



U.S. Meat Bulletin

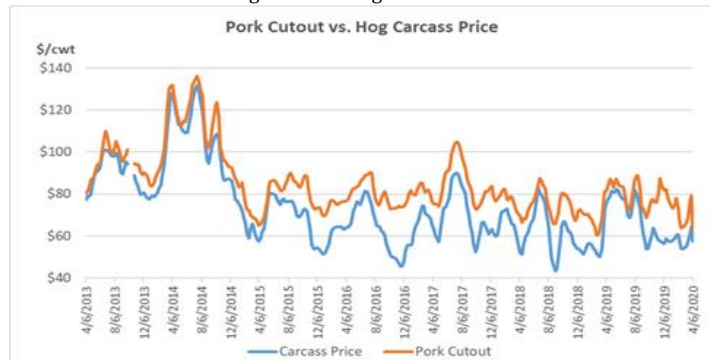
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SUPPLY & DEMAND

Weakening domestic restaurant demand pushed the beef cutout lower last week, and despite the temporary closure of several beef plants due to CoVID-19 infections among employees. Although the current market is characterized by extreme volatility, last Friday's cutout closing value of U.S. \$2.25/lb was similar to the level of a year-ago and the most recent 5-year average for this point in mid-April. Retail beef sales continue strong, driving up values for chucks, rounds and ground beef, while middle meats remain a bargain. The most current market research suggests that overall U.S. revenues at all foodservice outlets are down between 45% - 65%. Independent dine-in outlets have been the hardest hit. At the production level, the industry is quickly implementing new in-plant guidelines that should be able to minimize production disruptions. Food & meat production has been designated critical infrastructure and the government and the industry are rushing to implement new virus mitigation measures into plant SOPs (see next column). For example, facilities are slowing processing speeds as they develop optimum social distancing strategies. More wholesale meat cut packaging is appearing in supermarkets, which allows for lower labor inputs while also matching larger-scale demand by families that are dining more at home. Last week's total fed and non-fed slaughter of 536,000 head was down 14.4% from the previous week, and estimates this week are for similar or slightly larger harvest levels. Because of the reduction in processing capacity, live fed cattle priced dipped -15.5% week-on-week to end last Friday at \$105.00/cwt. Cattle future trading remains extremely volatile, but the plant closures of last week drove futures down sharply yesterday. While the decline in cattle prices is of great concern among producers, adjustments are already being made in the supply chain through a sharp reduction in placements of feeder cattle into feedlots. In the meantime, the most recent USDA weekly export data showed beef shipments rising 6% during the week ending 4/2, but new sales dropping 12% mostly due to lower orders from **Japan** and **Korea**. However, new sales were up to HK and China, and there has been an encouraging and noticeable drop in new virus cases in **Korea**, **Taiwan**, and **HK** (see TRADE next column).

Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 13/4/2020 - US\$225.86/cwt. (-2% from 6/4/2020)

The pork cutout closed sharply lower last week on CoVID-19 market fears, but low prices are stimulating a record pace of exports. The closure of a big swine harvest plant in South Dakota due to CoVID-19 findings has also been major news, although last week's harvest of 2.407 mil head, down 6% from the previous week, is just -0.6% year-on-year. Hog slaughter seasonally peaked in late March, with 2.7988 mil head harvested during the week ending March 21 and 2.777 million head slaughtered the following week. Last week's lower harvest saw some reduced production anyway due to the Easter holiday. Overall though, supplies are currently abundant and like for all foodstuffs, pork primal values have weakened due to extremely weak foodservice demand. All primal values fell last week, and buyers are seeing bargains for hams, bellies, ribs, butts and picnics. Favorable pricing saw U.S. pork exports during the week ending April 2nd reached a new high of 48,600 tons. The record exports were driven by **China** (23,000 tons, +42% and a new high) along with increases to **Japan** (5,380 tons, +1%), **Australia** (990 tons, +36%), and **Chile** (880 tons, +24%). Outstanding pork sales (sold but not yet shipped) for China now total 146,320 tons for 2020 delivery. Accumulated exports to China total 216,701 tons for January 1 - April 2, 2020, a record pace. Moving forward, market uncertainty is likely to continue to prevail on the domestic front, although new plant protocols to reduce virus transmission should stabilize plant operations. Futures dropped yesterday on news of the plant closure. The U.S. market-ready hog supply remains high, which will continue to weight on live hog values.



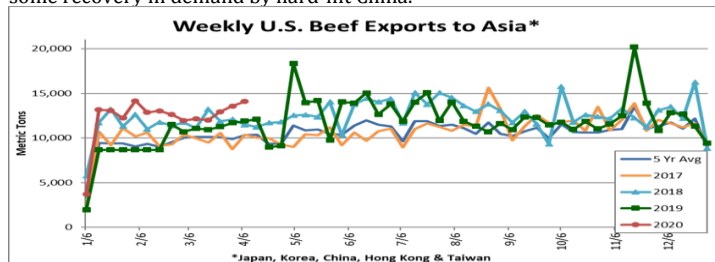
Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 13/4/2020 - US\$52.87/cwt. (-8% from 6/4/2020)

CORONAVIRUS AND U.S. RED MEAT SUPPLY CHAIN ASSURANCES

In light of more meat plant closures last week, this week and next may be the most critical ones for the U.S. meat industry as it attempts to implement new social distancing measures, secure PPE for all its employees, and attempt to implement wider testing and contact tracing for processing plant workers. While there are signs that the epidemic curve, or doubling rate of new infections, is flattening in the U.S. as a whole, and most noticeably in some of the earliest hardest hit areas including New York, Washington State, and California, other states are experiencing different timelines. That said, the US government, state and local governments, and the meat industry & its companies are quickly stepping up to put in place new protocols for employees to minimize disease transmission risk, while minimizing the impact on production. Last week, the U.S. Covid-19 task force headed by Vice President Mike Pence met with executives of major meat processing companies and other food producers to discuss a plan to test more workers. The USDA will be discussing that plan this week and how it may be rolled out more widely in federally inspected plants. According to Bureau of Labor statistics from 2010, there are 123,800 production workers in meat slaughter plants, 92,900 in meat processing plants, and 200,500 in poultry processing plants. There are 1.156 million production workers in other food processing industries. Specific measures being implemented at the plant level include increasing employee spacing on production lines, separating employees in cafeterias with separators between employees at communal tables, and increasing sanitation/sterilization in common areas. The **North American Meat Institute**, representing the meat & poultry processing industries, and the **Food Marketing Institute**, have partnered to compile a source of PPE, and are communicating those needs to USDA and the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. USDA FSIS has issued a new statement reiterating that meat & poultry inspection services, including export certification services, continue as normal. USDA also emphasized that there is no scientific evidence to suggest that any exported U.S. foodstuff or its packaging can transmit COVID-19. USDA FSIS in-plant inspectors are following the CoVID-19 risk mitigation guidance of industry & individual plant managers.

TRADE

Unlike in **China**, **Europe**, and the U.S., **Korea**, **HK** and **Taiwan** have managed to prevent widespread uncontrolled community outbreaks of CoVID-19 while avoiding locking down their populations. Taiwan has been a particular standout, reporting one of the lowest infection rates among its population, only 17 per 1 million persons. Taiwan has received praise from epidemiologists worldwide for its virus containment, mitigation, and suppression efforts. Managing to keep its economy open while tracing every CoVID-19 case in the community has helped keep beef demand - and beef imports - strong. Total beef imports during Q1 2020 rose 6.8% year-on-year to 32,965 tons according to Taiwan data, a record pace. U.S. beef imports totaled 15,632 tons, a 9.4% increase. Taiwan's chilled beef imports, a proxy for retail demand where most chilled beef is sold, increased by 22% during Q1, with U.S. volume increasing 23.4% to 6,168 tons. To be sure, Taiwan's foodservice industry has been hit hard by the outbreak, and the government has announced financial support for the sector. But restaurants have remained open and have done their best to adapt by increasing take-out options, with the government offering some subsidies for food deliveries. Like in other virus-hit economies, retail food sales have increased 20-30%, which from the beef side, appears to have made up for losses in beef utilization by the foodservice sector. As mentioned in column 1, U.S. beef exports to other Asian markets, including Japan, Korea and China, are up year-on-year through Q1, and just-released Australian data show that country's beef exports remained steady in March compared to February, with some recovery in demand by hard-hit China.



ACTIVITIES:

SIAL, Shanghai: September 28-30, 2020

Food Taipei, Taiwan: December 17-20, 2020

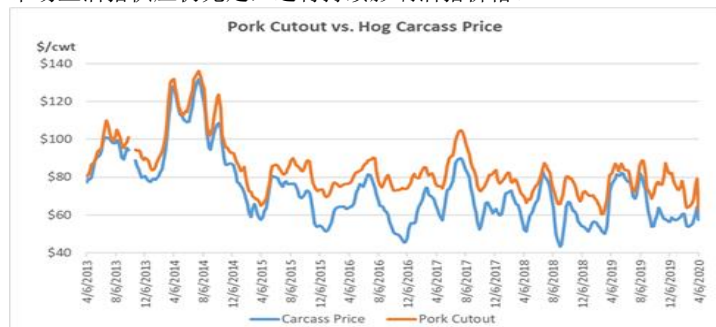


供应与需求

尽管因有员工感染 CoVID-19 导致几间牛肉屠宰厂暂时关闭，国内餐厅需求疲软导致上周牛肉分切价格较低。即使当前市场极度动荡，上周五牛肉分切价格收於每磅 2.25 美元，与去年同期水平和近 5 年来 4 月中旬的平均水平相似。牛肉零售销售持续强劲，推高肩胛部、後腿部和牛绞肉的价格，而排类商品的价格仍较低。最新的市场研究表明：美国所有餐饮店的总体收入减少 45% 至 65%，尤其是独立经营的内用餐厅所受到的冲击最大。在生产方面，牛肉产业正迅速制订新的厂内指南，这些指南应能够最大程度地降低生产中断的风险。食品和肉类生产已被指定为关键基础设施，政府和业者正急於在工厂标准作业程序下执行新的病毒缓解措施(见右栏)。举例来说，这些工厂在制订最佳的社会疏离措施时正放慢屠宰速度。更多批发包装的肉品出现在超市，这样可以减少劳动力投入，同时也可以满足更常在家用餐的家庭的大规模需求。上周已肥育和未经肥育的牛只屠宰总量为 53.6 万头，与上上周相比减少 14.4%，估计本周的屠宰量大致持平或略高。由於屠宰产能下降，上周五已肥育活牛价格周环比下跌 15.5% 至每百磅 105 美元。牛只期货交易波动仍然非常大，上周屠宰厂关闭导致昨日期货价格大幅下跌。生产者极为关注活牛价格下跌的问题，他们透过大幅减少置入肥育场的牛只头数以调整供应链。与此同时，美国农业部最近发布的每周出口数据显示，在 4 月 2 日当周，牛肉出口量增长 6%，但新的销量却减少 12%，这主要是因为日本和韩国的采购量减少。尽管如此，在香港和中国的销量成长，而在韩国、台湾和香港新的 CoVID-19 病例有令人鼓舞和显着的减少趋势(见右栏贸易新闻)。

美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数 (特选级)：2020 年 4 月 13 日 - \$225.86 美元/百磅 (较 2020 年 4 月 6 日减少 2%)

由於市场对 CoVID-19 的担忧导致上周猪肉分切价格大幅下跌，但低价格促使创纪录的出口速度。尽管上周猪只屠宰量为 240.7 万头，与上上周相比减少 6%，与去年同期相比仅减少 0.6%，南达科他州一间大型猪肉屠宰厂因发现 CoVID-19 而关闭成重大新闻。活猪屠宰量在 3 月下旬达到季节性高峰：3 月 21 日当周屠宰量达到 279.88 万头，而在接续的下一周屠宰量为 277.7 万头。适逢复活节假期，上周屠宰量较低，而产量也有所减少。总体而言，目前猪肉供应充足，并且像其他所有食品情况一样，由於餐饮需求极其疲软，猪肉原始价格也下跌。上周所有大分切价格均下跌，买家正寻求较低价格的後腿肉、腹肋肉、肋排、梅花肉和前腿肉。优惠的价格使得 4 月 2 日当周的美国猪肉出口创历史新高，达到 48,600 吨。创纪录的出口量受到中国(23,000 吨，+42%，创历史新高)所推动，同时至日本(5,380 吨，+1%)、澳洲(990 吨，+36%)和智利(880 吨，+24%)的出口量也上升。2020 年目前在中國的猪肉销量(以销售但尚未出口)总计 146,320 吨。2020 年 1 月 1 日至 4 月 2 日期间，至中国的累计出口总量为 216,701 吨，创历史新高。展望未来，尽管减少病毒传播的新协议能稳定工厂营运，国内市场仍存在不确定性。工厂关闭的消息导致昨日猪肉期货价格下跌。美国市场上活猪供应仍充足，这将持续影响活猪价格。



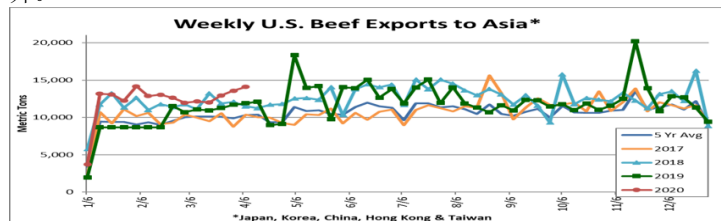
猪屠体分切价格：2020 年 4 月 13 日 - \$52.87 美元/ 百磅 (较 2020 年 4 月 6 日减少 8%)

新型冠状病毒和美国红肉供应保证

鉴於上周有更多肉品屠宰厂关闭，本周和下周可能是美国肉类产业最关键的时期，屠宰场正试图实施新的社会疏离措施，为所有员工提供个人防护设备(PPE)，并尝试进行更广泛的检测，以及电话联系追踪屠宰厂员工。有迹象表明，在整个美国，尤其是纽约州、华盛顿州和加利福尼亚等疫情最严重的地区的疫情流行曲线或新感染率翻倍的情况正趋於平缓，其他州正经历不同的疫情时间表。美国政府、州和地方政府，以及肉品产业和其公司正加紧制订新的协议以能够最大程度地减少员工传播疾病的风险，同时也最大程度地减少对生产的影响。上周，由副总统 Mike Pence 所率领在美国的 Covid-19 工作小组会见主要肉品屠宰公司和其他食品生产商高层，讨论检测更多员工的计划。美国农业部将在本周进一步讨论该计划内容，以及如何在经过联邦政府审查的屠宰场里更广泛地推广此计划。根据劳工局 2010 年的数据统计：肉品屠宰厂总共有 123,800 名生产劳工，肉品加工厂共有 92,900 名劳工，禽肉屠宰家工厂共有 200,500 劳工；而其他食品加工产业共计有 115.6 万名生产员工。在工厂实施的具体措施包括增加生产线上员工的间距、在自助食堂共用桌设置隔板以分隔员工，并提升公共区域的卫生设备和增加消毒作业。代表肉类和家禽屠宰产业的北美肉品协会(North American Meat Institute)和美国食品营销协会(Food Marketing Institute)已合作收集 PPE 的消息，并将这些需求传达给美国农业部和联邦紧急事务管理署(Federal Emergency Management Agency)。美国农业部食品安全检验局(FSIS)发布新声明，重申肉类和禽肉检验服务(包括出口认证服务)将继续正常运行。美国农业部也强调，没有任何科学证据表明任何出口的美国食品或其包装可传播 COVID-19。FSIS 厂内检验员正遵循各产业和个别工厂的 CoVID-19 风险缓解指南。

贸易新闻

和中国、欧洲和美国的情况不同，韩国、香港和台湾已设法避免不受控制的 CoVID-19 在社区爆发，并同时避免对人口进行封锁限制。台湾一直是表现优异；根据报导，台湾是人口中感染率最低之一，每百万人中只有 17 人受感染。台湾因其在阻遏、缓解和抑制病毒的努力而受到全球流行病学家的赞赏。在追踪所有社区中 CoVID-19 病例的同时保持经济开放有助於维持强劲的牛肉需求和牛肉进口。根据台湾数据：2020 年第一季度牛肉进口总量同比增长 6.8% 至 32,965 吨，创历史新高。美国牛肉进口量为 15,632 吨，增长 9.4%。於第一季度台湾的冷藏牛肉进口增长 22%，而美国冷藏牛肉进口量增长 23.4%，达到 6,168 吨；冷藏牛肉反映零售需求，大多数的冷藏牛肉均在零售通路销售。可以肯定的是，台湾餐饮业因为疫情而受到严重打击，政府已宣布对该产业的财政支援。餐厅仍维持营业，并透过增加外送服务来尽最大努力以适应市场状况，政府也为食品外送提供一些补助。和其他受病毒打击的经济情况一样，食品零售销售量增长 20 至 30%；从牛肉方面看，这似乎已经补足餐饮业在牛肉使用上的损失。如左栏所述，在第一季度之前，美国至其他亚洲市场(包括日本、韩国和中国)的牛肉出口量同比增长；而刚刚发布的澳洲数据显示，与 2 月时相比，3 月美国牛肉出口量维持稳定，受重创的中国需求也有所回升。



美国肉类出口协会活动预告：

中国国际食品及饮料展 — 上海：2020 年 9 月 28-30 日
台北国际食品展 — 台湾：2020 年 12 月 17-20 日