

Note: The next U.S. Meat Bulletin will be published Feb 15.

SUPPLY & DEMAND

The USDA CHOICE beef cutout value moved lower last week on unsettled trading and seasonal early spring institutional demand weakness. Beef processing plant margins are under pressure as wholesale boxed beef product values moved lower for the 4th week while live fed cattle prices firmed. According to [Cattle Buyers Weekly](#), the CHOICE beef cutout is **7.2%** lower than the same week last year while cattle prices are **+14%** from year-ago levels. Last week's harvest of 641K head was on the low side, suggesting packers were trying to fine tune beef supplies in line with seasonally weak purchasing activity. Normally this would pressure live cattle prices and although fed live cattle prices remained largely steady week-on week through last Friday, market sentiment is bullish, with USDA's latest cattle inventory report showing cattle population declines across all players in the supply chain (see MOVING AHEAD next column). The cattle cycle is clearly on a downward trajectory, and analysts expect that any upturn in breeding cow numbers may not occur until 2024 or 2025. Conditions for cow-calf producers remain challenging, with high grain prices, high input prices & interest rates, drought, & inflation discouraging re-stocking sentiment. Despite the seasonal weakness, overall beef demand remains steady, and values of USDA SELECT product increased last week, reflecting lower supplies of leaner product. That said, domestic U.S. beef demand in the months ahead remains somewhat precarious as economic conditions deteriorate. There is already some evidence of consumers trading down on the beef they purchase & total red meat & poultry supplies continue to increase. On the other hand, U.S. beef export demand looks to be strong so far this year, with weekly data showing overseas shipments during the 1st 4 weeks of the year **+10% YOY**.

Prices are expected to be higher in 2023 on tighter cattle supplies with current futures nearing the 2014/2015 highs during that rebuilding phase of the cattle cycle

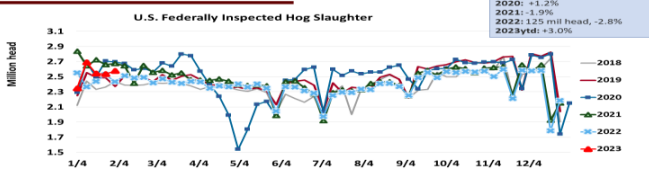


Source: USDA/AMS & CME closing futures prices on Feb 1, 2022

Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 6/2/2023 - US\$266.57/cwt. (+<1% from 31/1/2023)

Wholesale pork prices remained steady through last week, with the USDA reference pork cutout value hovering near a 2-year low. Lackluster domestic & export demand was reported in the ham & belly complexes, while spot wholesale loin prices to retailers were also lower. The frigid weather front on the eastern coast also disrupted demand & supply logistics. Despite the cold weather in the U.S. this winter, U.S. hog slaughter volumes – through the end of last week – are **+3%** from the pace of a year ago. Lean hog futures contracts staged a weak rally from near 4-month lows, but traders remain cautious given the weakness in cash wholesale markets. On the positive side, pork muscle cut exports during the week ending Jan 26th were the highest since last November, with robust volumes shipped to **Mexico, China** and even **Taiwan**, which was battered last year by negative press about U.S. pork safety. High shipments were also reported for **Japan & Korea**. The U.S. hog industry continues to watch the China market closely for new signs of life following the ending of all CoVID restrictions. All CoVID related travel barriers between the mainland and HK were lifted yesterday Feb 6, another important indicator of China's return to normalcy. Its domestic hog market however continues to be defined by large supplies and tepid demand. Optimists believe China is currently seeing its seasonal spring low & will receive a lift as schools re-open in mid-February.

U.S. Hog Slaughter



Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates

Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 6/2/2023 -US\$81.62/cwt. (+2% from 31/1/2023)

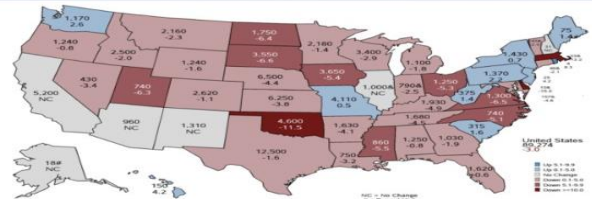
ACTIVITIES:

Food & Hotel Asia, Singapore: April 25-28, 2023
SIAL, Shanghai: May 18-20, 2023

MOVING AHEAD

Twice a year, USDA's statistical bureau (NASS) publishes nationwide cattle inventory estimates. Last week, NASS issued its Jan 1, 2023, inventory estimates and the data – while largely in line with analysts' estimates – starkly illustrate the U.S. cattle herd contraction underway. Most significantly, the U.S. beef cow breeding herd, on Jan. 1, 2023, of 28.9 million head, was a **4%** drop from the level of a year-ago and was the lowest in modern history. Beef replacement heifers totaled 5.16 million head, a sharp **-6%** from Jan 1, 2022. Finally, all cattle and calves in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2023, totaled 89.3 million head, **-3%** the 92.1 million head a year earlier. The less-than-expected 2% decline in the 2022 calf crop (total 34.2 million head) provided some hope that this year's fed cattle pipeline will not show a severe tightening. Cow-calf producers are constantly weighing production variables and deciding how many female animals to hold back for breeding. The new NASS numbers show that producers last year sold female calves to feedlots for fattening rather than retaining them for breeding, yielding more beef in 2022 but setting up this year for noticeably tighter supplies. Given that long range forecasts call for a transition from the drought-inducing La Niña weather pattern to more normal-to-wetter El Niño conditions, producers could hold back even more females starting this year if pasture conditions improve, especially if live cattle prices continue to rise. That said, costs on cow-calf operations remain high, and the impact of drought is still being felt by the industry, e.g., stocks of hay, used by operators for critical feed over the winter months, are at their lowest level in 50 years. To compile its report, USDA collected data from 35,400 randomly sampled small-to-large operators.

USDA January 1, 2023 Cattle and Calves Inventory (1,000) Head and Percent Change from Previous Year



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

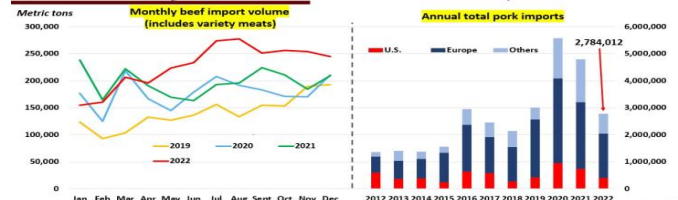
January 31, 2023

National Cattle and Sheep and Goats. Agricultural Statistics Board Briefing- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Travis Averill, Chief Livestock Branch (January 31, 2023).

TRADE

Despite lockdown conditions in the late spring & high virus infections during Q4, **China** imported a record 2.73 million tons of beef last year, an increase of **15+%** over last year's then-record volume. The increase in tonnage alone equates to 2.5X total Taiwan beef imports. What was somewhat surprising was the steady – and large – pace of imports despite the CoVID obstacles. December 2022 Chinese beef imports of 255K tons were in the top ten volume import months ever, although average import prices dropped as warehouses filled & wholesale prices slumped. Total grain-fed beef imports last year, led by the U.S.'s 178K tons, were in the range of 250K tons, not including product from **Russia** and **Belarus**. Grain-fed YOY shipment growth of less than **10%** was less than that of total imports but were somewhat limited by market access issues that cramped **Canadian** exports throughout last year. Total China pork imports last year dropped **42%** to under 2.8 million tons. The YOY drop equated to just over 2 million tons, larger than total imports by any other market. China's own pork production increased **4.6%** YOY in 2022, reaching 55.41 million tons. The increase in domestic output thus roughly matched the decline in imports. China's total lamb imports last year of 358K tons were **13%** lower than that of 2021, reflecting the slowdown in restaurant hot pot sales which account for a majority of imported lamb usage. Total 2022 poultry imports declined **11%** to 1.32 million tons, taking China's total meat & poultry trade to 7.4 million tons, a **21%** drop from that of last year, but still the 3rd largest import year on record.

China : total beef & pork imports (Jan - Dec: '000 metric tons)



Source: TDM including variety meats

编辑笔记：下期《美国肉品新知》将于2023年2月15日发布。

供应与需求

上周，由于交易不稳定和早春季节机构需求疲软，美国特选级牛肉价格走低。由于批发盒装牛肉产品的价格连续第四周下降，而活牛价格坚挺，使得牛肉加工厂的利润承压。根据《牛买家周刊》的数据，特选级牛肉的价格比去年同期下降了7.2%，而活牛的价格却比去年同期上涨了14%。上周屠宰量为64.1万头牛，数量处于低位，表明屠宰场正试图根据季节性疲软的采购活动微调牛肉供应。正常情况下，这将给活牛价格带来压力，尽管截至上周五，活牛的价格基本保持稳定，但市场情绪看涨，美国农业部最新的牛只库存报告显示，供应链中所有牛只数量都在下降(见下一专栏)。养牛周期明显处于下行轨道，分析人士预计，在2024年或2025年之前，母牛数量可能不会出现任何上升。小牛-母牛生产者的处境仍然充满挑战，高粮价、高投入价格和高利率、干旱和通货膨胀打击了生产者补栏的意愿。尽管季节性疲软，但总体牛肉需求保持稳定，可选级牛肉产品的价格上周有所上升，反映出瘦肉占比多的产品供应减少。尽管如此，随着经济状况恶化，未来几个月美国国内的牛肉需求仍有些不稳定。不过，已经有一些证据表明，消费者在降低购买牛肉的价格，红肉和家禽的总供应量继续增加。另一方面，美国牛肉出口需求今年看起来很强劲，周数据显示今年前四周的海外出口量同比增长10%。

产业动态

美国国家农业统计局(NASS)每年发布两次全国各地的牛只存栏量的估算。上周，NASS发布了2023年1月1日的牛只存栏量的估算与数据，与分析师的估算基本一致，同时，证实了美国的牛群数量正在收缩。最值得注意的是，截止至2023年1月1日，美国母牛繁殖群数量为2,890万头，相比一年前的水平下降了4%，也是近代历史上的最低数量。作为替代的小母牛总计516万头，比2022年1月1日大幅下降6%。最后，到2023年1月1日为止，美国所有牛只和小牛总计3,420万头，相比去年同期的9,210万头，降低了3%。2022年，小牛产量总计3,420万头，下降幅度为2%并低于预期，也为今年的育肥牛供应不会出现严重紧缩提供了一些希望。母牛-小牛生产者不断权衡生产变量，决定保留多少头母牛用于繁殖。NASS的新数据显示，去年，生产者将母仔牛卖给育肥场用于育肥，而没有留下用于繁殖，这使2022年生产出了更多的牛肉，也是为了今年明显更紧张的供应做准备。鉴于天气预测，从拉尼娜现象引起的干旱天气过渡到更加正常偏潮湿的厄尔尼诺天气条件是长期过程，从今年开始，如果牧场条件得到改善，特别是如果活牛价格继续上涨，生产者甚至可以留下更多的母牛用于繁殖，尽管如此，母牛-小牛的经营成本依旧很高，行业仍感觉受到干旱的影响，例如，在冬季，干草库存作为经营者的重要饲料，处于50年来的最低水平。为了编辑报告，美国农业部随机从35,400个从小型到大规模的经营者那里收集数据。

Prices are expected to be higher in 2023 on tighter cattle supplies with current futures nearing the 2014/2015 highs during that rebuilding phase of the cattle cycle

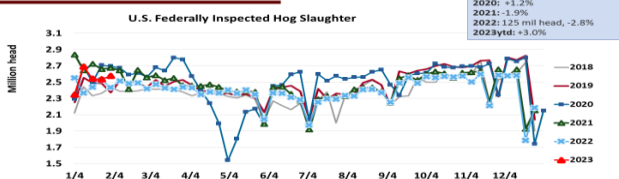


Source: USDA/AMS & CME closing futures prices on Feb 1, 2023

美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数(特选级)：2023年2月6日 - \$266.57 美元/百磅 (较2023年1月31日增加1%)

猪肉批发价格上周保持稳定，而美国农业部猪肉分切参考价格徘徊在两年低点附近。据报道，在后腿和腹部肉产品中，国内和出口需求低迷，而零售商的现货批发背脊肉的价格也有所下降。东海岸的寒冷天气也扰乱了供需物流。尽管美国今年冬天天气寒冷，但截至上周末，美国生猪屠宰量比去年同期增长了3%。瘦肉猪期货合约价格从近4个月低点小幅反弹，但鉴于现货批发市场疲软，交易商仍持谨慎态度。从积极的方面来看，在截至1月26日的一周内，猪肉出口量达到去年11月以来的最高水平，出口到墨西哥、中国大陆甚至台湾地区的猪肉数量强劲，去年出口至台湾地区因有关美国猪肉安全的负面报道而遭受重创。出口至日本和韩国的数量也很高。美国生猪行业继续密切关注中国市场，其在所有新冠疫情的限制结束后可能出现的新迹象。2月6日，内地与香港之间所有与新冠肺炎有关的旅行障碍均已解除，这是中国恢复正常的另一个重要指标。然而，中国国内生猪市场继续以供应充足和需求不温不火为特征。乐观主义者认为，中国目前正处于季节性的春季低点，随着2月中旬学校重新开学，市场将得到提振。

U.S. Hog Slaughter



Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates

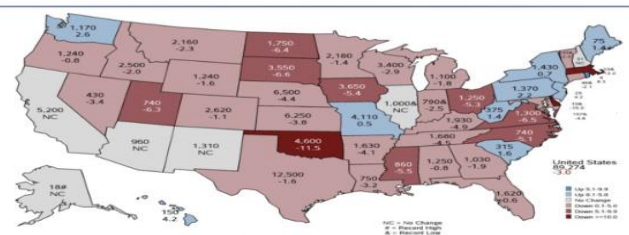
猪肉屠体分切价格：2023年2月6日 - \$81.62 美元/百磅 (较2023年1月31日增加2%)

美国肉类出口协会活动预告：

新加坡国际食品与饮料展 - 新加坡：2023年4月25-28日

SIAL 国际食品展(上海)：2023年5月18-20日

USDA January 1, 2023 Cattle and Calves Inventory (1,000) Head and Percent Change from Previous Year



United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

January 31, 2023

January Cattle and Sheep and Goats, Agricultural Statistics Board Briefing- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Travis Averill, Chief Livestock Branch (January 31, 2023).

贸易新闻

去年，尽管在春末的疫情封控管理和第四季度病毒感染率高发，中国进口了273万吨牛肉，创下纪录，比去年创纪录的数量增加了15%以上。仅仅是吨位即进口量的增加，就相当于台湾地区进口牛肉总量的2.5倍。让人有些意外的是，尽管受到新冠疫情的阻碍，中国的进口牛肉的速度仍保持稳定且量大。尽管随着仓库满仓和批发价格下降，平均进口价格下滑，2022年12月中国牛肉进口量为25.5万吨，是有史以来进口量排名前十的一个月。去年谷饲牛肉进口总量为25万吨，美国的进口量占首位，为17.8万吨，这其中还不包括来自俄罗斯和白俄罗斯的产品。谷饲牛肉出货量同比增长不到10%，低于总进口量的增长率，由于一定程度上受到市场准入问题的限制，加拿大去年一整年的出口量也因此受到限制。去年中国猪肉进口总量下降了42%，低于280万吨。同比下降的数量刚超过200万吨，比其他市场的进口总量都大。2022年，中国的猪肉产量同比增长4.6%，达到5,541万吨。因此，国内产量的增长与进口量的下降大致相当。中国去年的羊肉进口总量为35.8万吨，比2021年下降13%，反映出餐馆里火锅销售放缓，而火锅是进口羊肉用量的主力。2022年，家禽进口总量下降11%至132万吨，中国的肉类和家禽贸易总量达到740万吨，比去年下降21%，但仍是记录以来进口量第三大的一年。

China : total beef & pork imports (Jan - Dec: '000 metric tons)



Source: TDM including variety meats