

## Average and Total Numbers of Land Animals Who Died to Feed Americans in 2011

### Chickens

- Total number died for food: **7.8 billion**  
(7.3 billion for meat, 455 million for eggs)
- Average number killed per American meat-eater: **25.7**  
(24 for meat, 1.5 for eggs)
- Average per American lifetime: **2,002**  
(1,887 for meat, 115 for eggs)

### Turkeys

- Total number died for food: **256 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **0.85**
- Average per American lifetime: **66**

### Pigs

- Total number died for food: **109 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **0.36**
- Average per American lifetime: **28**

### Steers and Calves

- Total number died for food: **38 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **0.13**
- Average per American lifetime: **9.8**

### Ducks

- Total number died for food: **23.1 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **0.077**
- Average per American lifetime: **6.0**

### Rabbits

- Total number died for food: **2.4 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **0.009**
- Average per American lifetime: **0.69**

### Finfish

- Total number died for food: **14 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **47**
- Average per American lifetime: **3,700**

### Shellfish

- Total number died for food: **40 million**
- Average per American meat-eater: **134**
- Average per American lifetime: **10,000**

<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>ALL LAND ANIMALS</u></b>	<b><u>ALL SEA ANIMALS</u></b>	<b><u>ALL ANIMALS</u></b>
• Total number died for food:	<b>8.19 billion</b>	<b>56 billion</b>	<b>63 billion</b>
• Average per American meat-eater:	<b>27</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>208</b>
• Average per American lifetime:	<b>2,113</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>

*\* Note: Totals may not add up because of independent rounding.*

In 2011, the average US meat-eater was responsible for the deaths of:



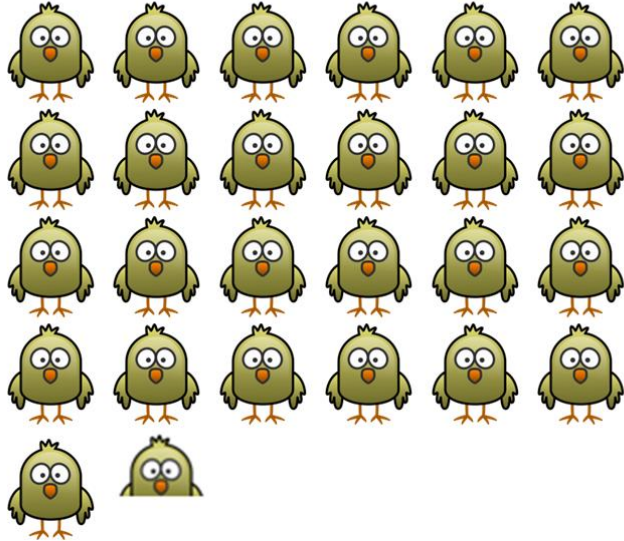
1/8 of a cow



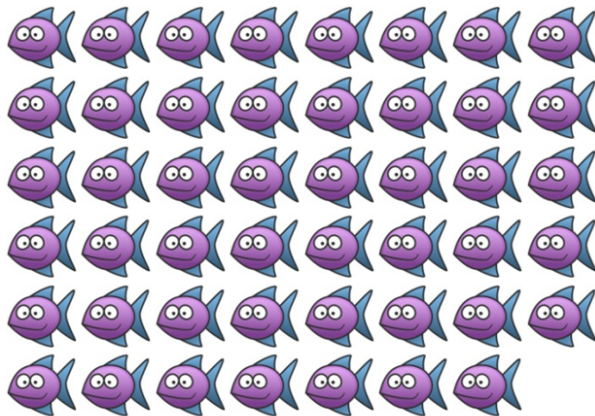
1/3 of a pig



5/6 of a turkey



25½ chickens  
(including 1½ for eggs)



43 finfish



134 shellfish

# Comparison over time

## Summary comparison: 2011 to 2010

- In general, US meat-eaters caused the deaths of fewer land animals but more sea animals – mostly fish meal and small shellfish.
- The average meat-eater caused **8 more animals** to die, up from 200 to 208, a 4% increase.
- Overall, the number of animals that died for Americans **rose by 3 billion** – from 60 billion to 63 billion.

## Land animals decreased

- **One fewer land animal** died per American meat-eater, a 4% drop from 28.1 to 27.1 animals.
- Cattle, pigs, chickens for meat, and chickens for eggs each saw a drop of 3-5%. (Turkeys saw a small 0.7% increase.)
- Total land animals fell from 8.4 to 8.2 billion, or **242 million fewer animals**
  - That's 1 million fewer cows, 5 million fewer pigs, and 240 million fewer chickens, but an additional 5 million turkeys.
- This decrease was not accompanied by an increase in animals who died for export. The U.S. slaughtered 248 fewer land animals.

## Sea animals increased

- **5 more finfish** (up 12% from 42 to 27) and **4 more shellfish** (up 3% from 130 to 134) died per American meat-eater.
- Overall, that's 1.6 billion more finfish and 1.5 billion more shellfish.

### Fish farms are to blame:

- The sharp rise in finfish numbers is **mostly menhaden**, a fish we don't eat but use for fish meal (food for other fish on fish farms).
- If we exclude menhaden, **deaths of all other fishes decreased**.
- Americans kill more menhaden than all other species of fish combined.
- Menhaden deaths rose by 1.7 billion (up 50%).
- Pollock deaths were the second largest contributor to the increase, up 540 million (40%).

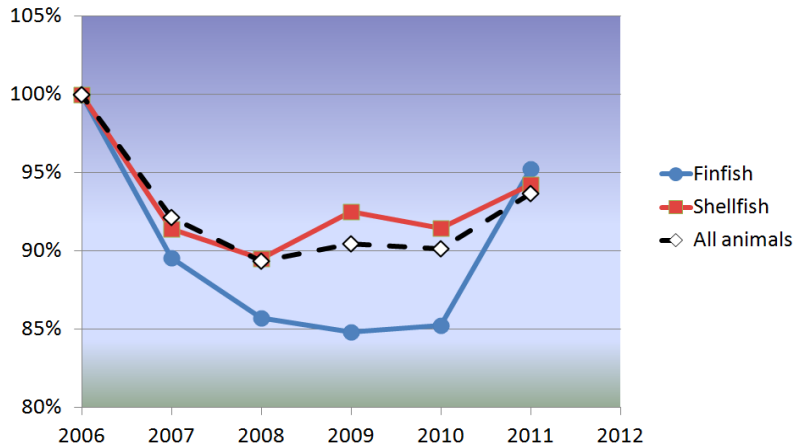
### Shrimp are to blame:

- The rise in shellfish deaths were driven by shrimp, which rose by 1.5 billion – more than double the previous year.
- This is likely due largely to the recovery of Gulf shrimp fisheries after the 2010 oil spill.

## Long-term trend

- In 2011, the average meat-eater caused the deaths of fewer cows, fewer pigs, and fewer chickens **than any other year going back to at least 2000**, while deaths for turkeys and ducks remain at near lows.
- Since peaking in 2004, the average meat-eater eats **4 fewer land animals — a 13% drop** from 31.2 to 27.1 animals.
- Overall, that's a nationwide drop from 8.9 billion in 2005 to 8.2 billion in 2011, or **725 million fewer**.
- Total animal numbers are dominated by sea animals. Recent years have seen the numbers fall and then rise, with no clear trend.

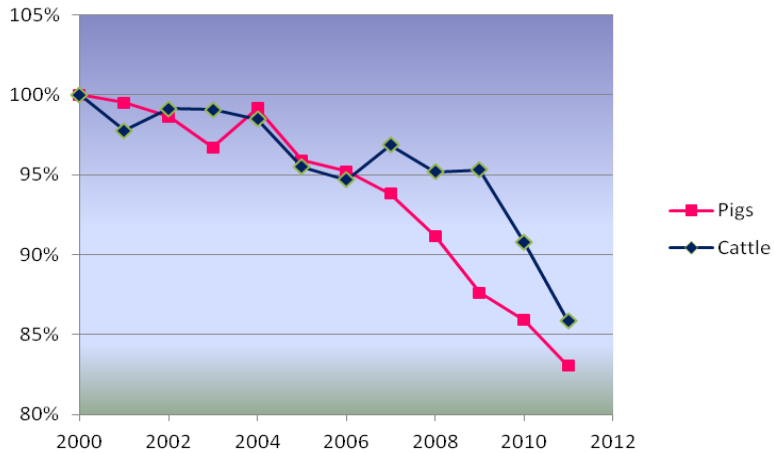
**Trends in the number of sea animals (and all animals) who died for a US meat eater (2006 = 100%)**



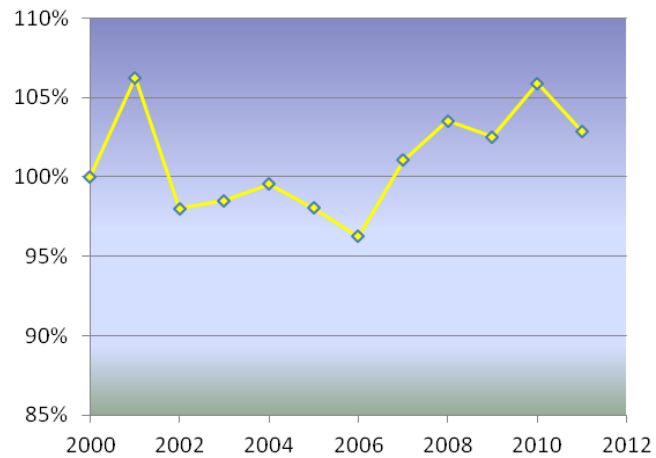
**Trends in the number of meat-type chickens and all land animals who died for a US meat-eater (2000 = 100%)**



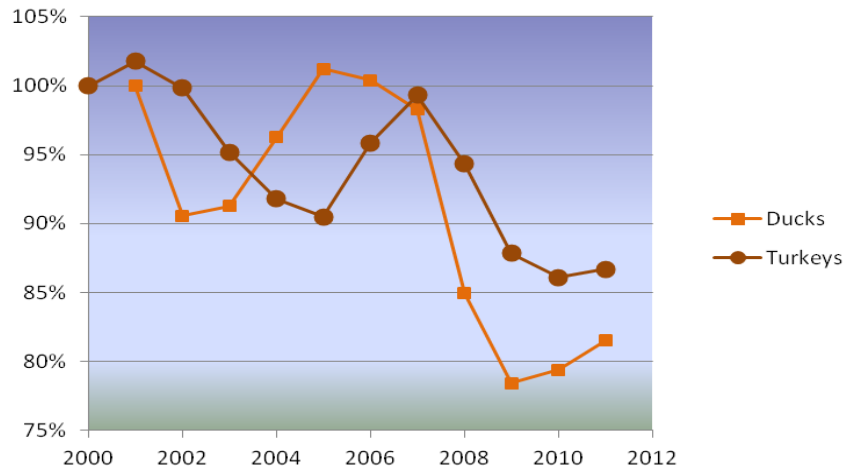
**Trends in the number of Cattle and Pigs who died for a US meat eater (2000 = 100%)**



**Trend in the number of egg-laying chickens who died for a US meat-eater (2000 = 100%)**



Trends in the number of turkeys (2000 = 100%) and ducks (2001 = 100%) who died for a US meat-eater



**Total Died for American Consumption (millions of animals)**

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Chickens for Eggs</b>	<b>Chickens for Meat</b>	<b>Turkeys</b>	<b>Ducks</b>	<b>Finfish</b>	<b>Shellfish</b>	<b>Land Animals</b>	<b>Sea Animals</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2011</b>	38.1	108.5	455.4	7,305	256.4	23.1	14,300	40,000	<b>8,189</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>63,000</b>
<b>2010</b>	39.1	113.9	465.4	7,535	252.8	22.3	12,700	39,000	<b>8,431</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>2009</b>	39.5	118.6	446.8	7,327	255.7	21.9	12,500	39,000	<b>8,212</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>2008</b>	40.8	117.6	447.7	7,639	272.5	23.5	12,500	37,000	<b>8,544</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>
<b>2007</b>	41.6	118.4	432.5	7,989	284.0	26.9	13,000	38,000	<b>8,894</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>2006</b>	41.9	114.9	409.1	8,004	272.1	27.3	14,400	41,000	<b>8,872</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>64,000</b>
<b>2005</b>	41.9	115.2	414.3	8,058	255.5	27.4			<b>8,914</b>		
<b>2004</b>	42.9	117.6	416.2	7,995	256.4	25.8			<b>8,856</b>		
<b>2003</b>	41.7	117.8	410.2	7,677	264.8	24.3			<b>8,538</b>		
<b>2002</b>	42.3	117.2	405.9	7,680	276.0	24.0			<b>8,547</b>		
<b>2001</b>	42.2	114.5	440.1	7,371	278.8	26.3			<b>8,276</b>		
<b>2000</b>	42.1	116.1	406.6	7,380	271.7				<b>8,246</b>		

**Average Died Per Meat Eater**

	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Chickens for Eggs</b>	<b>Chickens for Meat</b>	<b>Turkeys</b>	<b>Ducks</b>	<b>Finfish</b>	<b>Shellfish</b>	<b>Land Animals</b>	<b>Sea Animals</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2011</b>	0.13	0.36	1.48	24.22	0.85	0.077	47	134	<b>27.12</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>2010</b>	0.13	0.38	1.52	25.16	0.84	0.075	42	130	<b>28.13</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>2009</b>	0.13	0.40	1.48	24.67	0.86	0.074	42	131	<b>27.63</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>2008</b>	0.14	0.40	1.49	25.93	0.92	0.080	43	127	<b>28.97</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>2007</b>	0.14	0.41	1.45	27.40	0.97	0.092	44	130	<b>30.47</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>2006</b>	0.15	0.40	1.39	27.71	0.94	0.095	50	142	<b>30.69</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>2005</b>	0.15	0.40	1.42	28.17	0.89	0.096			<b>31.13</b>		
<b>2004</b>	0.15	0.41	1.44	28.21	0.90	0.091			<b>31.22</b>		
<b>2003</b>	0.15	0.42	1.43	27.34	0.94	0.087			<b>30.37</b>		
<b>2002</b>	0.15	0.42	1.43	27.58	0.99	0.086			<b>30.67</b>		
<b>2001</b>	0.15	0.42	1.55	26.72	1.01	0.095			<b>29.95</b>		
<b>2000</b>	0.15	0.43	1.46	27.02	0.99				<b>30.16</b>		

## **What these numbers include**

These numbers are not derived from slaughter figures (except for rabbits). They include deaths from all causes, including: disease, injury, culling, by-catch, discarded male egg-type chickens, production of food that is discarded and not consumed, etc.

These numbers are global. They include deaths abroad for imported animal products, and exclude US deaths for exported animal products.

These numbers only include deaths after birth/hatching. Fetal deaths are not considered.

## **Sources**

Land animal numbers are all based on US government statistics: U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Census Bureau. The only exceptions are U.N. statistics on duck imports/exports, and independent polls of the numbers of vegetarians and vegans.

Calculations and complete sources are available upon request from Noam Mohr at [noammohr@gmail.com](mailto:noammohr@gmail.com).