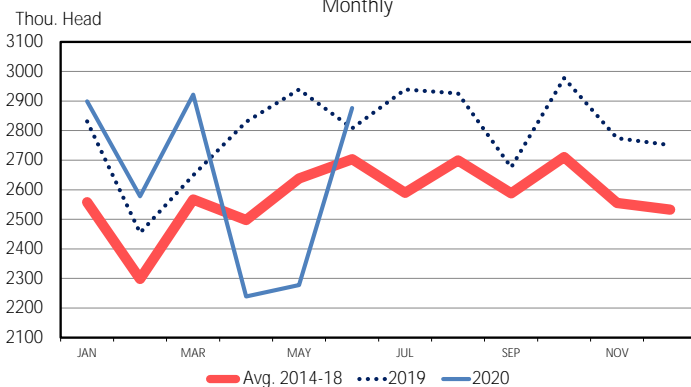


Yesterday, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released monthly [Livestock Slaughter](#) data. Commercial red meat production was 4.8 billion pounds in June, 9.6% higher than a year ago (4.4 billion pounds). Both cattle and hog slaughter rebounded from lows in April and May amidst the COVID-19 events. Commercial cattle slaughter was 2.9 million head in June, a 2.4% increase from the same month last year and 26.3% above last months slaughter. Commercial hog slaughter jumped 11.9% higher than last year to nearly 11.2 million head, the highest slaughter amount on record for the month of June.

### COMMERCIAL CATTLE SLAUGHTER Monthly



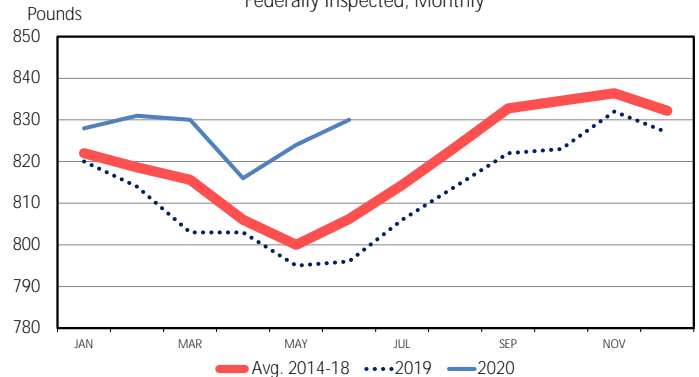
Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-09  
07/23/20

Cattle slaughter for the month of June rebounded sharply higher which led to 2.374 million pounds of beef production, a 6.6% increase from the prior year and the highest for the month of June since 2011 (2.375 million pounds). Much of the gain in beef production for the month is attributable to abnormally high cattle weights. In June, average federally inspected cattle weights were 830 pounds, 34 pounds (4.3%) above the same month last year. Through the first half of this year commercial cattle slaughter and beef production are 4.4% and 1.9% below the same period last year. The backlog of cattle in the supply chain due to COVID-19 related shutdowns of slaughter facilities is leading to lower year-to-date slaughter and beef production for the first of 2020. But the backlog of cattle has also led to heavier weight cattle partially curbing further declines in beef production.

With record hog slaughter for the month of June came record pork production as well. Commercial pork production was 2.4

### AVERAGE DRESSED WEIGHT -- CATTLE Federally Inspected, Monthly

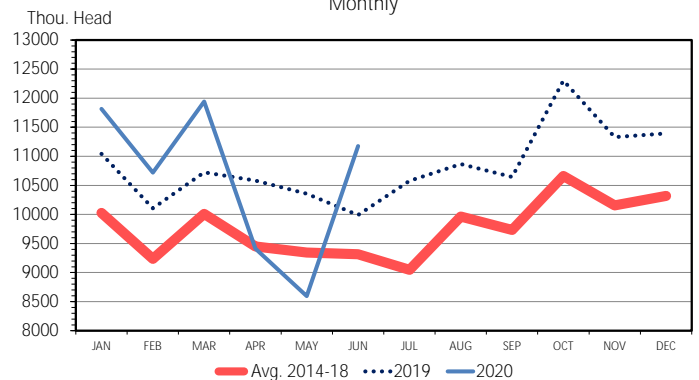


Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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07/23/20

million pounds, rising 12.8% above year ago levels and jumping 27.7% from last month. Federally inspected hog dressed weights moderated to 215 pounds, down slightly from last month (219 pounds), but were still 0.9% above the same month last year (213 pounds). Sow slaughter continues on a strong pace with June at 294.5 thousand head, 21.7% above a year ago. Year-to-date sow slaughter through the first half of this year was nearly 1.7 million head, 12.0% higher than the same period in 2019 (1.5 million head). The elevated levels of sow slaughter are likely an indication of breeding herd liquidation in the hog sector as a result of lower profitability in the wake of the pandemic.

### COMMERCIAL HOG SLAUGHTER Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

H-S-04  
07/23/20

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