

Daily Futures Market Commentary Livestock Outlook

FRIDAY MORNING JULY 26, 2024 LIVESTOCK REPORT

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JUNE 25, 2024 COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS ON LAST PAGE

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CATTLE

JULY 25, 2024	120,000
WEEK AGO	115,000
YEAR AGO	124,416
WEEK TO DATE	480,000
PREVIOUS WEEK	475,000
2023 WEEK TO DATE	496,768
2024 YEAR TO DATE	17,765,917
2023 YEAR TO DATE	18,600,015
PERCENT CHANGE YEAR TO DATE	-4.5%

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_3208.PDF](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3208.pdf)

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2:00 PM JULY 25, 2024

BOXED BEEF	CHOICE	SELECT
CURRENT CUTOUT VALUES:	312.46	295.11
CHANGE FROM PRIOR DAY:	(0.22)	1.15
CHOICE/SELECT SPREAD:	17.35	
TOTAL LOAD COUNT (CUTS, TRIMMINGS, GRINDS):	131	
5 DAY SIMPLE AVERAGE:	313.86	297.44

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CME BOXED BEEF INDEX ON 07/24/2024 WAS 309.75 DOWN 1.47 FROM PREVIOUS DAY

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2:00 PM JULY 25, 2024

PRIMAL RIB	451.81	412.35
PRIMAL CHUCK	260.64	260.95
PRIMAL ROUND	276.59	275.77
PRIMAL LOIN	412.13	354.77
PRIMAL BRISKET	257.24	248.38
PRIMAL SHORT PLATE	216.09	216.09
PRIMAL FLANK	188.84	185.11

2:00 PM JULY 24, 2024

PRIMAL RIB	454.68	408.15
PRIMAL CHUCK	260.69	260.15
PRIMAL ROUND	276.44	274.88
PRIMAL LOIN	411.80	353.85
PRIMAL BRISKET	258.62	247.77
PRIMAL SHORT PLATE	214.95	214.95
PRIMAL FLANK	188.71	187.18

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LOAD COUNT AND CUTOFF VALUE SUMMARY

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	TRIM	GRINDS	TOTAL		
07/24	114	44	11	18	188	312.68	293.96
07/23	97	41	13	14	165	313.21	296.66
07/22	85	27	11	26	149	313.44	298.33
07/19	102	22	0	7	131	313.83	298.80 FRIDAY
07/18	107	29	9	28	174	316.15	299.46

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NATIONAL BOXED BEEF CUTS - NEGOTIATED SALES FOB PLANT BASIS NEGOTIATED SALES FOR DELIVERY WITHIN 0-21 DAY PERIOD. PRIOR DAYS SALES AFTER 1:30PM ARE INCLUDED.

JULY 23, 2024 FINAL

CHOICE CUTS	77.17 LOADS	3,086,880 POUNDS
SELECT CUTS	29.58 LOADS	1,183,062 POUNDS
TRIMMINGS	6.79 LOADS	271,662 POUNDS
GROUND BEEF	17.21 LOADS	688,279 POUNDS

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WEEKLY FUTURES PRICE CHANGE

	07/19/2024	07/26/2024	CONTRACT HIGH
AUGUST 2024 LIVE CATTLE	183.10		192.45 9/15/2023
OCTOBER 2024 LIVE CATTLE	183.47		194.67 9/15/2023
DECEMBER 2024 LIVE CATTLE	184.67		197.47 9/15/2023
FEBRUARY 2025 LIVE CATTLE	186.65		199.57 9/20/2023
APRIL 2025 LIVE CATTLE	188.67		196.40 3/14/2024

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WITH THE LIGHTER SLAUGHTER, THE DROP IN BOXED BEEF PRICES HAS BEEN SLOWING. THERE ISN'T A GOOD REASON PACKERS WILL TRY TO INCREASE SLAUGHTER.

PACKERS ARE IN THE RED AND HAVE HAD TO SELL MORE BEEF ON THE DAILY MARKET. THEY AREN'T GETTING MUCH HELP FROM THE EXPORT MARKET.

LIVE CATTLE VOLUME INCREASED THURSDAY AS SPREADERS WERE ACTIVELY UNWINDING BEAR SPREADS AND AUGUST MOVED UP CLOSER TO CASH PRICES.

THE LAST TIME AUGUST LIVE CATTLE WERE AS HIGH WAS SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 .

FROM OCTOBER ON OUT, BEAR SPREADERS WERE UNWINDING SPREADS, BUT THEY REMAIN BEAR SPREAD.

THE 5 DAY NEGOTIATED STEER PRICE ON JULY 25TH WAS \$195.08. AUGUST LIVE CATTLE FUTURES SETTLED JULY 25TH AT \$188.90 . A WEEK AGO THE 5 DAY NEGOTIATED PRICE WAS \$195.91.

THE BIG DIFFERENCE THIS WEEK FOR THE FEW CATTLE PACKERS ARE BUYING, THEY HAVE INCREASED PRICES PAID IN THE SOUTHWEST UP TO \$191.00 BUT ON THURSDAY THEY ONLY BOUGHT 255 HEAD. PACKERS ARE ALSO CONTINUING TO PAY PREMIUMS IN KANSAS FOR CATTLE THEY CAN SORT OFF AND SEND TO NEBRASKA.

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LAST WEEK CASH CATTLE SALES BOTH IN THE MIDWEST AND THE SOUTHWEST SOLD MOSTLY \$2.00 LOWER. FOB STEERS IN THE MIDWEST 196.00 TO 197.00 DRESSED STEERS \$309.00 TO \$310.00. THE SPREAD REMAINS WIDE BETWEEN REGIONS WITH SOUTHWEST CATTLE SELLING \$186.00.

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NATIONAL WEEKLY FED CATTLE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT JULY 23, 2024

AS OF JULY 23 2024, DRESSED STEER AND HEIFER CARCASSES AVERAGED 892.0 POUNDS, UP 5.0 POUNDS FROM PREVIOUS WEEK, UP 7 POUNDS IN 2 WEEKS AND UP 31.9 POUNDS FROM A YEAR AGO. THE GRADING PERCENT AS OF 07/23/2024 WAS 83.1% COMPARED TO PREVIOUS WEEK AT 82.7%. ON JULY 25, 2023 CARCASSES WEIGHED 860.1 POUNDS AND GRADED WAS 80.3%.

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_2700.PDF](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2700.pdf)

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STERLING MARKETING BEEF MARGINS WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2024**PACKER MARGIN (\$ /HEAD (\$100.96) LAST WEEK (\$92.78)) MONTH AGO (\$79.01) YEAR AGO (\$175.78)****FEEDLOT MARGINS: \$326.95 LAST WEEK \$368.29 MONTH AGO \$499.63 YEAR AGO \$441.06**

Sterling Marketing uses the Comprehensive Beef Cutout Value reported by USDA. I have included a document that explains this cutout value. I looked at this value about 4 years ago and compared the beef packer margin values from my Choice-Select Adjusted value and this Comprehensive value. There was little difference. However, over the past few weeks, the difference has become significant. I believe this is because the mix of cattle slaughtered is increasingly includes higher valued cattle – i.e., Prime, Upper 2/3 Choice, and Branded Program cattle. In addition, it includes the formula-priced cattle. Using just the Choice and higher grade and Select grade to generate the cutout does not reflect this important difference in the quality of cattle which in turn is definitely a driver to the notable improvement in beef demand over the past year.

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EXPORTS WEEK

FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 18, 2024 AT EXPORTS WERE 13,200 MT DOWN 4% ON 4 WEEK AVERAGE SOUTH KOREA WAS THE LARGEST BUYER AT 4,400 MT. JAPAN SECOND WITH 2200 MT COMPARED TO 2700 MT A WEEK AGO. CHINA TOOK 1800 MT . LAST WEEK CHINA WAS LARGEST BUYER TAKING 4,700 MT. MEXICO TOOK 1200 MT WHERE A WEEK AGO THEY BOUGHT 2700 MT.

WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2024	15,400 MT
WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 2024	8,300 MT
WEEK ENDING JUNE 27, 2024	15,500 MT
WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 2024	16,700 MT

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USDA NATIONAL STEER & HEIFER ESTIMATED GRADING PERCENT REPORT**[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/NW_LS196.TXT](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls196.txt) FULL REPORT****FOR WEEK ENDING: 7/13/2024**

	NEBRASKA	KANSAS	TEXAS
PRIME	9.44%	7.71%	7.16%
CHOICE	72.79%	75.25%	65.52%
SELECT	13.62%	14.06%	24.62%
OTHER	4.15%	2.98%	2.70%

FOR WEEK ENDING: 7/06/2024

	NEBRASKA	KANSAS	TEXAS
PRIME	10.95%	8.79%	7.31%
CHOICE	73.37%	74.97%	66.29%
SELECT	11.95%	12.73%	24.14%
OTHER	3.73%	3.52%	2.26%

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*****NATIONAL DAILY DIRECT CATTLE 07/25/2024**

5 DAY ACCUMULATED WEIGHTED AVG

	WEIGHT	PRICE	HEAD
LIVE STEER:	1465	\$195.08	22,677
LIVE HEIFER:	1301	\$194.41	5,930
DRESSED STEER	940	\$310.20	12,372
DRESSED HEIFER:	851	\$309.39	1,902

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USDA POSTED SUMMARY CATTLE PRICES ON 07/25/2024

STEER AND HEIFER COMBINED PRICES UNLESS NOTED

IA/MN – CASH FOB – 196.00 ON 230 FOB STEERS

DRESSED DELIVERED – 308.00 ON 178 STEERS WEIGHING 932 POUNDS

LIVE DELIVERED NO REPORTABLE TRADE.

DRESSED FOB - NO REPORTABLE TRADE

(1761 HEAD WEEKLY TOTAL AS OF 7/25/24)

NE – CASH FOB – NO REPORTABLE TRADE.

DRESSED DELIVERED - 308.00 ON 173 STEERS

(1180 HEAD WEEKLY TOTAL AS OF 7/25/24)

KS – CASH – 187.00-195.00 ON 2818 HEAD AVE PRICE 190.04

DRESSED DELIVERED – 193.00-196.00 ON 1452 TOTAL AVE PRICE 194.12

TX/OK/NM 191.00 ON 259 TOTAL HEAD

(1055 WEEKLY TOTAL HEAD FOR 7/25/2024)

COLORADO - *INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO CONFIDENTIALITY****

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DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE/DECEMBER LEAN HOG SPREAD –

OCTOBER/DECEMBER 2024 LIVE CATTLE –

DECEMBER/FEBRUARY LIVE CATTLE SPREAD -

AUGUST LIVE CATTLE -

OCTOBER 2024 LIVE CATTLE –

DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE –

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FEEDER CATTLE

CME FEEDER INDEX ON 07/24/2024 WAS 259.06 UP 67 CENTS FROM PREVIOUS DAY

AUGUST 2024 FEEDER CATTLE ON JULY 25, 2024 AT \$258.62

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NATIONAL FEEDER & STOCKER CATTLE SUMMARY - WEEK ENDING 07/20/2024

RECEIPTS:	AUCTIONS	DIRECT	VIDEO/INTERNET	TOTAL
THIS WEEK:	111,300	49,800	25,700	186,800
LAST WEEK:	162,100	49,100	450,100	661,300
YEAR AGO:	121,500	37,900	9,900	169,300

COMPARED TO LAST WEEK, STEERS AND HEIFERS SOLD MOSTLY STEADY TO 5.00 LOWER, BUT THERE WERE SOME EXCEPTIONS TO THAT WHICH TRENDED FIRM TO HIGHER. THE WEEK STARTED OFF WITH EXTREME HEAT AND AUCTION RECEIPTS WERE VERY LIGHT WHICH IS NOT UNUSUAL IN MID-JULY. HOWEVER, LATER IN THE WEEK MUCH COOLER WEATHER ARRIVED AND SOME AREAS SAW HEAVY RAINS AND LOCALIZED FLASH FLOODING WHICH ALSO PREVENTED SOME MOVEMENT. MANY BARNS ENCOURAGED PRODUCERS TO HOLD OFF MARKETING UNTIL THIS WEEK AS THE WEATHER IS PREDICTED TO BE MORE FAVORABLE FOR TRANSPORTING LIVESTOCK.

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/SJ_LS850.TXT](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/sj_ls850.txt)

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WEEKLY PRICE CHANGE

	07/19/2024	07/26/2024	CONTRACT HIGH
AUGUST 2024 FEEDER CATTLE	255.60		282.92 SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
SEPTEMBER 2024 FEEDER CATTLE	255.77		285.90 SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
OCTOBER 2024 FEEDER CATTLE	255.65		275.17 FEBRUARY 8, 2024
NOVEMBER 2024 FEEDER CATTLE	255.37		274.70 FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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HOGS

USDA ESTIMATED FEDERAL HOG SLAUGHTER

JULY 25, 2024	475,000
WEEK AGO	475,000
YEAR AGO	459,177
WEEK TO DATE	1,888,000
PREVIOUS WEEK	1,909,000

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2023 WEEK TO DATE 1,855,215
2024 YEAR TO DATE 72,413,131
2023 *YEAR TO DATE 71,601,853
YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE 1.1%
[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_3208.PDF](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3208.pdf)

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CME LEAN HOG INDEX ON 07/23/2024 WAS 90.77 UP 69 CENTS FROM PREVIOUS DAY

CME PORK CUTOUT INDEX 07/24/2024 AT 103.02 UP 1.07 FROM PREVIOUS DAY

THE CME LEAN HOG INDEX IS MINUS \$12.25 TO THE CME PORK INDEX 07/25/2024

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WEEKLY FUTURES PRICE CHANGE

	07/19/2024	07/26/2024	CONTRACT HIGH
AUGUST 2024 LEAN HOGS	91.57		108.30 APRIL 10, 2024
OCTOBER 2024 LEAN HOGS	74.55		89.40 APRIL 9, 2024
DECEMBER 2024 LEAN HOGS	66.92		80.65 JUNE 21, 2023
FEBRUARY 2025 LEAN HOGS	71.45		82.05 APRIL 8, 2024
APRIL 2025 LEAN HOGS	76.72		88.00 OCTOBER 13, 2023
JUNE 2025 LEAN HOGS	89.87		96.80 DECEMBER 18, 2023

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CME LEAN HOG INDEX AS OF JULY 23, 2024 = \$90.77

AUGUST 2024 LEAN HOGS AS OF JULY 24, 2024 = \$93.77

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LEAN HOGS ENDED MIXED THURSDAY. TRADERS HAVE PUT AUGUST LEAN HOGS \$3.00 OVER THE CME INDEX AND AS LIVE CATTLE WERE UNWINDING BEAR SPREADS, THE LIVE CATTLE/LEAN HOG SPREADS WERE ALSO UNWIDENING. TRADE VOLUME WAS LIGHT.

THE LEAN HOG INDEX TO PORK INDEX HAS PORK AT \$12.25 OVER THE CME LEAN HOG INDEX. DAY AFTER DAY PACKERS ARE GETTING GOOD NEWS AND SO ARE PRODUCERS.

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A GOOD SOLID WEEK FOR PORK EXPORTS. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DROPPED A BIT FROM THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, AT 30,200 MT PORK EXPORTS ARE VERY GOOD AND ARE HELPING TO SUPPORT PORK AND HOG PRICES.

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EXPORTS

WEEK ENDING JULY 18, 2024 NET EXPORTS WERE 30,200 MT DOWN 19% ON THE 4 WEEK AVERAGE . MEXICO TOOK 7,700 COMPARED TO A WEEK AGO AT 9,000 MT. SOUTH KOREA BOUGHT 6400 MT AND JAPAN 4500 MT. CHINA TOOK 2,100 A WEEK AGO THEY BOUGHT 2800 MT.

WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2024 NET EXPORTS WERE 23,700 MT

WEEK ENDING JULY 4, 2024 NET EXPORTS WERE 26,500 MT

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STERLING PORK PROFIT TRACKER WEEK ENDING - JULY 20, 2024

PACKER MARGINS \$15.69 LAST WEEK \$1.47 MONTH AGO \$7.28 YEAR AGO \$40.94

FARROW TO FINISH MARGINS \$38.45 LAST WEEK \$44.55 MONTH AGO \$45.88 YEAR AGO \$32.26

THE PRICES TO CALCULATE MARGINS ARE FROM HOGS SOLD ON NEGOTIATED PRICES AND PORK POSTED ON DAILY CARCASS. BOTH ARE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF ACTUAL PORK OR HOG SOLD. STERLING MARKETING CAN ONLY USE DATA PROVIDED AND PRIVATE FORMULAS AND GRIDS FOR HOGS AND PORK ARE NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE PACKERS DON'T SHARE CONTRACTED PORK PRICES AND HOG PRODUCERS SELLING ON FORMULAS AND CONTRACTS DON'T SHARE HOW PRICES ARE STRUCTURED.

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FOB PLANT - NEGOTIATED SALES

BASED ON NEGOTIATED PRICES AND VOLUME OF PORK CUTS DELIVERED WITHIN 14 DAYS AND ON AVERAGE INDUSTRY CUTTING YIELDS. CALCULATIONS FOR 215 LB. PORK CARCASS. 55-56% LEAN, 0.55"-0.70" BF LAST RIB

LOADS PORK CUTS : 271.80

LOADS TRIM/PROCESS PORK : 32.38

2:00 PM	LOADS	CARCASS	LOIN	BUTT	PIC	RIB	HAM	BELLY
07/24/2024	304.18	105.95	97.98	114.55	75.57	125.99	115.42	140.64
CHANGE:		1.19	0.89	6.48	-0.61	-3.30	1.46	0.49
FIVE DAY AVERAGE --		104.18	97.32	112.16	75.92	131.13	111.43	137.60

11:00 AM	LOADS	CARCASS	LOIN	BUTT	PIC	RIB	HAM	BELLY
07/24/2024	154.68	107.09	99.29	116.39	76.28	128.69	116.89	140.94
CHANGE:		2.33	2.20	8.32	0.10	-0.60	2.93	0.79
FIVE DAY AVERAGE --		104.41	97.58	112.53	76.06	131.67	111.73	137.66

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HOG REPORT - PLANT DELIVERED PURCHASE JULY 25, 2024

NATIONAL NEGOTIATED PRICE

HEAD COUNT: 3,165

LOWEST PRICE: 77.00

HIGHEST PRICE: 87.00

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WEIGHTED AVERAGE 84.51
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS DAY -0.79 LOWER

OTHER MARKET FORMULA (CARCASS)

HEAD COUNT: 27,241
LOWEST BASE PRICE: 66.35
HIGHEST BASE PRICE: 108.31
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE: 90.92

SWINE/PORK MARKET FORMULA (CARCASS)

HEAD COUNT 137,524
LOWEST BASE PRICE: 81.71
HIGHEST BASE PRICE: 96.44
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE 91.18

OTHER PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT (CARCASS)

HEAD COUNT: 54,222
LOWEST BASE PRICE: 80.13
HIGHEST BASE PRICE: 100.56
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE 92.13

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/MEDIA/LMRSWINEREPORTINGHANDOUT.PDF](https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/lmrswinereportinghandout.pdf)

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NATIONAL DAILY DIRECT HOG PRIOR DAY REPORT - SLAUGHTERED SWINE

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_2511.PDF](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2511.pdf)

SLAUGHTER DATA – JULY 24, 2024

****PRODUCER SOLD:**

HEAD COUNT 227,512
AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT 281.90
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 211.45

PACKER SOLD:

HEAD COUNT 34,634
AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT 284.07
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 213.06

PACKER OWNED:

HEAD COUNT 178,393
AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT 275.85
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 210.33

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DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE/DECEMBER LEAN HOG SPREAD IN CATTLE SECTION
OCTOBER/DECEMBER LEAN HOG SPREAD –
DECEMBER 2024/FEBRUARY 2025 LEAN HOG SPREAD
OCTOBER LEAN HOGS –
DECEMBER 2024 LEAN HOGS -
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COLD STORAGE REPORT – JUNE 2024
JULY 25, 2024

TOTAL RED MEAT SUPPLIES IN FREEZERS WERE DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND
DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.

TOTAL POUNDS OF BEEF IN FREEZERS WERE DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND
DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR

FROZEN PORK SUPPLIES WERE DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND DOWN 3
PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.

STOCKS OF PORK BELLIES WERE DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM LAST MONTH AND DOWN 14 PERCENT
FROM LAST YEAR.

(RECORD LOW VEAL STOCKS)

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