

Osage County Agriculture Newsletter



OSAGE COUNTY
EXTENSION

June/July 2024

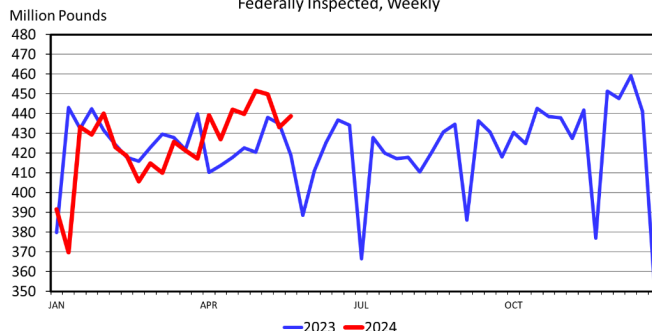
Fed Beef Production Steady; Nonfed Beef Production Down in 2024

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

Total beef production thus far in 2024 is 10.6 billion pounds, down 2.0 percent year over year. This follows a 4.7 percent year over year reduction in beef production in 2023 from record levels in 2022. Cattle slaughter in the first 21 weeks of 2024 is down 4.5 percent year over year but cattle carcass weights have averaged 21.8 pounds higher than last year thus far. Beef production will be down year over year in 2024 but by less than previously forecast. There are also some interesting dynamics across types of beef production.

Steer slaughter is down 2.1 percent in the first 21 weeks of the year compared to one year ago. Heifer slaughter is down 1.6 percent year over year thus far in 2024. Total fed (steer plus heifer) slaughter is down 1.9 percent from last year. However, steer carcass weights have averaged 920 pounds, up 20.4 pounds this year and heifer carcasses are averaging 843 pounds, 15.9 pounds heavier year over year. Carcass weights have not shown the typical seasonal decline in the first half of the year resulting in even greater year over year discrepancies in recent weeks. Weekly data from late May shows steer carcass weights 37 pounds (heifers, 29 pounds) heavier than last year. Total fed beef production for the year to date is 8.92 billion pounds, up 0.2 percent from one year ago. Increased steer and heifer carcass weights are offsetting decreased slaughter to result in a fractional increase in fed beef production for the year to date with significant increases in recent weeks (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Fed Beef Production
Federally Inspected, Weekly



By contrast, non-fed beef production is down sharply in 2024. Non-fed beef makes up 20 percent of total beef production on average. Total cow slaughter is down 14.1 percent year over year through the first 21 weeks of the year, with dairy cow slaughter down 13.4 percent and beef cow slaughter down 14.8 percent from last year. Cow carcass weights are averaging 646.8 pounds, up 10 pounds over one year ago.

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Cow/Calf Newsletter

Fed Beef Production Steady

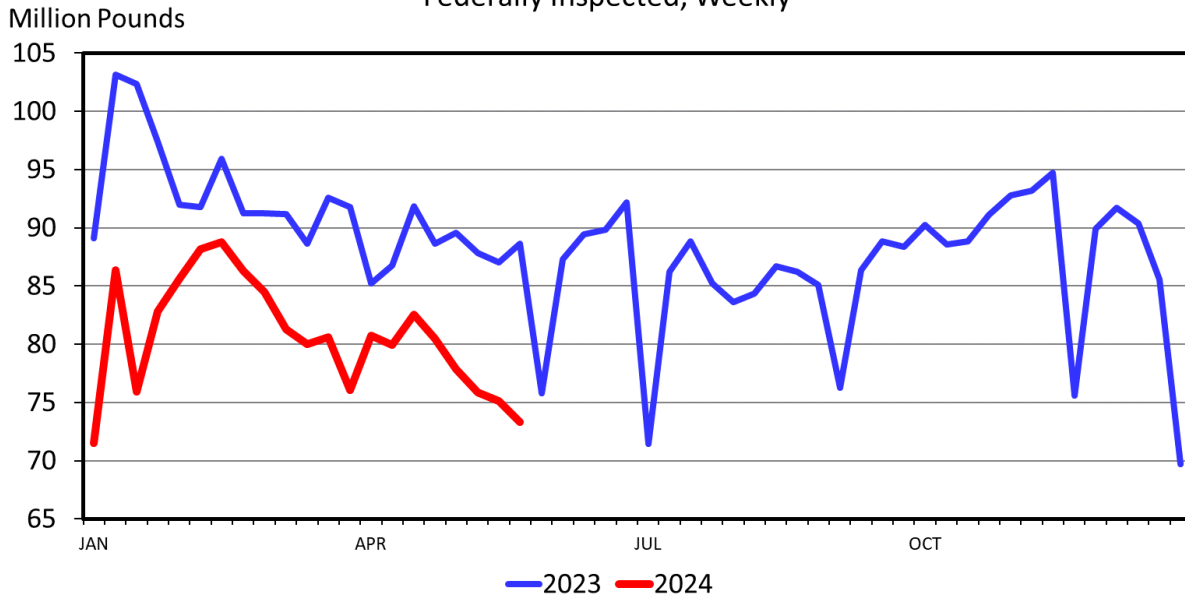
Derrell Peel- Livestock Marketing
Specialist

Garden Tips
by Cheyenne Reed

Upcoming Events

Bull slaughter is down 7.0 percent year over year, with bull carcass weights up 28.7 pounds over year over year and averaging 892 pounds. Total nonfed slaughter through May is down 13.6 percent and total nonfed beef production is 1.69 billion pounds, down 12.0 percent compared to last year (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Nonfed Beef Production
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Fed beef will likely decline in the second half of the year. Fed slaughter is expected to decrease more in late 2024, though carcass weights will likely remain elevated. Heifer retention may be starting which would lead to a larger decline in heifer slaughter by the end of the year. Beef cow slaughter may also drop more sharply in the last part of the year. Herd rebuilding typically results in decreased heifer and beef cow slaughter. Moisture conditions through the summer and into the fall will be critical to determine if, and how much, herd rebuilding gets started and the impact on 2024 beef production.

Derrell Peel, OSU Extension livestock marketing specialist, says the recent widespread rain has given pastures a much-needed boost on SunUpTV from June 8, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vA2QPtL1eNo>

Garden Tips:

By Cheyenne Reed

- ◆ Most full-season vegetables need about 20 inches of water during the growing season
- ◆ Moisture is used in plants if it comes in contact with the seed or roots. During the sprouting of seeds the soil needs to be kept damp around the seed, but once the plant has formed roots and has grown, the soil needs to be kept moist at a depth of about a foot.
- ◆ Weeds will take away nutrients from the plant, as well as be a home for some insects that can harm your vegetables, so be mindful of that.

TIMELY TOPICS OSU EXTENSION - NORTHEAST DISTRICT

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Soremouth in Sheep and Goats

Earl Ward-Area Livestock Specialist

It is that time for youth who wish to participate in their fall county or state fairs to obtain their sheep or goat projects. This means that there is a massive movement and commingling of animals. This is always a problem with biosecurity and animal health concerns. As small ruminants are moving around you might find one or more with a highly contagious disease known simply as soremouth.

Soremouth is caused by a virus in the “pox” family. It is also known as orf, contagious ecthyma, and (contagious) pustular dermatitis. It is a worldwide spread disease that affects all breeds of sheep and goats. A USDA NAHMS survey from 2011 reported that 43.7% of U.S. sheep operations reported having soremouth in their herds within the last three years. It is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can be transmitted to humans. So be sure to inform your doctor that you have been around or vaccinated sheep or goats.

Diagnosis of the disease is typically based on clinical appearance of thick scabby sores on the lips and gums. Feed intake could be depressed due to the pain of the sores. Soremouth is not limited just to the mouth though, it can be on the ears, face, scrotum, teats, flank, neck, and chest.

The virus can be transmitted via direct contact with another animal or infected equipment, feed, or bedding. Sharing the same nipples when bottle feeding can also spread the disease.

In mild cases, treatment may not be necessary. Since it is a virus, it does not respond to an antibiotic, unless there is a secondary infection. Animals infected usually heal completely after one to four weeks. Prevention is the key. Vaccinating for the disease can possibly cause an outbreak but the herd will develop immunity once exposed. It is recommended to vaccinate show animals at least six weeks prior to the first show.

So as these animals are moved around from their original farms to sales or new show barns, be on the lookout for signs of this virus and try to manage the outbreak by minimizing movement. Good luck to the youth and their projects!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 22nd– Salsa Class**
- **June 25th– In's and out's of Native Range**
- **August 1st– Succulent Workshop**

**For more info on any of these events please contact Cheyenne at 918-287-4170
or at cheyenne.reed@okstate.edu**



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