



# Food Protection and Defense Institute

A Homeland Security Center of Excellence

June 19, 2020

## COVID-19 Near-Term Issues Spotting in Food Supply Chain

### Meat Supply Chain and Mass Hog Depopulation – UPDATE #32

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Updates issued on Fridays to track recovery trends



## Action Opportunity Update

### Critical path to meat supply chain disruption resolution

- Maintain full operating capacity at processing facilities in consideration of worker health
  - Implement weekend processing to enhance short-term capacity
  - Coordinate worker protective equipment to:
    - maintain worker safety with normal operation PPE (specific to each job function and may include, for example, cut-resistant clothing, bump caps, dust masks/respirators, protective eyewear, protective foot wear, etc.);
    - maintain food safety with normal operation sanitation wear (specific to each product produced and may include, for example, hair/beard nets, disposable gloves, cloth or disposable coats/gowns, shoe covers, etc.); and
    - enhance COVID-19 infection control measures through cloth-face coverings, social distancing, physical barriers, etc.
- Manage depopulation and disposal of hog overstock in multiple states including rendering, composting, and burial as appropriate in each locality
- Support livestock producers and processors in achieving new equilibrium including financial and liability considerations

### Transition point from meat supply chain to broader food system disruption

- Address increasing level of COVID-19 infections in non-meat supply chain food production and facilities
  - Enhance COVID-related worker health and surveillance processes
  - Coordinate worker protective equipment to:
    - maintain worker safety with normal operation PPE;
    - maintain food safety with normal operation sanitation wear; and
    - enhance COVID-19 infection control measures
- Begin enhanced monitoring of food production and processing status to identify transition points and potential cascading effects



## Situation Update

### Action by Appointed and Elected Officials

- [Pigs at slaughter: measures to address welfare concerns](#) – European Food Safety Authority, June 17, 2020
  - [Welfare of pigs at slaughter](#) – EFSA Journal
- [Food Outlook: Biannual Report on Global Food Markets COVID-19](#) – FAO

### Recommendations from authoritative bodies (cumulative)

- [NEW Daily Life and Coping](#) – CDC
- [NEW COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) – OSHA (Context – cloth face coverings)
- [Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition](#) – United Nations
- [Agriculture Workers and Employers](#) – CDC and US Dept of Labor
  - [Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan](#)
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - USDA
- Opening Facilities
  - [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#) – CDC
  - [FAQs regarding the use of masks in the workplace](#) – OSHA
  - [Guidance for workers and employers](#) – OSHA (many documents available)
  - [Reporting a Temporary Closure or Significantly Reduced Production by a Human Food Establishment and Requesting FDA Assistance During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) - FDA
  - [CDC updates COVID-19 transmission webpage to clarify information about types of spread](#) - CDC
  - [Food and Agriculture: Considerations for Prioritization of PPE, Cloth Face Coverings, Disinfectants, and Sanitation Supplies During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - FDA
  - [Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers](#) – CDC
  - [Strategies to reduce COVID-19 transmission at Smithfield Foods Sioux Falls Pork Plant](#) - CDC
  - [COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for the Meatpacking Industry](#) – Minnesota Department of Health
  - [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#) - CDC
  - [Exercise Starter Kit for Workshop on Reconstituting Operations](#) – FEMA
  - [North American Meat Institute Coronavirus Update](#) - NAMI
- Depopulation and Disposal
  - [APHIS Livestock Coordination Center](#) – USDA
  - [Recommendations for Swine Depopulation](#) (updated) – American Association of Swine Veterinarians
    - [Evaluating Emergency Euthanasia or Depopulation of Livestock and Poultry](#)
  - [Emergency Animal Mortality Management – Swine](#) – USDA
  - [USDA Carcass Management Dashboard](#) – USDA

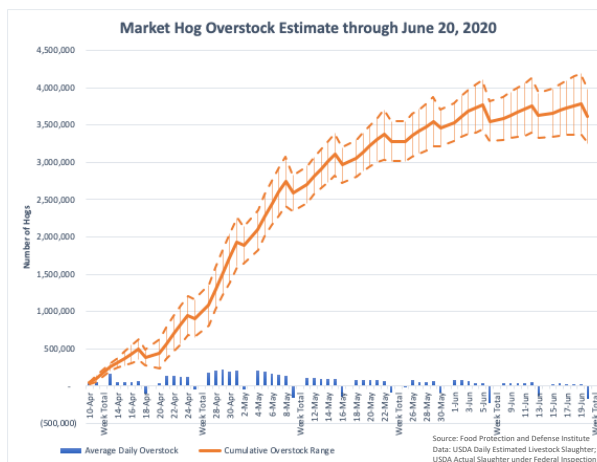


- COVID from Food and Food Packaging
  - [How COVID-19 Spreads](#) – CDC (updated May 20, 2020)
  - [Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up/Delivery Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) – FDA
  - [Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) – FDA
  - [Safe Food Handling](#) - FDA
  - [Food Product FAQs](#) - FDA
  - [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) – FDA
  - [What to Do if You Have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA](#) – FDA

## Hog Update

### Daily Hog Slaughter and Overstock Addition<sup>1</sup>

- Total overstock estimate – 3.6MM, uncertainty range 3.3MM to 3.9MM – no change from previous week  
(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



- Daily slaughter numbers

	Daily Estimate	Same day April 3-9	Year Ago
June 15	457,000	474,731	474,125
June 16	458,000	483,431	478,424
June 17	460,000	472,974	478,905
June 18	460,000	467,945	478,775
June 19	457,000	482,993	458,069
June 20	290,000	140,189	86,176

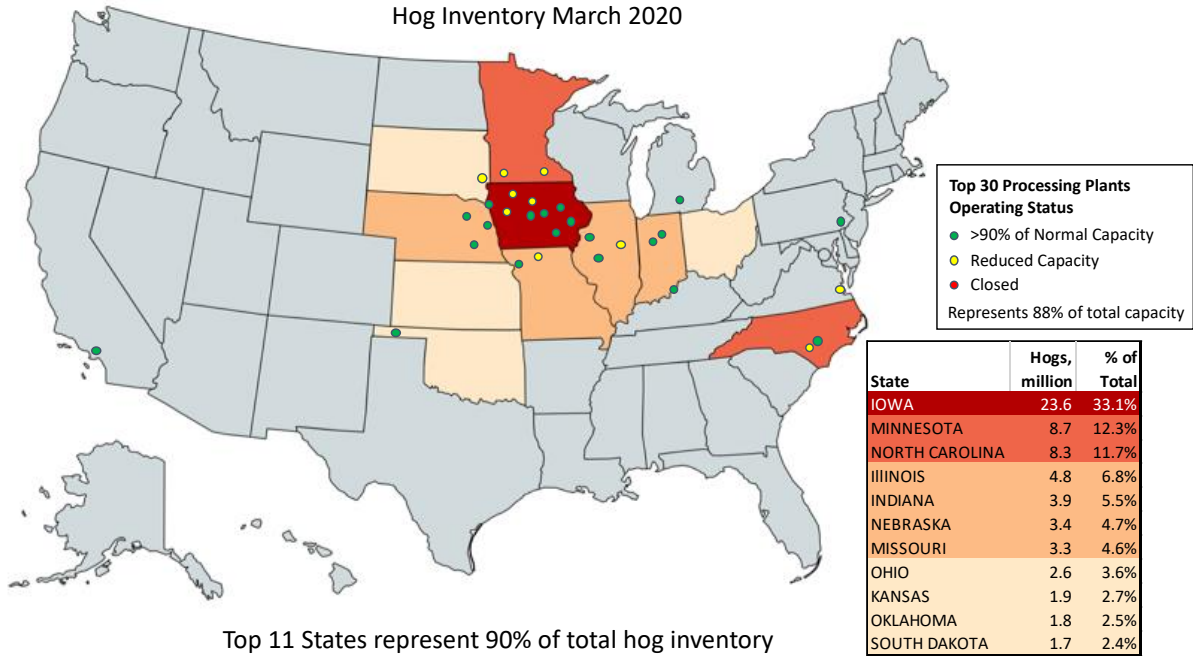
(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)

- Daily pork processing capacity
  - Approximately 99% of pre-COVID capacity for the week ending June 13
  - Capacity reduction from maximal capacity approximately 9.2% on June 15 and 16, 8.5% on June 17, 7.8% on June 18 and 19. June 18 had 18 of 28 previously impacted plants functioning at over 90% normal capacity, 7 at 80-90%, and 3 at 55-80%. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; Kern and Associates courtesy of NPPC)

<sup>1</sup> Total hog overstock estimates do not include depopulation numbers due to the confidentiality and sensitivity of these numbers. Public reporting includes 10,000 per day in Minnesota, 300,000 as of June 11, and 600,000 in Iowa in the near future.



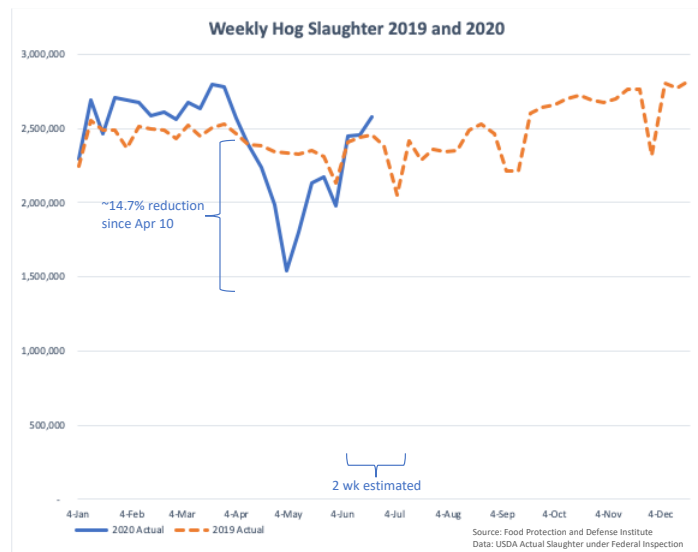
Processing Plant Operating Status June 19, 2020  
Hog Inventory March 2020

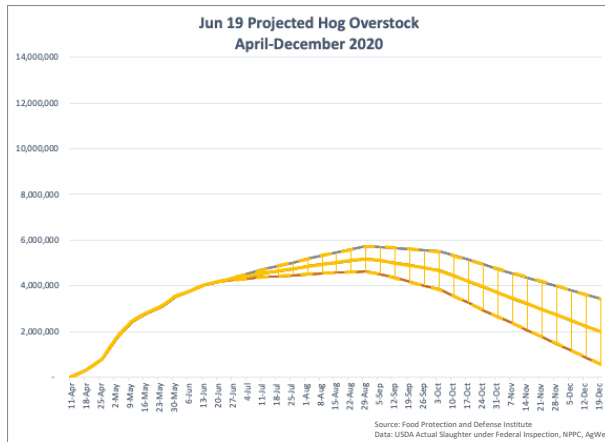


Source: Food Protection and Defense Institute  
Data: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Quarterly Hogs and Pigs;  
Steiner Group and Kerns & Associates courtesy of NPPC

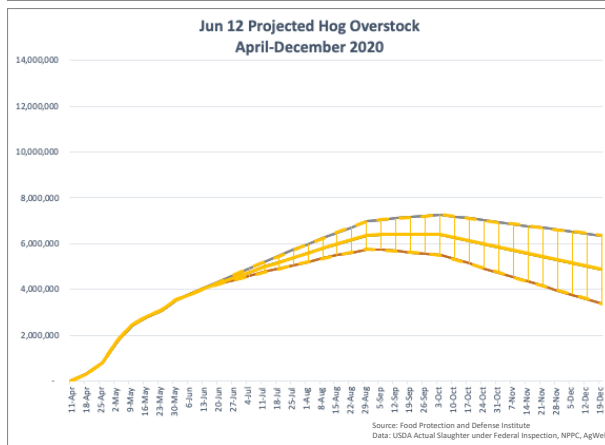
## Weekly Hog Slaughter and Overstock Projections

- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending June 20 were down approximately 1% from pre-COVID levels with a 14.7% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 11. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Total hog overstock projections through December 2020 expected to peak at about 5.1MM market weight hogs peaking in September due to continued accelerated recovery. Historical production capacity is lower during summer months which provides room for surge processing capacity that may assist with hog overstock in some regions. June 19 and June 12 models are provided for comparison.





- Assumptions**
- Hog inventory at 95% plant capacity through mid-October representing market conditions for pigs already born and in growth cycle prior to COVID-19
  - Year on year capacity increase of 6.4% to April 9 excluded after Aug 31, 2020
  - Adjusted for normal weekly fluctuation in plant capacity (e.g. holiday reductions)
  - Average plant capacity
    - 90% by week of Jun 5
    - Normal capacity through remainder of year**
  - Young pig and sow culling (relative to Q1)
    - No culling prior to April 10
    - 5% for pigs reaching market weight in mid-September
    - 10% for pigs reaching market weight in mid-October
  - The 10% reduction in herd size and 90% normal plant capacity creates a pseudo-equilibrium (Date: June 19, 2020)



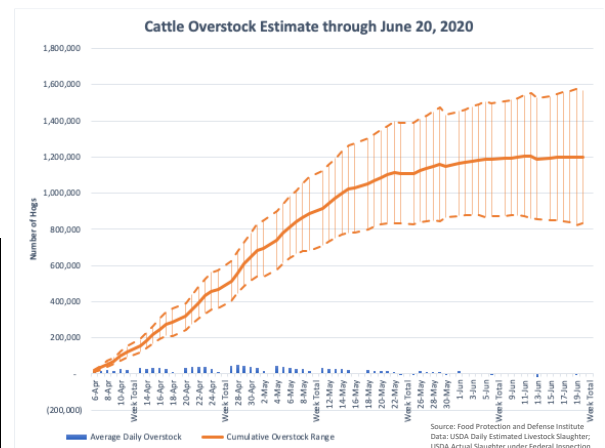
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    - 5% for pigs reaching market weight in mid-September
    - 10% for pigs reaching market weight in mid-October
  - The 10% reduction in herd size and 90% normal plant capacity creates a pseudo-equilibrium (Date: June 12, 2020)

## Cattle Update

### Daily Cattle Slaughter and Overstock Addition

- Total overstock estimates – 1.2MM, uncertainty range 0.8MM to 1.5MM – no change from previous week (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Daily slaughter numbers

	Daily Estimate	Same day Wk Apr 4	Year Ago
June 15	119,000	118,756	120,366
June 16	119,000	119,473	122,260
June 17	120,000	117,235	121,859
June 18	120,000	115,152	120,513
June 19	119,000	107,188	118,954
June 20	59,000	53,495	64,317

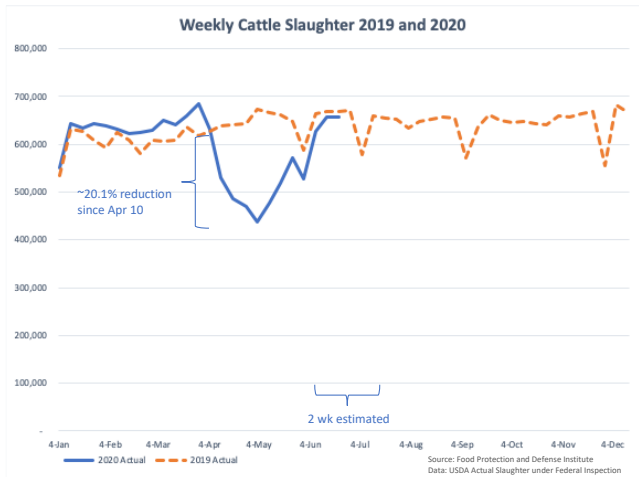


(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



## Weekly Cattle Slaughter and Overstock Projections

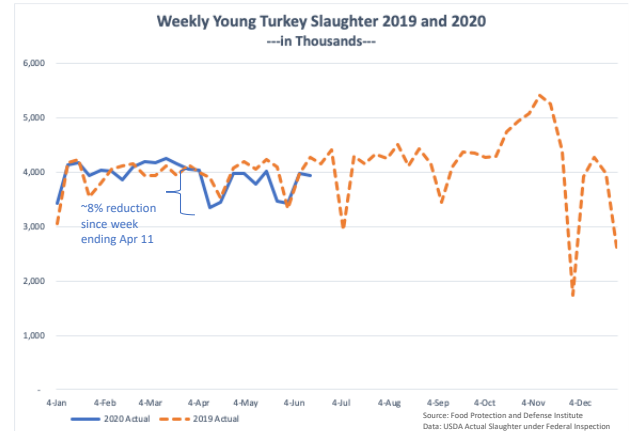
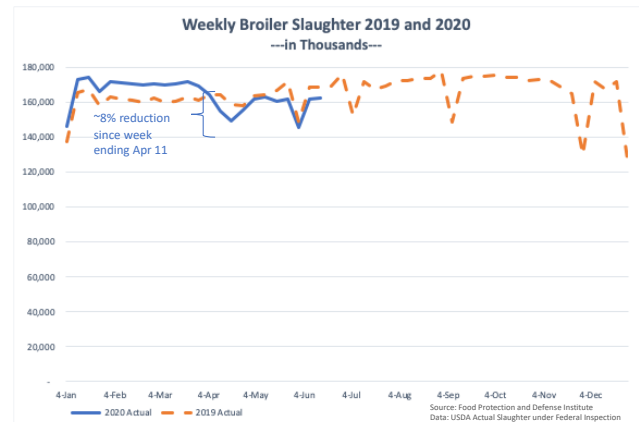
- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending June 20 were down approximately 6% with a 20% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



## Poultry Update

### Weekly Poultry Slaughter and Overstock

- Young Turkeys
  - Young turkey weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending June 13 were down approximately 10% with an 8% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Broilers
  - Broiler slaughter numbers for the week ending June 13 were down approximately 8% with an 8% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



## Livestock Media Update

### Webinars

- [COVID-19 and the Food and Agricultural System](#) - Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Academy of Sciences – webinar recorded on June 19, 2020, recording available week of June 22

### Processing facilities media coverage

(This section contains exemplary material from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [Covid-19: Is US pig processing back to normal?](#) – Pig Progress, June 19, 2020
- [Meatpacking workers often absent after Trump order to reopen](#) – Reuters, June 15, 2020



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- “Nationwide, 30% to 50% of meatpacking employees were absent last week, said Mark Lauritsen, a vice president at the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).”
- [Covid-19: Tönnies closes largest pork plant in Germany](#) – Pig Progress, June 19, 2020 (Context: 730 of 1,106 employees tested positive)
- [How Did Europe Avoid the COVID-19 Catastrophe Ravaging US Meatpacking Plants?](#) – Mother Jones, June 13, 2020
- [China finds heavy coronavirus traces in seafood, meat sections of Beijing food market](#) – Reuters, June 18, 2020
  - “suspects the area’s low temperature and high humidity may have been contributing factors, officials said on Thursday.”
- [UK food producer temporarily shuts Welsh poultry plant after COVID-19 outbreak](#) – Reuters, June 18, 2020
- [Mapping Covid-19 outbreaks in the food system](#) – Food & Environment Reporting Network
  - “According to data collected by FERN, as of June 19 at 12pm ET, at least 333 meatpacking and food processing plants (249 meatpacking and 84 food processing) and 45 farms and production facilities have confirmed cases of Covid-19, and two meat plants are currently closed. At least 32,049 workers (27,138 meatpacking workers, 2,190 food processing workers, and 2,721 farmworkers) have tested positive for Covid-19 and at least 109 workers (99 meatpacking workers, 8 food processing workers, and 2 farmworkers) have died.”

## Economic media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [As Meat Plants Stayed Open to Feed Americans, Exports to China Surged](#) – New York Times, June 16, 2020
- [As leaders warned of US meat shortages, overseas exports of pork and beef continued](#) – USA Today, June 16, 2020
- [Meatpacking rebounds but high prices and backlogs to persist](#) – AP, June 14, 2020
- [Coronavirus: China bans imported pork from German meat plant after more than 650 infected in outbreak](#) – South China Morning Post, June 18, 2020

## Producer media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [Minnesota Pork Producers Work To Bounce Back As COVID-19 Restrictions Loosen](#) – WCCO, June 18, 2020 (video)
- [To prevent livestock euthanasia, effort brings hogs to WNC families to slaughter](#) – Blue Ridge Now, June 14, 2020
- [Iowa Pig Farmers Show Community Spirit During COVID-19 Crisis](#) – Iowa Pork Producers Association, June 12, 2020





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## Food shortage media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue. At present, there are no indications of wide-scale food shortages although supply chain disruptions continue to create spot limited supply or out of stock situations.)

- [More Households Face Food Scarcity during COVID-19](#) – Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, June 18, 2020
- [Global pork output projected to drop 8% in 2020 due to ASF, COVID-19](#) – National Hog Farmer, June 16, 2020
- [Coronavirus outbreak linked to Beijing wholesale food market could impact China's meat imports](#) – CNBC, June 16, 2020
- [COVID-19 will affect the food and financial security of many for years to come](#) – Science Daily, June 15, 2020
- [The Impact of COVID-19 On Food Security \[opinion\]](#) – MarketWatch, June 15, 2020

Previous updates available upon request