CONSORCIO DE EXPORTADORES DE CARNES ARGENTINAS

ABC

NOTICIAS INTERNACIONALES AL 21/01/2022

CHINA

Crece la producción de carnes bovinas porcinas y huevos

17 January 2022 Beef production up 3.7% year-on-year
China's national economy continued to recover in 2021. The statistics bureau reported that all expected development targets were well achieved last year.
Pork production in China was up 28.8% year-on-year in 2021, totalling 52.96 million tonnes, according to the latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China.
At the end of the year, pigs and breeding sows registered in stock were up 10.5% and 4.0% respectively year-on-year.
Slaughtered hogs in China were up 27.4% year-on-year in 2021 at 671.28 million heads.
Total output of pork, beef, mutton and poultry in 2021 was 88.87 million tons, up by 16.3% over the previous year.
Of this total, beef accounted for 6.98 million tons, up 3.7% and poultry accounted for 23.80 million tons, up by 0.8%. Eggs, which accounted for 34.09 tons, was down 1.7% year-on-year.
Milk production amounted to 36.83 million tons, up by 7.1%.

BRASIL

Mercado estable ante una demanda local debilitada

20/01/2022 Preços da arroba seguem estáveis na maioria absoluta das praças pecuárias; em SP, as referências do boi, vaca e novilha gordos são, respectivamente, R$ 337/@, R$ 308/@ e R$ 325/@ (prazo), informa a Scot Consultoria
Os preços da arroba no mercado físico do boi gordo seguem acomodados em grande parte do Brasil, informa nesta quinta-feira, 20 de janeiro, a IHS Markit.
Porém, a consultoria registrou que há plantas frigoríficas testando novas compras de boiadas gordas a preços mais baixos, sobretudo na região Norte.
Com o fim das fortes chuvas nas áreas de pecuária do Norte brasileiro – que vinham castigando severamente a região –, houve melhoria no fluxo de oferta de animais terminados, mas não a ponto de iniciar uma pressão baixista para os preços da arroba, observa a IHS.
Segundo a consultoria, a demanda doméstica pela carne bovina segue desaquecida, o que faz a indústria reduzir a capacidade diária de abate.
A Agrifatto alerta para o aumento no número de casos de Covid-19 dentro dos frigoríficos brasileiros.
Segundo a consultoria, diante do avanço da doença, algumas plantas estão postergando os abates.
“Com isso, as escalas ficaram em níveis mais confortáveis”, informa a Agrifatto.
Ainda assim, acrescenta a Agrifatto, o preço do boi gordo não perdeu a firmeza e continua sendo negociado próximo aos R$ 338/@ em São Paulo.
Segundo dados apurados pela Scot Consultoria, há nove dias o preço do boi gordo registra estabilidade nas praças do interior paulista.
Assim, as referências do boi, vaca e novilha gordos são, respectivamente, R$ 337/@, R$ 308/@ e R$ 325/@ (preços brutos e a prazo).
Os negócios com o “boi-China” (abatidos mais jovens, com até 30 meses de idade) são fechados por até R$ 345/@, em São Paulo.
Enquanto as vendas de carne bovina seguem patinando no mercado interno, as exportações vêm ganhando ritmo.
As consultorias do setor estimam embarques ao redor de 140 mil toneladas para janeiro, o seria um novo recorde histórico para o mês.
No mercado atacadista de carne bovina, o ritmo de venda permanece lento.
A carcaça casada bovina segue cotada a R$ 20,50/kg, informa a IHS, informa a Agrifatto.

Sequía puede afectar los precios de la hacienda

19 de janeiro de 2022 Uma forte onda de calor atinge o Sul do país. Os termômetros já chegam a atingir mais de 40 graus, um recorde para a região. As altas temperaturas são efeito do fenômeno La Niña, que vem causando chuvas intensas em algumas regiões e estiagens em outras. O Sul e o Centro-Oeste do país estão sofrendo com a seca causada pelo fenômeno. Mas os prejuízos e efeitos dessa seca não são apenas locais e devem refletir em maiores altas dos preços dos alimentos nos próximos meses.
Os alimentos acumulam alta de 7,94% em doze meses até dezembro, sendo considerado o grupo de maior impacto para o IPCA do mês. O índice já reflete as estiagens que avançaram no país nos últimos

meses. A seca foi um evento inesperado e contrariou todas as expectativas dos produtores. Após um 2021 de inflação alta, o mercado esperava um ano de reajuste com um cenário mais estável, em especial pelas projeções positivas de grandes safras de grãos no mercado interno e também dos Estados Unidos neste ano, mas as expectativas foram frustradas.

Segundo a Emater/RS, a estiagem já atingiu os cultivos de cerca de 115 mil produtores de grãos – soja, milho e feijão – e aproximadamente 23,5 mil produtores de leite no estado. Segundo Frederico Kaefer, CEO da Garra International – empresa exportadora de proteínas com presença em 60 países –, o impacto da estiagem representa uma quebra de 30% da produção no Sul do país e uma média de 20% no Brasil, levando a um aumento do custo da proteína animal para as indústrias, especialmente frangos e suínos, em aproximadamente 20%. "Essas proteínas são as mais baratas, mas o preço vai subir porque inevitavelmente a indústria vai repassar os preços" , diz.

O preço dessas carnes vai ficar mais caro devido aos prejuízos nas plantações de milho. O milho é a principal matéria-prima das rações para aves e suínos e representa 80% do custo do animal, e a seca chegou em momento de menor produção do grão. A primeira safra (verão) que se inicia em outubro até dezembro é responsável por apenas 30% da produção do milho. Os outros 70% são da segunda safra (safrinha), que ocorre durante a estação do outono até o inverno.

Segundo o Centro de Estudos Avançados em Economia Aplicada (Cepea – Esalq/USP), os preços do milho atingiram patamares recordes no mercado brasileiro ao longo de 2021. "O impulso veio dos baixos estoques da safra 2019/20 e sobretudo de preocupações com os impactos do clima sobre a semeadura e o desenvolvimento da safra 2020/21" , relata a Análise Conjuntural de dezembro do Cepea. No balanço do segundo semestre de 2021, o Indicador ESALQ/BM&FBovespa subiu 0,87%, com média do período a 91,95 reais/saca de 60 kg, 40,7% superior à de julho a dezembro de 2020. Apesar de os preços terem recuado entre setembro e novembro, a baixa oferta e o clima seco voltaram a sustentar os preços elevados em dezembro.

Segundo o secretário de política agrícola do Ministério da Agricultura, Guilherme Bastos, os preços dos alimentos devem ficar mais difíceis de ceder, mas o aumento também vai depender do comportamento do câmbio. Se depender das expectativas do mercado, o câmbio não deve colaborar para a manutenção ou arrefecimento dos preços dos alimentos. A projeção para o dólar é de 5,60 reais, de acordo com o último Boletim Focus, e alguns bancos e casas de análise já falam em um câmbio a 6 reais no fim de 2022. "Embora boa parte do Centro-Oeste esteja com condições favoráveis pelas chuvas – apear de o excesso estar atrapalhando um pouco – as chuvas não vão atenuar ou compensar a quebra registrada na produção do Sul do país" , diz.

A seca no Sul é considerada a pior em 17 anos. O Emater/RS alerta que mais de oito mil localidades e mais de 207 mil propriedades foram atingidas pelos efeitos da estiagem, além de cerca de 10,5 mil famílias com dificuldades ao acesso à água. A estiagem na região já levou a perdas estimadas mais de 60% das lavouras e um prejuízo de 45 bilhões para os principais estados do Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina e Mato Grosso do Sul.

Na soja, os impactos da estiagem sobre a produção variam de 3% a 26,5% no Rio Grande do Sul. No feijão e no milho, as perdas são superiores a 60%, segundo relatório do Emater/RS. As secas também afetam as pastagens, reduzindo a disponibilidade de alimentação para os bovinos de corte e de leite, ovinos e equinos mantidos predominantemente sobre os campos nativos. "O reflexo mais duradouro da estiagem sobre a produção de leite, no entanto, ocorrerá pela menor quantidade de silagem de milho a ser estocada nas propriedades e pelo menor valor nutricional desse alimento, refletindo em maiores gastos para os produtores no decorrer de todo o ano" , avalia a Emater/RS. O impacto da estiagem na produção de leite acarretou na redução de 1,66 milhões de litros por dia e perdas de 58,5% na produção de pastagens cultivadas e de 52,8%e em pastagens nativas.

O café também deve continuar mais caro, ainda refletindo a estiagem nas principais regiões produtoras – Paraná, São Paulo e Minas Gerais, durante 2020 até meados do inverno de 2021. O café foi um dos itens com maior alta registrada no ano passado na cesta de alimento, encerrando o ano com alta acumulada de 50,24% no IPCA. Segundo o pesquisador de café do Cepea, Renato Garcia Ribeiro, a bienalidade negativa – temporada de baixa ou alta produtividade para recuperação da planta – somado às secas, impactaram a lavoura na safra 2021/22 e reduziram a produção. "Apesar de o clima ter melhorado nessas regiões e a temporada 2022/23 ser de bienalidade positiva, a planta não consegue recuperar a produção para a próxima safra" , diz. A queda na produção tem causado problemas de oferta que impulsionam o preço do grão no mercado e, por isso, o preço nas gôndolas dos supermercados de uma das bebidas mais consumidas ainda deve continuar persistente.

Contratos a futuro de Novillo sumaron R$ 56000 millones en 2021

19/01/2022

O resultado é o maior na última década e foi impulsionado pela valorização da arroba, que no ano passado registrou cotação média de R$ 306,87/@ na B3
Em ano de arroba histórica, o volume financeiro de contratos futuros do boi gordo na bolsa de valores B3 movimentou R$ 65,1 bilhões em 2021 com opções de compra e venda.
O valor é 56,5% maior em comparação a 2020 e o maior na última década. Os dados de negociações fazem parte da consolidação da movimentação de ativos da B3 no ano passado.
O Portal DBO analisou a evolução do mercado futuro do boi gordo de 2012 a 2021. Em comparação com 2012, o resultado foi 166,8% maior.
O principal item que provocou este salto histórico foi a valorização da arroba do boi. A média do valor da arroba por contratos negociados (compra e venda) ficou em R$ 306,9/@ em 2021, o que representou um crescimento de 32,7% em comparação com 2020 e 3,1 vezes mais diante da média da arroba em 2012.
Número de contratos
Apesar de ter sido um ano histórico em termos de volume financeiro, 2021 não teve um registro recorde de contratos negociados. Segundo os dados da B3, foram 643,2 mil. O número é de fato o maior dos últimos sete anos, mas inferior ao total registrado no ano de 2013, com 863,1 mil contratos negociados. O volume financeiro foi de R$ 29,5 bilhões.
De fato, na última década, de 2012 a 2014, foram os anos em que mais o pecuarista acessou o mercado de capitais, efetuando travas do boi gordo.
Em 2012 foram 758,7 mil contratos negociados, totalizando R$ 24,4 bilhões. Em 2014, o total chegou a 813,3 mil contratos com uma movimentação de R$ 34 bilhões.
Abates e boi travado
Para se ter uma ideia qual seria o rateio do boi travado e do total de bovinos abatidos, o Portal DBO, com a ajuda de especialistas, transformou os contratos de boi gordo em animais, e comparou a informação com o total de abates do IBGE.
Cada contrato de boi gordo na B3 equivale a 330 arrobas. Em média, cada bovino pode representar 20 arrobas, portanto, a cada contrato são de 16,5 bovinos. No final das contas, 643,2 mil contratos equivaleriam a 10,6 milhões de bovinos com travas na B3, no ano passado.
Considerando o abate de 20,6 milhões de animais apenas nos três trimestres de 2021, o número de boi travado chegou a um pouco mais da metade, com 51,5% do total. O porcentual deve ser menor com a informação integral de abates, ainda a ser divulgada pelo IBGE.
Considerando a média da última década, o porcentual de contratos futuros chega a 31,1% do total de bovinos abatidos. O ano que esse rateio foi maior, também foi em 2013. Dos 34,4 milhões de bovinos abatidos naquele ano, 14,2 milhões, o que representou 41,4% do total. O pior resultado da década foi o de 2018, no qual foram travados 13,3% dos animais abatidos

Exportaciones de carnes bovinas alcanzarán récord en enero

Por: Denis Cardoso 18/01/2022
"Caso o ritmo atual dos embarques se mantenha, o Brasil deverá vender ao exterior 140 mil toneladas no primeiro mês deste ano", prevê consultor da Agrifatto
Com a reabertura do mercado da China, a partir de meados de dezembro, e a taxa de câmbio altamente favorável, as exportações brasileiras de carne bovina ganharam força nos primeiros dez dias úteis deste ano.
Na segunda semana de janeiro, os embarques do produto in natura alcançaram 36,53 mil toneladas, aumento de 3% no comparativo semanal, segundo dados da Secretaria de Comércio Exterior (Secex).
No acumulado das duas semanas deste mês, as vendas externas da proteína bovina in natura somaram 72 mil toneladas, o equivalente a um embarque médio diário de 7,2 mil toneladas, volume 34,3% acima da média diária de janeiro/21.
"Caso o ritmo atual dos embarques se mantenha, o País deverá exportar cerca de 140 mil toneladas em janeiro, um novo recorde para o mês", prevê o economista Yago Travagini, consultor de mercado pela Agrifatto.
Em janeiro do ano passado, o Brasil exportou 107,3 mil toneladas de carne in natura, segundo dados da Associação Brasileira das Indústrias Exportadoras de Carne (Abiec).
O preço médio da tonelada da carne bovina in natura brasileira subiu para US$ 5,16 mil na segunda semana de janeiro/22, o que representou valorização de 2,15% ante a semana anterior.
Segundo o analista da Agrifatto, em receita, as vendas externas de carne bovina in natura totalizam US$ 371,7 milhões nos primeiros dez dias úteis do ano, montante equivalente a 76,8% de todo o faturamento registrado em janeiro de 2021, de US$ 481,1 milhões

Mejora el precio medio de exportación 12% en 2021

17 de janeiro de 2022 O preço médio da carne bovina brasileira registrou uma valorização de 12,9% no mercado internacional em 2021 em comparação com 2020, passando de US$ 3.346,93 por tonelada (mil/t) para US$ 3.777,90 por tonelada. A alta garantiu saldo positivo nas exportações de Mato Grosso, uma vez que o volume de carne embarcado ano passado foi 9,5% menor do que em 2020. A análise é do Instituto Mato-Grossense da Carne (Imac).

Segundo levantamento da entidade, em 2021, Mato Grosso comercializou 368,7 mil toneladas de carne bovina e movimentou o equivalente a US$ 1,782 bilhão. Em 2020, o volume de carne exportado foi de 407,6 mil toneladas e a receita de US$ 1,685 bilhão.

Entre os motivos para a redução do volume de carne exportado, o diretor de operações do Imac, Bruno de Jesus Andrade, aponta a menor oferta de animais e a saída temporária da China do mercado como os principais fatores para a queda.

“A demanda em 2021 foi aquecida, se a China não tivesse ficado 100 dias fora do mercado, provavelmente Mato Grosso teria registrado recorde não apenas em receita, mas também em volume de carne exportado”, afirma Bruno Andrade.

A China se manteve na liderança entre os principais destinos da carne mato-grossense, com compra de 155,4 mil toneladas, o que representou uma receita de US$ 823,1 milhões, 46% do total exportado pelo estado. Em seguida, o Chile aparece com a compra de 29,2 mil toneladas e US$ 145,3 milhões, ocupando o lugar que era de Hong Kong em 2020. A ilha asiática ficou na terceira colocação em 2021, mesmo comprando maior volume, 38,3 mil toneladas, porém com menor valor, US$ 145,1 milhões no total.

“É interessante observar no ranking dos principais compradores o valor agregado da mercadoria. Enquanto Hong Kong paga cerca de US$ 3,8 mil por tonelada, nós temos a Itália que paga US$ 7 mil a tonelada. O Brasil precisa trabalhar para diversificar os destinos, mas também para abrir mercado que paga melhor, como é o caso do Japão, por exemplo”, afirma o diretor do Imac, Bruno de Jesus Andrade.

Outro exemplo citado pelo diretor da entidade é a diferença de preço pago pela carne resfriada e a carne congelada pela Alemanha. De acordo com o levantamento do Imac, a Alemanha pagou 37% mais na tonelada de carne congelada exportada por Mato Grosso do que Hong Kong, sendo que o país europeu pagou US$ 6.172,23, enquanto o asiático pagou US$ 4.502,78 por tonelada.

Quando analisada a proporção de preço pago pela carne resfriada, a diferença é ainda maior, atingindo 65%. Enquanto a Alemanha pagou US$ 8.363,67 na tonelada de carne resfriada, Hong Kong pagou US$ 5.078,34 a tonelada. “Nesse sentido, por isso é importante diversificar o mercado e enviar para cada destino o produto que pode gerar maior rentabilidade”, destaca Bruno Andrade.

ESTADOS UNIDOS primer mayor destino de los embarques pese a la reapertura de CHINA

Por: Cepea/Esalq 20/01/2022 Os embarques brasileiros de dezembro/21 aos EUA registraram novo recorde mensal

Após pouco mais de três meses, os envios de carne bovina à China foram retomados na segunda quinzena de dezembro.

Conforme dados da Secex, no último mês, o Brasil exportou 6,79 mil toneladas da proteína (in natura, industrializada, miúdos entre outros) ao país asiático.

Aos Estados Unidos, por sua vez, os embarques de dezembro registraram novo recorde mensal, de 30,3 mil toneladas, resultado que sustentou o país norte-americano como o maior destino da proteína brasileira pelo segundo mês seguido.

Segundo pesquisadores do Cepea, esse resultado está atrelado, entre outros fatores, ao Real desvalorizado frente ao dólar, o que torna a carne nacional bastante competitiva e atrativa aos norte-americanos.

Vale ressaltar que os Estados Unidos são grandes produtores de proteína bovina, mas também são importantes demandantes – o país tipicamente exporta carne cara e importa carne barata.

Em 2021, a carne brasileira foi enviada aos Estados Unidos à média de US$ 7,26/kg, avanço de 1,8% frente à de 2020 (de US$ 7,14/kg).

Proyectan mayores importaciones chinas de carnes brasileñas en 2022

21 de janeiro de 2022 O conglomerado chinês Beijing Properties (Holdings) Ltd prevê que as importações chinesas de produtos congelados, incluindo carne brasileira, vão continuar a aumentar em 2022, apesar da pandemia da covid-19.

O relatório anual do grupo, divulgado na quinta-feira, lembra que a China autorizou, a 15 de dezembro, a retoma das importações de carne de vaca brasileira, após uma suspensão que vinha desde 04 de setembro, após dois casos atípicos da ‘doença das vacas loucas’.

A Administração-Geral de Alfândegas da China disse num despacho que autorizava a importação de carne bovina sem osso do Brasil, de vacas com menos de 30 meses de idade.

Devido à suspensão de mais de três meses, as exportações chinesas de carne de vaca brasileira caíram quase 20% em 2021, para 950 mil toneladas, segundo dados da Associação Brasileira de Frigoríficos.
Desde 2019 que a China é o maior comprador de carne de vaca brasileira, com o Brasil a representar cerca de metade das importações chinesa de carne bovina, sublinhou o Beijing Properties.
O Governo chinês tem alegado que os recentes surtos da estirpe Ómicron da covid-19 na China continental se devem, em parte, a produtos provenientes do estrangeiro.
Isto apesar de especialistas em saúde estrangeiros terem enfatizado que o vírus se espalha sobretudo através de gotículas respiratórias, quando as pessoas infetadas respiram, falam, tossem e espirram.
A cidade de Shenzhen, no sul da China, anunciou na quarta-feira que quem receber encomendas provenientes do estrangeiro terá os seus movimentos limitados no território.
Pequim também aconselhou a população a minimizar a compra de bens do estrangeiro.
Ainda assim, o conglomerado disse acreditar que os planos do Governo chinês para o setor da logística de congelados possam eliminar problemas de segurança alimentar e aumentar a confiança dos consumidores.
Os planos preveem uma maior concentração das empresas a atuar neste setor e a criação de uma base centralizada, em Shenzhen, para os controlos anticoronavírus impostos pela China aos produtos importados.
A imprensa estatal chinesa tem noticiado regularmente multas aplicadas a comerciantes que importaram, de forma ilegal, carne congelada do Brasil.
A 04 de janeiro, a polícia de uma cidade do sudoeste da China aplicou uma pena de detenção de 10 dias a dois comerciantes, acusados de não terem submetido um lote de pernas de frango enviadas do Brasil aos controlos.

URUGUAY

Se mantiene brecha en precios del gordo; crece demanda y valor de reposición

por Javier Lyonnetenero 19, 2022
El panorama ganadero empezó a cambiar con las lluvias, la humedad y la baja de temperaturas lo que "genera una recomposición del aparato productivo muy positivo", dijo Diego Arrospide, presidente de la Asociación Consignatarios de Ganado (ACG), en Tiempo de Cambio de radio Rural.
Se mantiene una notoria diferencia de los valores según los ganados, entre los ganados especiales y los más afectados por la sequía. Los novillos de punta bien pesados alcanzan los US$ 4,45, con promedios de US$ 4,38 similares a los de la semana anterior y una incipiente oferta de ganados de inferior calidad, que se diferenciaban en los rendimientos a balanza y en los precios.
La reposición muestra potencial de reactivación, la demanda ya empezó a presionar con las lluvias y se va a reactivar con margen para el crecimiento de los valores teniendo en cuenta la realidad flaco/gordo.
El mercado mantiene una tendencia a la firmeza con excelentes valores para la época del año y que en otros años sentían más la incidencia climática.
Las plantas grandes están dando entrada de 10 a 12 días, se empiezan a acortar, y las industrias en general están pasando valores.
Negocios de corral de cuota 481 arreglados desde noviembre para estas fechas, previendo el faltante de ganado de calidad, están entrando en las próximas semanas.
"En niveles de faena altos no debería tener mayor incidencia la ventana de faena de corral, de mantenerse los niveles de actividad la incidencia será menor", dijo Arrospide.

Promocionan marca de carnes de Uruguay en el segmento catering en China

18/01/2022
La campaña es parte del plan anual para la construcción de la marca de las carnes de Uruguay, plan que considera diferentes regiones del país asiático, canales de comercialización y objetivos de posicionamiento
El 11 de enero de 2022 se llevó a cabo en el restaurante Canton House en Shanghái el cierre de la primera fase de la campaña de promoción de carne vacuna uruguaya en el segmento de catering y restoranes. La campaña comenzó el 25 de noviembre de 2021, destinada a consumidores finales en el sector de gastronomía, en restoranes de nivel medio y alto de China, más específicamente en la ciudad de Shanghái.
La campaña es parte del plan anual para la construcción de la marca de las carnes de Uruguay, plan que considera diferentes regiones del país asiático, canales de comercialización y objetivos de posicionamiento.

La primera fase de la campaña, llamada “Saboreá la carne en el año del buey, un manjar originario de Uruguay” involucró una decena de restoranes y la plataforma online Dianping, utilizada fundamentalmente por los jóvenes para búsqueda y recomendaciones gastronómicas. Dianping tiene un promedio mensual de 310 millones de consumidores activos.
El evento fue organizado por el Instituto Nacional de Carnes (INAC) e invitó especialmente al Embajador de Uruguay en China, Sr. Fernando Lugris, y al jefe del Departamento de Economía, Comercio e Inversiones de la Embajada, Sr. Matías Benítez. Además, también asistieron representantes de restaurantes clientes de carnes de Uruguay, chefs, influenciadores gastronómicos, medios de comunicación, entre otros.
El Embajador Fernando Lugris valoró altamente el evento y resaltó la prioridad estratégica del Uruguay en el desarrollo de una ganadería sustentable, natural y verde, y la producción de un producto de altísima calidad que se adecúa a un mercado tan exigente como el chino. Remarcó el esfuerzo conjunto para aumentar la popularidad y el reconocimiento de la carne vacuna uruguaya entre los consumidores.
Por su parte, Victoria Cai, gerente de la oficina de Asia del INAC, compartió el resumen del evento y los resultados alcanzados:
En la campaña participaron en forma estrecha 10 restaurantes de nivel medio a alto de la ciudad de Shanghái, más de 100 influenciadores profesionales visitaron estos restaurantes y los promocionaron en sus canales de comunicación. Los representantes de los restaurantes participantes subieron al escenario uno a uno, recibieron la medalla “Uruguayan Beef Brand Partner” entregada por el embajador Lugris y se tomaron una foto grupal. En el futuro, habrá más socios de marca de carne vacuna uruguaya en China.
Al mismo tiempo, Lugris también hizo entrega de certificados a los representantes de los chefs socios de carne uruguaya, un total de 5 chefs fueron nombrados chefs honorarios de la marca carne uruguaya en 2021, respectivamente en Shanghai, Beijing y Guangzhou.
El evento se realizó en Canton House, elegido por su estilo arquitectónico muy antiguo y típico de Old Shanghai, combinando estrechamente la historia y la modernidad. Los platos presentados en el restaurante utilizaron carne vacuna uruguaya de alta calidad y no solo fue un festín de fusión de comida china-occidental, sino que también inspiró a los restaurantes en las formas de cocina de la carne uruguaya. La variedad de deliciosos platos de carne uruguaya recibió elogios unánimes de los invitados y los medios de comunicación.
El INAC ha planificado su estrategia de construcción de marca para cada segmento en China. El sector de catering y restaurantes es uno de los principales y presenta oportunidades únicas para productos de alto valor. En este segmento, el objetivo es lograr una mayor adhesión de empresas, trabajando en las diferentes regiones y cocinas de China, y alcanzar un mayor reconocimiento y popularidad de la marca de carnes de Uruguay.
Uruguay exportó a China USD 1.770,5 millones de productos y subproductos cárnicos en 2021. El país asiático tuvo una participación del del 59,2% del valor de las exportaciones uruguayas. Las exportaciones de carne bovina de Uruguay a China alcanzaron USD 1.407,2 millones en 2021, logrando un incremento del 87,9% en comparación con 2020.

“Estamos trabajando para que el precio al productor siga estable arriba de 4 dólares”: Marcelo Secco

por Javier Lyonnetenero 19, 2022
Marcelo Secco, CEO de Marfrig para Uruguay, dijo que 2022 es un año para sostener una valoración históricamente buena de la carne y el ganado, “un año de buen valor de materia prima, altos costos logísticos y ajustes en los costos industriales”.
En ese contexto, dijo en el programa 100% Mercados, “estamos trabajando para que el precio al productor siga estable arriba de 4 dólares”.
Secco dijo que hay varios efectos que inciden en que en el novillo tipo 2021 el valor agregado industrial sea solo de 16%, el menor nivel desde que hay registros: “el nivel de actividad, los aumentos sucesivos de precios de la hacienda y la demanda constante; el volumen agrega valor, y es parte de lo que ha pasado este último año”.
Para el CEO de Marfrig, en un escenario de recría que no despega, los negocios más intensivos son determinantes: “la aceleración de los ciclos, los animales de dentición incompleta, la vaquillona como producto gordo, todo eso explica el crecimiento sin afectar el stock”.
“Si se recompone la incidencia climático forrajera somos optimistas de que podemos volver a repetir una dinámica de una extracción interesante”.

PARAGUAY

Mercado del gordo para la exportación registra "agresivo" ajuste de precio

20/01/2022GANADERÍA

La mayoría de las empresas frigoríficas marcaron una baja en el precio de las haciendas gordas para la exportación, luego de tres semanas con valores firmes para todas las categorías.Un industrial dijo a Valor Agro que "el año arrancó lento para la demanda de carne", además de que la oferta de hacienda está siendo más abultada y las plantas están compradas hasta el cierre de enero.Si bien todos los frigoríficos están "comprando despacio", la desvalorización oscila entre 10 y 15 centavos de dólar por categoría.Las fuentes consultadas por Valor Agro posicionaron el precio del macho en US$ 3,60 a la carne, la vaquilla en US$ 3,50 y la vaca en US$ 3,30 el kilo carcasa."Es una baja agresiva", dijo un operador del mercado a Valor Agro, quien además confirmó el ajuste bajista. "No creo que haya tanta hacienda para aguantar esos valores", sumó.Con esta cotización, el macho paraguayo se ubica unos 20 centavos de dólar por debajo del valor promedio de los estados exportadores de Brasil; siendo la referencia más baja del Mercosur.

Plantas empiezan a diferenciar el precio de compra del macho y la vaquilla

21/01/2022GANADERÍA

Las industrias frigoríficas empiezan a diferenciar el precio de compra del macho y la vaquilla para faenas, una medida que se aplica a partir de esta semana."Vamos a volver a diferenciar", confirmó un industrial a Valor Agro, y comentó que algunos años atrás las plantas ya hacían esa diferenciación que actualmente se aplica en los países vecinos.Explicó que "las vaquillas son más chicas que los machos y el costo de producción es más alto para la industria".A mediados de la semana las plantas marcaron una baja en el precio de compra de todas las categorías y se diferenció entre 5 y 10 centavos de dólar a la vaquilla y el macho.De acuerdo a las últimas cotizaciones, el macho (toro o novillo) para la exportación cotiza US$ 3,60 a la carne, mientras que la vaquilla entre US$ 3,50 y 3,55. La vaca se valora en US$ 3,30.

El año comenzó con "muy poca oferta" de animales gordos en las ferias de consumo

19/01/2022GANADERÍA

Tal como lo esperaban varios operadores del mercado, las ferias de consumo capitalinas comenzaron el año 2022 con menos operaciones a causa de la "muy poca oferta" de animales gordos."Empezó flojo a raíz de la escasa oferta, las ferias están muy variables en cantidad y calidad", destacó a Valor Agro Gabriel Cuevas, martillero de Ferusa Negocios S.A..Cuevas dijo que un alto porcentaje de animales que llegan a las ferias "no están terminados", y aseguró que se debe directamente a los efectos del clima que no han favorecido a la producción.Y agregó: "Los animales terminados son de confinamiento, pero representan un 15 a 20% de la hacienda que se vende en las ferias".Sin embargo, el rematador comentó que los animales de baja condición corporal se están negociando para los corrales de engorde.De todas maneras, confirmó que la menor disponibilidad de hacienda es normal para la época, además prevé que la oferta en el mediano y largo plazo no sea importante, debido a los importantes volúmenes de animales que se sacrificaron en los últimos dos años. "No veo un aumento significativo de la oferta", resaltó.En cuanto al precio de venta, aseguró que "sí hay buenos valores por las categorías"; y detalló que en las últimas ferias de la empresa se lograron referencias promedios de Gs. 12.558 por novillos, Gs. 12.618 por toros, 11.716 por vacas y Gs. 12.600 por vaquillas.

UNIÓN EUROPEA

Alemania planea una etiqueta obligatoria de bienestar animal

19/01/2022

El gobierno alemán planea introducir el etiquetado obligatorio de bienestar animal como parte de sus esfuerzos para la transición hacia un sistema agroecológico. Al anunciar la medida en el Bundestag, el nuevo ministro federal de Agricultura, Cem Özdemir, dijo que el sistema de etiquetado debería cubrir la cría, el transporte y el sacrificio del ganado.

Özdemir, un miembro verde del gobierno de coalición recientemente elegido, dijo que la etiqueta debía introducirse junto con el apoyo a un nuevo sistema de producción que reemplace el actual "sistema de explotación". Las propuestas detalladas para la nueva etiqueta nacional se darán a conocer este año.

En particular, el político verde ha enfatizado la difícil situación financiera de los agricultores alemanes. Un mayor bienestar animal, que dijo significará menos animales en la granja, no debería tener un impacto negativo en los ingresos de la granja, argumentó Özdemir, insistiendo en que ya no se deben tolerar los "productos baratos" entregados a expensas de los productores.

“La mejora del bienestar animal en las granjas no se puede lograr con un costo cero”, admitió.
El sector porcino alemán se ha visto particularmente afectado por las presiones financieras y Özdemir insistió en que no es aceptable que los ganaderos reciban 22 céntimos de cada euro que los consumidores gastan en carne de cerdo al por menor. “No continuaré aceptando el sistema de explotación”, señaló el ministro de agricultura, hablando en Berlín.
La retórica fue bien recibida por la Asociación de Agricultores Alemanes, Deutscher Bauernverband, que estuvo de acuerdo en que existe una necesidad apremiante de mejorar las perspectivas económicas de los agricultores del país y, al mismo tiempo, hacer la transición a un sistema alimentario menos dañino para el medio ambiente.
Joachim Rukwied, presidente de la Asociación Alemana de Agricultores, dijo que este período legislativo vería a 'muchas granjas' trazar un curso entre 'un mayor desarrollo' y dejar de comerciar.
“El anuncio ahora debe ser seguido rápidamente por pasos concretos para su implementación. Es importante garantizar la diversidad en la estructura agrícola en Alemania y evitar rupturas estructurales: el Gobierno Federal tendrá que medirse con esto”, respondió Rukwied.
La prueba, continuó el defensor de la agricultura, será convertir la ambición política en acción lo suficientemente rápido como para brindar a los agricultores el apoyo que necesitan. “La situación económica en muchas granjas sigue siendo tensa y desastrosa para los criadores de cerdos. El tiempo es esencial aquí. Los agricultores están dispuestos a apoyar la conversión de la cría de animales. Es importante para los próximos meses que se asegure una forma viable y confiable de financiamiento. Se debe crear un fondo financiero separado para esto. Nuestros agricultores ahora necesitan con urgencia decisiones políticas para poder desarrollar aún más sus granjas”.
Una encuesta reciente realizada por Kantar en nombre de Greenpeace encontró que el 88% de los alemanes apoya mejores condiciones de cría de animales. El etiquetado estatal obligatorio de las condiciones de crianza para "toda la carne y los productos lácteos" en el comercio minorista y la gastronomía fue identificado como "particularmente importante" por el 78% de las personas.

REINO UNIDO: cae la producción de carne bovina un 5% en 2021

18 January 2022 According to a recent report from the UK's Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), a total of 1.95 million prime cattle were processed in 2021 in the UK. This is 5% fewer than in 2020. A further 638,000 cull cows were slaughtered, 6% lower than the year before.
Overall, average carcase weights remained relatively stable from 2020, reported Hannah Clarke, AHDB Livestock Analyst.
Continuing the trend seen throughout most of 2021, UK beef production in December was restricted by lower cattle throughputs. According to the latest Defra figures, 149,000 prime cattle were processed in December in UK abattoirs, 9% lower than the same month a year ago. 56,300 cows came forwards, 1% more than a year ago.
Lower cattle slaughter and steady carcase weights meant that total beef production reached 69,600 tonnes in December, down 7% on the same month last year. However, production in 2020 was particularly high, driven by a combination of the pandemic and end-of-year Brexit deadline. Production during December was closer, although still lower than, the five-year average.

ESTADOS UNIDOS

NAMI: inflación no es responsabilidad de la industria de carnes rojas y aves

20 January 2022
Rising meat prices due to labour shortage and supply chain problems, NAMI said
The North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute) said yesterday that consumers saw increased meat prices in 2021 because of labour shortages, greater consumer demand, supply chain problems and other factors experienced by most sectors of the economy.
“Inflation is hurting consumers by erasing the wage gains workers received due to the tight labour market and the pandemic,” said Julie Anna Potts, President and CEO of the North American Meat Institute. “It is no wonder the Biden Administration and some members of Congress would rather hold press conferences and hearings instead of addressing the labour shortage and supply chain bottlenecks.”
The Meat Institute submitted additional testimony for a hearing of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law called, Reviving Competition, Part 5: Addressing the Effects of Economic Concentration on Americas Food Supply.
The Meat Institute provided important context to antitrust allegations.
“The meat packing industry has been, and continues to be, one of the most highly scrutinized industries when it comes to antitrust review,” said Potts in the testimony submitted. “The USDA Agricultural Marketing

Service’s (AMS) Packers and Stockyards Division (P&S) is uniquely charged, by statute, to provide on-going oversight for fair business practices and to ensure competitive markets in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries."
"Additionally, any potential merger or acquisition regulators believe threatens ‘too much market power’ is subject to review by the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission," she added. "The last proposed merger of two of the ‘big four’ fed cattle slaughterers occurred in 2008 – and it was blocked by the Department of Justice.”

Concentración no fue factor que incidió

By GREG HENDERSON January 19, 2022
Rising retail meat prices coupled with historic packer margins and softer cash prices for cattle and hogs created what the Biden administration has called “exploitation” of consumers and farmers.
That view is disputed by the North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute) which says “consumers saw increased meat prices in 2021 because of labor shortages, greater consumer demand, supply chain problems and other factors experienced by most sectors of the economy.”
In early January, President Joe Biden unveiled an action plan to boost competition for beef, pork and poultry processing that includes $1 billion for grants and loans for new independent processing plants, $100 million for worker training, new labeling rules and ways for farmers to report anticompetitive practices.
In December the White House published an analysis that the Big Four meatpackers – Tyson Foods, Inc., JBS SA, Marfrig Global Foods and Seaboard Corp – had tripled their net profit margins during the pandemic. Additionally, the administration and some producer groups have targeted meat industry concentration for livestock farmers receiving a smaller share of consumer dollars than a decade ago.
A Jan. 3, 2022, White House Fact Sheet claimed ranchers received 60 cents of every dollar a consumer spent on beef 50 year ago, compared to about 39 cents today. Similarly, hog farmers received 40 to 60 cents on each dollar spent 50 years ago, down to about 19 cents today.
In a statement released Wednesday, the Meat Institute says the administration’s numbers are wrong, arguing that beef packers’ share of consumer dollars are actually lower than the producer share.
“Unfortunately for the White House, the USDA database referenced by the White House Fact Sheet, updated with December 2021 data released by USDA, shows in 2021 beef packers’ share of the consumer dollar was 22.2 percent – lower than the producer share,” the Meat Institute’s statement said. “For pork, the packers’ average share of the consumer dollar was 18.9 percent in 2021, also lower than the producers’ share, which was 25.8 percent in 2021.”Share of dollars“Inflation is hurting consumers by erasing the wage gains workers received due to the tight labor market and the pandemic,” said Julie Anna Potts, President and CEO of the North American Meat Institute. “It is no wonder the Biden Administration and some members of Congress would rather hold press conferences and hearings instead of addressing the labor shortage and supply chain bottlenecks.”
The Meat Institute submitted additional testimony for a hearing of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law called, Reviving Competition, Part 5: Addressing the Effects of Economic Concentration on Americas Food Supply.
The Meat Institute provided important context to antitrust allegations in submitted testimony.
“The meat packing industry has been, and continues to be, one of the most highly scrutinized industries when it comes to antitrust review,” said Potts in the testimony submitted. “The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service’s (AMS) Packers and Stockyards Division (P&S) is uniquely charged, by statute, to provide on-going oversight for fair business practices and to ensure competitive markets in the livestock, meat, and poultry industries. Additionally, any potential merger or acquisition regulators believe threatens ‘too much market power’ is subject to review by the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission. The last proposed merger of two of the ‘big four’ fed cattle slaughterers occurred in 2008 – and it was blocked by the Department of Justice.”
Potts said much of the “rhetoric about concentration in the beef packing sector wrongly implies that consolidation is on-going and that packers’ market power is becoming more and more concentrated. That is not the case. The four-firm packer concentration ratio for fed cattle slaughter has not changed appreciably in more than 25 years.”

Margenes y capacidad instalada

Jan. 19, 2022, at 6:10 a.m. WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Biden administration is targeting a small group of meat packers for high beef, pork and poultry prices that it says are squeezing consumers and fueling inflation, arguing that they are abusing their market power.
The U.S. meatpacking industry is dominated by a few global companies which say prices reflect a surge in demand, pandemic-constrained supplies, and rising costs for labor and transportation. They deny the administration's pandemic profiteering allegations.

Agricultural economists say that pandemic-stoked meat demand has exposed a shortage of slaughterhouse capacity, especially in beef, a supply-chain problem similar to those of other industries.
"I think there's probably some truth on both sides," said David Anderson, a livestock economist at Texas A&M University, about the White House's battle with meat processors.
"Consumers are buying beef. Our exports are booming," he said. "What we're seeing with prices, I would argue as an economist, that's exactly what we should see given this bottleneck. And capacity problems aren't going to be fixed overnight."
Cattlemen are frustrated with limited options for selling their herds, he said, adding: "I don't think it's a bad thing that the government is looking in to this stuff."
MEAT INDUSTRY
At the heart of the issue, just as with supply chain snarls, is unusually strong consumer demand for meat, and especially beef.
Americans hunkered down during the pandemic and splurged on consumable treats instead of travel or entertainment, and Chinese traded Australian imports for grain-fed U.S. beef, amid a diplomatic dispute.
That jump collided with a U.S. meat processing system already stretched to its limits by a decades-long drive for maximum efficiency and profit, leaving just four companies to dominate the beef packing market.
COVID-driven plant shutdowns, safety protocols spacing employees further apart and labor shortages cut the number of cows these plants could process, reducing prices they paid to cattle farmers even as the cost of the end product spiked for consumers.
Beef retail prices rose 30% from the beginning of 2020, before pandemic lockdowns started, to a peak of $7.90 per pound in October, before declining slightly in November and December, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.
The price cattle farmers earned declined slightly over the same period, and the National Farmers Union argues that more competition is needed in meat packing.
President Joe Biden has announced steps to boost competition in beef, pork and poultry processing to curb what he argues is "exploitation" of consumers and farmers.
The administration's action plan includes $1 billion for grants and loans for new independent processing plants, $100 million for worker training, new labeling rules and ways for farmers to report anticompetitive practices.
That is after a White House said in a December analysis that the four big meatpackers - Tyson Foods Inc, JBS SA, Marfrig Global Foods SA and Seaboard Corp - had tripled their net profit margins during the pandemic.
JBS's U.S. beef operation more than doubled its third-quarter operating margin - the rough difference between revenue and costs - to 21%, compared with the same periods of 2020 and 2019, the Brazilian company's earnings statement shows.
"The margins have been extremely wide" in beef, said Derrell Peel, a livestock economist at Oklahoma State University, citing the processing bottlenecks. He blames them not on deliberate anti-competitive behavior, but on 30 years of market-driven consolidation that left the industry with no spare capacity to handle the COVID-19 demand surge.
"The main driver of why we have the industry structure we have today is because of the economics of cost efficiency. Those small packers just went broke. And the ones that got bigger survived," Peel said.
The North American Meat Institute, representing beef and pork packers, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argue that higher meat prices are a temporary result of forces stoking inflation across the economy, including labor shortages.
"The market is behaving predictably," said Sarah Little, vice president of communications for the North American Meat Institute. Grocery chains compete for supplies and set retail meat prices - not meat processors - she noted, and Americans are willing to pay higher prices for beef.
"There are going to be times when cattlemen make more money and packers lose money. We've certainly seen that cycle before."
U.S. grocery chains' prices to consumers also reflect acute labor shortages, high trucking costs, and competition from China and other foreign buyers, said Jayson Lusk, head of Purdue University's agricultural economics department.
Chinese demand for pork is easing as the country rebuilds its hog herd from a devastating bout of African swine fever, returning pork processing margins to their five year average, according to Dermot Hayes, economics professor at Iowa State University.
Price spikes show the industry needs some slack in the system, Hayes said. Government incentives could encourage more farmer groups to build processing plants and earn more selling meat rather than live animals, Hayes said.

El secretario del USDA analiza la industria cárnica

19/01/2022 El secretario del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos, Tom Vilsack, dijo a la convención anual de la American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) en Atlanta que los mercados de carnes y aves de EUA han sido un importante enfoque reciente para la administración, y Vilsack repasó la lista de acciones que está tomando el USDA.

Destacó los movimientos para ayudar a los procesadores pequeños y medianos a expandir sus operaciones y realizar las actualizaciones necesarias para vender sus productos a través de las fronteras estatales, junto con el apoyo para ayudar a financiar las necesidades de la cadena de suministro intermedia, como el almacenamiento en frío y las unidades móviles de sacrificio.

En los próximos 60 a 90 días, Vilsack dijo que el USDA busca anunciar la disponibilidad de 150 millones de dólares para ayudar a financiar nuevas instalaciones de procesamiento y la expansión de las existentes. “Esperamos poder proporcionar dinero de subvención adicional en el verano para esos proyectos, y también dinero de préstamo adicional”, afirmó. Vilsack viajará a Colorado para un evento que destaca los esfuerzos del USDA para expandir la capacidad de procesamiento de carne.

La mano de obra es otro desafío clave que enfrenta el sector de procesamiento, y Vilsack manifestó que el USDA ha “reunido un recurso que puede asociarse con colegios comunitarios, sindicatos y otras organizaciones,” para ayudar a capacitar a nuevos empleados.

Mientras tanto, la reforma del mercado ganadero es otro enfoque importante para el USDA, y Vilsack promocionó las próximas reglamentaciones bajo la Ley de Packers and Stockyards (P&SA) destinadas a impulsar la aplicación y aclarar "cuándo y bajo qué circunstancias hay una violación". Legislativamente, prometió trabajar con un grupo bipartidista de legisladores en nuevos proyectos de ley para impulsar el descubrimiento de precios en los mercados de ganado, para que los productores puedan estar seguros de que están recibiendo un precio justo.

Fuerte presencia de casos de COVID en plantas procesadoras

15 January 2022

2020-21 data from the top-five US meat processors was assessed

Nearly 90% of processing plants owned by five big US meat companies had COVID-19 cases in 2020 and early 2021, a Reuters analysis of public data found, as a congressional committee investigates how meatpackers handled the pandemic.

The US House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis began its probe last year amid evidence the plants were major spreaders of COVID-19 and that workers suffered unusually severe outbreaks. It is unclear what the consequences of the investigation could be.

“The impact of the coronavirus on the essential workers of the meatpacking industry was both terrible and avoidable," Subcommittee Chair Representative James Clyburn told Reuters. "As our investigation continues, I reiterate my call for meatpacking companies to make widespread changes and immediately provide safe working conditions for their employees.”

While the spread of COVID-19 at meat plants was covered widely by media in the first year of the crisis, the percentage of major packing plants that had multiple cases has not been previously reported.

Data from meatpackers Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill, Smithfield Foods and National Beef made public in October showed 59,000 cases of COVID-19 and 269 deaths among their workers between March 2020 and 1 February 2021. Both figures were around three times higher than previous estimates.

Reuters compared that data, which included company locations with COVID-19 cases, to publicly available company filings and websites that list the companies' major processing plant locations to determine the percentage of facilities that had multiple cases.

The analysis showed multiple cases at 218 of the 247 plants owned by the five companies in the United States over the period. That represents 88.2%. For each company individually, the rates ranged from 82% of JBS’ 62 US plants - including those owned by its subsidiary Pilgrim's Pride - to 100% of National Beef’s eight plants.

Mark Lauritsen of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which represents meatpacking workers, said the numbers were "a reflection and confirmation of how bad the initial outbreaks in meatpacking were."

Reports of outbreaks at meat plants have slowed since the first year of the pandemic, but infections from the Omicron variant are causing staffing issues, according to meat companies and union officials.

Tyson spokesman Gary Mickelson did not comment on the percentage of company plants with cases but said the company has spent $810 million on preventative COVID-19 measures and began providing paid sick leave to vaccinated workers this month.

Smithfield vice president of corporate affairs Jim Monroe called the Reuters analysis "misleading" and said one reason for the high number of cases was due to "frequent and widespread testing" of workers. Monroe

also pointed to Smithfield's efforts to protect its workers including by providing protective equipment like face shields and by installing sanitizer stations.
National Beef, Cargill and JBS did not respond to a request for comment.

Expectativa por las cifras de stocks ganaderos

By DERRELL PEEL - OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY January 17, 2022
In addition to the monthly Cattle on Feed report on January 21, USDA will issue the annual Cattle report on January 31. This report provides January 1 cattle inventories for a variety of cattle classes as well as the calf crop total for the previous year with a complete breakdown for all states. The report may also include revisions to values reported previously, which can complicate interpretation of the report. This report follows the July Cattle report which provides national numbers for the same inventory categories but is based on a smaller survey and does not include individual state values. The July report provided the first estimate of the 2021calf crop.
The report provides confirmation of what did happen last year and provides some information that helps to shape expectations for this year. For example, there is little doubt that the beef cow herd is smaller compared to a year ago. The general feeling among analysts seems to be that the herd likely decreased 1.5-2.0 percent in 2021, with some possibility that the decrease was over 2 percent.
The level of beef cow slaughter in 2021 was up 9.1 percent year over year leading to a culling rate of 11.44 percent for the year, the highest since 2011. In 2011, the beef cow herd decreased 2.04 percent. However, the net change in the beef cow herd in 2021 depends also on what happened with beef replacement heifers.
On January 1, 2021, the number of beef replacement heifers was 18.7 percent of the beef cow herd. This level of replacement heifers indicates neither significant herd liquidation nor does it suggest aggressive expansion. In the last two decades the beef replacement heifer percentage has varied from a low of 16.6 percent in 2011 (liquidation) to a high of 21.0 percent in 2016 (expansion) and has averaged 18.2 percent.
Comparing once again to 2011, the inventory of replacement heifers in 2021 was well above the level that year. The replacement heifer inventory consists of both bred heifers (coming first-calf heifers) and heifer calves in development for breeding. The inventory of heifers calving was much higher in absolute terms last year compared to 2011. This likely means that some of the additional cow culling in 2021 was offset by more bred heifers entering the herd. The heifer calves portion of the replacement heifers from one year ago may well have been diverted to feeder markets but many of the sizable inventory of bred heifers likely entered the herd somewhere.
All of this discussion is complicated by the drought conditions in 2021which impacted what producers had to do as opposed to what they would like to do. The same may be true in 2022.
It’s hard to anticipate the number of replacement heifers in the upcoming report because continuing drought conditions is likely restricting what some producers are able to do. It is also possible that some producers outside of drought areas are holding a few extra replacement heifers to speculate on rebuilding demand in 2022.
Of course, drought conditions going forward will determine if that is successful or not. The northern plains regions that have been and continue to be in severe drought are areas that normally hold a higher percentage of replacement heifers compared to the rest of the country. They may not be able to do so going into 2022. If heifer calves from one year ago were diverted to feeder markets, the inventory of bred heifers in the upcoming report may be lower.
The remainder of the replacement heifer inventory is heifer calves, which could be up if producers are trying to compensate for fewer bred heifers but, again, it’s not clear that the continuing drought conditions is allowing more replacement heifer calves to be held. It seems likely that the inventory of beef replacement heifers will be significantly lower in this report.

AUSTRALIA

Covid repercutió sobre la actividad de plantas procesadoras y el abastecimiento

19 January 2022 Slaughter down, prices stable According to a report by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), shopping centres across the country have been selling out of groceries and other essentials, the result of staff shortages from COVID-19 isolations rules for positive tests and close contacts.
Slaughter has also been impacted by staff shortages. MLA reported national cattle slaughter was at 41,678 head, 65% below the same week in 2020 and 41% lower than last year's figures. Low slaughter is expected at this time of year, as some plants close during Christmas.
In the meat processing sector, under new rules, those determined to be a close contact may leave isolation to work provided they show no symptoms and do a daily rapid antigen test, said MLA.

The reduction in slaughter hasn't impacted sale yard prices. National indicators show the prices for most categories remain relatively stable.

Jon Condon, 18/01/2022

A NATION-WIDE beef supply chain crisis is emerging, as Omicron COVID sweeps through staff in processing facilities across the country.

The impact of greatly reduced kills is being seen across the chain, with trade sources confirming to Beef Central this morning that export contracts with some customers have had to be cancelled this week, as a result.

Lotfeeders are being particularly hard-hit, with large numbers of grain finished cattle due for slaughter backing-up in feedyards.

Beef Central spoke to a number of large processors, lotfeeders and integrated supply chains for this report.

One large multi-state, multi-site processor contact told Beef Central that processing operations were a 'day by day' proposition in terms of manning shifts, but all his company sites were being impacted to some degree.

Other contacts suggested some southern plants may be 30-50pc down on operational capacity, due to staff illness. One large southern Queensland processor has cancelled its second daily shift again this week, with 150 absent from the boning room, consolidating back to a single shift each day processing 800 head for the time being.

The current circumstances amount to the most serious beef supply chain challenge seen since the start of the COVID era in March 2020 – and arguably since the major impacts on supply brought on by eastern Australia's record floods in January 2011.

The impact from the constriction in processing capacity is being seen across the supply chain, in a number of ways:

Grainfed cattle – more exposed to timeliness of slaughter than grassfed – are now backing-up in feedlots in large numbers, waiting for kill spots to emerge. Many feedlots are now reporting to be at capacity, and this, in turn, is impacting their ability to induct new feeder cattle. More on the illness episode's impact on grainfed cattle below.

While clear slaughter cattle market signals for the start of the 2022 season are still only emerging (see today's weekly kill report), some large export plants in Queensland have this week dropped direct consignment rates by 30c/kg (carcase weight) on final offers seen in 2021. That is directly related to supply and demand based on COVID challenges, Beef Central was told. Other processors are simply not offering direct consignment quotes this week, content to work their way through contracted cattle and spot-market cattle secured before seasonal closures in December, for kills early this year

With finished cattle now backing up in feedlots, feeder steer prices have not yet shown strong evidence of decline in price – but equally, quotes for feeders out of the paddock this week have largely evaporated, as lotfeeders face already-full pens

So far the impacts on the grower cattle and restocker markets have been minimal, with the common view being that the current bottleneck disruptions will be 'short and sharp' rather than long-term. Owners are banking on the prospects that current problems will have cleared, by the time those cattle are ready for feedlot placement or slaughter.

Some export meat orders are clearly being impacted, trade sources told Beef Central this morning – particularly to key markets like the US, Japan and Korea. That means one of two things: either the customer seeks another Australian supplier (problematic in the current environment), or seeks a supplier in another country, unless they have chilled/frozen stocks on hand, which is highly unlikely in the current trading setting.

Generally speaking, it appears that southern Australian processors are currently being impacted more severely than those in Queensland, but equally, that Queensland may simply be 'lagging' a little behind businesses further south in terms of the disease spread cycle.

One large southern operator saw just five members of the boning team turn up for work at the start of last week. Some are operating this week on what they described as 'skeleton' shifts, motivated by the need to keep some product moving out the door, due to high international and domestic demand.

National kill collapses

The impact of the current crisis was clearly seen in NLRS weekly slaughter reports, which showed week two (ending 7 January) national throughput of less than 42,000 head, down 58pc on the same week last year, and a colossal 80,000 head decline on the same week in 2020. Last week's report for the week ended 14 January saw national kills reported to rise to 62,600 head, but some stakeholders are questioning that figure's accuracy, given difficulty in obtaining data presently. See today's separate weekly kill report.

How long will it last?

How long the current supply chain impact lasts, is anybody's guess. Some southern processor operators feel they may already be at, or near the peak of the staff illness cycle, and may soon start to see greater numbers of recovered staff returning to work. In Queensland, the general feeling appears to be that the worst is yet to come.

Lotfeeding sector sees most immediate impact

Because of the timeliness factor in killing grainfed cattle that have 'done their time,' the lotfeeding sector is bearing greatest impact from the current situation.

One large Queensland processor which kills both grain and grassfed, said it had heard from 'just about every large lotfeeder in the country' this week, wanting to sell grainfed cattle on a spot basis, having been turn away from their original destination. Some of the offerings were large with one mob totalling 400 export grain bullocks. Some mobs of 300 negotiated prior to Christmas for January slaughter had been rejected by the original processor this week, and were now looking for a home.

Looking back, some processors late last year were clearly hesitant about forward-booking too many slaughter cattle, due to the prospect of Omicron impact on staffing levels and plant operations after the holidays.

The longer the processing staff illness/absenteeism episode goes on, the greater the likely impact on cattle markets, both grain and grass, several contacts said.

Another major factor for grainfed cattle is the risk of falling out of spec – either over-weight, or over-fat – due to delays in slaughter. Processors typically apply savage grid price penalties for grainfed ox above 420kg carcase weight, and over-fatness, however Beef Central has learned this week that some processors are taking a 'sympathetic and flexible' view to sub-optimal contracted grainfed cattle, due to the circumstances. What happens to non-contracted cattle is anybody's guess, but we will ask some questions in coming weeks.

Adding to that is the fact that due to the season, many feeder steers and heifers bought last year were 500kg and more liveweight, heightening the risk of weight penalties if fed on much past 100 days. A typical 100-day steer fed on for another month beyond requirements could easily add 35kg dressed weight (60kg liveweight) to the animal.

Another impact on lotfeeders is that feeding weightgain and efficiency performance drops significantly after 100 days, making each beast less profitable to maintain.

Cash flow could also quickly emerge as an issue for some lotfeeders, if the blockage persists for any length of time. Some feedyards this week are reporting 60-80pc reduction in numbers entering their pens, over normal January cycles.

Killara feedlot general manager Andrew Talbot

"Many lotfeeders are evidently unable to bring through the normal supply of feeders into their pens this week, due to the backlog of finished cattle that are now awaiting slaughter," Elders Killara's Andrew Talbot told Beef Central this morning.

"There's no doubt that there has been a 20-30 day increase in days-on-feed for many cattle already in some yards, because of the bottleneck," he said. "It's a classic log-jam."

Asked whether this was yet being reflected in feeder cattle prices, Mr Talbot thought not. "It's too early to tell, because January is normally a very shallow period for feeder trading anyway," he said.

"We're all looking closely at the feeder market to see what happens. But if this episode goes on for any length of time, it will inevitably have an impact on feeder prices – especially if supply of feeders starts to grow."

He said the only saving grace for cattle producers in the current situation was the quality of the season, meaning any delays in slaughter were less impactful, as grass producers (as opposed to lotfeeders) could hold cattle longer-term.

"This episode will float through, and the industry will come out the other side. But if the season deteriorates and cattle need to start moving, then it will have much greater impact," he said.

Some southern Australian plants, like Teys Wagga and Tamworth, were heavily impacted by COVID work absences earlier in January, but are now evidently past the peak, with staff returning to work. One South Australian plant is scheduled to kill 800/day next week, having drifted as low as 350/day earlier this month.

MLA senior analyst Stephen Bignell said similar numbers in terms of processing impact (typically 30-50pc decline in throughput) were reported to MLA last week during an information gathering session with stakeholders.

"Obviously numbers are down, but the impact is hard to verify in detail," he said.

"It appears at this stage that Queensland is a little behind NSW in terms of where the active sickness cases are," he said.

Mr Bignell said the NLRS livestock indicators that rely on processor buying all fell significantly last week, compared to the final stages of 2021.

"For example the medium cow indicator is back 10pc from the end of last year, while in contrast the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator is only down 19c/kg carcase weight, or a little over 1pc."

The feeder steer indicator has fallen a little (on very light trading so far), easing from 569c at the end of December, to 561c yesterday.

Meanwhile any NLRS indicator segment reliant on producer and restocker buyers is still stable with last year, suggesting the market sees the current challenges as being reasonably short-term, clearing over time.

"Restockers are looking at the Bureau of Meteorology forecast this week, and seeing that two thirds of Eastern Australia looks like getting saturated. So there is still this long-term confidence among restockers, despite the current supply chain difficulties," Mr Bignell said.

The Australian Meat Industry Council's Patrick Hutchinson agreed with the summary of the state of infection and impact across the eastern states.

"We have heard 30-50pc reductions in production at some sites in recent weeks," he said.

"It looks like the peak may have been reached in some locations, processor members are telling us."

Mr Hutchinson said staff absenteeism was being impacted either directly by people contracting COVID, or exposed as close contacts (especially in situations like shared accommodation among overseas Visa holders). The difficulty in accessing Rapid Antigen Tests was another factor.

Inconsistencies from state to state in isolation duration and other factors had also impacted management of the disease (see earlier AMIC statement).

"Our advice to meatworks staff is to listen to advice being supplied by your employer," Mr Hutchinson said.

EMPRESARIAS

McDonald's extiende las pruebas con la hamburguesa vegetal en EE.UU.

21 January 2022 Test expanded to 600 locations

McDonald's Corp said on Thursday it will expand its US test of a plant-based burger it created with vegan meat maker Beyond Meat Inc to about 600 locations next month, reported Reuters.

The restaurants - in San Francisco, California and Dallas-Forth Worth, Texas - will sell the so-called "McPlant" burger starting 14 February for as long as supplies last in order to "help us understand customer demand," the Chicago-based chain said in a post on its website.

Shares of Beyond Meat, which makes the McPlant patty from peas, rice and potatoes, were up more than 5% at midday.

McDonald's initially tested the burger in eight US locations in November.

In December, two Wall Street analysts forecast a major US expansion of the McPlant.

One of those analysts, BTIG's Peter Saleh, said on Thursday that the expanded test "moves the product one step closer to a national launch, which could be worth several hundred million dollars" to Beyond Meat.