CME Group
A CME/Chicago Board of Trade Company

Daily Livestock Report

Volume 7, Number 74 April 13, 2009

E-Livestock Volume	4/13/09	4/10/09	4/6/09
LE (E-Live Cattle):	8,843	Holiday	13,854
GF (E-Feeder Cattle):	1,290	Holiday	1,704
HE (E-Lean Hogs):	6,320	Holiday	9,915

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PRODUCTION AND PRICE SUMMARY

Week Ending 4/11/2009

	Item	Units	Current Week	Last Week	Pct. Change	Last Year	Pct. Change	YTD	Pct. Change
C	FI Slaughter	Thou. Head	600	606	-0.99%	650	-7.75%	8,782	-5.4%
A	FI Beef Cow Slaughter	Thou. Head	57.3	57.0	0.55%	58.7	-2.33%	794	-2.6%
T	Avg. Live Weight	Lbs.	1298	1305	-0.54%	1270	2.20%	1,310	1.9%
T	Avg. Dressed Weight	Lbs.	793	789	0.51%	770		790	1.9%
L	Beef Production	Million Lbs.	473.1	478.6	-1.15%	500.3	-5.44%	6,908	-3.6%
E	Live Fed Steer	$/cwt live wt.	86.01	84.73	1.50%	87.16	-1.30%		
	Dressed Steer	$/cwt carcass	137.26	134.61	2.00%	141.07	-2.70%		
	OKC Feeder Steer	600-700 Lbs.	104.33	107.49	-2.94%	102.59	2.99%		
	Beef Cutout	600-750 Choice	137.72	135.20	1.90%	140.91	-2.30%		
	Hide/Offal	$/cwt live wt.	5.93	5.85	2.00%	10.59	-44.00%		
H	FI Slaughter	Thou. Head	2129	2164	-1.62%	2240	-4.95%	31,709	-5.2%
O	FI Sow Slaughter	Thou. Head	61.1	61.4	-0.43%	71.7	-14.75%	782	-9.4%
G	Avg. Dressed Weight	Lbs.	204	204	0.00%	203	0.49%	204	0.2%
S	Pork Production	Million Lbs.	434.9	442.1	-1.63%	453.2	-4.04%	6,475	-4.9%
	Iowa-S. Minn. Direct	Avg.	55.59	57.03	-2.50%	57.28	-3.00%		
	Natl. Base Carcass Price	Weighted Avg.	57.07	57.68	-1.10%	56.75	0.60%		
	Natl. Net Carcass Price	Weighted Avg.	59.17	59.88	-1.20%	59.03	0.20%		
	Pork Cutout	185 Lbs.	57.87	56.49	2.50%	60.95	-5.00%		
C	Young Chicken Slaughter*	Million Head	153.91	155.52	-1.03%	166.46	-7.53%	2,014	-6.0%
H	Avg. Weight	Lbs.	5.49	5.50	-0.18%	5.56	-1.26%	5.5	-0.5%
I	Chicken Production	Million Lbs.	844.99	855.36	-1.21%	925.50	-8.70%	8,233	-6.4%
C	Eggs Set	Million	203.58	200.16	1.71%	217.08	-6.22%	2,834	-7.0%
K	Chicks Placed	Million Head	168.98	167.03	1.17%	181.01	-6.65%	2,347	-6.2%
E	12-City Broiler	Composite	76.3	75.8	0.70%	77.86	-2.00%		
N	Georgia Dock Broiler	2.5-3 Lbs.	84.84	84.64	0.20%	79.92	6.20%		
T	Young Turkey Slaughter*	Million Head	4.53	4.46	1.66%	4.63	-2.09%	59.0	-3.8%
U	Avg. Weight	Lbs.	29.16	29.35	-0.65%	29.51	-1.19%	29.8	-0.5%
R	Turkey Production	Million Lbs.	132.2	130.9	1.00%	136.7	-3.26%	1,403	-3.9%
K	Eastern Region Hen	8-16 Lbs.	76.00	77.07	-1.40%	86	-11.60%		
F	Corn, Omaha	$ per Bushel	3.79	3.93	-3.60%	5.61	-32.40%		
E	DDGS, Minnesota	$ per ton	122.50	120.00	2.08%	161.00	-23.91%		
E	Wheat, Kansas City	$ per Bushel	5.41	5.78	-6.40%	9.25	-41.50%		
D	Soybeans, S. Iowa	$ per Bushel	10.03	9.94	0.90%	13.11	-23.50%		
	SB Meal, 48% Central Illinois	$ per Ton	317.20	304.90	4.00%	342.70	-7.40%		

* Chicken & turkey slaughter & production are 1 week earlier than the date at the top of this table. Cow & sow slaughter are for 2 weeks earl

NOTE: Our data for U.S. pork and beef exports and exports of variety meats of both species come direct form the Foreign Ag Service's website. They represent USDA's product weight numbers for those categories. We have seen other published data that differ from these, presumably because some other items (sausage casings, fat, etc.) have been added in. At this point we have chosen to stick with the actual muscle cut and variety meat data as reported by USDA. We just wanted DLR readers to know why these data may be different from others they have seen.

U.S. meat and poultry exports were, in many observers' eyes, surprisingly strong in February. U.S. beef exports were 11.1% higher than last year with South Korea being the big contributor to growth, increasing by 8,862% (see Figure 1 on page 2). That percentage increase, of course, was from a number very near zero one year ago but the shipment volume of 28.2 million pounds was a major reason for year-on-year growth. The other major contributor to beef export growth was Vietnam, which nearly doubled its year-to-date imports through February to become the fourth largest destination for U.S. beef. Shipments to Japan grew slightly from last year's levels as shipments to Mexico and Canada stand 15% and 18% smaller than last year, respectively. One reason for that decline, of course, is that cattle imports from both of these countries have been driven lower by mandatory country of origin labeling, leaving more cattle available for domestic packers in Mexico and Canada, thus increasing domestic production and supplanting U.S. exports. The value of U.S. beef exports through February stands 10.8% higher than last year with South Korea and Vietnam accounting for nearly all of the growth in this item as well. The value of shipments to Canada is down 23.4% YTD.

U.S. pork exports were 9.7% smaller in February versus one year ago. That brought YTD pork exports down to 7.1% lower than last year (see Figure 2) with China/Hong Kong (-68%) and Russia (-51%) the primary reasons for the reduction. Shipments to Mexico amounted to 44.04 million pounds product weight, 54% higher than in 2008, and drove YTD exports to Mexico to +60.3%. That in spite of a sharply devalued peso. YTD shipments to Japan are also up — 16.6%— while Australia and Taiwan saw small unit gains. On the value side, U.S. shipments through February have actually increased by 0.7% with Japan (+33.5%) and Mexico (+59.6%) leading the way. Exports to Canada are down in both volume (10.5%) and value (11.4%) this year, in part due to higher Canadian pork production from MCOOL-reduced Canadian market hog imports.

The huge success story for pork in February was variety meats — up 54.3% in volume and 52.5% in value through February (Figures 3 and 4). While China/Hong Kong has been a disappointment on the meat side, they have been a boon on the by-product side, taking 32% more product and paying 47% more dollars for it thus far in 2009. Mexico remains our largest pork variety meat market and has exhibited remarkable growth again this year.

U.S chicken exports declined 7.7% from Janary to 560.8 million pounds, ready-to-cook (RTC) weight. February shipments were still 10.6% higher than last year and brought year-to-date chicken exports to 1.169 billion pounds, 21.4% higher than in 2008. Recall that U.S. chicken exports set a record last year. It appears that this "most-affordable" of meat muscle proteins is performing well in an even more price-sensitive market in 2009.

Figure 1

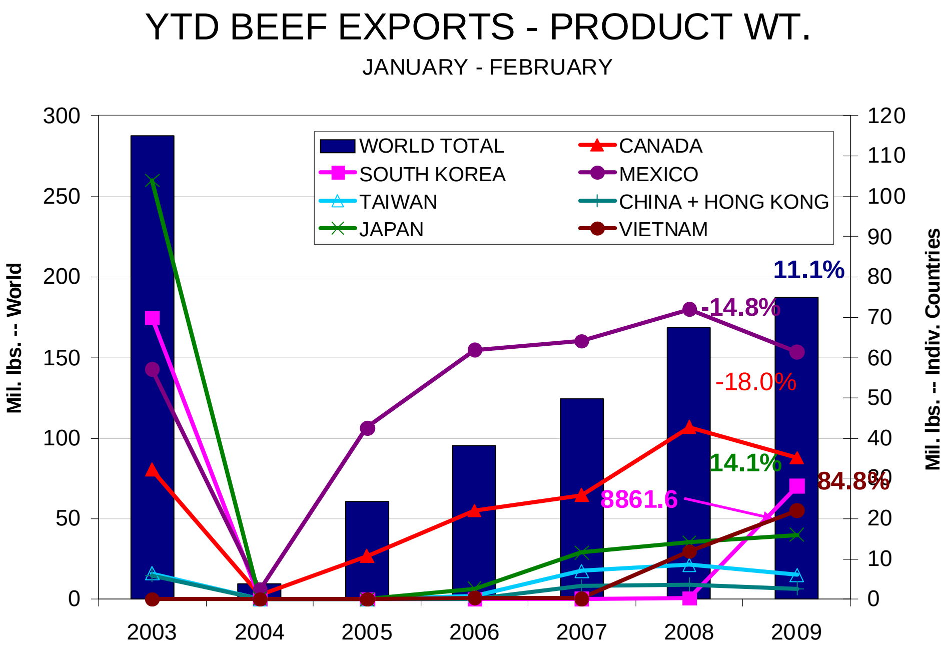

Figure 2

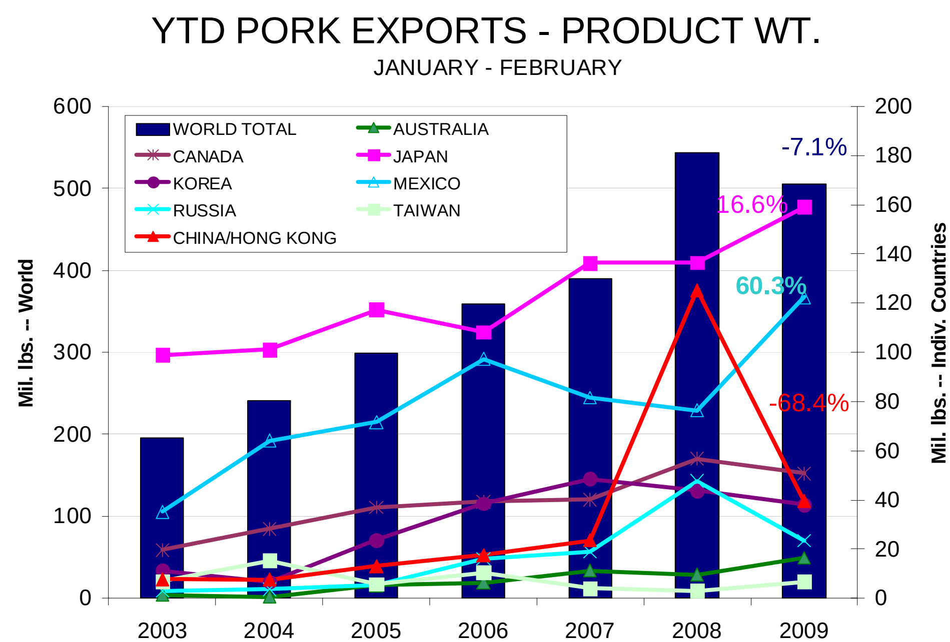

Figure 3

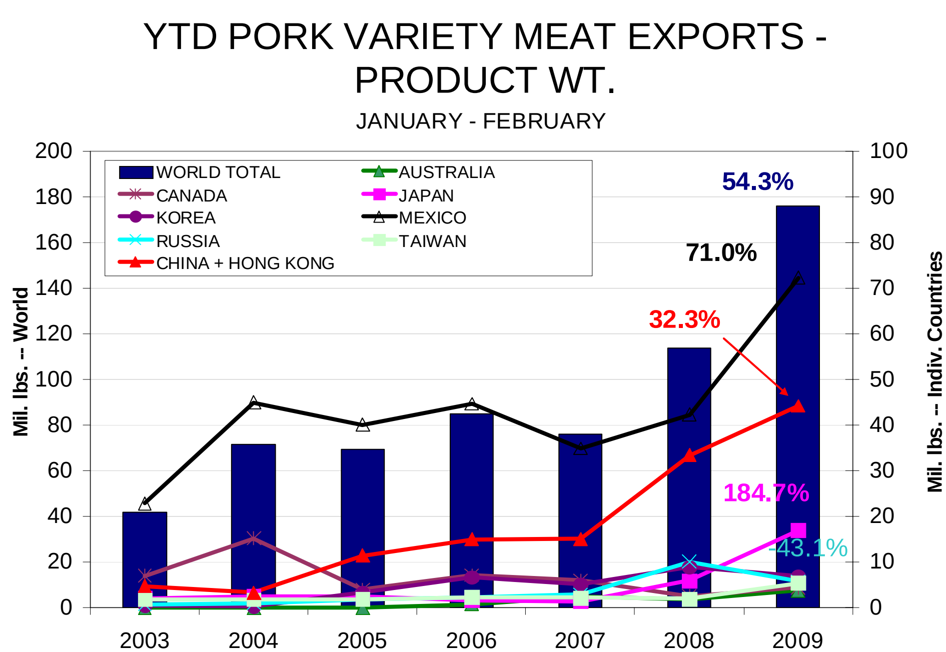

Figure 4