

USHSLA Hide Situation

Commercial cow slaughter maintained a high pace during all of 2010. Cow slaughter each quarter was the largest in well over a decade, as was the annual total cow slaughter. And this slaughter was based on the smallest January 1, 2010 U.S. cow herd since 1951. This, combined with total replacement heifer inventories at levels virtually unchanged from 2010 levels, sets the stage for a potential reduction in beef production in 2011 and beyond. On January 1, 2011 total cattle in the U.S. was down 1 percent from 2010 to 92.6 million head. Commercial slaughter was up 3 percent with total bovine hide production totaling 34.3 million in 2010.

U.S. hide exports in 2010 were up in numbers over 2009 to 32.9 million pieces, from 31.4 million pieces. Wet blue exports were also up in 2010, to 7.1 million pieces. Export value was up significantly from \$1.46 billion in 2009 to \$2.45 billion in 2010, a growth of 68%. This was due to global economic recovery as well as a decreasing supply of hides combined with increasing demand.

US hide exports to our top 10 markets account for 97 percent of U.S. exports. China continues to be the dominant importer, taking 15.9 million in 2010, accounting for 48 percent of U.S. exports. The top five markets for U.S. hide exports are China, S. Korea, Taiwan, Mexico and the E.U.

U.S. Hide Exports in 1000 pieces

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
World	26,827	28,389	28,525	31,373	32,919
China/HK	13,788	13,847	15,100	16,710	15,890
S. Korea	4,661	4,637	4,550	5,839	6,091
Taiwan	2,135	2,408	2,086	2,078	2,381
Mexico	1,721	1,684	1,525	2,048	1,978
EU	1,848	1,820	1,513	1,258	2,165
Thailand	685	1,098	1,003	1,035	1,368
Vietnam	246	896	1,089	651	1,189
Japan	1,108	1,201	912	725	844
India	47	117	155	165	125