



Food Protection and Defense Institute

A Homeland Security Center of Excellence

June 2, 2020

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

Meat Supply Chain and Mass Hog Depopulation – UPDATE #28

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Update issued on Tuesdays and Fridays unless significant situational developments arise



Action Opportunity Update

Critical path to issue resolution

- Reopen processing facilities in consideration of worker safety with federal guidance and support
 - Reopening at reduced capacity helps alleviate livestock overstock
 - 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.
- Coordinate a whole of government approach through ESF 11 to:
 - 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



Situation Update

Action by Appointed and Elected Officials (updated Tuesday and Friday)

- [Arkansas Gov. Hutchinson working with poultry plants in northwest Arkansas as cases of COVID-19 spike](#) – KY3, June 1, 2020

Recommendations from authoritative bodies (cumulative)

- **NEW** [Agriculture Workers and Employers](#) – CDC and US Dept of Labor
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - USDA
- Opening Facilities
 - [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



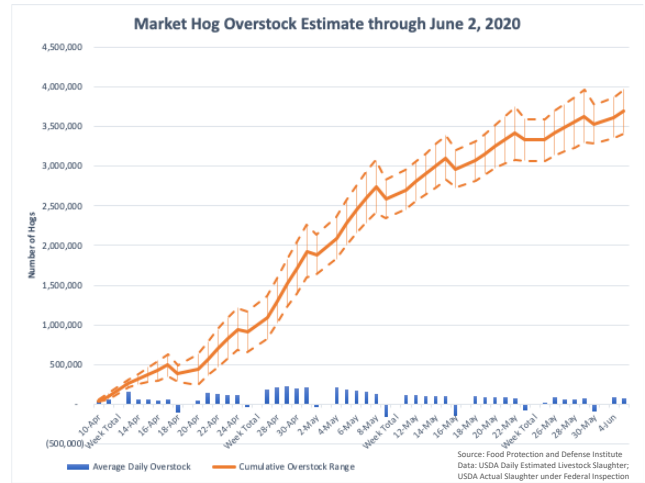
- [What to Do if You Have COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA](#) – FDA

Hog Update

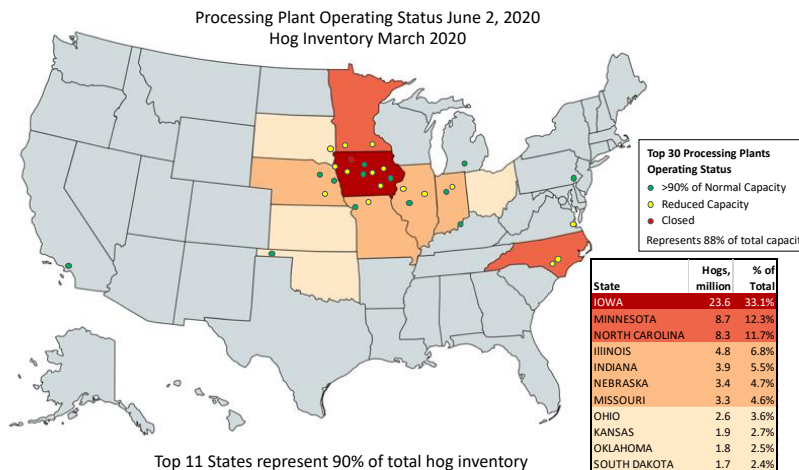
Daily Hog Slaughter and Overstock Addition (updated Tuesday and Friday)¹

- Total overstock estimate – 3.7MM, uncertainty range 3.4MM to 4.0MM.
(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Daily slaughter numbers
 - down ~80,000 hogs June 1 (403,000)
 - 465,000 year ago
 - 474,000 same day April 3-9
 - down ~ 75,000 hogs June 2 (417,000)
 - 478,000 year ago
 - 483,000 same day April 3-9

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



- Daily pork processing capacity
 - Approximately 82% on June 2
 - Capacity reduction approximately 19% on June 1 due to COVID and non-COVID issues (e.g. riots and wastewater issues) and 16% on June 2. June 2 had nine previously impacted plants functioning at over 90% normal capacity. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; Kern and Associates courtesy of NPPC)

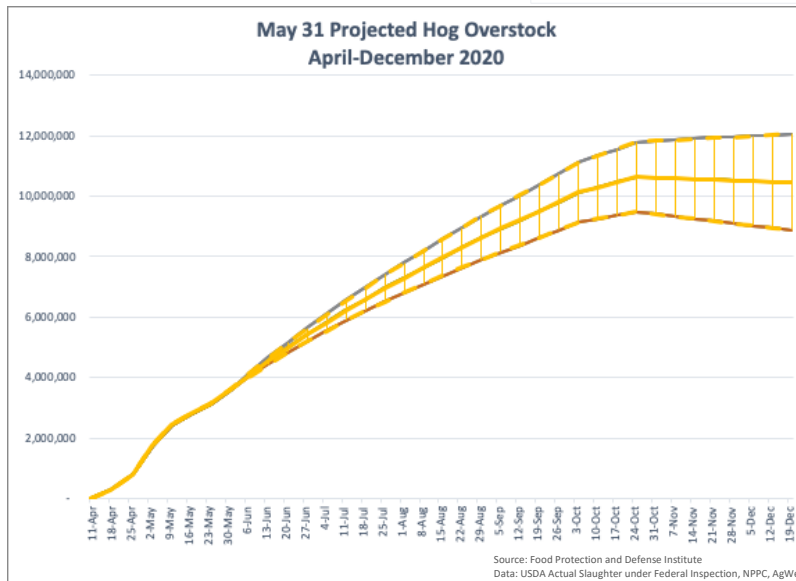
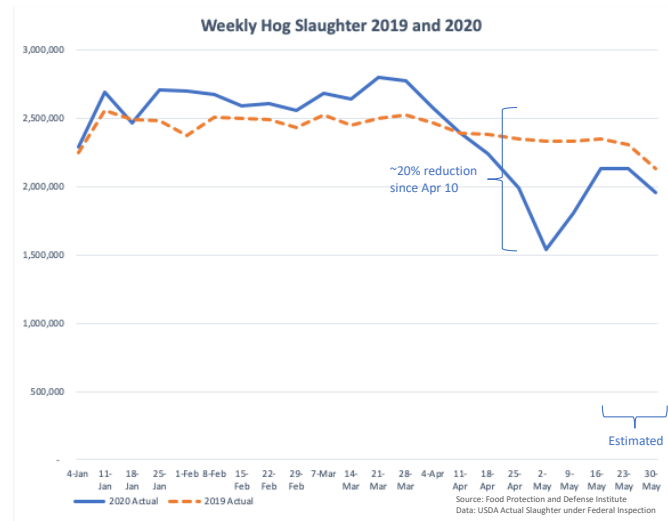


¹ Total hog overstock estimates do not include depopulation numbers due to the confidentiality and sensitivity of these numbers. Public reporting includes 10,000 per day in Minnesota and 600,000 in Iowa in the near future.



Weekly Hog Slaughter and Overstock Projections (updated Friday)

- Weekly slaughter numbers for week ending May 30 down approximately 13.5% (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Total slaughter numbers down 20% 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 10MM market weight hogs by late October.



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
 - Adjusted for normal weekly fluctuation in plant capacity (e.g. holiday reductions)
 - Average plant capacity
 - 85% by week of May 17
 - 90% by week of Aug 1 – level expected for COVID-19 worker health and safety measures
 - 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
 - 17% for pigs reaching market weight in November
 - The 17% reduction in herd size as compared to Q1 2020 and 90% normal plant capacity creates a pseudo-equilibrium
- (Date: May 29, 2020)

Hog media coverage (updated Tuesday and Friday)

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

- [Q&A Series: Pork Industry Leaders Explore Ripple Effects of COVID-19](#) – Farm Journal's Pork, June 1, 2020
- [Q&A Series: Swine Vets Speak Out About the Impact of COVID-19](#) – Farm Journal's Pork, June 2, 2020
- [Pork Producers Continue to Struggle Mightily](#) – Mid-West Farm Report, May 30, 2020
- [Pork Industry Trying to Find the Positives in a Negative Situation](#) – Red River Farm Network, June 1, 2020



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Hog depopulation and disposal media coverage (updated Tuesday and Friday)

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

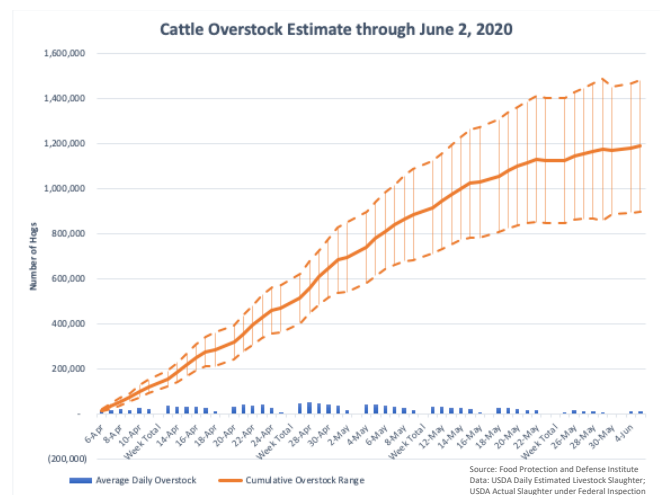
- [Slaughterhouses reopen, but experience backlogs](#) – Morning Ag Clips, May 31, 2020
- [Shocking video captures Iowa's largest pork producer steaming thousands of pigs to death after COVID-19 outbreaks decimated production lines, caused plants to shut and led to millions of animals being euthanized](#) – Daily Mail UK, May 30, 2020
- [Crisis Continues for Hog Farmers](#) – Progressive Farmer, June 1, 2020

Cattle Update

Daily Cattle Slaughter and Overstock Addition (updated Tuesday and Friday)

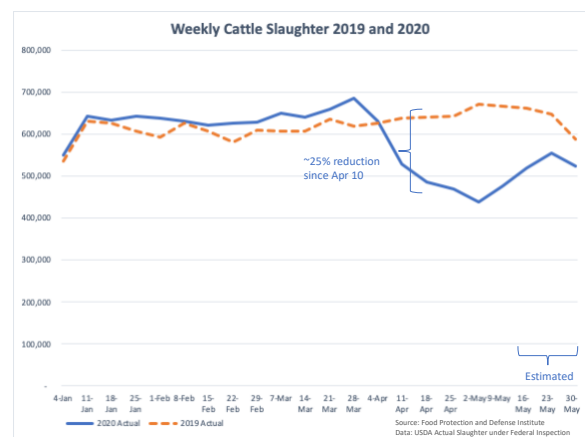
- Total overstock estimates – 1.2MM, uncertainty range 0.9MM to 1.5MM. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Daily slaughter numbers
 - down ~13,000 head June 1 (110,000)
 - 122,000 year ago
 - 119,000 day week of April 4
 - down ~9,000 head June 2 (113,000)
 - 118,000 year ago
 - 119,000 day week of April 4

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



Weekly Cattle Slaughter and Overstock Projections (updated Friday)

- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending May 30 were down approximately 15% with a 25% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



Cattle media update (updated Tuesday and Friday)

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

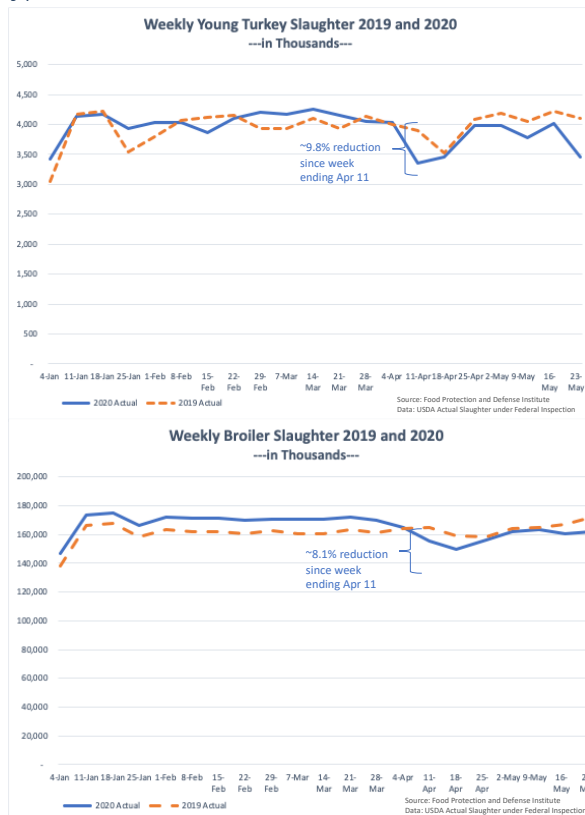
- [COVID-19 likely to affect beef industry into 2021](#) – Beef Magazine, June 1, 2020
- [COVID-19 exposes shortage of US beef processing capacity](#) – Watt Ag Net, June 2, 2020



Poultry Update

Weekly Poultry Slaughter and Overstock (updated Friday)

- Young Turkeys
 - Young turkey weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending May 23 were down approximately 17.8% with an 9.8% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Broilers
 - Broiler slaughter numbers for the week ending May 23 were down approximately 10.1% with an 8.1% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



Poultry media update (updated Tuesday and Friday)

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

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Livestock Media Update (updated Tuesday and Friday)

Webinars

- Recording [May 2020 – Responsibly Reopening and Rebounding from COVID-19](#) with Dr. David Acheson, MD and Dr. Ben Miller, Ph.D., MPH – SafetyChain, May 29, 2020

Processing facilities media coverage

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

- [As meatpacking plants reopen, workers terrified of coronavirus risk](#) – Politico, June 2, 2020
- [Tyson worker: 'They're worried more about getting chicken on the shelves than the people who put the chicken on the shelf'](#) – Winston-Salem Journal, May 31, 2020
- [Tyson: 815 workers at Iowa plants — 591 in Storm Lake and 224 in Council Bluffs](#) — tested positive for COVID-19 – Des Moines Register, June 2, 2020
- [Mapping Covid-19 outbreaks in the food system](#) – Food & Environment Reporting Network
 - “According to data collected by FERN, as of June 2 at 1pm ET, at least 261 meatpacking and food processing plants and 36 farms and production facilities have



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confirmed cases of Covid-19, and at least one meatpacking plant and four food processing plants are currently closed. At least 23,776 workers (20,855 meatpacking workers, 1,474 food processing workers, and 1,447 farmworkers) have tested positive for Covid-19 and at least 85 workers (77 meatpacking workers, 6 food processing workers, and 2 farmworkers) have died.”

Economic media coverage

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

- [Meat Plants Reopen, but Burgers Stay Pricey](#) – Wall Street Journal, May 31, 2020
- [Hog Farmers Losing Money on Every Hog They Sell](#) – Hoosier Ag Today, June 2, 2020

Producer media coverage

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

- [Is your livestock farm in the crosshairs?](#) – Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers
- [As Farmers Face Increasing COVID-19 Pressure, Some Fear For Their Mental Health](#) – KCUR, June 1, 2020

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.)

- [US food prices see historic jump](#) – Morning Ag Clips, May 31, 2020 (Context: Fact Sheet)
- [Rebuilding America: From farm to table, food supplies in the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – Neosho Daily News, May 31, 2020

Activist media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage around the issue and should not be interpreted as the views of the author or the Institute.)

- [Protesters demand closure of Arkansas' COVID-19-affected poultry plants](#) – Facing South, June 1, 2020

Previous updates available upon request