.9	40.0	40

1/Revised series. 2/Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts from pork carcass. 3/Value of wholesale quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. A wholesale carcass equivalent of 1.06 is used for all years. 4/Market values to producer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts. The farm product equivalent of 2.12 was used prior to 1959; it was decreased gradually to 1.70 in 1977 and later. 5/Portion of gross farm value attributable to edible and inedible byproducts. 6/Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance. 7/Percent net farm value is of retail price. 8/ ERS data through May, BLS series since June.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1980 Oct.	1981 Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
							Dollars per 100 pounds								
SLAUGHTER STEERS:															
Omaha:															
Choice, 900-1100 lb.	67.18	65.05	64.29	63.08	61.50	61.40	64.92	66.86	68.26	67.86	66.37	65.37	61.45	59.81	59.24
Good, 900-1100 lb.	62.77	61.53	61.28	59.71	58.48	58.62	60.33	61.76	62.43	62.95	61.60	60.93	58.36	57.21	55.53
California, Choice 900-1100 lb.	70.50	69.50	70.75	68.75	66.12	64.12	68.35	68.38	69.12	67.40	67.09	68.40	65.88	65.19	63.95
Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb.	none	65.68	66.14	65.25	62.20	60.94	66.35	67.94	69.88	68.02	66.28	66.44	62.60	62.26	60.34
Texas, Choice 900-1100 lb.	68.62	67.12	67.08	66.08	63.99	62.02	66.35	69.04	70.60	68.53	66.96	67.47	63.97	63.09	61.14
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:															
Omaha:															
Choice, 900-1100 lb.	65.49	62.66	62.24	61.40	60.09	60.08	63.17	65.72	66.32	65.82	63.57	62.74	58.44	58.20	57.83
Good, 700-900 lb.	60.90	59.48	59.67	57.86	56.71	56.85	60.84	63.31	63.68	63.03	59.66	58.88	56.58	55.16	54.66
COWS:															
Omaha:															
Commercial	45.12	43.55	42.52	41.28	42.85	52.51	42.93	41.86	42.38	43.17	44.15	42.46	40.65	37.75	37.05
Utility	45.93	43.91	42.92	41.61	43.65	43.12	43.95	42.39	42.88	43.78	44.31	42.47	40.61	37.70	36.65
Cutter	43.34	41.99	41.25	40.10	42.95	42.94	43.81	42.40	42.80	43.48	42.44	40.47	38.29	35.28	34.03
Canner	41.89	39.38	39.72	37.81	40.68	40.65	41.50	40.31	41.01	41.36	40.80	38.58	35.76	32.32	30.82
VEALERS:															
Choice, S. St. Paul	83.40	76.47	77.18	77.38	78.00	80.88	83.90	84.25	82.88	76.00	77.25	77.30	71.75	68.88	67.50
FEEDER STEERS:[1]															
Kansas City:															
Medium No. 1, 400-500 lb.	84.32	80.57	77.38	77.45	77.30	77.65	77.45	72.50	72.02	69.04	70.95	71.52	66.56	67.05	63.16
Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb.	76.05	73.75	72.98	72.58	70.40	68.80	68.94	65.79	65.12	63.22	65.75	66.16	64.07	64.02	60.06
Medium No. 2, 600-700 lb.															
All weight and grades	71.64	70.23	70.04	68.56	68.14	65.47	66.28	63.10	63.51	61.51	64.15	64.58	62.52	61.77	58.96
Amarillo:															
Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb.	73.23	71.62	72.66	71.88	70.22	68.91	69.07	61.70	63.20	61.62	64.16	65.11	62.50	64.17	60.50
Georgia Auctions:															
Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb.	66.40	64.72	64.17	64.50	64.75	62.88	63.55	56.75	58.38	55.30	56.62	57.00	56.38	56.38	55.00
Medium No. 2, 400-500 lb.	66.20	65.88	66.17	65.00	66.88	66.25	65.70	58.25	59.50	55.30	57.25	56.00	54.88	57.50	55.33
FEEDER HEIFERS:															
Kansas City:															
Medium No. 1, 400-500 lb.	69.96	68.12	66.78	65.80	65.95	64.12	64.59	60.99	60.87	58.08	61.22	59.75	55.06	55.58	52.62
Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb.	67.38	65.62	64.50	64.08	63.60	61.88	62.24	59.58	59.00	57.88	59.60	59.68	56.05	56.28	52.64
SLAUGHTER HOGS:															
Barrows and Gilts:															
Omaha:															
Nos. 1 & 2, 200-230 lb.	48.56	47.10	45.67	42.57	43.55	40.31	40.83	43.28	50.06	51.77	51.60	49.62	45.80	42.87	41.24
All weights	47.89	46.18	44.62	41.35	42.39	39.42	39.74	41.76	48.35	50.12	50.50	49.68	45.61	41.75	39.75
Sioux City	48.36	46.44	45.07	41.67	42.78	39.88	40.15	41.96	48.78	51.01	51.14	49.89	46.15	42.10	40.17
7 marktets[2]	48.15	46.38	44.80	41.42	42.43	39.54	39.79	42.05	49.04	50.66	50.92	49.68	45.62	42.20	40.06
Sows:															
7 markets[2]	45.09	41.76	40.00	38.03	39.05	36.89	36.73	37.42	43.12	43.74	44.78	46.47	43.24	38.63	33.77

--Continued

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat —Continued

	1980			1981											
Item	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Dollars per 100 pounds														
FEEDER PIGS:															
Nos. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb. (per hd.)	37.75	37.20	34.74	31.00	36.86	36.33	39.33	36.10	37.88	32.88	38.55	40.23	34.20	31.88	29.11
SLAUGHTER LAMBS:															
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	66.19	none	61.75	57.50	57.75	56.75	63.20	65.38	67.76	64.38	61.62	52.30	54.25	48.50	---
Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul	61.26	56.04	55.16	50.22	52.45	53.22	60.98	64.20	65.20	58.47	53.15	49.40	50.52	45.37	45.36
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	21.90	24.00	24.33	30.50	34.12	34.00	26.70	21.81	23.12	26.75	21.12	21.00	24.50	24.94	25.25
Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul	14.18	12.78	18.02	19.50	20.32	20.88	17.74	11.85	11.65	16.16	16.00	14.26	11.90	11.65	13.06
FEEDER LAMBS:															
Choice, San Angelo	59.75	68.67	69.33	61.75	62.25	59.00	61.30	60.69	69.92	56.62	54.56	51.40	51.62	49.33	50.94
Choice, So. St. Paul	65.16	61.18	63.06	57.30	57.15	54.65	53.00	54.52	61.50	55.00	51.28	47.30	48.20	43.92	44.50
FARM PRICES:															
Beef cattle	62.10	60.00	59.10	59.30	58.70	57.60	60.30	59.00	60.80	59.70	59.00	58.90	55.80	54.50	52.00
Calves	73.90	72.10	70.30	69.20	70.50	69.80	70.70	68.80	66.20	62.00	62.40	61.80	59.40	59.60	57.80
Hogs	47.20	45.60	43.90	40.80	41.30	38.80	39.00	40.90	47.40	49.30	49.20	48.60	45.00	41.50	39.00
Sheep	18.90	19.90	20.80	25.90	26.30	25.30	22.20	18.40	21.00	23.00	20.30	20.10	19.60	19.60	19.30
Lambs	64.30	59.90	58.40	53.70	54.80	56.60	58.00	62.50	65.00	59.50	56.20	50.40	50.60	47.40	47.50
MEAT PRICES:															
Wholesale:															
Central U.S. markets															
Steer beef Choice, 600-700 lb.	105.49	101.44	100.57	99.80	96.80	94.32	99.68	103.32	106.52	107.23	103.90	102.96	96.02	94.56	93.70
Heifer beef, Choice 500-600 lb.	102.71	98.60	98.35	97.60	94.21	92.82	97.69	102.12	104.05	104.08	99.98	99.48	93.98	92.14	91.61
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	90.88	88.72	87.92	86.25	91.12	87.50	87.62	83.75	84.58	85.17	88.93	84.82	78.98	76.04	73.99
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	96.74	91.76	92.67	97.50	96.36	91.12	85.84	94.16	102.31	105.70	104.88	104.56	98.77	90.92	86.56
Pork bellies 12-14 lb.	57.12	60.00	53.93	50.40	50.18	40.19	48.58	45.07	55.26	54.74	59.54	60.07	55.43	56.68	51.35
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	87.10	86.40	80.35	65.01	67.42	68.28	72.68	70.96	78.08	82.88	84.33	84.67	84.20	86.14	86.31
East Coast:															
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb.	132.56	125.62	126.60	127.00	127.83	128.00	126.70	138.04	143.61	138.12	128.94	116.12	118.00	113.77	111.80
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-56 lb.	128.98	115.00	109.60	108.12	113.06	113.56	122.62	137.50	142.75	137.30	127.75	115.90	116.08	109.00	106.42
West Coast:															
Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	110.50	108.89	109.93	108.59	105.17	101.02	106.54	109.46	110.27	110.14	108.18	110.81	105.50	103.64	103.13
Retail:															
Beef, Choice	241.6	242.3	242.9	239.5	237.5	235.6	230.9	234.3	238.9	242.9	242.7	243.8	241.5	239.0	238.0
Pork	153.8	156.3	153.8	151.5	148.4	146.2	142.7	144.9	146.6	154.9	158.1	159.5	160.4	158.2	157.4
Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100):															
Retail meats	258.7	261.1	260.6	259.7	256.4	254.4	251.0	252.3	254.2	259.6	262.0	263.4	262.5	259.6	258.7
Beef and veal	275.8	277.9	275.3	275.3	272.3	270.3	267.4	270.3	271.1	274.5	275.9	277.1	274.9	271.5	270.5
Pork	225.8	228.6	229.1	228.2	223.6	221.6	217.4	217.3	221.2	231.5	235.3	238.1	238.6	235.6	234.3
Other meats	259.4	261.8	262.8	262.9	260.5	258.3	255.4	253.9	255.9	258.4	261.4	260.7	261.6	260.5	260.6
Poultry	209.1	204.1	202.7	202.4	203.7	201.6	196.8	194.7	196.8	204.8	202.0	199.7	196.6	192.3	191.7
LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[3]															
Beef steer-corn	21.3	19.5	19.5	19.2	19.3	19.4	20.0	20.6	21.4	21.5	23.8	26.0	25.2	25.0	25.0
Hog-corn	15.2	13.8	13.5	13.0	13.3	12.4	12.3	12.9	15.2	15.9	18.1	19.8	18.7	17.5	16.8

1/ Reflects new feeder cattle grades. 2/ St. Louis, N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. 3/ Bushels of No. 2 yellow corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds liveweight.

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