USDA

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EGGS

Production

Table egg production rose 3 percent monthly in December to 695 million dozen, down 3 percent from the December 2019 level. Shell eggs broken rose 5 percent monthly to 195 million dozen, 8 percent below its 2019 level. Inventories of table egg layers are tracking below 2020 seasonal levels. First-of-the-month table egg layers-on-hand were unchanged at 325 million in January, 5 percent below its 2020 level. Similarly, egg-type hatching-egg layers-on-hand rose 3 percent monthly to 3.7 million but remain 3 percent lower yearly. Future indicators of egg production were mixed with pullet additions down 4 percent monthly in December to 27 million, a 3 percent increase from 2019, and production of egg-type hatching eggs rising 11 percent monthly to 7.3 million dozen, a 1 percent reduction from the previous year's level. Broiler hatching flock indicators signaled modest growth in December. Broiler-type hatching eggs layers-on-hand on the first of the month rose 2 percent monthly to 62.4 million, up 4 percent from January 2020. Broiler-type hatching egg production rose 4 percent monthly to 98 million dozen, up 5 percent from 2019.

Price

Shell egg prices rose sharply in January while breaking eggs showed modest seasonal declines. As shown in the Figure, the New York shell egg price rose 23 percent monthly to $1.12 per dozen, up 23 percent from January 2020. The monthly National Index price rose 43 percent monthly to $0.69 per dozen, up 41 percent yearly. The Central States Breaking Stock price fell 12 percent seasonally to $0.36 per dozen but remained up 30 percent yearly.

International Trade

In volume terms, U.S. shell egg exports in December rose 50 percent monthly to 14.8 million dozen, a 40 percent increase from 2019. In value terms, exports rose 33 percent monthly to $12.0 million, 7 percent above its previous year's value. Mexico led export destinations with 4.6 million dozen eggs received in December, the country's highest import level since the 2015 Avian Influenza outbreak disrupted trade access.

TURKEY

Production

November turkey production rose 3 percent monthly to 470 million pounds, up 25 percent from the December 2019 volume. Total turkey in cold storage rose 16 percent monthly to 224 million pounds. Despite this seasonal inventory build-up after Thanksgiving, total December turkey inventory remains 4 percent below 2019. Whole birds in cold storage were up 2 percent yearly but, across turkey parts, breasts fell 3 percent, legs fell 9 percent, mechanically deboned meat fell 43 percent, and unclassified parts fell 7 percent. December marked the first month since June 2021 that all future production indicators for turkey showed increases, albeit only the movements were modest movements. Poult placements were up 2 percent monthly and 1 percent yearly. Turkey eggs in incubators rose 1 percent both monthly and yearly. Poults hatched rose 2 percent monthly and 1 percent yearly.

Price

The whole frozen hen price fell 3 percent monthly to $1.09 per pound and the whole frozen tom price fell 2 percent to $1.08 per pound. Both prices were up 14 percent from January 2020. In fresh markets, the tom price rose 5 percent monthly to $1.25 per pound, up 9 percent yearly. The hen price rose 6 percent monthly to $1.24 per pound. The turkey breast price fell 1 percent in January to $1.66 per pound, down 13 percent from its January 2020 level. The tom drumstick price rose 11 percent in January to $0.70 per pound, down 5 percent yearly. The thigh meat price rose 1 percent to $1.19 per pound but remained down 23 percent from January 2019.

International Trade

Turkey exports continued seasonal volume and value declines in December. In volume terms, turkey exports fell 14 percent to 21 thousand MT, 1 percent below the 2019 level. In value terms, exports fell 12 percent to $48.6 million, down 6 percent yearly. For the 2020 calendar year, turkey exports fell to 259 million MT, 11 percent below the 2019 level. While exports to Mexico fell 8 percent, the largest export declines in percentage terms across major trade partners came from South Africa, Benin, and Peru at 56, 69, and 55 percent, respectively.

CHICKEN

Production

Production of young chickens on a ready-to-cook basis was up 7 percent monthly at 3.71 billion pounds in December, a 2 percent increase year-over-year. Similarly, broiler slaughter was up 7 percent monthly at 766 million head, a 1 percent increase yearly. Broiler egg set rose 15 percent in January to 1,007 million, down 11 percent from its previous year's level. As shown in the Figure, broiler chicks placed rose 13 percent monthly to 805 million. While this level is down 10 percent from January 2020, it is unchanged from the 3-year average from 2017 to 2019. Total stocks of chicken in cold storage at the end of December fell 2 percent monthly to 863 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2019. Stocks of whole broilers fell 31 percent monthly and 25 percent yearly. Aside from breasts and bone-in thighs, most chicken part stocks were down in December from the previous year. Drums, leg quarters, and legs fell 10 percent, 28 percent, and 4 percent yearly. On a monthly basis, wings stocks fell 7 percent, leg stocks fell 10 percent, boneless thighs stocks fell 5 percent, and bone-in thighs fell 11 percent.

Price

The National Composite Whole Body broiler price was unchanged in January at $0.82 per pound, down 8 percent from the previous year. The boneless, skinless breast price was up 16 percent at $1.09, up 18 percent yearly. Bone-in breast prices rose 1 percent to $1.08 per pound, up 3 percent yearly. Bone-in thigh prices fell 7 percent to $0.46 per pound, down 29 percent yearly. Tenderloin prices rose 4 percent to $1.64 per pound, up 29 percent yearly. Dark meat leg quarters increased 4 percent monthly to $0.29 per pound, 25 percent lower than in 2020. Boneless skinless thigh prices rose 12 percent monthly to $0.64 per pound, 41 percent below last year's price. Drumstick prices were up 1 percent monthly at $0.41 per pound, unchanged from January 2020 level. Tight and falling inventories along with strong seasonal demand pushed wing prices to $2.44 per pound in January, widening its already considerable price premium over other cuts.

International Trade

In volume terms, December chicken exports fell 6 percent to 277 thousand MT, up 4 percent from 2019's level. In value terms, exports fell 3 percent to $251 million, down 1 percent yearly. Despite the sharp global economic slowdown brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, China's emergence as a major trade partner, with 8 percent of 2020 exports following previously negligible levels, allowed overall exports to grow 3 percent. Chicken imports fell 40 percent yearly in volume to 5.3 thousand MT and 42 percent yearly in value to $20.1 million.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

December 2020 beef production totaled 2.32 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than in both December 2019 and November 2020. Cattle slaughter was 2.78 million head, up 1 percent year-over-year and up 3 percent monthly. The average live weight rose 16 pounds yearly and 1 pound from November to 1,389 pounds. Veal production in December 2020 was 5.6 million pounds, 14 percent lower and up 16 percent from November. Calf slaughter totaled 40,600 head, down 19 percent yearly but up 16 percent monthly. The average live calf weight was up 14 pounds from 2019 and 1 pound higher monthly at 242 pounds. Total beef production for the year was slightly below 2019, while veal production dropped 14 percent. Total beef in cold storage at the end of December was up 11 percent compared with December 2019 and up 4 percent monthly. Stocks of boneless beef were up 11 percent from last year, and 5 percent higher than November. Beef cuts in freezers were 2 percent lower monthly but up 22 percent year-over-year. Veal supplies were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 52 percent yearly.

Price

The January average Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) broke its previously steady pattern by gaining $2 per cwt to $111, up 2 percent for the month, but 10 percent lower than January 2020. The average beef cutout value lost $4 per cwt to $215 per cwt, down 2 percent monthly but up 2 percent from last year (see graph below). 90% lean boneless added $12 for a total of $217 per cwt, up 6 percent from December but down 11 percent yearly. The December 50% lean trim average reversed a 7-month pattern by gaining $15 per cwt to $50, rising 42 percent from December but down 11 percent yearly. The average price for hide-off veal carcasses remained at $293 per cwt, month to month, and again held at 4 percent below the 2020 level.

International Trade

Compared to 2019, December 2020 beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased to 120 thousand MT, adding 8 percent yearly and 4 percent monthly. The export value rose 9 percent from last year and 5 percent from last month to $744 million. For the year as a whole beef exports were down 5 percent in both volume and value from 2019. In December more than half of beef exports were sent to Japan, South Korea, and Mexico. Year-over-year beef import volumes for December fell 8 percent compared to last year for a total of 75.5 thousand MT and were down 2 percent in value at $491 million. On a monthly basis volume fell 10 percent and value fell 7 percent. Total 2020 beef imports were up 9 percent in volume and 13 percent in value over the year before. Canada, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Brazil were the largest beef importers to the U.S. in December 2020, with Canada the source of nearly 30 percent of beef volume and value.

PORK

Production

Total pork production in December was 2.51 billion pounds, up 4 percent monthly and 3 percent yearly. The number of hogs slaughtered was 11.5 million head, up 1 percent from 2019 and 4 percent higher than November. Average live hog weight rose 6 pounds yearly and remained steady monthly at 294 pounds. Total 2020 pork production to date is up 2 percent from 2019. Stocks of all pork in cold storage at the end of December were down 3 percent from November and 30 percent below last year. Ham inventories are down 28 percent compared to the volume last month and down 38 percent year-over-year. Stocks of bone-in hams fell 54 percent monthly and 45 percent yearly, while boneless hams were down 14 and 35 percent, respectively. Belly inventories rose 32 percent monthly but fell 54 percent yearly. Total loin stocks were up 2 percent from November but were down 23 percent yearly. Pork trimmings in freezers added 2 percent monthly and lost 19 percent yearly.

Price

The monthly average negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts in January 2021 inched up $1 to $54 per cwt, up 1 percent monthly and 4 percent yearly. The pork cutout value returned $5 to add 6 percent both monthly and yearly at $80 per cwt as shown in graph below. Prices of boneless center cut loins, slipped $1 to $116 per cwt, down 1 percent from December but up 6 percent from last January. The price for trimmed, selected hams, 23-27 pounds recouped $22 to settle at $61 per cwt, 4 percent above December but down 9 percent yearly. The 72 percent lean pork trimmings price rose $7 to $80 per cwt, rising 9 percent monthly and 18 percent yearly. Prices for picnic meat combos, cushion out, also rose $3 to $88 per cwt, up 3 percent monthly and 5 percent yearly. Pork belly primal values jumped $32 in January to $124 per cwt, 35 percent above December 2020 and 25 percent above January 2020.

International Trade

Exports of pork were down 8 percent from December 2019 volume at 253 thousand metric tons and fell 10 percent in value to $659 million. Compared to November, export volume was slightly higher while value was down 1 percent. Total exports of pork in 2020 were up 12 percent compared to the previous year in both value and volume. Japan, China, Mexico, Canada, and South Korea continued to be our largest export markets. While 15 percent of pork exports were sent of Japan, it was the source of 23 percent of pork export value. Compared to last year, December pork imports were up 11 percent in volume at 35 thousand MT and up 9 percent in value at $127 million. Import volume fell 10 percent from November with value down 16 percent. The total yearly volume of pork imports was up 11 percent from 2019, and the value rose 9 percent. Pork exports for all of 2020 were down 6 percent and were 1 percent lower in value for the year. The largest pork imports in December came from Canada. Italy, Mexico, Poland, and Denmark, more than half from Canada.

LAMB

Production

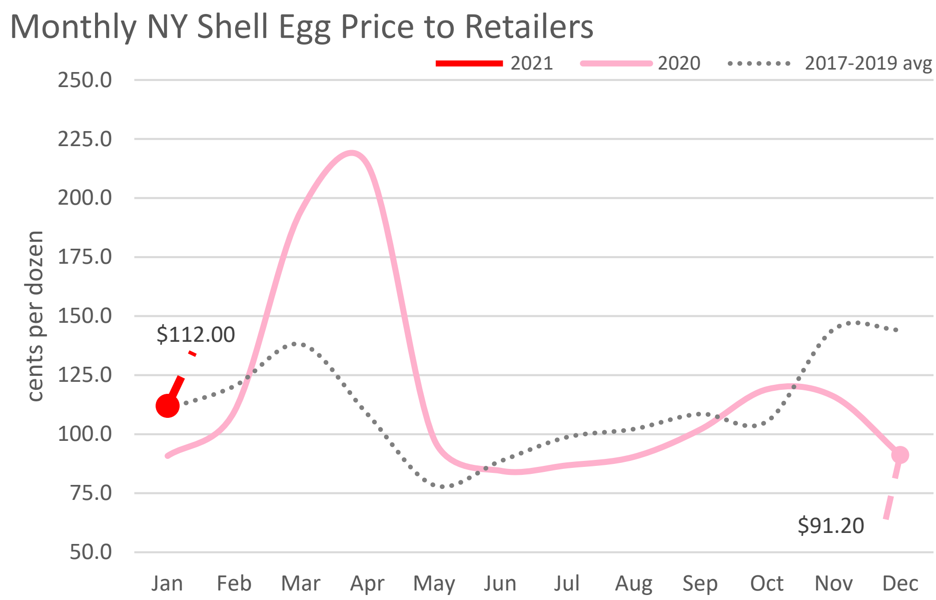
December lamb and mutton production was 12 million pounds, up 13 percent from November, but down 1 percent yearly. Sheep slaughter totaled 197,800 head, adding 10 percent monthly and 1 percent yearly. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last month and 2 pounds below last year at 121 pounds. January to December 2020 commercial lamb and mutton production fell 7 percent from 2019. Lamb stocks in cold storage were down 28 percent from 2019 and 4 percent lower monthly.

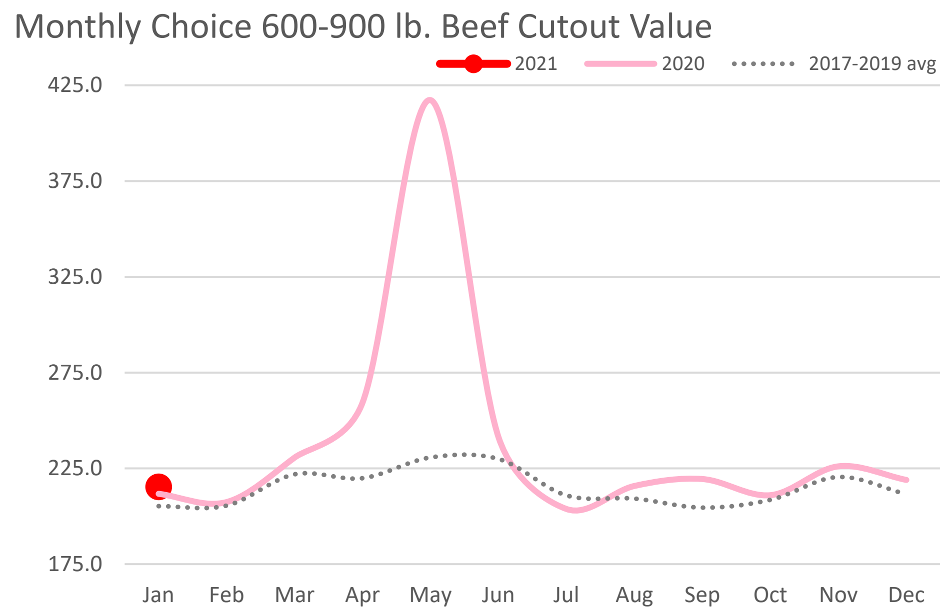
Price

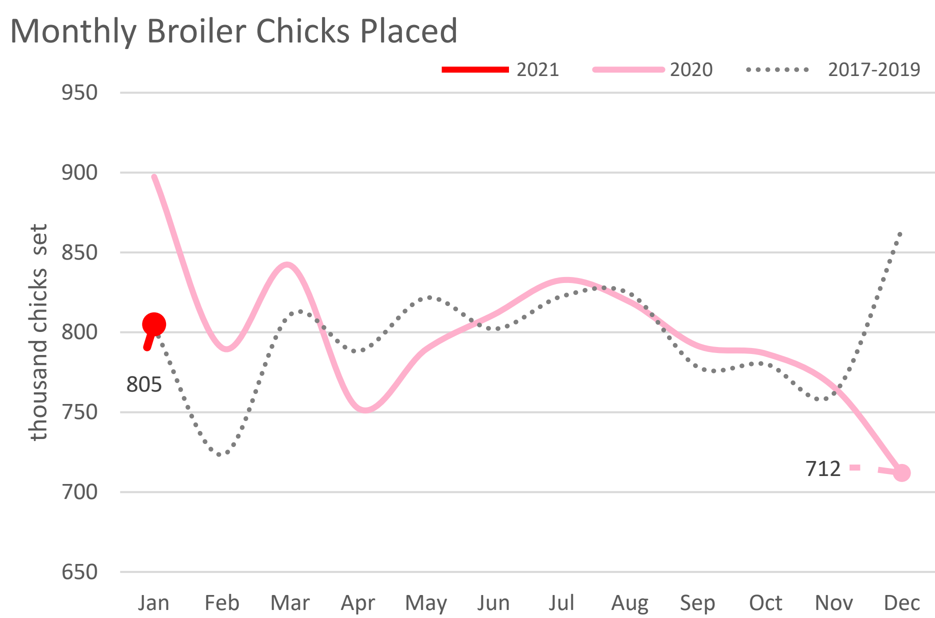
Negotiated live slaughter lamb average price for this period slipped $1 to $159 per cwt., up 4 percent year-over-year. The lamb cutout value gained $3 in January to average $448 per cwt, a slight increase monthly but 7 percent higher yearly. Leg of lamb, trotter-off (IMPS 233C) gained $8 for an average of $403 per cwt, up 2 percent monthly and 4 percent yearly. The average price for lamb shoulder (IMPS 207) again slipped $1 in January to $365 per cwt but remained up 12 percent from January 2020. Trimmed 4x4 loins (IMPS 232) dropped $17 to $680 per cwt, 2 percent lower than December but 30 percent above last year.

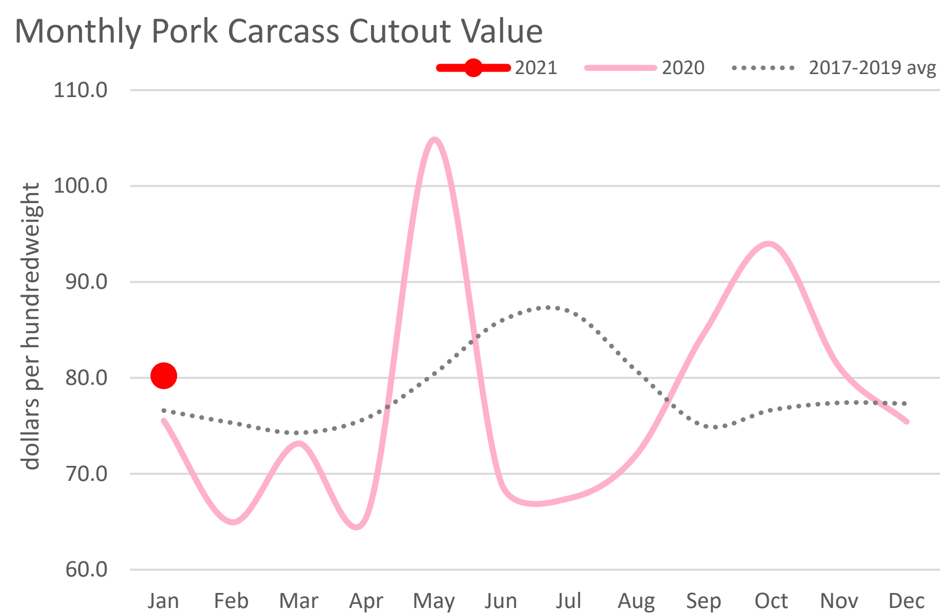
International Trade

The U.S. lamb export volume more than doubled in December relative to November up 122 percent in volume, and up 107 percent in value, at 187 metric tons, equaling $878,000. December export value was down 45 percent from 2019, with value down 34 percent. For the year as a whole lamb exports were 259 percent above the 2019 volume, but the value of exports was 3 percent lower. The destinations for the highest volume of lamb exports were Mexico, Canada, and the Bahamas. Imports of lamb to the U.S. increased 3 percent in December compared to November at 10.3 thousand metric tons, while the value of imports rose 15 percent to $88 million. Year-over-year imports were 5 percent lower in volume and 6 percent lower in value. Total lamb imports for 2020 rose 8 percent in volume, but down 11 percent relative to 2019. Most lamb imports were from Australia and New Zealand.









Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division