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MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

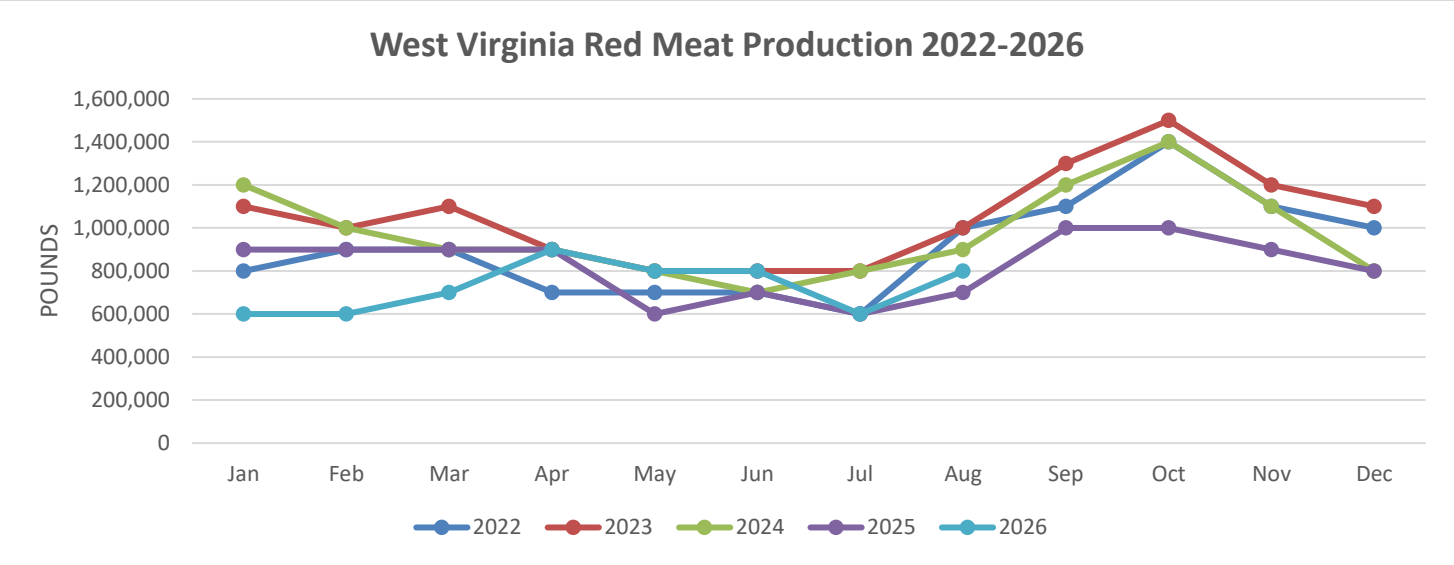
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office
in cooperation with
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner
Alissa Cowell-Mytar, State Statistician

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in West Virginia during August 2026 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was up 8 percent from August 2025. **Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 917,000 pounds live weight, up 13 percent from August 2025. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 113 pounds from the previous year, at 1,293 pounds. **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 239,000 pounds live weight, up 21 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 pounds from the previous year, at 274 pounds.



OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

All other hay production in West Virginia is forecast at 1,040,000 tons, unchanged from the August 1 forecast of 1,040,000 tons, but up 2 percent from 2025. All other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 650,000 acres in 2026, unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but up 8 percent from 2025. Yield is expected to average 1.60 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but down 0.10 ton per acre from 2025. The October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2027.

USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UNVEILS NEW CONSERVATION PRIORITIES TO KEEP WORKING LANDS IN WORKING HANDS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is putting farmers first and reaffirming this commitment by updating its strategic priorities, motto and mission and vision statements for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS). These updates complement NRCS's historic role in providing practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions for producers. The new NRCS motto and mission and vision statements are:

Motto: Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands. **Mission Statement:** We deliver practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come. **Vision Statement:** An America where working lands remain productive, resilient, and in the hands of those who steward them.

NRCS is also updating its strategic priorities to guide agency operations, program delivery, stakeholder engagement and modernization efforts through fiscal year 2026 and beyond. NRCS's seven priorities include:

- Preserve and protect agricultural land;
- Shift to outcome-based conservation and farmer empowerment;
- Re-center field engagement and strengthen technical expertise;
- Expand wildlife conservation and outdoor access;
- Strengthen partnerships by streamlining processes and accountability;
- Optimize mission delivery by strengthening workforce culture; and
- Modernize NRCS infrastructure and technology.

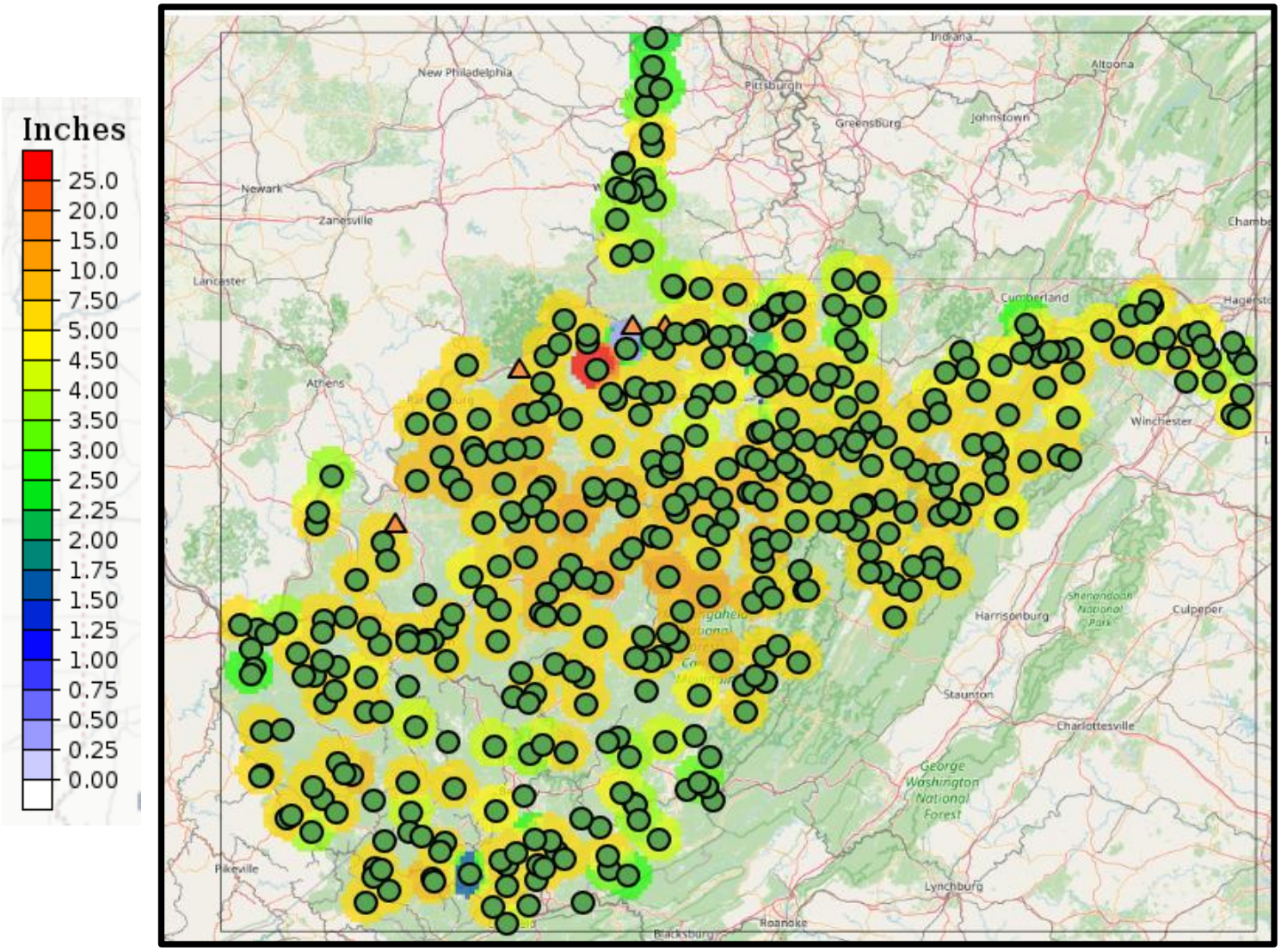
Learn more about the priorities at nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities.



PRECIPITATION MAP

The WVEMD (West Virginia Emergency Management Division) IFLOWS (Integrated Flood Observation and Warning System) consists of 4 base stations, and 256 monitored meteorological gauges, all of which contain rain monitoring sensors. Over half of these also measure additional weather data, such as wind, temperature, and humidity. Through a coordinated effort with other State and Private entities, WVEMD IFLOWS funds the West Virginia Stream Gauge Network, which is serviced by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The West Virginia Stream Gauge Network consists of over 160 monitored stream gauges. The purpose of the WVEMD IFLOWS website is to provide access to meteorological and stream stage information during storm events. We are continuously coordinating with relevant Agencies, to ensure the effective utilization of this information, in flood forecasting, early warning systems and emergency response planning.

Below is the map showing West Virginia rainfall over the last 30 days (September 15 - October 16, 2026). Please visit https://wvdhsem.onerain.com/ for more information.



To look for West Virginia Statistics, visit our webpage:
[USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - West Virginia]

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Suicide & Crisis Lifeline