

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

Due to poultry safety concerns, consumer's rising substitution to beef will support a slight increase in 2014 beef production to 5.76 million tons and result in imports up to 550,000 tons on favorable prices. Live cattle and beef exports are both expected to decline by 10 percent due to tight domestic supplies and high prices. China's 2014 pork production will continue its growth trend by rising two percent to 55.8 million tons. China's pork imports will expand by three percent to 790,000 tons based on competitive import prices, and live swine imports will rise by 5 percent due to strong demand for swine genetic improvement. In December 2013, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) approved Chongqing, a municipality directly under the Central Government, to be China's first inland meat entry port.

Commodities:

Meat, Beef and Veal

Meat, Swine

Executive Summary

Larger-than-normal beef demand has tightened both domestic and exportable prospects for live cattle and beef. Reportedly, small scale dairy cattle producers are unable to comply with China's newly imposed dairy regulations, so producers are slaughtering dairy cattle to profit from current beef market prices. Rising beef demand is mainly attributed to the food safety repercussions following China's recent H7N9 poultry outbreak. Post forecasts China's 2014 beef imports at 550,000 tons, an increase of 75,000 tons over USDA's official estimate.

With regards to pork, despite higher-than-expected production and imports, China's 2014 pork consumption may only increase by one percent to 41 kilograms per capita. Public health concerns continue to linger over last year's 'floating dead pig' incident, when over 10,000 head of swine were found dead and floating in Shanghai's Huangpu River. These concerns continue to have a negative impact on consumer purchase decisions related to pork.

Animal Numbers, Cattle China	2012		2013		2014		
	Market Year Begin: Jan 2012		Market Year Begin: Jan 2013		Market Year Begin: Jan 2014		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	104,346	104,346	104,205	104,205	104,302	104,188	(1000 HEAD)
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	13,540	13,540	14,352	14,352	15,215	15,100	(1000 HEAD)
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	46,200	46,200	46,250	46,250	46,400	46,400	(1000 HEAD)
Production (Calf Crop)	40,950	40,950	41,552	41,552	42,350	42,100	(1000 HEAD)
Total Imports	117	117	120	102	125	100	(1000 HEAD)
Total Supply	145,413	145,413	145,877	145,859	146,777	146,388	(1000 HEAD)
Total Exports	28	28	25	21	23	20	(1000 HEAD)
Cow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Calf Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Other Slaughter	40,680	40,680	41,250	41,250	42,000	42,100	(1000 HEAD)
Total Slaughter	40,680	40,680	41,250	41,250	42,000	42,100	(1000 HEAD)
Loss	500	500	300	400	300	400	(1000 HEAD)
Ending Inventories	104,205	104,205	104,302	104,188	104,454	103,868	(1000 HEAD)
Total Distribution	145,413	145,413	145,877	145,859	146,777	146,388	(1000 HEAD)
CY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Inventory Balance	-141	-141	97	-17	152	-320	(1000 HEAD)
Inventory Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	(PERCENT)
Cow Change	1	1	1	0	2	0	(PERCENT)
Production Change	0	0	1	1	2	1	(PERCENT)
Production to Cows	69	69	69	69	69	68	(PERCENT)
Slaughter to Inventory	39	39	40	40	40	40	(PERCENT)
Slaughter to Total Supply	28	28	28	28	29	29	(PERCENT)
TS=TD		0		0		0	

Data included in this report is not official USDA data. Official USDA data is available at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonlineonline>

Meat, Beef and Veal China	2012		2013		2014		
	Market Year Begin: Jan 2012		Market Year Begin: Jan 2013		Market Year Begin: Jan 2014		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Slaughter (Reference)	40,680	40,680	41,250	41,250	42,000	42,100	(1000 HEAD)
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	60	(1000 MT CWE)
Production	5,540	5,540	5,637	5,637	5,750	5,760	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Imports	99	99	400	412	475	550	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Supply	5,639	5,639	6,037	6,049	6,225	6,370	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Exports	42	42	30	30	27	27	(1000 MT CWE)
Human Dom. Consumption	5,597	5,597	6,007	5,959	6,198	6,263	(1000 MT CWE)
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Dom. Consumption	5,597	5,597	6,007	5,959	6,198	6,263	(1000 MT CWE)
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	60	0	80	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Distribution	5,639	5,639	6,037	6,049	6,225	6,370	(1000 MT CWE)
CY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Inventory Balance	0	0	0	60	0	20	(1000 MT CWE)
Weights	136	136	137	137	137	137	(1000 MT CWE)
Production Change	0	0	2	2	2	2	(PERCENT)
Import Change	241	241	304	316	19	33	(PERCENT)
Export Change	-24	-24	-29	-29	-10	-10	(PERCENT)
Consumption Change	1	1	7	6	3	5	(PERCENT)
Imports Percent Consumption	2	2	7	7	8	9	(PERCENT)
Exports Percent Production	1	1	1	1	0	0	(PERCENT)
Population	1,343,239,923	1,343,239,923	1,349,585,838	1,349,585,838	1,355,692,576	1,355,692,576	(PEOPLE)
Per Capita Consumption	4		4		5		(KG)
TS=TD		0		0		0	

Data included in this report is not official USDA data. Official USDA data is available at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonlineonline>

Production

Post's 2014 forecast for China's beef production is 5.76 million tons, slightly higher than USDA's official estimate of 5.75 million tons. Post's two percent increase over the 2013 figure is largely due to growing demand as consumers switch from poultry to beef following China's recent avian influenza outbreak.

Producers are utilizing abundant corn and alfalfa supplies to support their expanding beef production. China's 2013/14 corn production is estimated at a record high of 217.7 million tons, and imports, many of them from the United States, provide an additional 3.3 million tons to domestic supply. With sufficient corn supplies, China is subsidizing domestic companies that purchase corn from the Northeast (a major grain/livestock production region). China's alfalfa supply of 1.5 million tons consists of record high production at 700,000 tons and imported alfalfa at 800,000 tons. The United States accounts for nearly 94 percent of China's total alfalfa imports.

Furthermore, China's investment in domestic beef production is also helping expand production. The Central Government provided RMB8.26 million (\$1.35 million) to a Modern Agriculture Beef Development Project in Yunnan. The Fengdu County in Chongqing is subsidizing RMB20.77 (nearly \$3.4 million) for backyard farmers to build larger-scale companies. Private companies are also increasing investment. China's breeding beef cattle imports reached a record high last year of over 9,000 head.

Prices:

China's 2014 domestic beef prices are expected to remain strong due to short supplies of domestic cattle and beef.

Reportedly, backyard dairy cattle producers, unable to comply with China's strict dairy regulations, are exiting the business by sending dairy cattle to slaughter to profit from current beef prices. The Ministry of Agriculture's (MoA) national retail beef price for December 2013 has yet to be released, but the average 2013 January to November price is at least 30 percent higher than the same period in 2012.

China National Retail Beef Prices on Average, 2008-2013 (Year-to-Date)							
(RMB/KG, \$1=RMB6.1)							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2013/12
January	29.11	33.90	34.08	35.72	41.38	55.26	33.54
February	31.40	33.72	34.54	36.41	42.03	57.89	37.73
March	31.42	33.13	33.86	35.78	42.00	57.27	36.36
April	31.55	32.81	33.45	35.59	42.26	56.99	34.86
May	31.73	32.60	33.24	35.63	42.79	57.48	34.33
June	31.82	32.53	33.16	36.19	43.68	58.09	32.99
July	31.92	32.46	33.30	36.91	44.34	58.56	32.07
August	32.02	32.70	33.55	37.55	45.34	59.17	30.50
September	32.39	32.96	33.89	38.29	46.87	60.07	28.16
October	32.74	33.15	34.17	38.78	48.50	60.78	25.32
November	32.98	33.35	34.65	39.15	50.23	61.56	22.56
December	33.25	33.73	35.07	39.78	52.29		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture collected from over 400 markets of farm produce.

Consumption:

Post forecast for China's 2014 beef consumption of 6.26 million tons is two percent higher than USDA's official estimate of 6.19 million tons. China's continued avian influenza outbreak is influencing consumers to seek alternative protein sources, such as red meat and fish.

Imports

Post forecasts China's 2014 beef imports at 550,000 tons, an additional 75,000 tons above USDA's 2014 estimate, because of rising consumer demand and competitive import prices. Australia, Uruguay and New Zealand are China's three top suppliers. Australian exports account for 53 percent of China's 2013 total imports. Reportedly, upon request by China's importers, Australian exporters now provide larger –sized carcass pieces in simpler packages, and offer export prices that are nearly two percent cheaper over last year. Of interest in 2013, Canadian exports rose sharply to 24,373 tons, more than six times higher than the previous year, because of competitive prices compared with major suppliers. China continues to negotiate beef market access terms with other countries, including the United States, which could further increase total imports. China's average 2013 beef import price was \$4,313 per ton, an astounding 55 percent discount from its average domestic price (from January to November) of \$9,585. Sources note that this price difference will continue in 2014, given tight beef supplies.

Post forecasts that China's 2014 live cattle imports will reach 20,000 head, which is 3,000 head lower than USDA's official forecast, due to fewer imports of breeding dairy cows. Small-scale dairy cattle producers may import less breeding cows due to China's strict dairy production requirements.

Import Policy Change

In December 2013, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) approved Chongqing, a municipality directly under the Central Government, to be China's first inland meat entry port. This means that all imported meat products can be directly shipped to Chongqing and not transported through coastal ports. Reduced transportation costs will further strengthen the price competitiveness of imported meat products. Sources note that Chongqing's meat terminal priced imported bovine tails per kilogram at RMB90 (\$14.75), compared to local bovine tails at RMB100 (\$16.39).

Exports

Post forecasts China's 2014 beef exports at 27,000 tons, largely due to limited domestic beef supply and record high prices in the local market. Leading export markets currently offer uncompetitive prices, compared to China's 2013 average domestic beef price of \$9,585 per ton. China's 2013 export price per ton was \$4,844 to Hong Kong, \$8,743 to Japan, and \$7,652 to Kyrgyzstan. Post estimates a nine percent decline in China's 2014 live cattle exports to 19,000 head compared to the revised 2013 figure of 21,000 head. Short domestic cattle supplies make exports less competitive. The average 2013 live cattle export price increased by 34 percent to nearly \$2,898 per head.

Animal Numbers, Swine China	2012		2013		2014		
	Market Year Begin: Jan 2012		Market Year Begin: Jan 2013		Market Year Begin: Jan 2014		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Total Beginning Stocks	473,340	473,340	474,920	474,920	475,898	474,110	(1000 HEAD)
Sow Beginning Stocks	49,280	49,280	50,500	50,500	51,100	51,100	(1000 HEAD)
Production (Pig Crop)	697,800	697,800	710,558	716,925	723,500	725,000	(1000 HEAD)
Total Imports	18	18	20	21	22	23	(1000 HEAD)
Total Supply	1,171,158	1,171,158	1,185,498	1,191,866	1,199,420	1,199,133	(1000 HEAD)
Total Exports	1,656	1,656	1,700	1,686	1,770	1,710	(1000 HEAD)
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Other Slaughter	693,982	693,982	707,200	715,570	720,000	730,000	(1000 HEAD)
Total Slaughter	693,982	693,982	707,200	715,570	720,000	730,000	(1000 HEAD)
Loss	600	600	700	500	600	400	(1000 HEAD)
Ending Inventories	474,920	474,920	475,898	474,110	477,050	467,023	(1000 HEAD)
Total Distribution	1,171,158	1,171,158	1,185,498	1,191,866	1,199,420	1,199,133	(1000 HEAD)
CY Imp. from U.S.	13	13	12	12	0	12	(1000 HEAD)
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Inventory Balance	1,580	1,580	978	-810	1,152	-7,087	(1000 HEAD)
Inventory Change	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	(PERCENT)
Sow Change	4	4	2	2	1	1	(PERCENT)
Production Change	6	6	2	3	2	1	(PERCENT)
Production to Sows	14.	14.2	14.	14.2	14.	14.2	(PERCENT)
Slaughter to Inventory	147	147	149	151	151	154	(PERCENT)
Slaughter to Total Supply	59	59	60	60	60	61	(PERCENT)
TS=TD		0		0		0	

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Meat, Swine China	2012		2013		2014		
	Market Year Begin: Jan 2012		Market Year Begin: Jan 2013		Market Year Begin: Jan 2014		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Slaughter (Reference)	693,982	693,982	707,200	715,570	720,000	730,000	(1000 HEAD)
Beginning Stocks	180	180	300	300	350	350	(1000 MT CWE)
Production	52,350	52,350	53,800	54,500	54,700	55,800	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Imports	730	730	750	770	775	790	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Supply	53,260	53,260	54,850	55,570	55,825	56,940	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Exports	235	235	250	244	265	250	(1000 MT CWE)
Human Dom. Consumption	52,725	52,725	54,170	54,896	55,200	56,255	(1000 MT CWE)
Other Use, Losses	0	0	80	80	60	60	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Dom. Consumption	52,725	52,725	54,250	54,976	55,260	56,315	(1000 MT CWE)
Ending Stocks	300	300	350	350	300	375	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Distribution	53,260	53,260	54,850	55,570	55,825	56,940	(1000 MT CWE)
CY Imp. from U.S.	0	277	0	222	0	222	(1000 MT CWE)
CY. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Balance	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Inventory Balance	120	120	50	50	-50	25	(1000 MT CWE)
Weights	75	75	76	76	76	76	(1000 MT CWE)
Production Change	6	6	3	4	2	2	(PERCENT)
Import Change	-4	-4	3	5	3	3	(PERCENT)
Export Change	-4	-4	6	4	6	2	(PERCENT)
Consumption Change	5	5	3	4	2	2	(PERCENT)
Imports Percent Consumption	1	1	1	1	1	1	(PERCENT)
Exports Percent Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	(PERCENT)
Population	1,343,239,923	1,343,239,923	1,349,585,838	1,349,585,838	1,355,692,576	1,355,692,576	(PEOPLE)
Per Capita Consumption	39		40		41		(KG)
TS=TD		0		0		0	

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Production

Post forecasts China's 2014 pork production at 55.8 million tons, two percent higher than USDA's official 2014 estimate of 54.7 million tons. Fewer swine disease outbreaks and better animal nutrition continue to improve hog slaughter weights and pork production.

Policy

China's 2014 productive sow inventory is expected to account for 11 percent of total swine inventory, an amount which is higher than the government's required level of 9-10 percent. China's swine surplus has pressed hog prices downward since October 2013. With no significant disease outbreak during the winter months and an abundant supply, sources note that hog prices should remain at relatively low levels during the first half of 2014. The government is monitoring the hog and grain price ratio to decide if domestic pork purchases for government-held reserves are required.

To prevent significant fluctuations in swine production, some provinces or cities have started to implement hog subsidy trials. As of January 2014, the Guangdong provincial government offered fattening farms that have swine (weighted at or above 10 kilograms) an insurance subsidy. The insurance fee per animal is RMB20 (\$3.28) with the highest claim of RMB500 (\$82.00). The Guangdong local government will pay 75 percent, and the farmer covers the remaining 25 percent. If a hog's cause of death is based on a natural disaster or disease, the farmer can file a full claim if the hog weight is more than 80 kilograms. The first trial was implemented in Gaozhou City, Guangdong. In Chongqing's Rongchang County, an insurance subsidy program is being developed for piglets with a highest claim of RMB300 (\$49.20). This two month insurance period is for piglets less than 60 kilograms.

In December 2013, supervision of hog slaughter was transferred from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). This responsibility includes drafting relevant laws and regulations; contributing to swine industry development plans and swine industry statistics; and supervising the quality and safety process of slaughtered products through audits and technical training. Sources note that the National Statistics Bureau will report swine inventory and pork production numbers on a half year and end of year basis, and MOA will report percentage changes of productive sow inventory monthly.

Consumption

Post forecasts that China's 2014 pork consumption will increase by two percent to 56.2 million tons, partly due to continued demand in urban cities and cheaper prices compared to other meats. As noted in the beef section, China's recent avian influenza outbreak influences consumers away from poultry towards red meats and fish. Despite higher-than-expected pork production and imports, Post forecasts that China's 2014 per capita pork consumption will only increase by one percent to 41 kilograms mainly for the following reasons:

- China's slow economic growth will likely stabilize per capita income and consumption;

- The reported 2013 incident on the dead pigs floating from Zhejiang Province to Shanghai Huangpu River continues to have a negative impact on consumer purchase decisions; and
- China's tightened ban on government banquets reduces consumption.

Imports

Despite record pork production, Post estimates that China's 2014 imports will increase by two percent to 790,000 tons, largely due to competitive import prices. From January to November, the average 2013 domestic pork price was \$3,977 per ton, while imported pork price was more than 50 percent cheaper at \$1,899 during the same period in 2012.

The United States is China's largest pork supplier; however, U.S. market share faces serious competition from Germany, China's second largest supplier. The U.S. export market share dropped from 54 percent in 2011 to 36 percent in 2012 and continued downward to 21 percent in 2013. Meanwhile, Germany's export market share increased from five percent to 20 percent over the last three years. This is partly due to Germany's competitive pork prices and China's ractopamine restrictions on U.S. pork exports.

Post estimates that China's 2014 live breeding swine imports will increase by 10 percent to 23,000 head due to continued demand for improving local swine genetics. Breeding animal imports will continue upward as China continues to modernize its farming practices. The United States is China's largest live swine supplier, accounting for over 50 percent of imports.

Exports

Post estimates China's 2014 pork exports at 250,000 tons, slightly lower than USDA's official estimate and largely due to few shipments to Japan, China's second largest export market. Post forecasts China's 2014 live hog exports at 1.71 million head due to reduced slaughter demand in Hong Kong and Macau.

Pork, Swine, Piglet Price and Swine Feed Tables

China Retail Pork Prices On Average, 2008-2013 (Year-to-Date)							
(RMB/KG, \$1=RMB6.1)							
MONTH	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2013/12
January	25.53	21.25	19.31	22.17	27.83	26.43	-5.03
February	26.08	20.62	18.67	22.97	27.36	26.32	-3.80
March	25.56	19.30	17.32	23.09	25.79	23.96	-7.10
April	25.68	17.60	16.21	23.39	24.36	22.03	-9.56
May	24.71	15.68	16.09	23.97	23.31	21.48	-7.85
June	24.10	15.46	16.04	26.71	22.78	22.81	0.13
July	23.58	16.27	17.54	29.31	22.61	23.43	3.63
August	23.18	17.94	19.30	29.88	22.94	24.72	7.76
September	22.59	18.97	20.11	30.35	23.80	25.39	6.68
October	20.86	18.71	20.42	29.78	23.92	25.24	5.52
November	19.46	18.47	21.33	27.94	23.76	25.07	5.51
December	20.34	19.11	21.94	27.17	24.82		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture collected from over 400 markets of farm produce.

China Retail Live Hog Prices On Average, 2008-2013 (Year-to-Date)							
(RMB/KG, \$1=RMB6.1)							
MONTH	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2013/12
January	16.50	13.41	12.05	13.88	17.65	17.04	-3.46
February	16.70	12.70	11.14	14.35	17.10	16.09	-5.91
March	16.83	11.63	10.06	14.78	15.83	14.07	-11.12
April	16.87	10.35	9.53	15.05	14.80	12.80	-13.51
May	15.77	9.24	9.62	15.53	14.25	12.48	-12.42
June	15.35	9.33	9.64	17.54	14.05	14.10	0.36
July	14.82	10.13	11.14	18.98	14.00	14.61	4.36
August	14.47	11.38	12.19	19.33	14.28	15.70	9.94
September	13.86	11.85	12.55	19.68	14.89	16.04	7.72
October	12.50	11.47	12.78	18.93	14.85	15.86	6.80
November	11.90	11.40	13.55	17.35	14.83	15.77	6.34
December	12.91	12.09	13.79	17.15	15.83		

China Retail Piglet Prices On Average, 2008-2013 (Year-to-Date)							
(RMB/KG, \$1=RMB6.1)							
MONTH	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2013/12
January	29.66	20.06	17.41	18.65	30.21	27.41	-9.27
February	30.62	20.11	16.60	19.46	31.50	27.79	-11.78
March	35.29	19.75	15.61	22.81	32.66	26.90	-17.64
April	38.23	18.27	14.74	24.99	32.24	25.26	-21.65
May	36.11	15.41	14.77	26.71	31.56	24.89	-21.13
June	34.55	15.08	14.39	31.11	30.55	27.09	-11.33
July	33.01	15.88	15.77	35.26	29.69	28.44	-4.21
August	30.94	17.74	17.61	36.28	28.74	29.71	3.38
September	28.55	18.78	18.24	37.15	28.82	29.87	3.64
October	23.44	18.14	18.21	35.84	27.72	28.30	2.09
November	20.02	17.39	18.55	31.40	25.86	26.43	2.20
December	19.42	17.55	18.64	29.43	26.06		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture collected from over 400 markets of farm produce.

China Average Retail Industry Feed Prices for Swine 2008-2013 (Year-to-Date)							
(RMB/KG, \$1=RMB6.1)							
MONTH	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	% Change 2013/12
January	2.51	2.50	2.69	2.82	3.03	3.26	7.59
February	2.55	2.48	2.68	2.83	3.03	3.27	7.92
March	2.55	2.46	2.68	2.86	3.05	3.29	7.87
April	2.60	2.46	2.69	2.88	3.08	3.29	6.82
May	2.60	2.45	2.72	2.88	3.10	3.27	5.48
June	2.65	2.48	2.73	2.91	3.15	3.29	4.44
July	2.73	2.53	2.73	2.96	3.15	3.30	4.76
August	2.73	2.57	2.75	3.00	3.23	3.32	2.79
September	2.71	2.62	2.76	3.04	3.29	3.36	2.13
October	2.71	2.62	2.77	3.05	3.28	3.37	2.74
November	2.57	2.64	2.80	3.03	3.24	3.36	3.70
December	2.50	2.68	2.81	3.02	3.24		

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture collected from over 400 markets of farm produce.

End of Report