EAH e-Newsletter

for Livestock Agents

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Antibiotic-Free Meat

by Roger L McCraw

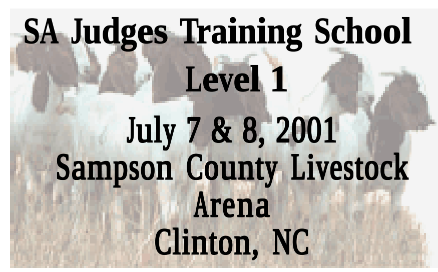
I have had some calls from livestock agents that they are getting requests from consumers for sources of organic (or antibiotic-free, etc.) meats. The Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy, a non-profit organization, has announced the availability of a consumer guide for buying meat raised without antibiotics.

You may access it at:
http://www.iatp.org/enviroag/ ●

American Boer Goat Association

by: Mike Yoder

The American Boer Goat Association is sponsoring a Judges Training School July 7 and 8, 2001 at the Sampson County Livestock Arena, in Clinton, NC.



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Interesting facts

by Roger L McCraw

Grazing supplies an estimated 57% of the feed energy consumed by beef cattle. Only 19% of total cropland is used to produce feed grains for domestic livestock and poultry.

All facts are from the "Cattle and Beef Handbook".

Meat Consumption Worldwide

Pork	41%
Poultry	29%
Beef	25%

Meat Consumption in US

Pork	24%
Poultry	33%
Beef	34%

As far as future trends and impacts on our livestock industries, are we becoming more like the rest of the world in our food consumption or is the rest of the world becoming more like us? ●

Magazines On-Line

by Roger L. McCraw

Listed below are URL's for several farm magazines that may be of interest to you. You may be able to get the information you need from the electronic version and not have to subscribe for hard copies.

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BEEF
http://www.homefarm.com/

■

HAY AND FORAGE GROWER
http://www.homefarm.com/hfg/default.htm

■

SOUTHEAST FARM PRESS
http://www.homefarm.com/sefp/default.htm

■

BEEF TODAY and FARM JOURNAL
http://www.agweb.com/

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DROVERS JOURNAL
http://www.drovers.com/

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PROGRESSIVE FARMER
http://www.progressivefarmer.com/

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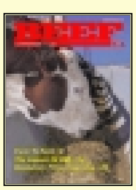

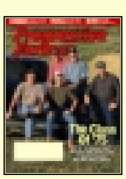

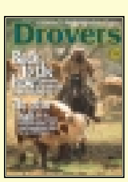

What is the per capita consumption of food and drinks in the US?

by Roger L McCraw

Have you ever wondered how much of each food and beverage the average American eats and drinks in a year? Below is data from USDA for 1970, 1980 and 1996.)

Major Foods: U.S. per capita food supply

Food	*1970*	*1980*	*1996*
		Pounds	
Total meats[1]	177.3	179.6	191.9
Beef	79.6	72.1	65.0
Pork	48.0	52.1	45.9
Veal	2.0	1.3	1.0
Lamb and mutton	2.1	1.0	.8
Chicken	27.4	32.7	49.8
Turkey	6.4	8.1	4.6
Fish and shellfish	11.7	12.4	4.7
Eggs (number)	308.9	271.1	236.9
Cheese[2]	11.4	17.5	27.7
Ice cream	17.8	17.5	15.9
Fluid cream products	5.2	5.6	8.7
All dairy products[3]	563.8	543.2	575.6
Added fats and oils	52.6	57.2	65.8
Peanuts and tree nuts[4]	7.2	6.6	7.8
Fruit and vegetables[5]	564.4	594.4	695.6
Fruit	229.0	257.9	283.2
Vegetables	335.4	336.5	412.4
Caloric sweeteners[6]	115.8	123.0	152.0
Sucrose	101.8	63.6	66.2
Corn sweeteners	16.7	38.2	84.5
Grain products[7]	135.6	144.7	198.5
Wheat flour	110.9	116.9	148.8
Rice	6.7	9.4	18.9
Corn products	11.1	12.9	22.9
Other[8]	6.9	5.5	7.9
		Gallons	
Beverage milks	31.3	27.6	24.4
Whole	24.8	16.5	8.4
Lower fat and skim	5.8	10.5	15.7
Coffee	33.4	26.7	21.8
Tea	6.8	7.3	8.0
Carbonated soft drinks	24.3	35.1	52.0
Fruit juices	5.5	6.8	8.7
Bottled water	na	2.4	12.4
Beer	18.5	24.3	22.1
Wine	1.3	2.1	1.9
Distilled spirits	1.8	2.0	1.2

Past EAH e-Newsletters

Outlook for Livestock for Next Year

by Roger L. McCraw

This article contains excerpts from a recent USDA report. A USDA contactfor further information is listed at the end of the article.

Meat & Poultry Production To Rise Slightly in 2002

Red meat and poultry production in 2002 is forecast at nearly 83 billion pounds, up 1 percent from this year and marginally higher than record production in 2000. Continuing increases in pork and poultry production, bolstered by profitability and continued low corn and soybean meal prices, will more than offset a modest decline in beef production.

Although red meat and poultry supplies are at record levels, relatively strong domestic and foreign demand is maintaining prices. Prices for both fed and feeder cattle are expected to post modest gains in 2002 as supplies continue to decline. Wholesale broiler prices are also expected to post a modest gain due to continuing gains in exports. Increased pork production will push hog prices lower.

Due to drought in the summer of 2000 and increased hay feeding during the harsh winter of 2000/01, forage supplies were tight. As a result, beef producers continued to reduce their breeding herds in 2000 and early 2001.

As of April 1, heifers on feed were up 3 percent from last year and 11 percent over 1999. Many of the heifers that might have been bred this spring and retained in the herd are already on feed. These heifers on feed will moderate this year's decline in beef production. However, for the rest of this year, producers are expected to retain heifers for the breeding herd rather than place them on feed. As a result of heifer retention and lower cattle inventories, beef production will likely decline 4-5 percent this year and about 2-3 percent in 2002.

Cattle inventories have been decreasing since 1996. Continuing declines in the breeding herd have resulted in what will likely be the smallest calf crop in 2001 since at least the 1950s, and the calf crop in 2002 will likely drop even further.

With expectations of higher prices, especially for cattle that will grade Choice, producers are likely to hold back more heifers for breeding following this year's calf crop, provided adequate forage is available. This will further reduce an already much lower feeder cattle supply, which was down 2 percent below a year ago on April 1. Feeder cattle supplies are expected to continue to decline over the next couple of years until the cattle herd begins to expand.

Fed-cattle prices are expected to average around $80 per cwt in 2002, up >from the mid-$70s this year. Lower feeder cattle supplies will boost feeder cattle prices into the low-$90s in 2002, from the high-$80s this year. Following record high levels early this year, retail beef prices are expected to rise only slightly in 2002 in the face of large competing meat supplies.

Pork production in 2002 is forecast at 19.7 billion pounds, up 3 percent >from this year. Hog slaughter will likely be up about 2 percent and the average dressed weight is expected to be a pound heavier. The March Hogs and Pigs report indicates the inventory of all hogs and pigs was up 2 percent from 2000. The number of hogs kept for breeding was up 1 percent, consistent with the March-August farrowing intentions (up 1 percent from actual farrowings a year ago). Pigs farrowed during this period will reach slaughter weight in late 2001 and early 2002.

Pork producers are gradually expanding production this year and are expected to continue the slow rate of expansion through 2002. Changing industry structure and producers' financial problems in late 1998 and 1999 have muted the response to favorable returns in 2000 and first-half 2001. Many smaller producers exited the industry in the late 1990s, and others may still be recovering from the financial problems of that time.

To expand production, larger and mid-sized producers face a more complicated process than in the recent past. Expansion now entails securing financing, obtaining building and waste management permits from state and local authorities, and hiring and training staff. In addition, vertical coordination—through either marketing or production contracts—is replacing the spot market sales prevalent in past years. The factors that complicate expansion are likely muting the peaks and valleys of the hog production cycle.

Hog prices are expected to average in the low- to mid-$40s per cwt in 2002, compared with the mid-$40s this year. Competing poultry meat supplies will continue to be large. The effect of foot-and-mouth disease in the European Union—especially in Denmark, a major player in the world pork market—adds uncertainty to price forecasts.

Retail pork prices are expected to rise 1-3 percent in 2002, about the same increase expected this year. Strong retail beef prices increase the competitive position of pork.

Poultry output in 2002 is expected to rise about 3 percent, compared with a less than 1-percent increase likely this year. With continued low feed costs, improving net returns will probably encourage a 3-percent boost in broiler production in 2002, compared with an expected marginal increase this year. Wholesale broiler prices will likely reach 59-64 cents per pound, compared with 57-60 cents this year. Key to higher broiler prices is the continuing strong export market, especially Russia and China.

Turkey production is expected to increase about 2 percent in 2002, compared with a 4-percent rise this year. Turkey prices are expected to average about the same in 2002 as this year, around 68 cents per pound. For further information, contact: Leland Southard, coordinator; Ron Gustafson, cattle; Leland Southard, hogs; Mildred Haley, world pork; Dale Leuck, world beef; David Harvey, poultry. All are at (202) 694-5180.

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May 24, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Livestock Agents & Others

FROM: Dale Miller & Roger McCraw , Extension Animal Husbandry Specialists

RE: **2001 Spring Stocker Sale Summaries**

This report contains the summaries of 6 stocker cattle sales held in the spring of 2001. Relatively high, early spring prices enticed many producers to sell calves before the graded sales were conducted. In the past 25 to 30 years, we have observed a trend of lower graded sale numbers when overall cattle prices are high and an increase in graded sale numbers when overall cattle prices fall. Producers appear to be unwilling to perform the required management steps, or possibly, to confine themselves to a particular sale date, in order to obtain the premiums available through graded sales. However, when cattle prices decline, graded sale premiums appear to become relatively more attractive and consignments to these sales increase.

A total of 3,678 head were sold, up slightly from last year. The following table contains total numbers and average weights of cattle, by sex, sold through North Carolina Spring Stocker Sales since 1990.

Year	# Steers	Wt (lb.)	Price ($/cwt.)	# Heifers	Wt (lb.)	Price ($/ct.)
2001	1,913	626	92.34	1,765	580	82.53
2000	1,917	608	93.47	1,671	571	87.16
1999	2,888	602	75.64	2,775	569	67.60
1998	2,464	605	81.98	2,114	560	72.39
1997	2,551	597	78.07	1,983	545	66.47
1996	4,693	605	52.43	3,852	565	41.18
1995	3,938	625	68.60	2,292	558	60.31
1994	3,245	610	86.43	1,918	553	77.50
1993	2,413	608	90.31	1,589	534	82.45
1992	3,287	629	80.82	1,971	560	75.66
1991	2,166	628	94.73	1,427	566	87.20
1990	3,223	597	87.67	2,135	537	79.84

The summaries are now available on line in pdf format at
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/market/Ahmarket.html.