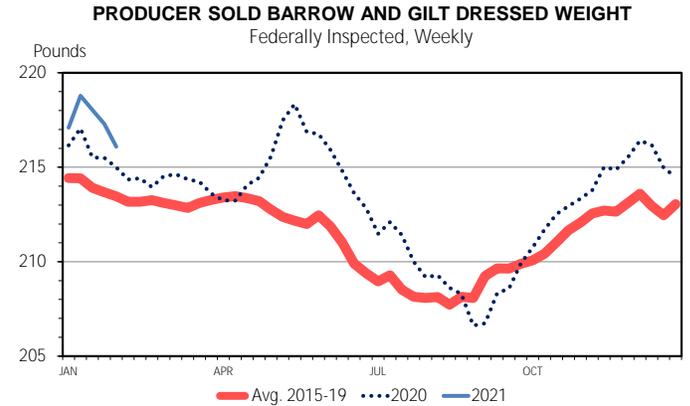


Barrow and gilt dressed weights continue to remain at record levels, starting out 2021 with average weekly weights over 219 pounds and a peak weight of 220 pounds the week of January 9, 2021. Through the first three weeks of available date for 2021, dressed weights have average 5 pounds (2.3%) above the same period a year ago. Dressed weights started to track higher and outpace typical levels during the fourth quarter of 2020, a pattern that typically occurs as hogs come to market. COVID-19 related measures likely constrained packer capacity during the fourth quarter peak slaughter period, limiting throughput of market ready hogs and the packers ability to absorb the influx of hogs. Looking into the USDA AMS report National Daily Direct Hog Prior Day Report - Slaughtered Swine ([LM_HG201](#)) gives some further insights into the rise in dressed weights. LM_HG201 breaks out hogs slaughtered based on purchase agreement along with hogs that are packer owned/sold or producer owned.

Average weekly producer sold dressed weights have been around 217 pounds which is averaging 1.6 pounds (1.0%), above the same weeks a year ago. The first full week of 2021 producer sold dressed weights reached 218.78 pounds which is a record. A similar scenario is occurring with packer owned hogs. Packer owned hog weights peaked to a record level of 227.10 pounds the first full week of 2021. Since the start of the year, weekly packer owned hog dressed weights have been averaging nearly 226 pounds which is more than 6 pounds (2.8%) above the same weeks last year. Part of the 5 pound average increase in barrow and gilt dressed weights is due to the more than 6 pound increase in packer owned hogs. Elevated dressed weights can lead to more pork meat availability which is being revealed in weekly



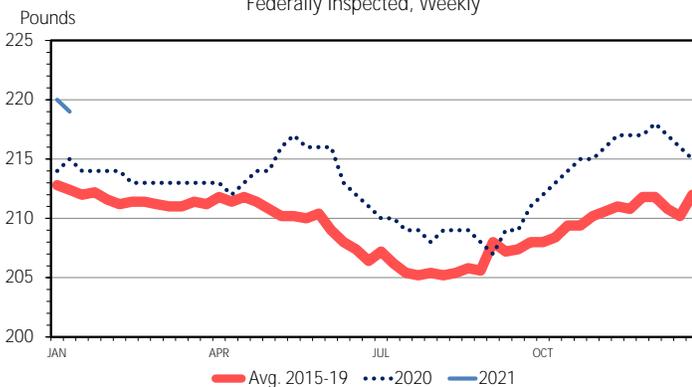
Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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pork production. Through the first five weeks (weekending 01/02/2021-01/30/2021) of the year cumulative weekly pork production is up 3.1%.

As corn and soybean prices have increased substantially in recent months feed costs for hog producers are rising as well. In the [January 29, 2021 DLR](#) the potential economic implications of rising feed costs are discussed highlighting the potential that producers may have to limit expansion plans which could lead to liquidation. Rising feed costs may also effect hog weights. As producers look to minimize feed costs part of the offset could possibly be a reduction in feed efficiency leading to lower dressed weights and reduced pork supplies.

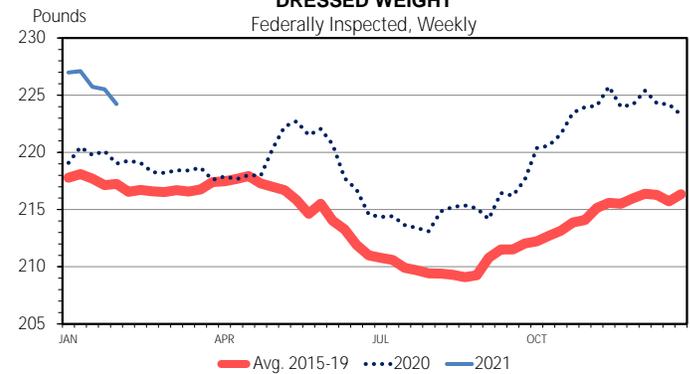
BARROW AND GILT DRESSED WEIGHT
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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PACKER SOLD AND OWNED BARROW AND GILT DRESSED WEIGHT
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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