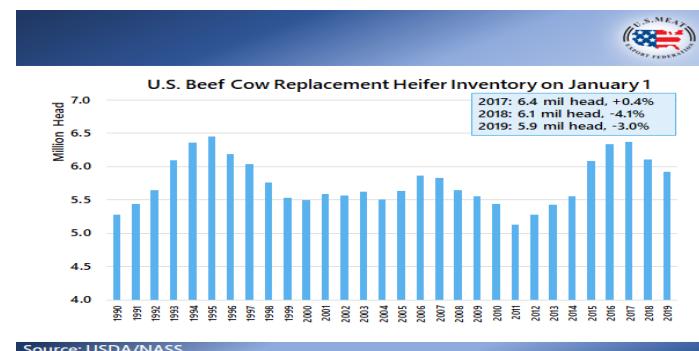


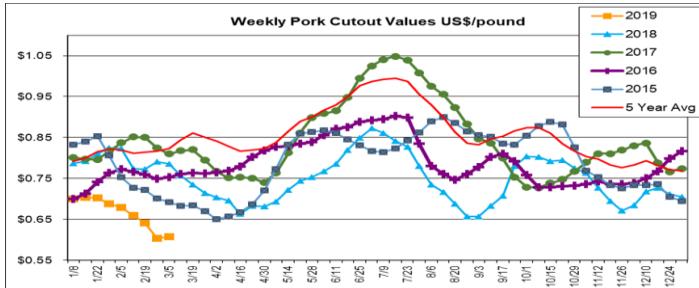
SUPPLY & DEMAND

Beef wholesale prices firmed last week as bad weather continued to pound the Midwest, causing performance issues in feedlots. The latest data on average cattle slaughter weights showed them 13 pounds lower than year-ago levels, a significant drop. Year to date U.S. beef production is down 1.7% from last year with slaughter down 0.4%. As we have been reporting in our Bulletin, weather has been a principal driver of recent market sentiment. Analysts believe placements of cattle into feedlots were low during January, when temperatures hit record lows in some major cattle feeding regions. At the same time, January fed cattle marketings to packing plants were high, setting up the possibility that Feb 1 cattle on feed numbers may have been lower than year-earlier levels. USDA's Jan 1 cattle inventory report (see MOVING AHEAD next column) showed a slowdown in the U.S. herd expansion. On the beef side, most analysts expect the choice cutout to continue to move higher into the spring. A near 3% gain in average rib primal values last week was a sign of good beef demand, and export shipments and sales data from the latest weekly report (week ending Feb 21) showed double digit growth in both categories compared to the average over the previous month.



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 4/3/2019 – US\$223.55/cwt. (+2% from 25/2/2019)

The pork cutout moved slightly higher last week after consecutive week-on-week declines since the beginning of the year. Storms early last week caused slaughter numbers to fall below the 2.5 million head-per-week level, but the uptick in the cutout could also have resulted from market players taking advantage of multi-year lows in some primal values. The decline in slaughter hit live hog prices, with average prices sliding 3-4%. The pork market remains slack, with only bellies and hams managing to score value gains last week. Bone-in ham prices are still nearly 30% lower than a year-ago levels, which could be encouraging some early buying for Easter (April 21). The market could also be getting a boost from speculators betting on **China** reducing its punitive 50% import duties on U.S. pork by the end of the month. The U.S. President requested over the past weekend that China remove duties on affected U.S. agricultural products as a good-will gesture while trade talks continue.



Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 4/3/2019 – US\$62.93/cwt. (+3% from 25/2/2019)

MOVING AHEAD

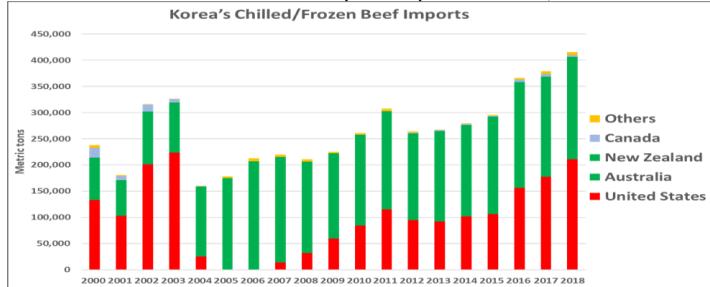
USDA issued its semi-annual cattle inventory report last week, and it clearly showed a slowing trend for the US herd expansion, now in its 5th year. Major numbers from the report appear in the table below. Overall the report showed that the cattle herd expanded modestly last year, and though beef production will expand again this year, the rate of increase is declining. The beef cow herd grew only 1% last year, after 2.9% & 3.5% increases in 2016 & 2017. Producers are now holding back fewer heifers for herd replacement, and if cull rates increase, the beef cow herd could show a year-on-year decline on Jan 1, 2020 (see graph previous column). National cattle on feed numbers still show year-on-year increases, but with geographic changes; cattle on feed numbers have declined in **Nebraska** and **Kansas**, but are being offset with increases in **Texas** and several smaller feeding states. The report's overall numbers fell in line with those of most analysts.

Key Cattle Inventory Figures
Jan 1, 2018 & 2019
(‘000 head)

	2018	2019	% Change
All cattle & calves	94,298	94,760	+0.5%
Beef cows	31,466	31,766	+1%
Dairy cows	9,432	9,353	-0.8%
Heifers>500 lbs for beef cow replacement	6,108	5,925	-3.0%
Heifers>500 lbs for milk cow replacement	4,768	4,702	-1.4%
Calves under 500 pounds	14,401	14,515	+0.8%
All cattle on feed	14,146	14,371	+1.6%
Calf crop	35,758(2017)	36,403(2018)	+1.8%

TRADE

In our Feb 12 Bulletin, we highlighted beef import growth in **China**, **Hong Kong**, **Japan** and **Korea**. Although the smallest importer among the 4 markets, Korea's beef import performance deserves greater explanation. Korea has been a critical growth market for U.S. beef exports; during 2018 (Jan-Nov), growth in Korean imports (volume) of U.S. product accounted for 53% of the USA's total 97K ton export increase. Koreans are now the largest international consumers of U.S. beef on a per capita basis. And that growth has been rapid. Korea's per capita U.S. beef intake increased 124% between 2013 and 2018, or from 1.8 kg to 4.1 kg. The US-Korea free trade agreement, or KORUS, has helped drive consumption as US product has become less expensive to import due to annual duty reductions. Currently, the duty on U.S. beef is 18.7%, down from 21.3% last year, and less than half the 40% tariff that existed pre-KORUS. Korea's total beef & variety meat imports set another new annual record in 2018, reaching 453,818 tons, +10%. Value rose to \$2.9 billion, +18%, with the value of U.S. imports climbing 30% to \$1.635 billion, and Australian shipments rising 6% to \$1.115 billion. U.S. market share on a value basis climbed from 51% in 2017 to 56% last year. Recently released data showed that Korea's import growth continued in Jan 2019 with chilled/frozen beef imports up 16% to 36,133 tons.



ACTIVITIES:

SIAL, Shanghai : May 14-16, 2019
Hofex, Hong Kong: May 7-10, 2019
Food Show, Taipei June 19-22, 2019

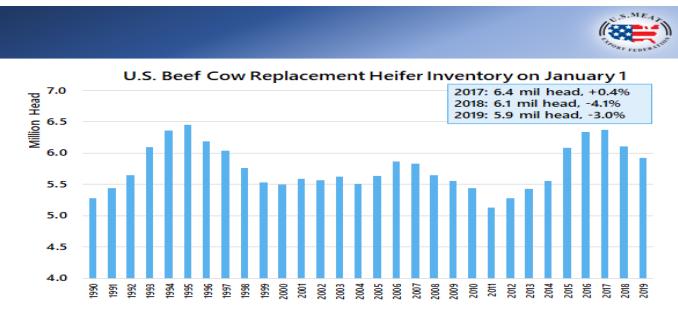


美国肉品新知

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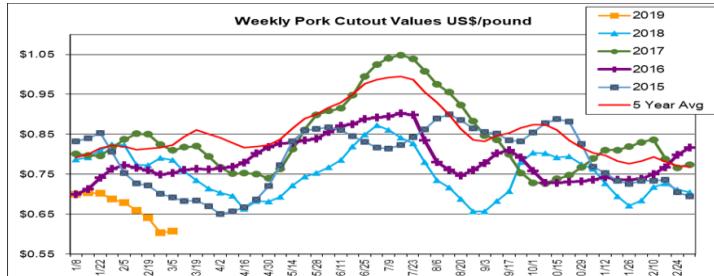
供应与需求

上周牛肉批发价格持稳，中西部地区的天气持续恶化，影响肥育场产能。最新的数据显示，牛只平均屠体重量比去年同期水平轻 13 磅，显着下跌。年初至今美国牛肉产量较去年减少 1.7%，屠宰量减少 0.4%。正如我们先前在美国内肉品新知中所报导，天气是主导近期市场情绪的主要因素。分析师指出，部分主要的牛只肥育地区达到创纪录低温，导致 1 月置入肥育场的牛只头数很少。与此同时，1 月供应屠宰场的已肥育牛只市场价格居高不下，使得 2 月 1 日牛只在养头数可能低於一年前水平。美国农业部 1 月 1 日的牛只库存头数报告(见右栏产业新知)显示美国牛群扩张速度放缓。牛肉方面，大多数分析师预期特选级牛肉分切价格将於春季持续走高。上周肋脊部大分切平均价格上涨近 3%，意味消费者对好牛肉的需求增长；最新的每周报告(截至 2 月 21 日当周)显示，该部位肉的出口量和销售量与上个月平均值相比增长两位数。



美国农业部牛肉分切价格指数(特选级)：2019年3月4日—\$223.55 美元 / 百磅 (较 2019 年 2 月 25 日增加 2%)

上周初的暴风雨导致屠宰量低於每周 250 万头水平，但猪肉分切价格上升可能是因为市场参与者因某些大分切价格跌至多年来最低点而获利。屠宰量下跌打击活猪价格，其平均价格下跌 3 至 4%。猪肉市场仍然疲软，上周只有腹肋肉和後腿肉价格上涨，其馀大分切价格均下跌。带骨後腿肉价格仍比一年前水平低近 30%，这可能鼓励消费者提前为复活节(4 月 21 日)采买肉品。投机者断定中国将在本月底前减少对美国猪肉加徵 50% 惩罚性进口关税的消息也推动市场。上周末，美国总统请求中国取消对受影响的美国农产品的关税以示善意；贸易谈判仍进行中。



猪屠体分切价格：2019年3月4日—\$62.93 美元/百磅 (较 2019 年 2 月 25 日增加 3%)

美国肉类出口协会活动预告：

中国国际食品和饮料展览会, 上海: 2019 年 5 月 14-16 日
Hofex, 香港: 2019 年 5 月 7-10 日
国际食品展, 台北: 2019 年 6 月 19-22 日

产业新知

美国农业部上周所发布半年一度的牛只库存头数报告显示，美国牛群扩张正处於放缓的趋势，并已迈进第五年。重要的数据请见下表。总体而言，该报告显示去年牛群规模略有扩大，尽管今年牛肉产量再次增长，增长率正在减少。去年肉母牛群产量仅增长 1%，2016 年和 2017 年则分别增长 2.9% 和 3.5%。肥育者现正保留较少用於牛群汰换的小母牛，若牛只淘汰率增加，肉母牛群的数量可能於 2020 年 1 月 1 日减少(见左栏图片)。国内牛只在养头数仍呈现同比增长，但随着地理变化，内布拉斯加州和堪萨斯州的牛只在养头数下跌，与德克萨斯州和几个较小的肥育州的牛只在养头数增长相互抵消。该报告的数据与大多数分析师的数据一致。

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贸易新闻

在 2 月 12 日的美国内肉品新知中，我们强调中国、香港、日本和韩国的牛肉进口增长。尽管在这四个市场中韩国进口量最少，该国的牛肉进口表现值得进一步阐述。韩国一直是推动美国牛肉出口增长的关键市场；於 2018 年期间(1 月至 11 月)，韩国的美国牛肉进口(量)增长占美国出口总量 97,000 吨中的 53%。依人均计算，韩国人的美国牛肉消费量是目前全球最高。该国的消费量增长非常快速：於 2013 年至 2018 年期间，韩国人均美国牛肉消费量增长 124%，或说由 1.8 公斤增加至 4.1 公斤。美韩自由贸易协定(KORUS)有助於推动消费量，美国产品因关税每年减少而变得更便宜。目前美国牛肉的关税税率为 18.7%，低於去年的 21.3%，且不到 KORUS 签订之前 40% 关税的一半。韩国牛肉和杂碎进口总量於 2018 年再次创新高，高达 453,818 吨，增长 10%；进口值上升至 29 亿美元，上涨 18%，其中自美国的进口值上涨 30% 至 16.35 亿美元，以及自澳洲的进口值上涨 6% 至 11.15 亿美元。按价值计算，美国牛肉在韩国的市场份额从 2017 年的 51% 攀升至 56%。最近发布的数据显示，2019 年 1 月韩国进口持续增长，冷藏/冷冻牛肉进口量增长 16% 至 36,133 吨。

