



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 25, 2024

Contact: Rodger Ott  
(800) 392-3202

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER – DECEMBER 2023 UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.55 billion pounds in December, up 2 percent from the 4.47 billion pounds produced in December 2022.

**Beef production**, at 2.19 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.59 million head, down 3 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,401 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 3.9 million pounds, 14 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 22,500 head, down 32 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 56 pounds from last year, at 293 pounds.

**Pork production** n totaled 2.34 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.8 million head, up 5 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 10.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2022. Sheep slaughter totaled 182,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 115 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2023 commercial red meat production** was 54.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Accumulated beef production was down 5 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

For a full copy of the *Livestock Slaughter* report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For state specific questions, please contact the following State Statisticians at 1-800-392-3202:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt  
Colorado – Rodger Ott  
Montana – Eric Sommer  
New Mexico – Margie Whitcotton  
Utah – John Hilton  
Wyoming – Leslee Lohrenz

###