**Average and Total Numbers of Land Animals\*   
Who Died to Feed Americans in 2012**

\*Figures for sea animals not yet available

**Chickens**

* Total number died for food: **7.6 billion** (7.1 billion for meat, 439 million for eggs)
* Average number killed per American meat-eater: **24.9**  
   (23.4 for meat, 1.4 for eggs)
* Average per American lifetime: **1,951** (1,840 for meat, 111 for eggs)

**Turkeys**

* Total number died for food: **255 million**
* Average per American meat-eater: **0.84**
* Average per American lifetime: **66**

**Pigs**

* Total number died for food: **111 million**
* Average per American meat-eater: **0.37**
* Average per American lifetime: **29**

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**Steers and Calves**

* Total number diedfor food: **37 million**
* Average per American meat-eater: **0.12**
* Average per American lifetime: **9.7**

**Ducks**

* Total number diedfor food: **23.0 million**
* Average per American meat-eater: **0.076**
* Average per American lifetime: **6.0**

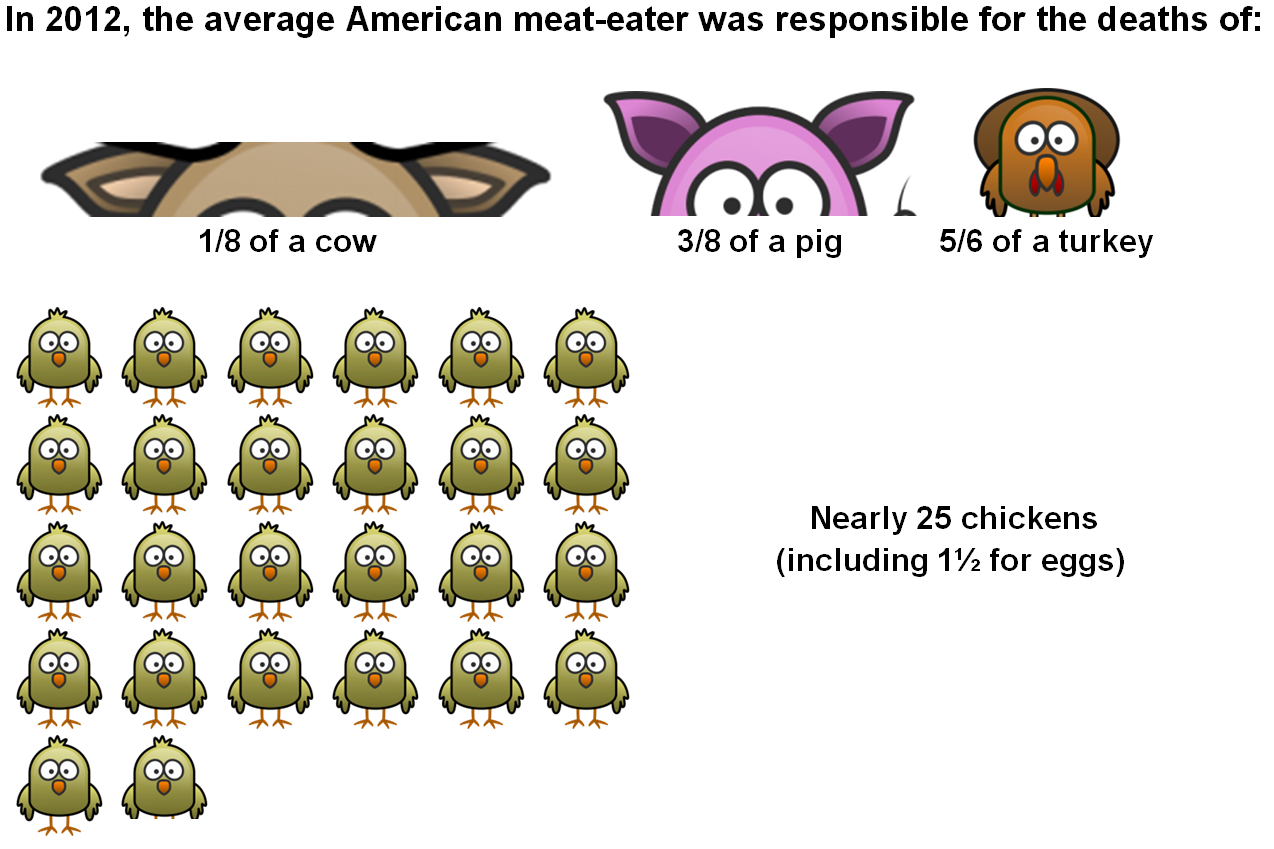
**Rabbits**

* Total number diedfor food: **2.4 million**
* Average per American meat-eater: **0.009**
* Average per American lifetime: **0.67**

**Totals ALL LAND ANIMALS**

* Total number died for food: **7.99 billion**
* Average per American meat-eater: **26**
* Average per American lifetime: **2,062**

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



**Comparison over time**

**In 2012, compared to 2011:**

The average meat-eater ate almost ***1 fewer land animal*** — a 3% drop from 27.1 to 26.3 animals.

This drop was mainly in chickens, both for meat and for eggs. (Cattle also saw a small drop, while pigs and turkeys saw a small increase.)

Overall, the number of land animals that died for Americans fell from 8.2 to 8.0 billion, or ***195 million fewer animals*** – including 600,000 fewer cows and 200 million fewer chickens, but an additional 2 million pigs and 4 million turkeys.

This decrease was not accompanied by an increase in animals who died for export. The U.S. slaughtered 103 million fewer land animals.

**Long-term trend:**

In 2012, the average meat-eater caused the deaths of fewer animals ***than any other year going back to at least 2000***.

That’s fewer cows and fewer chickens than any year since at least 2000, while deaths for pigs, turkeys, and ducks remain at near lows.

In 2012, the number of animals killed for American meat-eaters ***dropped below 8 billion for the first time since at least 2000***.

The number of animals slaughtered fell below 9 billion for the first time since 2002.

Since peaking in 2004, the average meat-eater eats ***5 fewer land animals — a 16% drop*** from 31.2 to 26.3 animals.

Overall, that’s a nationwide drop from 8.9 billion in 2005 to 8.0 billion in 2012, or ***923 million fewer***.

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| **Total Died for American Consumption (millions of animals)** | | | | | | |  | |  |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Cattle** | **Pigs** | **Chickens for Eggs** | **Chickens for Meat** | **Turkeys** | **Ducks** | | **All Land Animals** | | |
| **2012** | 37.4 | 111.1 | 439.4 | 7,123 | 254.7 | 23.1 | | **7,991** | | |
| **2011** | 38.1 | 108.9 | 454.5 | 7,309 | 250.4 | 23.1 | | **8,189** | | |
| **2010** | 39.1 | 113.9 | 465.4 | 7,535 | 252.8 | 22.3 | | **8,431** | | |
| **2009** | 39.5 | 118.6 | 446.8 | 7,327 | 255.7 | 21.9 | | **8,212** | | |
| **2008** | 40.8 | 117.6 | 447.7 | 7,639 | 272.5 | 23.5 | | **8,544** | | |
| **2007** | 41.6 | 118.4 | 432.5 | 7,989 | 284.0 | 26.9 | | **8,894** | | |
| **2006** | 41.9 | 114.9 | 409.1 | 8,004 | 272.1 | 27.3 | | **8,872** | | |
| **2005** | 41.9 | 115.2 | 414.3 | 8,058 | 255.5 | 27.4 | | **8,914** | | |
| **2004** | 42.9 | 117.6 | 416.2 | 7,995 | 256.4 | 25.8 | | **8,856** | | |
| **2003** | 41.7 | 117.8 | 410.2 | 7,677 | 264.8 | 24.3 | | **8,538** | | |
| **2002** | 42.3 | 117.2 | 405.9 | 7,680 | 276.0 | 24.0 | | **8,547** | | |
| **2001** | 42.2 | 114.5 | 440.1 | 7,371 | 278.8 | 26.3 | | **8,276** | | |
| **2000** | 42.1 | 116.1 | 406.6 | 7,380 | 271.7 |  | | **8,246** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | | |
| **Average Died Per Meat Eater** | | | |  |  |  | |  | | |
|  | **Cattle** | **Pigs** | **Chickens for Eggs** | **Chickens for Meat** | **Turkeys** | **Ducks** | | **All Land Animals** | | |
| **2012** | 0.12 | 0.37 | 1.42 | 23.44 | 0.84 | 0.076 | | **26.27** | | |
| **2011** | 0.13 | 0.36 | 1.48 | 24.23 | 0.83 | 0.077 | | **27.11** | | |
| **2010** | 0.13 | 0.38 | 1.52 | 25.16 | 0.84 | 0.075 | | **28.13** | | |
| **2009** | 0.13 | 0.40 | 1.48 | 24.67 | 0.86 | 0.074 | | **27.63** | | |
| **2008** | 0.14 | 0.40 | 1.49 | 25.93 | 0.92 | 0.080 | | **28.97** | | |
| **2007** | 0.14 | 0.41 | 1.45 | 27.40 | 0.97 | 0.092 | | **30.47** | | |
| **2006** | 0.15 | 0.40 | 1.39 | 27.71 | 0.94 | 0.095 | | **30.69** | | |
| **2005** | 0.15 | 0.40 | 1.42 | 28.17 | 0.89 | 0.096 | | **31.13** | | |
| **2004** | 0.15 | 0.41 | 1.44 | 28.21 | 0.90 | 0.091 | | **31.22** | | |
| **2003** | 0.15 | 0.42 | 1.43 | 27.34 | 0.94 | 0.087 | | **30.37** | | |
| **2002** | 0.15 | 0.42 | 1.43 | 27.58 | 0.99 | 0.086 | | **30.67** | | |
| **2001** | 0.15 | 0.42 | 1.55 | 26.72 | 1.01 | 0.095 | | **29.95** | | |
| **2000** | 0.15 | 0.43 | 1.46 | 27.02 | 0.99 |  | | **30.16** | | |

**Trend in the number of animals who died for a US meat eater (2000=100%)**

**All land animals and chickens for meat Egg-laying chickens**

**Cattle and Pigs Turkeys and Ducks (2001=100%)**

