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SUMMARY

Total meat production in 1947 is now expected to be around 23 billion pounds (wholesale meat basis), about the same as in 1946, and about the fourth largest on record.

More beef and veal will be produced this year than last, possibly the greatest quantity on record. Federally inspected slaughter of cattle in the first 4 months of 1947 was a record for the period, and 37 percent greater than a year earlier. But noninspected slaughter showed a marked decrease from the record volume of the first 4 months of 1946.

Decreases from last year in pork and lamb production will about offset the increase in output of beef and veal. Most, if not all, of the reduction in pork production will occur in the first 8 months of the year, reflecting 7 percent fewer hogs on farms January 1. Federally inspected sheep and lamb slaughter in the first 4 months this year was 27 percent less than a year earlier. With the number of stock sheep the smallest on record and this year's lamb crop 1.5 to 3 million smaller than last year, slaughter during the rest of 1947 will continue below a year earlier.

Although per capita meat supplies were among the largest in many years, meat and meat-animal prices in the first 5 months of 1947 averaged the highest on record for those months. This reflected the unusually strong consumer demand and exports larger than prewar. Meat-animal prices in 1947 are likely to average the highest on record, despite the probability of some declines in the second half year.

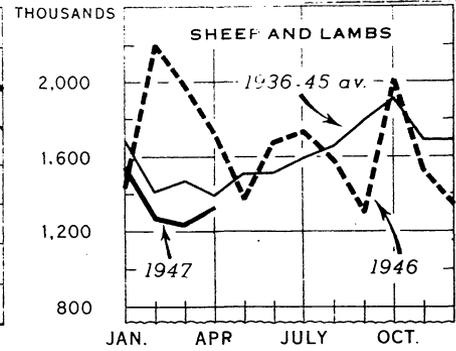
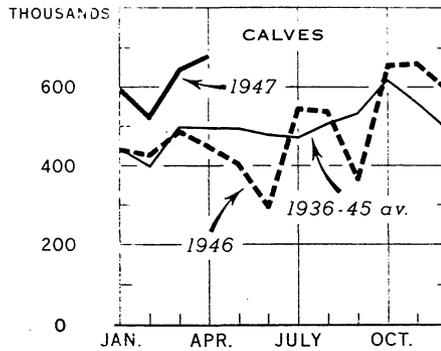
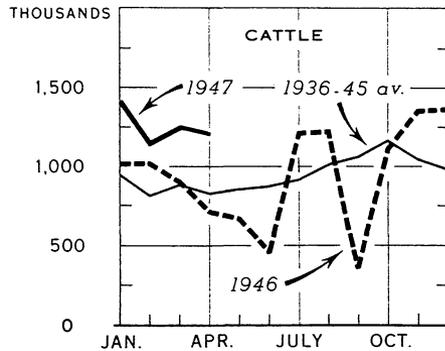
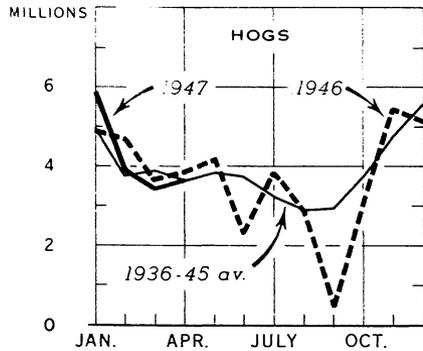
Noninspected meat production was unusually large in 1945 and 1946. But in 1947 it will constitute a more nearly normal proportion of the total meat produced because of a shift to federally inspected slaughter.

An analysis of meat production by class of slaughter indicates that in 1944 more than two-thirds of all meat was produced in about 480 federally inspected plants, one-fifth by about 26,000 noninspected commercial slaughterers, and almost one-tenth on farms.

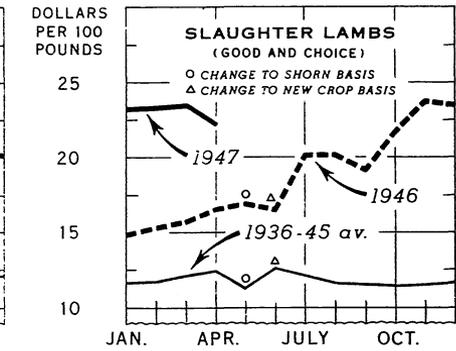
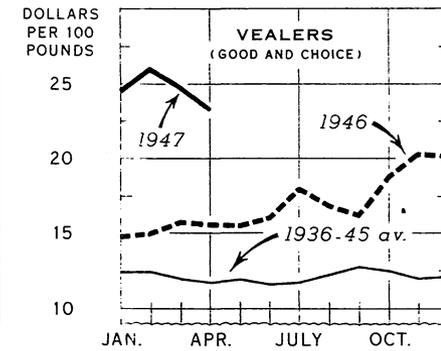
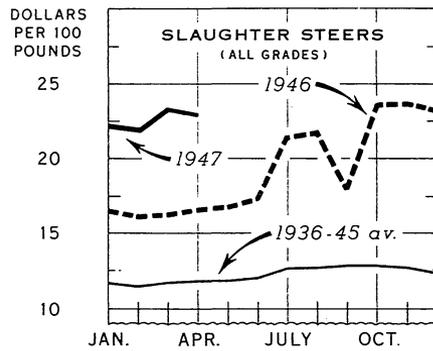
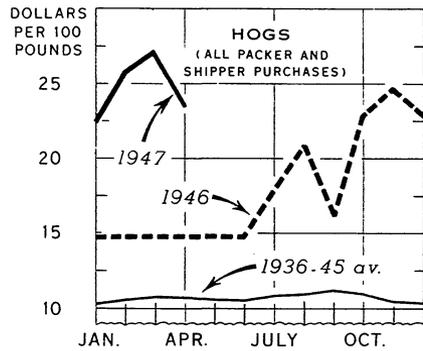
Of the estimated 5 billion pounds of meat produced by nonfederally inspected commercial slaughterers in 1944 - one-fifth of total meat output that year -- 32 percent was produced by 360 large plants, each producing over 2 million pounds of meat annually. The rest was produced by 3,174 medium-sized slaughterers and more than 22,000 butchers.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

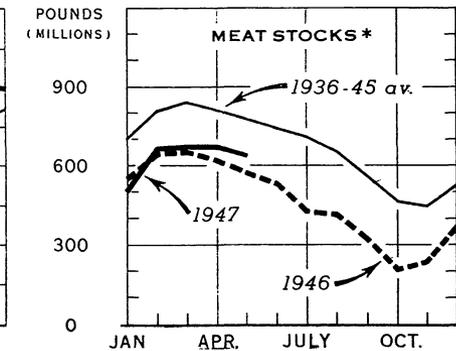
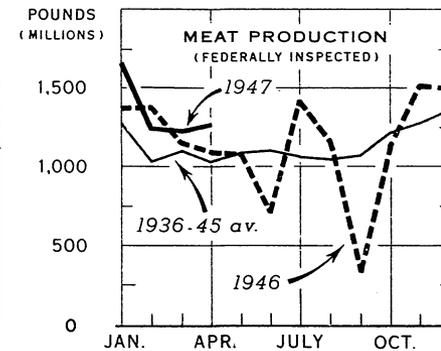
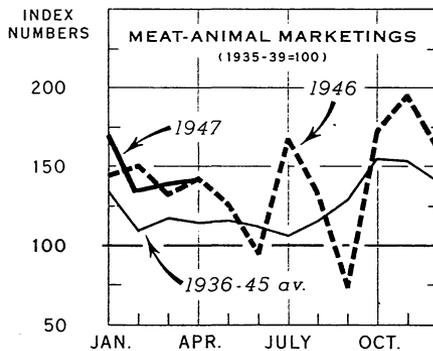
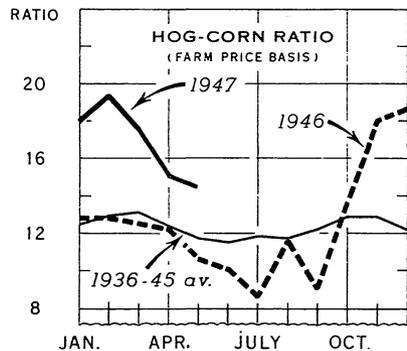
FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES



MARKET PRICES, CHICAGO



HOG-CORN RATIO, MEAT ANIMAL MARKETINGS, MEAT PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS, UNITED STATES



*BEEF, LAMB AND MUTTON, PORK, AND MISCELLANEOUS MEATS IN MEAT PACKING PLANTS AND COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE HOUSES, BEGINNING OF MONTH

OUTLOOK

Meat Production This Year May Total 23 Billion
Pounds; Supplies per Person Large

Total U. S. meat production in 1947 will be about the fourth largest on record, and probably about equal to the 23 billion pounds, dressed meat basis, produced in 1946. Following the record pig crops of 1943 and 1944, meat production reached a peak of 25.2 billion pounds in 1944. Production dropped to 23.7 billion pounds in 1945 and declined further in 1946.

Meat supplies this year may average 150 to 155 pounds per person (civilians). This would be the largest in over 35 years, slightly greater than in 1946, and 16 to 21 pounds greater than average consumption in 1937-41. Exports and shipments of meat in the first half of 1947 may be only 300 to 400 million pounds, dressed meat basis, compared with around 900 million in the first half of 1946. Exports and shipments in the second half may be as large as or larger than the 240 million pounds shipped in the second half of 1946. Military meat purchases in the first quarter of 1947 apparently were around 30 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1946.

Table 1. - Total and per capita civilian consumption of meat, dressed meat basis, United States, 1937-41 average, 1942-47.

Year	Total					Per capita				
	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork excluding lard	All meats	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork excluding lard	All meats
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1937-41 1/2	7,313	1,017	880	8,365	17,575	55.6	7.7	3.7	63.5	133.5
1942 1/2	8,107	1,065	946	8,292	18,410	61.3	8.0	7.1	62.7	139.1
1943 1/2	6,432	1,045	823	9,647	17,947	49.6	8.1	6.3	74.4	138.4
1944 1/2	6,927	1,598	859	10,362	19,746	53.6	12.3	6.7	80.1	152.7
1945 1/2	7,637	1,528	939	8,546	18,650	58.9	11.8	7.2	65.9	143.8
1946 2/2	8,408	1,376	928	10,522	21,234	60.5	9.9	6.7	75.7	152.8
1947 3/2	9,780	1,580	780	9,660	21,800	69	11	5	68	153

1/ Revised 1940-45

2/ Preliminary

3/ Forecast

Total meat production in the first quarter of 1947 apparently was moderately less than in the first quarter of 1946. Output this spring and summer is likely to be greater than a year earlier, although production in either the second quarter or third quarter will be less than in the first quarter. Not much change is expected in monthly meat production from April through September this year. This is in sharp contrast to 1946, when monthly meat production fluctuated widely. Production was very small in June, September and early October last year when ceiling prices were in effect, but very large in July and August and after mid-October when controls were removed. Meat production in the last quarter of 1947 may about equal that of a year earlier when marketings of cattle, calves, and hogs were unusually large.

Beef and veal production will be particularly large through the summer, reflecting increased numbers of cattle on grain feed and the large number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches. In contrast, pork supplies probably will be around 5 percent smaller than last summer because of the reduced 1946 fall pig crop. Lamb and mutton production in 1947 may be 20 percent below 1946.

In late 1947 when spring pigs reach market weights, pork supplies will become more plentiful and will make up a more nearly normal proportion of the total meat supply. Pork production in October 1947-September 1948 also probably will be greater than in the previous year.

Although pork production may be greater in 1948 than in 1947, the increase may be more than offset by a decrease in beef and veal production. Production of lamb and mutton is likely to continue small because stock sheep numbers are now the smallest of record. Total meat production in 1948 will be far in excess of prewar but probably less than in 1946 or 1947.

Meat Production Estimates Revised

Estimates of meat production during 1940-46 have been revised on the basis of reports from slaughterers and other records of movement and disappearance of livestock.

The major revisions are in the estimates of hog slaughter and in pork production. Because of the diversion of hogs from usual market channels during each of the past 4 years, there has been considerable difficulty in accounting for the total disappearance of hogs. The original estimated slaughter, death, losses, and other known disappearance of hogs when totaled was somewhat less than the supply, based on the estimated number of hogs on farms at the beginning and end of each year and number of pigs saved during the year. Although more complete records of slaughter were obtained in connection with the slaughter control programs it appeared that either a large diversion of hogs from usual marketing channels was taking place or that the estimates of the pig crop were too high. The original hog slaughter estimates anticipated some downward revision in the pig crop estimates when the results of the 1945 Census became available. The 1945 Census of Agriculture and other information indicated that only slight revisions were required in the 1940-46 pig crop estimates and in the number of hogs on farms at the beginning of each year. Therefore an upward revision in hog slaughter estimates was necessary to bring disappearance more in line with the indicated supply. The upward revisions were made in slaughter other than federally inspected since records for that category are practically complete.

Farm slaughter estimates are based largely on annual surveys of livestock producers and on Census reports of slaughter for the different species. The most significant revisions in farm slaughter were for cattle and calves. The Census permitted a more adequate appraisal of the increase in the number of farms slaughtering these species.

Table 2.- Estimated livestock slaughter and meat and lard production, United States, average 1937-41, annual 1942-46 and indicated 1947.

Item	Average 1937-41			1942			1943			1944			1945			1946 1/			Indicated 1947		
	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-	Total	live-	pro-
	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction	Head	weight	duction
	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Livestock slaughter and meat production																					
Cattle:																					
Federally inspected	9,993	9,331	5,002	12,340	11,773	6,347	11,721	11,198	5,970	13,955	12,905	6,695	14,531	13,775	7,240	11,402	10,759	5,666			
Other wholesale and retail	4,651	3,823	1,972	5,047	4,314	2,249	5,416	4,535	2,340	5,035	4,172	2,149	6,244	5,225	2,700	7,479	6,413	3,349			
Farm	571	439	224	646	493	251	708	520	265	854	609	311	916	664	339	943	711	363			
Total	15,215	13,593	7,198	18,033	16,580	8,847	17,845	16,253	8,575	19,844	17,687	9,115	21,691	19,664	10,279	19,824	17,883	9,378	22,100	20,000	10,500
Calves:																					
Federally inspected	5,571	1,065	596	5,760	1,197	667	5,269	1,080	597	7,769	1,693	926	7,020	1,501	823	5,841	1,165	642			
Other wholesale and retail	3,122	596	342	3,317	697	399	4,111	846	481	5,749	1,272	703	5,884	1,316	729	5,569	1,228	627			
Farm	735	146	84	641	148	85	620	154	89	724	190	109	741	190	109	758	194	111			
Total	9,428	1,807	1,022	9,718	2,042	1,151	9,940	2,080	1,167	14,242	3,155	1,738	13,645	3,007	1,661	12,168	2,587	1,440	13,700	2,900	1,600
Sheep and Lambs:																					
Federally inspected	17,608	1,515	710	21,624	1,926	880	23,363	2,118	958	21,875	1,956	887	21,218	2,003	913	19,864	1,864	850			
Other wholesale and retail	3,674	314	149	3,383	299	139	3,134	268	122	2,918	248	114	2,850	257	117	2,350	209	96			
Farm	592	53	25	578	52	24	576	51	24	562	50	23	571	50	24	580	51	24			
Total	21,874	1,882	884	25,585	2,277	1,043	27,073	2,437	1,104	25,355	2,254	1,024	24,639	2,310	1,054	22,814	2,124	970	19,800	1,800	800
Hogs:																					
Federally inspected	41,223	9,648	5,530	53,897	13,229	7,562	63,431	16,141	9,308	69,017	16,859	9,456	40,960	10,837	6,387	44,394	11,307	6,642			
Other wholesale and retail	10,903	2,282	1,330	12,117	2,770	1,672	17,779	3,996	2,454	15,500	3,286	2,046	17,300	3,945	2,456	18,000	4,158	2,592			
Farm	13,516	3,108	1,713	12,533	2,912	1,642	14,016	3,275	1,878	13,551	3,137	1,802	13,631	3,231	1,854	13,850	3,392	1,939			
Total	65,642	15,038	8,573	78,547	18,911	10,876	95,226	23,412	13,640	98,068	23,282	13,304	71,891	18,013	10,697	76,244	18,857	11,173	73,000	17,700	10,100
All meat animals:																					
Federally inspected	---	21,559	11,838	---	28,125	15,456	---	30,537	16,833	---	33,413	17,924	---	28,116	15,363	---	25,095	13,800	---		
Other wholesale and retail	---	7,015	3,793	---	8,080	4,459	---	9,645	5,397	---	8,978	5,012	---	10,743	6,002	---	12,008	6,724	---		
Farm	---	3,746	2,046	---	3,605	2,002	---	4,000	2,256	---	3,987	2,245	---	4,135	2,326	---	4,348	2,437	---		
Total	---	32,320	17,677	---	39,810	21,917	---	44,182	24,486	---	46,378	25,181	---	42,994	23,691	---	41,451	22,961	---		
Production lard and rendered pork fat																					
Federally inspected			1,224			1,724			2,080			2,367			1,311			1,344			
Other wholesale and retail			252			269			359			279			335			353			
Farm			466			408			426			408			420			451			
Total			1,942			2,401			2,865			3,054			2,066			2,138			2,350

1/ Preliminary.

More Cattle Expected to be Slaughtered
in 1947 Than in Any Other Year

Beef production in 1947 is expected to exceed the 1945 record of 10.3 billion pounds, dressed weight. Production in 1946 was approximately 900 million pounds less than in 1945, principally because price uncertainties caused producers to hold cattle from market in June, September, and early October. Federally inspected cattle slaughter in 1946 was down over 3 million head from 1945, but non-inspected commercial slaughter was estimated to be 1.2 million head greater, and the largest of record. Farm slaughter was the largest since 1922.

Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection in the first 4 months of 1947 totaled 5 million head, 37 percent greater than a year earlier, and the largest of record for that period. The gain over last year was partly offset by sharply reduced slaughter in noninspected plants. Calf slaughter under Federal inspection during January-April 1947 set a record for that period and was 36 percent greater than in 1946 and 19 percent greater than in 1945. Noninspected calf slaughter, however, has been somewhat smaller this year than last. If the increase in total slaughter of cattle and calves over 1946 continues, the rest of the year, it would be by far the largest on record and would cause a substantial reduction in the number of cattle. The proportion of cows and heifers slaughtered so far this year has not been large, indicating no marked tendency to reduce breeding stock. However, marketings of cows and heifers usually are largest in the late summer and fall at the end of the grazing season.

Considerably more cattle will be on grain feed this summer than the small number last year. On April 1, 13 percent more cattle were on feed in the Corn Belt than on April 1, 1946. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle to feeding areas in January-April continued much greater than a year earlier, and were large for the season. Shipments from four markets in May, however, were smaller than in May last year. The number of short-fed cattle marketed so far this year has been large. Marketings of long-fed cattle have been relatively small, but are now increasing seasonally in proportion to total marketings.

More calves are expected to be slaughtered this year than last but not as many as in 1944. While the number of beef cows on farms January 1, 1947 was only 1 percent less than the record, there were 6 percent fewer milk cows on farms than the record of January 1, 1945.

Pork Production Reduced More Than
Hog Slaughter This Year

Hog slaughter in 1947 may total 72 to 74 million head, 2 to 4 million less than in 1946, much less than in 1943 or 1944, but close to the average for the years just before the 1934 drought.

Lower yields of pork per hog this year than last indicate that the reduction in pork output will be even greater than for hog slaughter. Total pork production in 1946 was estimated at 11.2 billion pounds, compared with the record of 13.6 billion in 1943, and 13.3 billion in 1944. The average weight of hogs slaughtered since February has been greater than a year earlier, and among the heaviest on record for those months. Lard yields per hog and per 100 pounds live weight have been considerably greater than in 1946.

Total hog slaughter in January-April apparently was moderately less than a year earlier. Federally inspected slaughter was 2 percent less than in the period of 1946, and noninspected slaughter apparently was reduced even more. Federally inspected pork production was about 8 percent less. Federally inspected slaughter this summer may about equal that of a year earlier, but total slaughter likely will continue under 1946, because of the smaller 1946 fall pig crop. Slaughter in the last 4 months of 1947 may be larger than a year earlier, because of the larger spring pig crop this year.

Lamb and Mutton Production in 1947 Will Be Smallest in Several Years

Total sheep and lamb slaughter declined from 24.6 million head in 1945 to 22.8 million in 1946. Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in the first 4 months this year was 27 percent less than a year earlier. This year's lamb crop probably will be 1.5 to 3 million head below 1946. This will result in smaller slaughter through the remainder of this year and in early 1948.

The reduction in the proportion of mature sheep killed this year indicates that the decline in the number of sheep on farms and ranches which began in 1942 may be nearly ended. Any decline in sheep in 1947 is likely to be much less than the 9 percent reduction in 1946. Sheep numbers have declined about one-third since 1942--the greatest 5-year drop on record. The reduction in sheep numbers primarily was due to the fact that fewer farms and ranches were keeping sheep in 1945 than in 1940. The number of sheep declined 11 percent from 1940 to 1945. But, according to the Bureau of the Census figures, the number of farms reporting sheep declined 22 percent in that period. 1/

Livestock Price Prospects Unchanged

Meat-animal prices in 1947 are likely to average record high even though the domestic meat supply per person promises to be one of the largest in many years. Livestock and meat prices in January-March generally were the highest recorded but consumption of meat per person probably was the greatest for the period in at least 35 years.

Prices of meat animals declined in April and May from the record peaks of late February and March when they averaged about 60 percent higher than a year earlier. Most of the decline was in hog prices although prices of better grade slaughter cattle and calves declined moderately. Prices of stocker and feeder cattle in mid-May were the highest of record. Prices of lambs reached a low for the year in April, but increased moderately in early May.

With seasonally smaller marketings of hogs in prospect, prices of hogs are likely to continue relatively high through summer but will decline at least seasonally this fall. Hog prices probably will not drop to support levels this year unless there is a substantial reduction in consumer purchasing power. Recently-announced support prices for April-September will average \$15.60 per hundred pounds, Chicago basis--much below current market levels.

1/The 1945 Census reported 456,986 farmers having sheep compared with 584,935 in 1940.

Table 3.-Weekly average support prices of hogs at Chicago, April-September 1947
(Good and choice barrows and gilts, all weights)

Beginning	Price	Beginning	Price
	<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
April 1	15.75	July 6	16.25
April 6	15.50	July 12	16.50
April 27	15.25	July 20	16.75
June 15	15.50	August 10	17.00
June 22	15.75	August 31	17.25
June 29	16.00	September 29	17.00

Advancing feed-grain prices in March lowered hog-feed price ratios from the very favorable level of February. Corn prices rose sharply in March to about the highest of record for that season. Prices declined materially in April but in May were about equal to the March peak. The hog-corn price ratio at Chicago in mid-May was 12.9 compared with 13.6 in mid-April and 16.0 on March 15. A ratio averaging around 13 during the spring normally would be followed by a moderate increase in sows farrowing in the fall season (June 1-December 1).

Cattle prices in mid-May were close to the peaks reached shortly after price decontrol last October. Seasonal declines are in prospect for stocker and feeder cattle and low grade slaughter cattle through the summer and into the fall as marketings increase. Prices of good and medium slaughter cattle may also decline seasonally with increased marketings this summer. Should consumer income decline in the second half year, the usual seasonal advance in prices of better grade fed cattle in late summer is not likely to occur and the summer and early fall drop in prices of grass-fat cattle would be severe.

Lamb prices are likely to decline seasonally through the summer and early fall as marketings increase. The decline may be not so great as in cattle prices, because of the small lamb crop this year. Apparently the demand for breeding ewes has increased. Ewe prices have advanced more than seasonally since last December. Slaughter of ewes has declined substantially since last fall.

Production of Meat Animals Smallest in Six Years

Farm production of meat animals this year probably will be the smallest since 1941. Production of all species will be down moderately from 1946.

Following the 1936 drought, production of meat animals increased sharply, and by 1939 was moderately greater than in 1933. Farm output in 1939 was estimated at 34.2 billion pounds, live weight. In the early years of the war, production increased markedly, reaching a record of over 46 billion in 1943. Since then production has declined each year.

Net live weight production of hogs dropped from the 1943 high of 26 billion pounds to 21 billion in 1944, because of the sharp reduction in the number of pigs saved. Production was somewhat smaller in the following 2 years. Farm production of cattle and calves reached a peak in 1945 of 19.3 billion pounds, and has declined moderately since. Production of sheep and lambs was at a peak in the early war years, but declined steadily afterwards as numbers declined. The total in 1946 was estimated at only 1.8 billion pounds, liveweight, compared with 2.3 billion in 1942. Production in 1946 was the smallest since 1928.

Table 4.- Meat-animal production on farms and ranches, liveweight United States, averages 1924-28, 1929-33, and 1934-38, annual 1945-47

Period and Year	Cattle and Calves	Hogs	Sheep and Lambs	Total live- weight
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Average				
1924-28	12,672	15,399	1,603	29,674
1929-33	13,796	16,047	1,906	31,749
1934-38	14,077	12,583	1,917	28,577
Annual				
1945	19,345	19,096	1,912	40,353
1946 1/	18,701	19,093	1,775	39,569
1947 2/				38,500

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Forecast.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERERS AND MEAT PRODUCTION BY CLASSES OF SLAUGHTER

By Grover J. Sims

The licensing of slaughterers under food orders during the war made it possible to obtain more complete information on the number of slaughterers and meat production. The primary purpose of licensing and slaughter controls through most of 1943 and 1945 and in parts of 1944 and 1946 was to prevent diversion of slaughter from federally inspected to noninspected plants. Such diversion made it difficult for the Government to purchase desired quantities of meat for the military forces and for foreign shipment. Diversion to noninspected slaughter also created meat shortages for civilians in parts of the United States which depended largely upon federally inspected meats. As indicated in table 3 diversion was greatest in 1945 and 1946.

After 1941, there was a marked increase in the number of federally inspected slaughter plants and an even greater increase in the number of non-slaughtering establishments under Federal inspection (including branch houses, serum plants, sausage and canning factories, etc.) The greatly increased canned meat requirements during the war, particularly stimulated the increase in non-slaughter plants.

The Fulmer Act approved June 10, 1942, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to provide Federal meat inspection during the war emergency to meat-packing plants engaged only in intrastate commerce. This was done primarily to facilitate the procurement of meat and meat food products by Federal agencies. Of the 481 federally inspected slaughterers operating in mid-1944, 152 were "Fulmer" plants.

Table 5.-Number of establishments operating under Federal inspection, June 30, 1941-46 and average number of livestock slaughtered and meat produced per establishment during calendar years

Item	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Number of establishments:						
Non-slaughtering	341	356	414	427	503	474
Slaughtering <u>1/</u>	308	303	<u>2/428</u>	<u>2/481</u>	<u>2/547</u>	<u>3/554</u>
Cattle	255	256	384	428	<u>3/447</u>	<u>3/450</u>
Calves	253	249	364	365	330	516
Sheep and lambs <u>4/</u>	215	211	301	293	223	230
Hogs	226	218	308	322	301	304
Horses	4	4	6	6	6	9
	:Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
	:head	head	head	head	head	head
Average slaughter per plant						
Slaughtering <u>5/</u>						
Cattle	43	48	31	33	33	25
Calves	22	23	14	21	21	18
Sheep and lambs	84	102	78	73	95	83
Hogs	206	247	206	214	136	146
Horses	6	7	9	9	13	21
	: Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	: lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Average meat production per plant						
slaughtering: <u>6/</u>						
Cattle (beef)	22.5	24.8	15.5	15.5	16.2	12.6
Calves (veal)	2.4	2.7	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.0
Sheep and lambs (lamb and mutton)	3.5	4.2	3.2	3.0	4.1	3.6
Hogs (pork, excluding lard)	28.1	34.7	30.2	29.4	21.2	21.8
All meat animals <u>7/</u>	43.6	51.0	39.3	37.3	28.1	24.9

1/ Total slaughtering plants; most plants slaughter more than one species.
2/ Includes 133 Fulmer, slaughtering plants in 1943; 152 in 1944; and 179 in 1945.
3/ Includes 72 slaughters with limited inspection on cattle in 1945; 86 in 1946.
4/ Including goats.
5/ Average slaughter of cattle in cattle-slaughtering plants, etc.
6/ Average beef production in cattle-slaughtering plants, etc.
7/ Average production of all slaughtering plants, excluding goat and horse meat, and lard.

Part of the increase in slaughter plants under Federal inspection was in plants slaughtering over 51 cattle a week for Army purchase. The War Food Administration in 1944 required such plants to have limited Federal inspection of their beef slaughtering operations. In 1945, additional slaughter plants were granted release from slaughter quotas and were given a status about equal to federally inspected plants, under War Food Order 139. However, slaughter in plants under WFO-139 was not included in the federally inspected totals.

Table 6 . - Number of farms slaughtering livestock, total farm slaughter and average number per farm reporting slaughter, selected years, 1909-44

Item	United States Census			BAE
	Number farms reporting slaughter	Percentage of all farms	Average per farm slaughtering	Estimated farm slaughter
	Number	Percent	Number	Thousand head
Cattle:				
1909	593,285	9.3	2.4	1,409
1929	180,456	2.9	1.9	460
1939	373,981	6.1	1.6	571
1944	686,068	11.7	1.3	570
Calves:				
1909	268,508	4.2	4.2	1,132
1929	183,266	2.9	2.5	627
1939	308,706	5.1	2.0	755
1944	412,361	7.0	1.5	602
Sheep and lambs:				
1909	69,299	1.1	7.6	547
1919	93,583	1.5	4.6	480
1929	44,158	0.7	7.4	463
1939	71,012	1.2	6.4	597
1944	---	---	---	550
Hogs:				
1909	3,643,546	57.3	4.2	15,375
1919	4,565,130	70.8	3.7	16,804
1929	3,228,454	51.3	3.3	13,253
1939	4,070,705	66.8	3.2	13,980
1944	3,823,227	65.3	2.8	13,826

Such plants were required to meet certain sanitary standards, and to have meat produced under the supervision of a qualified inspector. They also were required to observe rationing and price regulations, and to set aside meat for Government purchase.

Average production of meat per federally inspected plant declined each year from 1941 through 1946. Part of this decline reflected the inclusion of additional plants under Federal inspection. These new plants usually were smaller than those operating under Federal inspection before the war. The reduction in average slaughter per federally inspected plant from 1941 to 1946 was 44 percent for cattle, 17 percent for calves, and 22 percent for hogs. Sheep and lamb slaughter per plant was about the same in 1946 as in 1941.

Farm slaughter has accounted for as much as 11 percent of total meat production in recent years. The Census reported 4.2 million farmers slaughtering one or more species of livestock in 1939. Indications are that the number slaughtering in 1944 was as large or perhaps somewhat larger than in 1939, even though the total number of farms decreased during that period. The greatest farm slaughter occurs in hogs. In some census years, 70 percent of all farms reported hogs slaughtered. In 1944, it was estimated that hogs was slaughtered on about 65 percent of all farms. The average number of hogs slaughtered per farm in 1944 was calculated at 2.8 head compared with 3.2 in 1939. Farm slaughter data from the census are summarized in table 6. The data are not entirely comparable for each census because of changes in the wording of inquiries, in the farm and presentation of the various schedules and in the time of year when the enumerating was done. During the war and through 1946, there was a marked increase in total meat production from farm slaughter. The increase was most pronounced for beef and veal because of an increase in the number of farmers butchering. The average number of cattle and calves slaughtered per farm apparently continued to decrease.

Under WFO 75, all nonfederally inspected commercial slaughterers were required to obtain licenses. The number of slaughterers licensed in 1944 ranged from 25,783 in May to 26,460 in October. Licenses were issued to persons who owned livestock at the time of slaughter. Thus, those who had livestock slaughtered for them on a custom basis were issued licenses as well as those operating plants that slaughtered their own livestock. Therefore, not all licenses issued represented a slaughter plant. The number of custom slaughterers or number of individuals who had livestock slaughtered by others in 1944 is not known.

Quotas were suspended in late 1944 although slaughterers were required to report their production. Quotas were reimposed by OPA in early 1945 (under Control Order 1) but again suspended in September that year. OPA reestablished quotas on noninspected commercial slaughter in April 1946 (under Control Order 2).

Table 7 gives the number of slaughterers and the percentage distribution of meat production by class of slaughter for 1944. The data indicate that 71 percent of all meat produced in 1944 was produced in about 480 federally inspected plants, 20 percent by approximately 26,000 noninspected slaughterers and 9 percent on 4 to 5 million farms. In 1944, around 360 nonfederally inspected plants each producing more than 2 million pounds of meat a year, accounted for 32 percent of the total noninspected commercial production and 6.3 percent of the total meat production. In that year, 3,174 local slaughterers, whose annual output ranged from about 150,000 to 2 million pounds of meat, and more than 22,000 small butchers produced 68 percent of the commercial noninspected meat and 14 percent of total meat production.

Table 7.- Number of slaughterers and meat production by class of slaughter, United States, 1944

Class of slaughter	Number of licenses: July 1944	Meat production as percent- age of total				
		Beef	Veal	Lamb & mutton	Pork	Total
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Federally inspected- (Average meat production per plant in 1944 was 37.3 million pounds) ...	1,481	73.0	53.3	86.7	71.1	71.2
Nonfederally inspected commercial- Large wholesale (Class 2A with produc- tion of more than 2 million pounds of meat a year).....	360	8.2	10.5	3.6	4.7	6.3
Local slaughterers (Class 2B, with pro- duction more than 300,000 pounds, live- weight but less than 2 million pounds : of meat a year)	3,174	9.9	18.7			
Butchers (with production of less than : 300,000 pounds liveweight per year) ...	22,439	5.5	11.2	37.5	10.7	13.6
With slaughter in excess of 50 cattle : and 300 head of all livestock per : year.....	11,863					
With slaughter less than 50 head of : cattle and 300 head of all livestock : per year	10,576					
Total noninspected <u>2/</u>	25,973	23.6	40.4	11.1	15.4	19.9
Total commercial	26,454	96.6	93.7	97.8	86.5	91.1
Farm		3.4	6.3	2.2	13.5	8.9
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ June 30, excludes 427 nonslaughtering plants.
 2/ Number of licenses issued under WFO 75; each slaughterer does not represent one slaughter plant as livestock slaughter permits were issued to owners of livestock slaughtered. Hence persons who had livestock slaughtered for them on a custom basis were issued permits.
 3/ Includes some slaughter by or for consumers by non-licensed slaughterers.
 Source: Nonfederally inspected slaughter reported under War Food Order No. 75, 1944, Production and Marketing Administration, April 1947, and records used in preparation of that report, Livestock, Meats, and Wool Market Statistics and Related Data, 1945, Production and Marketing Administration, September 1946.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), marketings and slaughter statistics, by species, April, 1947 with comparisons

Item	PRICES							
	Annual		1946			1947		
	Av. 1937-41:	1945	1946	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Cattle and calves								
Beef steers sold out of first hands, Chicago:								
Choice and prime	12.01	17.30	20.24	17.35	17.24	26.92	25.88	
Good	10.52	16.00	19.32	16.37	16.46	24.05	23.45	
Medium	8.94	14.12	17.36	15.17	15.44	21.82	21.04	
Common	7.59	11.73	13.75	12.84	13.21	17.74	17.33	
All grades	10.47	16.18	19.16	16.26	16.56	23.30	22.93	
Good grade cows, Chicago	7.38	14.01	15.04	14.37	14.44	17.21	17.42	
Vealers: Gd. and Ch., Chicago	10.34	15.12	16.87	15.66	15.50	24.76	23.14	
Stocker and feeder steers:								
Kansas City	8.36	13.07	15.87	15.22	15.86	20.13	19.91	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Beef cattle	7.41	12.10	14.50	13.10	13.60	18.50	18.30	
Veal calves	8.72	13.10	15.30	13.90	14.30	20.20	19.60	
Hogs								
Av. market price, Chicago:								
Barrows and gilts	-	14.75	18.42	14.85	14.85	27.36	23.80	
Sows	-	13.99	18.31	14.10	14.10	24.45	19.63	
All purchases	7.97	14.66	18.40	14.80	14.81	27.10	23.49	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Hogs	7.59	14.00	17.50	14.20	14.20	26.40	24.30	
Corn, cents per bushel	62.9	109.7	141.4	114.0	116.0	150.0	163.0	
Hog-corn price ratio, U. S. 1/	12.8	12.8	12.5	12.5	12.2	17.6	14.9	
Sheep and Lambs								
Lambs, gd. and ch., Chicago	9.82	15.48	18.65	15.69	16.53	23.46	22.28	
Feeding lambs, gd. and ch., Omaha	8.70	2/14.17	2/16.46	15.38	15.30	21.22	19.56	
Ewes, gd. and ch., Chicago	4.43	7.69	8.25	8.01	8.60	10.02	10.43	
Av. price received by farmers:								
Sheep	4.20	6.40	7.49	6.87	7.01	8.28	8.55	
Lambs	8.28	13.10	15.60	13.70	14.00	20.00	19.60	
Meat								
Wholesale, Chicago:								
Steer beef, carcass (good, 500-600 lbs.):	16.09	19.88	27.81	20.10	20.18	37.11	35.80	
Composite hog products	11.07	14.80	20.37	15.06	15.13	31.24	28.53	
Lamb carcasses (good, 30-40 lbs.)	17.11	23.68	31.08	24.06	24.18	41.45	39.70	
B.L.S. index retail meat prices 3/	100.9	131.1	161.3	131.3	132.8	207.6	202.2	
Index income of industrial workers								
1935-39=100	120.4	285.7	264.2	242.4	251.5	311.7	-	

Livestock Marketing and Slaughter Statistics

Item	Unit	1945	1946	1947	1947	1947	1947
Meat-animal marketings:							
Index numbers (1935-39=100)	--	109	149	141	132	142	139
Stocker and Feeder shipments to:							
8 Corn Belt States							
Cattle and calves	Thous.	-	2,555	2,935	91	109	161
Sheep and lambs	Thous.	-	3,454	3,212	90	67	133
Slaughter under Federal Inspection:							
Numbers:							
Cattle	Thous.	9,999	14,538	11,413	904	715	1,228
Calves	Thous.	5,571	7,020	5,830	484	445	644
Sheep and lambs	Thous.	17,609	21,220	19,897	1,978	1,736	1,237
Hogs	Thous.	41,225	40,960	44,394	3,636	3,858	3,406
Average live-weight:							
Cattle	lb.	933	948	943	992	994	948
Calves	lb.	191	214	199	140	145	165
Sheep and lambs	lb.	86	94	94	100	95	101
Hogs	lb.	234	265	255	249	248	253
Meat Production:							
Beef	Mil.lb.	5,002	7,240	5,666	488	394	622
Veal	Mil.lb.	597	823	641	38	37	59
Lamb and mutton	Mil.lb.	710	913	850	90	76	58
Pork (excluding lard)	Mil.lb.	5,530	6,387	6,642	534	573	485
Storage stocks end of month:							
Beef	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	157	137	191
Pork	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	397	379	398
Lamb and mutton	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	16	12	14
Total meat and meat products	Mil.lb.	-	-	-	669	620	748
Percent packing sows are of Fed-erally inspected hog slaughter							
Percent:		-	11	12	8	7	7

1/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds of live hogs. 2/ Average of prices for Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. 3/ Meats, poultry and fish: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1935-39=100.

