



# Food Protection and Defense Institute

A Homeland Security Center of Excellence

June 5, 2020

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

### Meat Supply Chain and Mass Hog Depopulation – UPDATE #29

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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)

- -

Recommendations from authoritative bodies (cumulative)

- [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



## Activist Situation Update

The following situation report was prepared by FPD and provided to the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council on June 5, 2020.

Over the past week and related to the COVID-19 pandemic, animal activists have accelerated their activity. As a result, the threat landscape related to animal agriculture has increased significantly with activists taking action at all stages of the food supply chain from farm to retail. This is in part due to mobilization through social media during COVID-19, messaging to blame the pandemic on animal agriculture, the dissemination of an interactive map at [Project Counterglow](#) that shows the name, address, and map coordinators of most, if not all, facilities affiliated with animal agriculture, and the hog depopulation caused by meat supply chain disruptions.

On June 4, 2020, the Animal Ag Alliance and FBI profiled the current risk environment at a meeting hosted by the Food and Agriculture Government and Sector Coordinating Councils. Facilities, companies, and associations should evaluate the rising animal activist threat and may want to consider developing 1) context-specific communication plans to inform their stakeholders; 2) easy to follow actions to improve physical and personnel security for their facilities; and 3) appropriate connections with law enforcement that may be needed in the event of activist action.

The [Animal Ag Alliance](#) recommended that stakeholders consider:

- How can farmers better protect themselves, their families, employees and animals?
- Are there resources or agencies they can contact for assistance before activists attack?
- What steps should they take when activists target them?

In addition to the farm level, processors and retailers may also want to consider similar questions as they prepare for potential activist action.

The FBI highlighted that the WMD Coordinators are able to assist and welcome connections within the food supply chain. A list of WMD coordinators will be provided to the Animal Ag Alliance or facilities may contact their [local FBI field office](#) and request to speak with the WMD Coordinator.

Information about the threat is also available through DHS Fusion centers.

The Food Protection and Defense Institute is an additional resource to provide information, facilitate connections, and assist in preparedness planning.



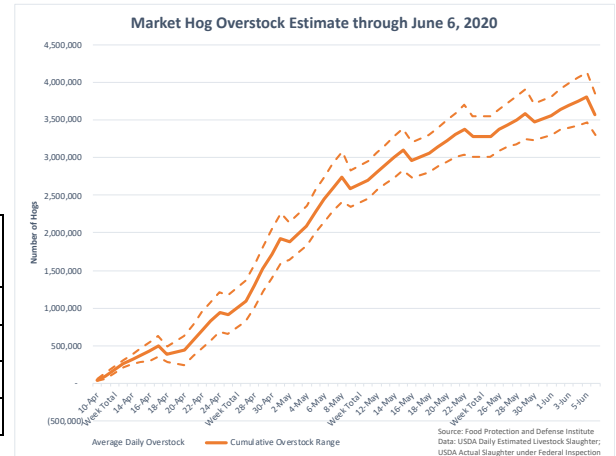
## Hog Update

### Daily Hog Slaughter and Overstock Addition (updated Tuesday and Friday)<sup>1</sup>

- Total overstock estimate – 3.5MM, uncertainty range 3.3MM to 3.9MM.  
(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)

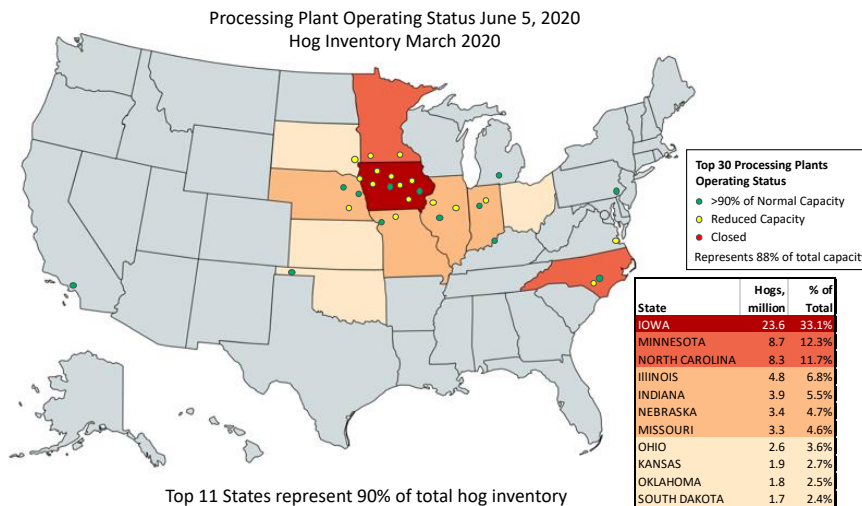
- Daily slaughter numbers

	Daily Estimate	Same day April 3-9	Year Ago
June 3	429,000	472,974	476,168
June 4	437,000	467,945	470,189
June 5	438,000	482,993	467,895
June 6	323,000	140,189	51,773



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

- Daily pork processing capacity
  - Approximately 89% for week ending June 6 with significant capacity increase due to estimated Saturday slaughter
  - Capacity reduction approximately 14% June 3, 13% June 4, and 12% June 5 due to COVID and non-COVID issues (e.g. riots and wastewater issues). June 5 had 11 previously impacted plants functioning at over 90% normal capacity. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; Kern and Associates courtesy of NPPC)



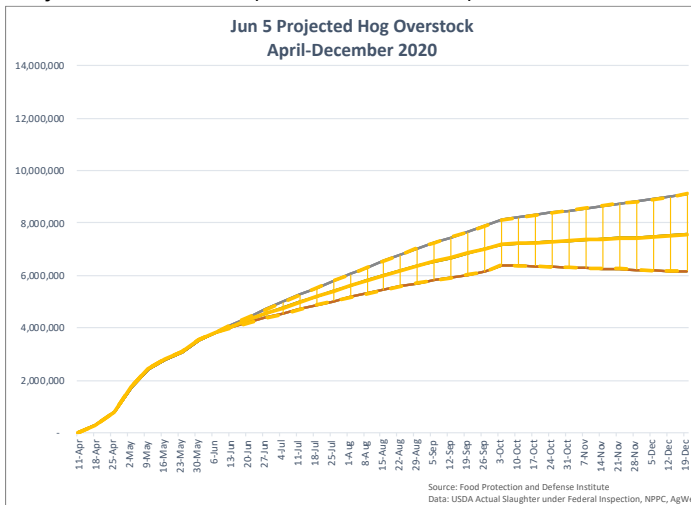
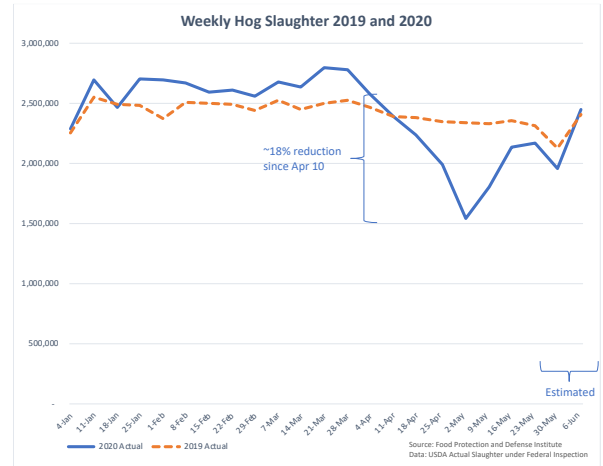
Source: Food Protection and Defense Institute  
Data: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Quarterly Hogs and Pigs; Steiner Group and Kerns & Associates courtesy of NPPC

<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 and 600,000 in Iowa in the near future.



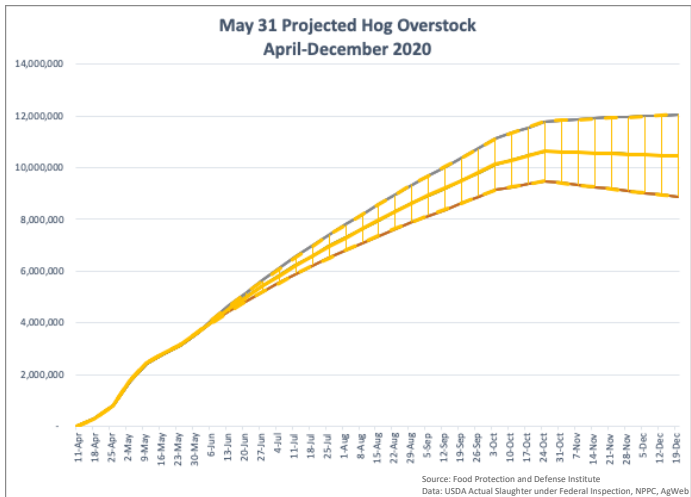
## Weekly Hog Slaughter and Overstock Projections (updated Friday)

- Weekly slaughter numbers for week ending June 5 down approximately 4.6% (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Total slaughter numbers are down 17% 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 7.5MM market weight hogs due to unanticipated recovery during the week of June 5. June 5 and May 31 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
- Adjusted for normal weekly fluctuation in plant capacity (e.g. holiday reductions)
- Average plant capacity
  - **90% by week of Jun 5 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 as compared to Q1 2020 and 90% normal plant capacity creates a pseudo-equilibrium (Date: June 5, 2020)



### 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.)

- [Will COVID-19 Speed the Adoption of Technology in the Pork Industry?](#) – Farm Journal’s Pork, June 5, 2020
- [Q&A Series: Pig Farmers Open Up About the Future](#) – Farm Journal’s Pork, June 3, 2020

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

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

- [Farmers Find Ways To Save Millions Of Pigs From Being Euthanized](#) – NPR, June 5, 2020
  - “According to estimates of pork producers and officials in the hardest-hit states of Minnesota and Iowa, hog farmers have been forced to kill and dispose of fewer than 200,000 animals so far.”
- [Slaughter delays lead to depopulation](#) – AVMA, May 28, 2020

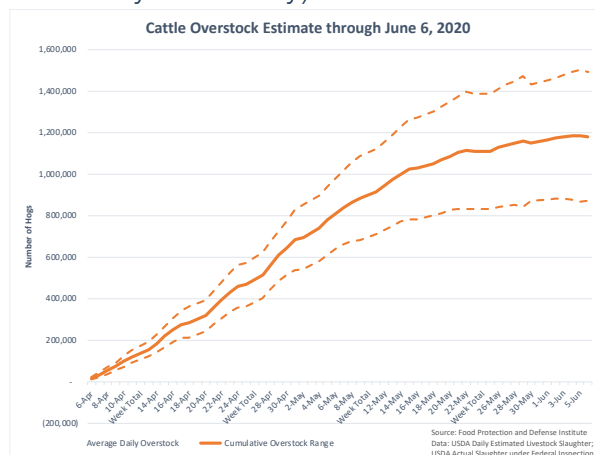
## Cattle Update

### 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

	Daily Estimate	Same day April 3-9	Year Ago
June 3	114,000	117,235	119,718
June 4	117,000	115,152	122,162
June 5	116,000	107,188	119,021
June 6	63,000	53,495	63,356

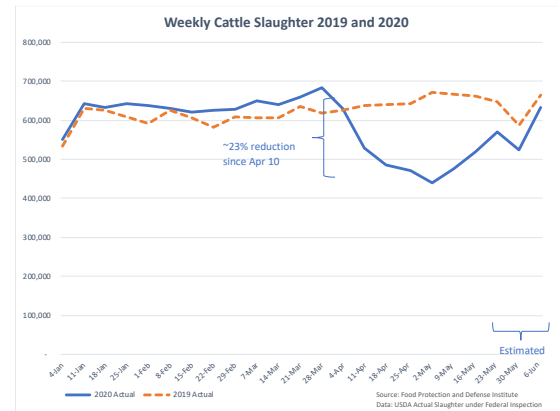
(USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)





## Weekly Cattle Slaughter and Overstock Projections (updated Friday)

- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending June 5 were down approximately 9% with a 23% 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)

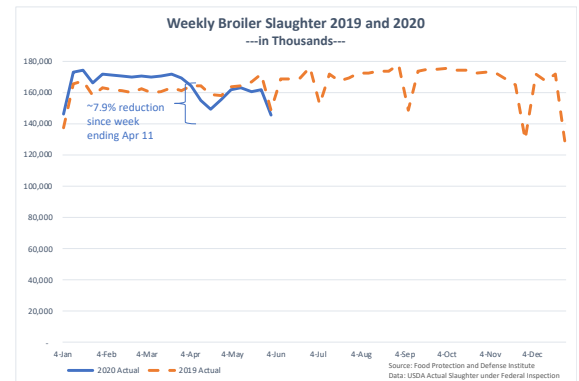
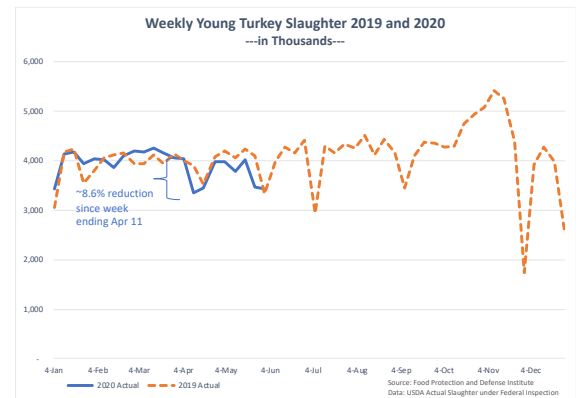
(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [From the Ground Up: Beef Supply is Safe Despite Coronavirus](#) – KBTX, June 4, 2020
- [Kentucky cattle industry feels the sting of COVID-19](#) – Wave 3 News, June 4, 2020

## Poultry Update

### Weekly Poultry Slaughter and Overstock (updated Friday)

- Young Turkeys
  - Young turkey weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending May 30 were down approximately 0% with an 8.6% 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 30 were down approximately 6.9% with a 7.9% 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.)

- [Canada - COVID-19 Impact on Poultry Sector](#) – USDA FAS, June 2, 2020
- [Koch Foods Fails To Protect Poultry Workers During COVID-19](#) – Value Walk, June, 1, 2020





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## Livestock Media Update (updated Tuesday and Friday)

### Webinars

- -

### Processing facilities media coverage

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

- [Hormel, Quality Pork battling Covid-19 cases in Austin, Minn.](#) – Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal, June 3, 2020
- [Despite new coronavirus outbreaks at its Iowa plants, Tyson Foods resumes attendance policy](#) – Des Moines Register, June 3, 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 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.)

- [Plaintiffs Struggle To Prove Meat And Potatoes Of Antitrust Case As COVID-19 Throws Market Into Further Disarray](#) – JDSupra, June 5, 2020
- [Hog Economist: If It Weren't For The Virus, We'd Be In Expansion Mode](#) – AgWeb, June 4, 2020

### Producer media coverage

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

- [How are America's Pig Farmers weathering the COVID-19 storm](#) – National Hog Farmer, June 5, 2020
- [COVID-19 creates mental health crisis for producers](#) – Feed Strategy, June 4, 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.)

- [Meat Prices on the Rise as Supply Declines During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) – Food Quality and Safety, June 5, 2020
- [Is there really a meat shortage? Why you're seeing less beef, pork and chicken in stores](#) – CNET, June 3, 2020



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## 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.)

- [Iowa Select, animal rights activists clash over Grundy County site](#) – The Grundy Register, June 3, 2020
- [DxE Investigator ARRESTED for Exposing Gruesome Mass Pig Killings Due to COVID-19](#) – Direct Action Everywhere, June 3, 2020 (Context: Graphic video)
- [Pork with a side of pandemic - Cassie's Real Review](#) – Direct Action Everywhere, May 20, 2020
- ['A force for change': Prominent activist Wayne Hsiung runs for mayor](#) – The Daily Californian, June 3, 2020 (Context: Wayne Hsiung is the co-founder of Direct Action Everywhere (DxE), the group responsible for the undercover video at Iowa Select Farms and Project Counterglow mentioned earlier in the update.)

Previous updates available upon request