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INDUSTRY NEWS - AM

Red meat production up from last year



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By [Rita Jane Gabbett](#) on 5/24/2013

With one more slaughter day in the month this year, commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in April, up 6 percent from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in April 2012.

Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, up 6 percent from April 2012. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,295 pounds.

Veal production totaled 9.1 million pounds, 8 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,600 head, up 4 percent from April 2012. The average live weight was down 29 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.94 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.36 million head, up 6 percent from April 2012. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.4 million pounds, was up 4 percent from April 2012. Sheep slaughter totaled 191,700 head, 6 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 2 pounds from April a year ago.




January to April 2013 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, up slightly from 2012.

Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

April 2012 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

April 2013 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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