



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
**West Virginia Field Office**  
**1900 Kanawha Blvd E**  
**Charleston, West Virginia 25305**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2022

Contact: Charmaine Wilson  
(304) 357-5126

## 2021 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

**Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production** in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 10.8 million pounds during 2021. This was down 16 percent from 2020 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 32 on January 1, 2022, unchanged from the previous year.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2021 totaled 14,600 head, down 14 percent from 2020. Total live weight was 15.89 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2020. The average live weight was 1,085 pounds, down 8 pounds from 2020.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** during 2021 totaled 6,800 head, down 38 percent from 2020. Total live weight was 2.08 million pounds, down 37 percent from 2020. The average live weight was 306 pounds, up 6 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States – Total red meat production** for the United States totaled 55.9 billion pounds in 2021, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.8 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 91.9 million pounds.

**Beef production** totaled 28.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 58.1 million pounds, down 16 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.7 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 143 million pounds, down slightly from 2020.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2021 totaled 33.9 million head, up 3 percent from 2020, with federal inspection comprising 98.0 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,371 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 48.7 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.6 percent, dairy cows 9.4 percent, other cows 10.7 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 391,300 head, 14 percent lower than a year ago with 98.1 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 237 pounds, down 8 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 129 million head, 2 percent lower than 2020 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 288 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.26 million head, was up 2 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 85.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from 2020 at 122 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 92.7 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 905 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2022 compared with 858 last year. Of these, 726 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2021 with the 12 largest plants slaughtering 50 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 645 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 58 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 165 plants accounted for 55 percent of the total and 1 of the 534 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2021 comprised 17 percent of the total head. Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 50 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2021, up 1 percent from 2021.