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Outlook for Livestock and Poultry

Michael Jewison
World Agricultural
Outlook Board, USDA

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
February 20, 2015

About Those Forecasts...

“Everything makes sense in hindsight, a fact that analysts exploit every evening as they offer convincing accounts of the day’s events...the illusion that we understand the past fosters overconfidence in our ability to predict the future.”

*- Daniel Kahneman
Thinking, Fast and Slow
2011*

Outline

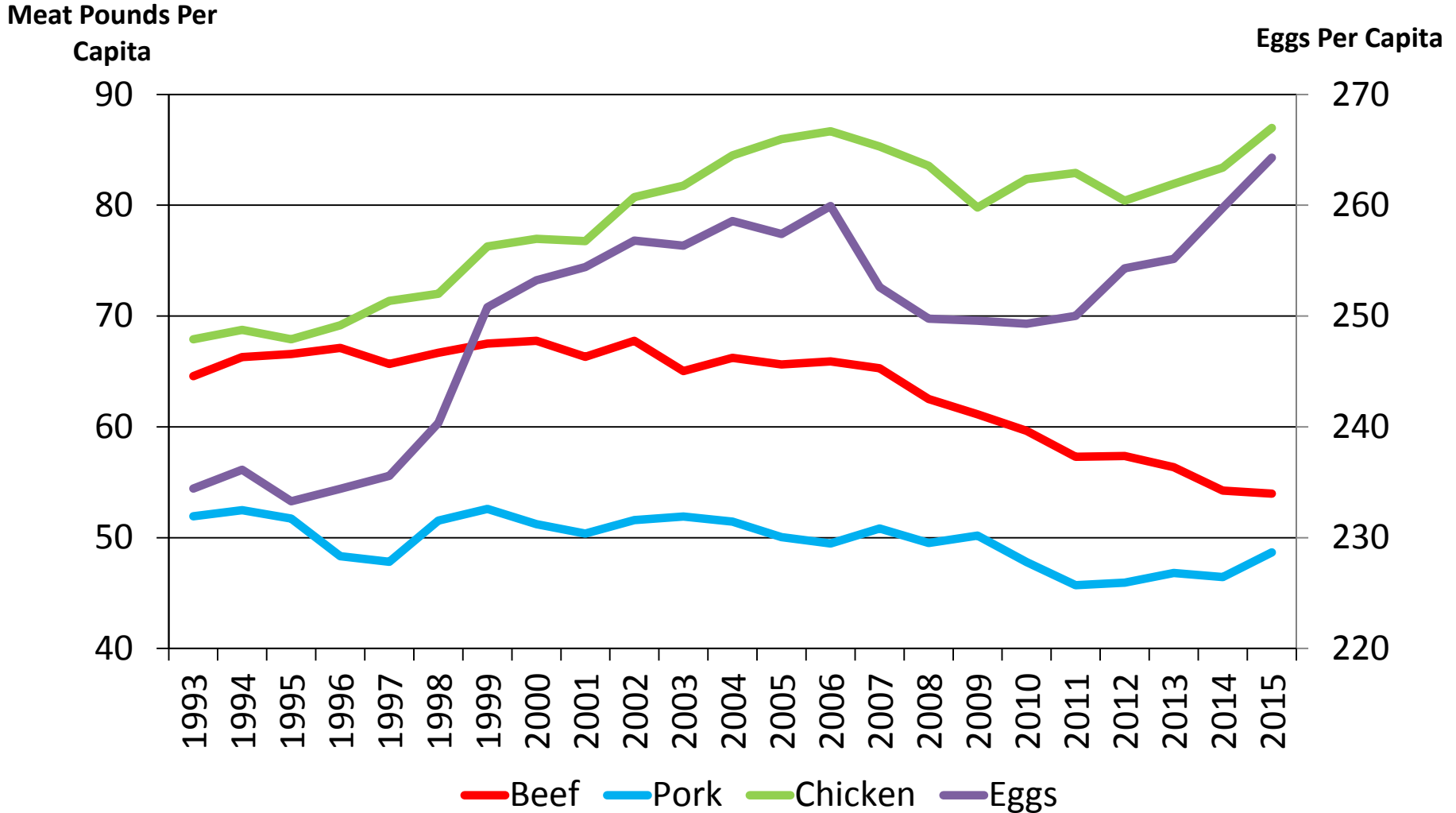
- What about the U. S. consumer?
- 2015 outlooks for cattle, hogs and poultry
- Wild cards to watch

Protein Prices Relative to Wages in United States

	1988	1996	2004	2008	2014
Wage, \$/hr	\$9.44	\$12.04	\$15.69	\$18.07	\$20.60
Beef, \$/lb % of wage	\$2.25 24%	\$2.52 21%	\$3.61 23%	\$3.97 22%	\$5.60 27%
Pork, \$/lb % of wage	\$1.13 12%	\$2.34 19%	\$2.79 18%	\$2.94 16%	\$4.02 20%
Chicken, \$/lb % of wage	\$1.34 14%	\$1.51 13%	\$1.73 11%	\$1.75 10%	\$1.96 10%
Eggs, \$/dz % of wage	N/A	\$1.11 9%	\$1.34 9%	\$1.99 11%	\$2.02 10%

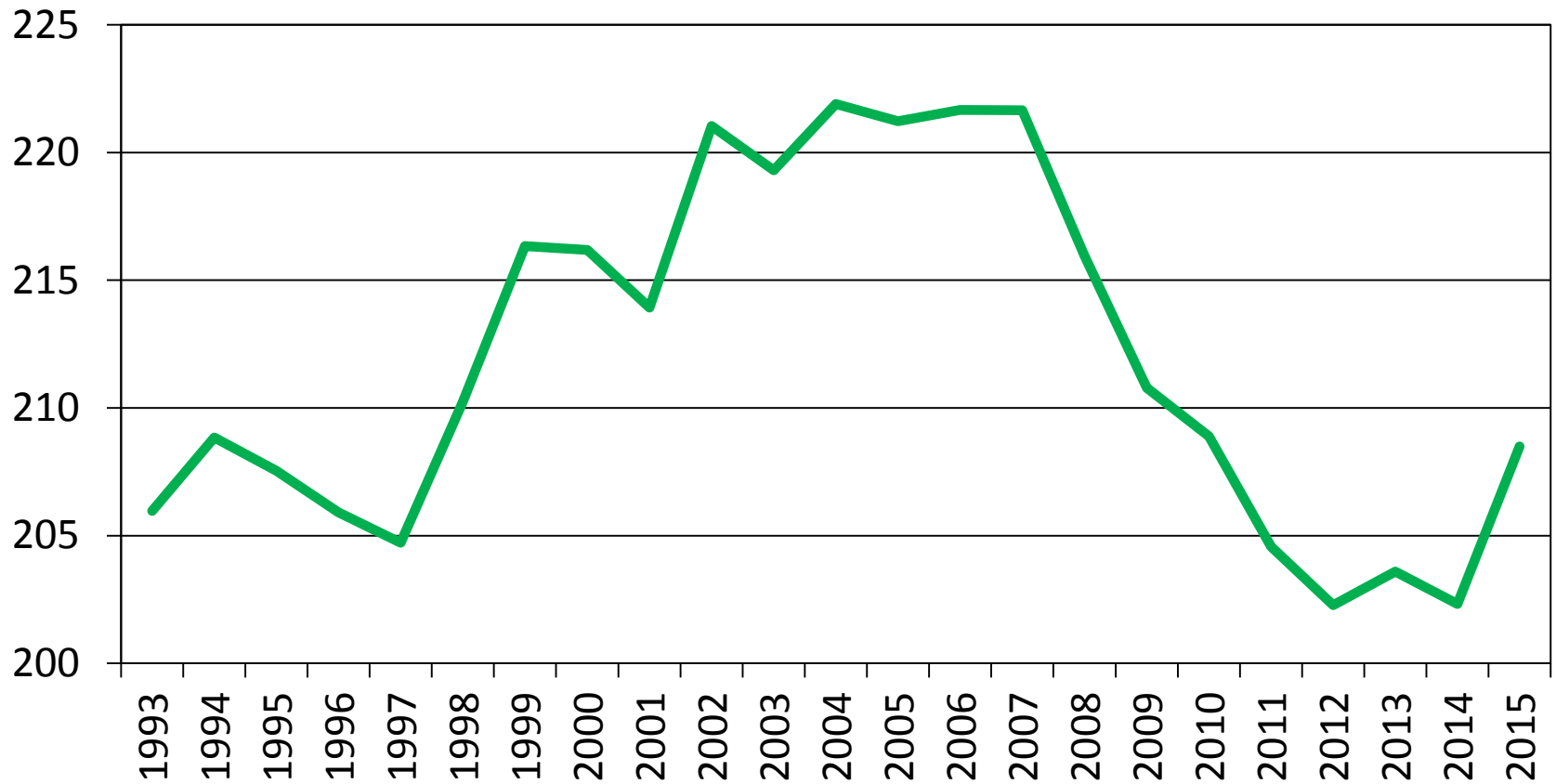
All values are nominal. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Average Hourly Earnings of Total Private Production and Nonsupervisory Employees. USDA/ERS retail meat price spreads.

Per Capita Disappearance of Chicken and Eggs Growing, Pork Higher and Beef Down



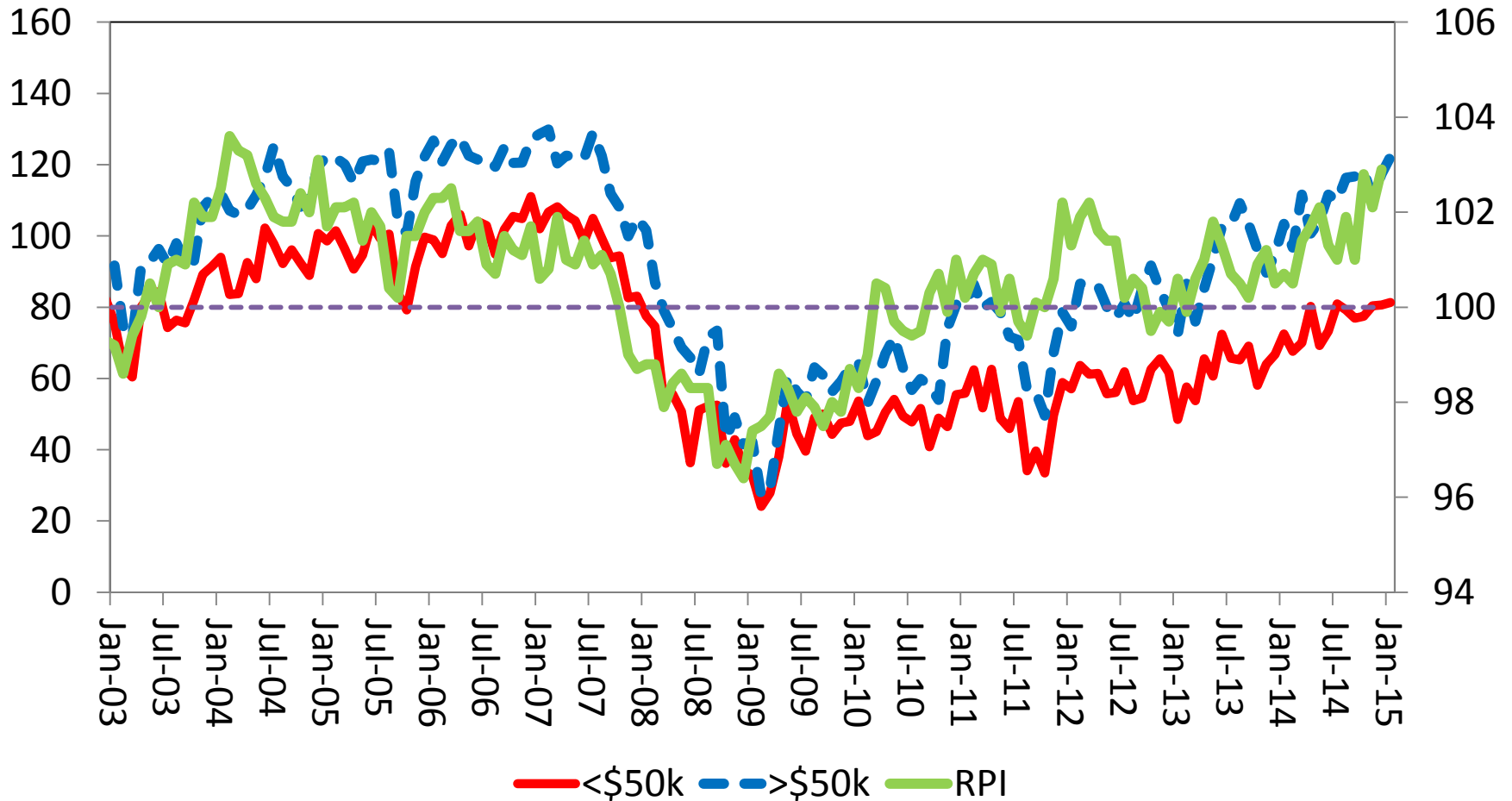
Total Per Capita Disappearance of Red Meat and Poultry Higher

Pounds Per Capita



Consumer Confidence and Restaurant Performance Index

Confidence
1985=100



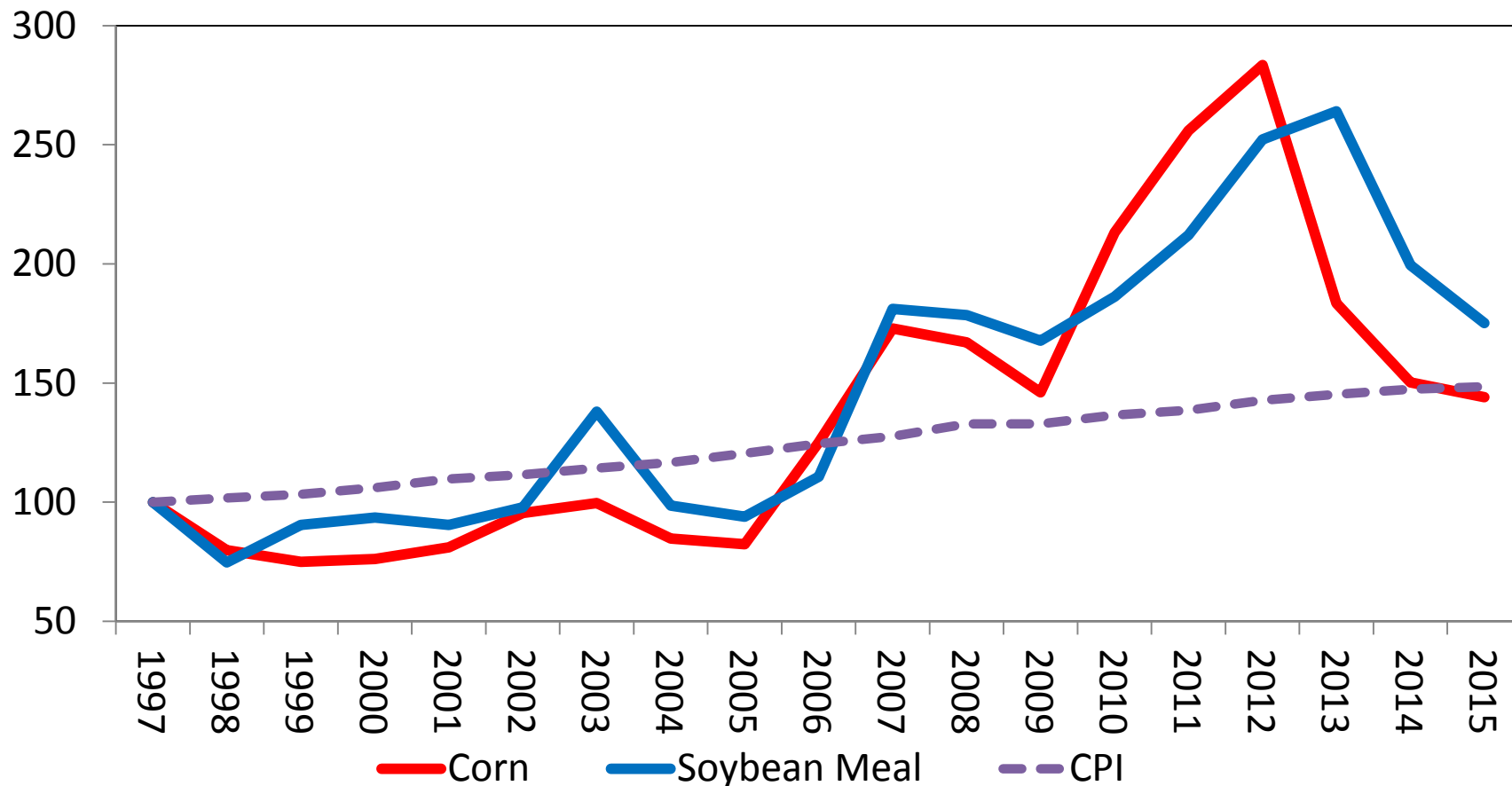
Source: Conference Board and National Restaurant Association. Less than \$50k category is average of \$25-\$35k and \$35-\$50k.

Record Crops in 2014

- Corn and soybean yields above trends
- Lower feed prices
- General improvement in pasture and rangeland conditions in most areas

Prices for Corn and Soybean Meal vs. Inflation

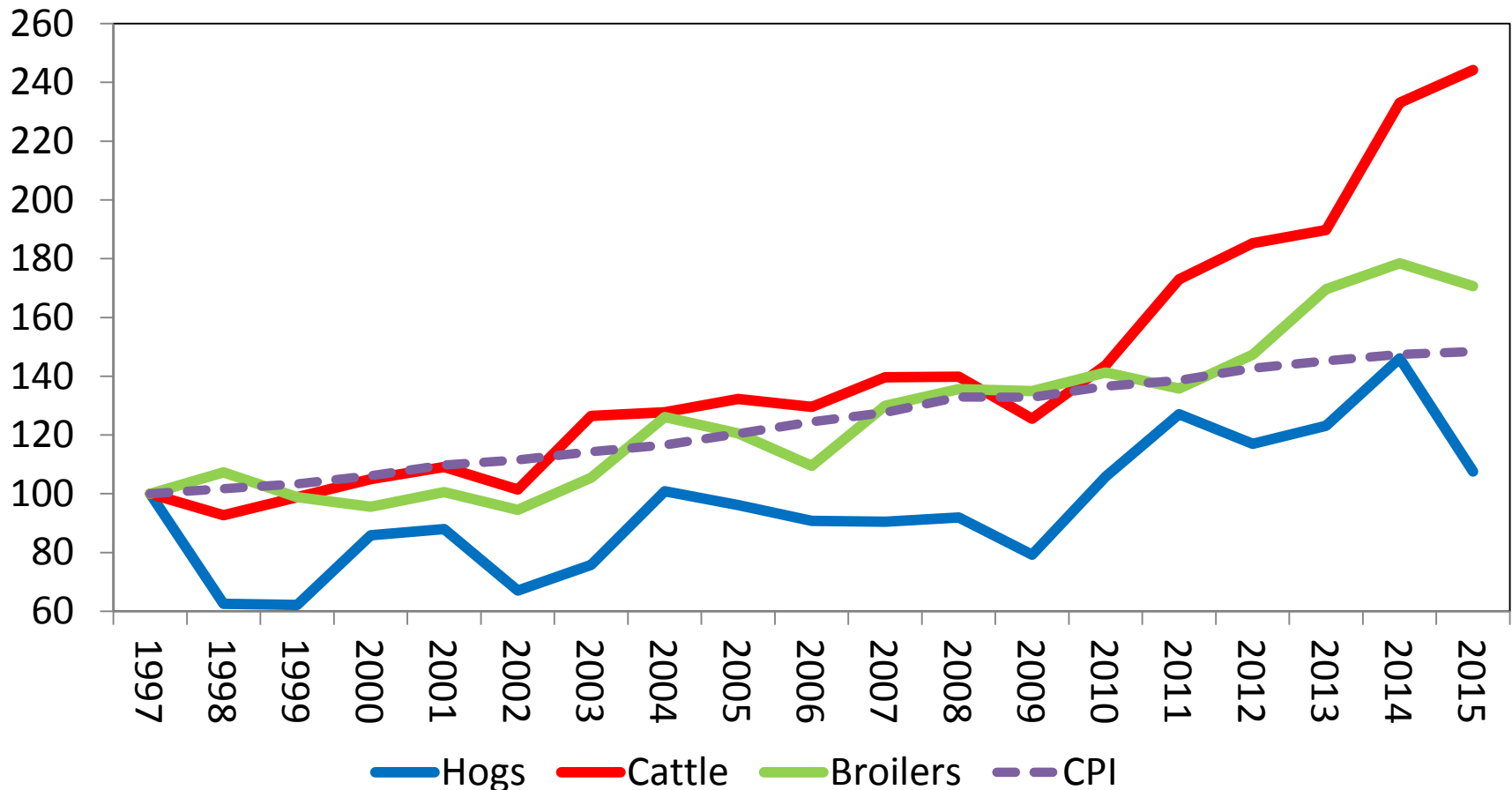
1997=100



Source: USDA and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Corn price is marketing-year weighted average price received by farmers. Soybean meal is Decatur marketing-year simple average of 48 percent protein meal. Hay is marketing-year weighted average price received by farmers. CPI is seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Prices for Cattle, Hogs and Broilers vs. Inflation

1997=100



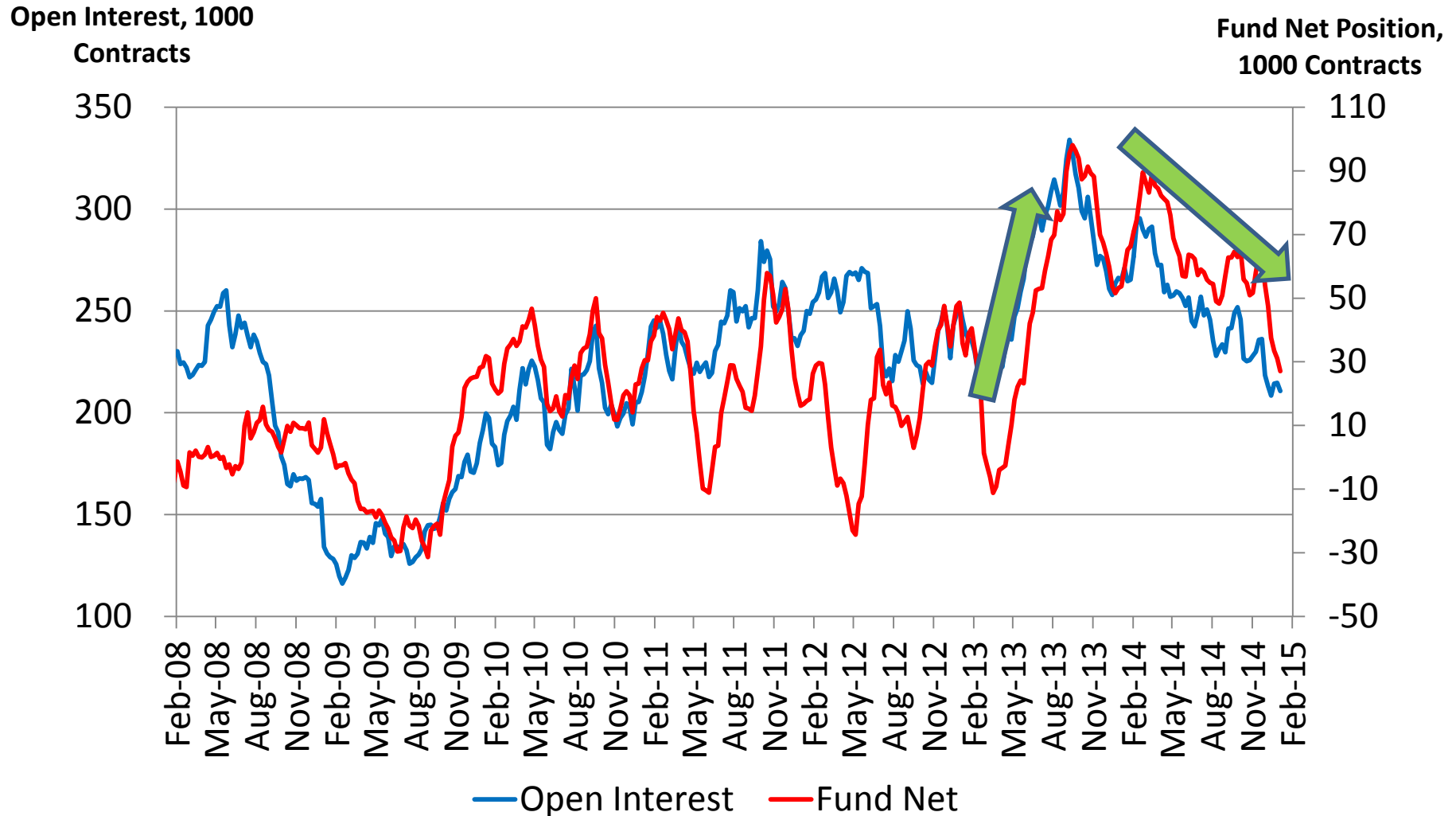
Source: USDA and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Livestock prices are annual averages. Cattle price is 5-Area Direct Total for all grades, hogs are National Base, Live equivalent 51-52 percent lean, broilers are Wholesale National Composite Weighted

Livestock and Poultry Price Forecasts for 2015

	2013	2014	2015
Cattle, \$/CWT	\$126	\$155	\$157-\$167
Hogs, \$/CWT live equivalent	\$64	\$76	\$54-\$58
National Broiler Composite, \$/lb	\$1.00	\$1.05	\$0.97-\$1.03
Turkey, \$/lb	\$1.00	\$1.08	\$1.02-\$1.08
Eggs, N.Y. Wholesale Price, \$/dozen	\$1.25	\$1.42	\$1.25-\$1.34



Fund Hog Futures Net Position vs. Total Open Interest

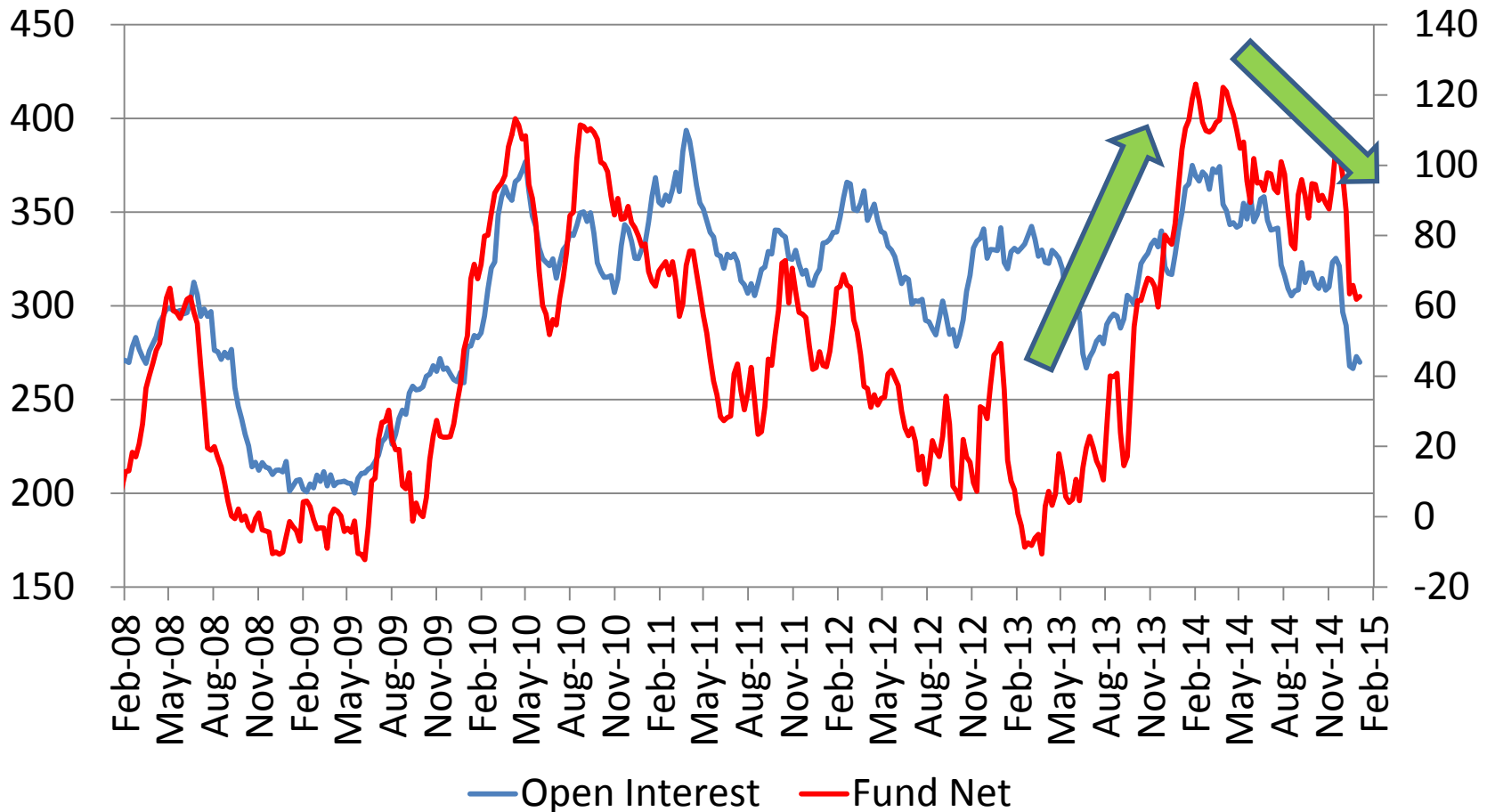


Note: Futures only. Fund net position is the total of managed money and other reportables.

Fund Fed Cattle Futures Net Position vs. Total Open Interest

Open Interest, 1000
Contracts

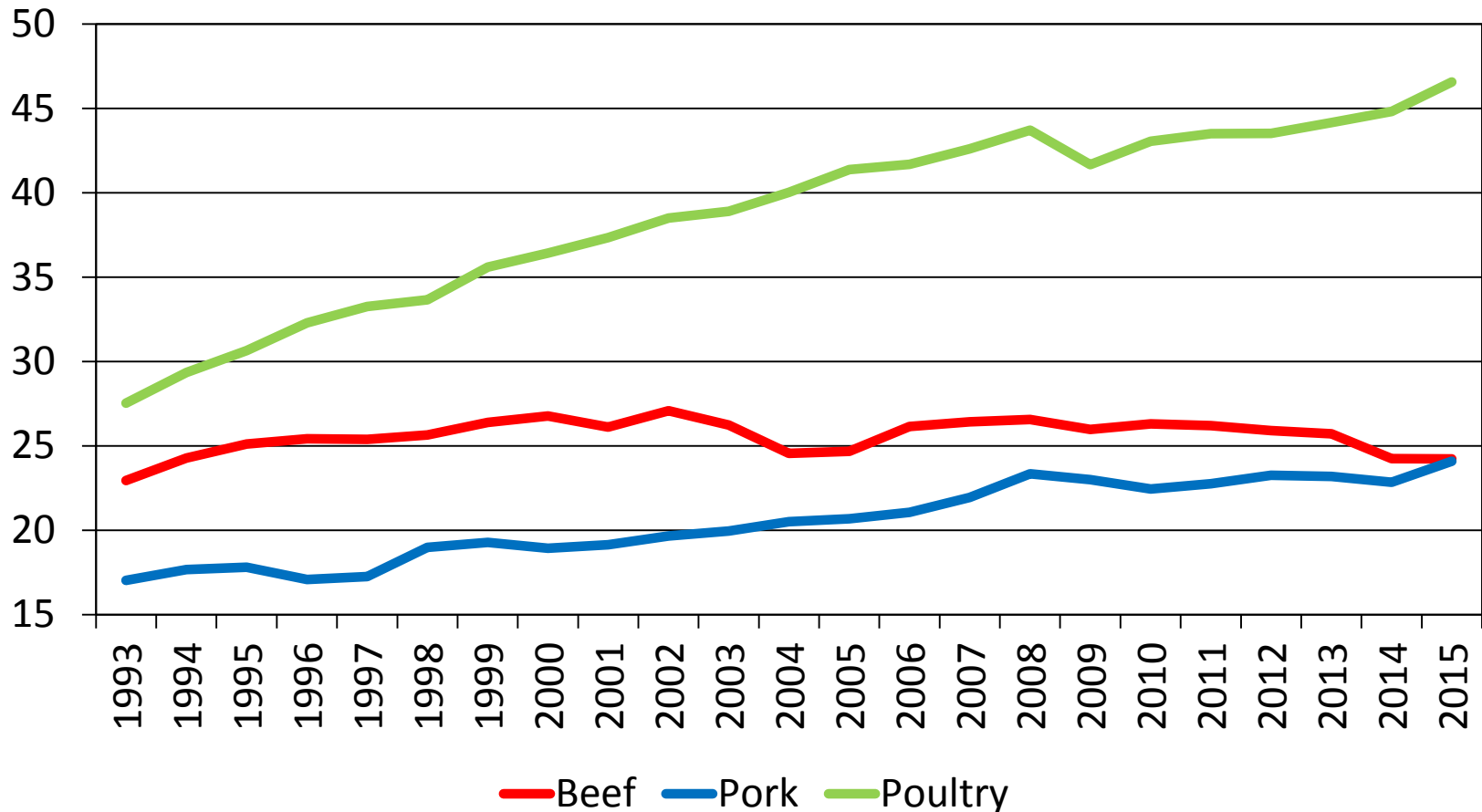
Fund Net Position,
1000 Contracts



Note: Futures only. Fund net position is the total of managed money and other reportables.

Beef Production Forecast Slightly Lower in 2015, Pork and Poultry Higher

Billion Pounds



Change in Meat Production 2004 to 2013: Number Slaughtered vs. Weights

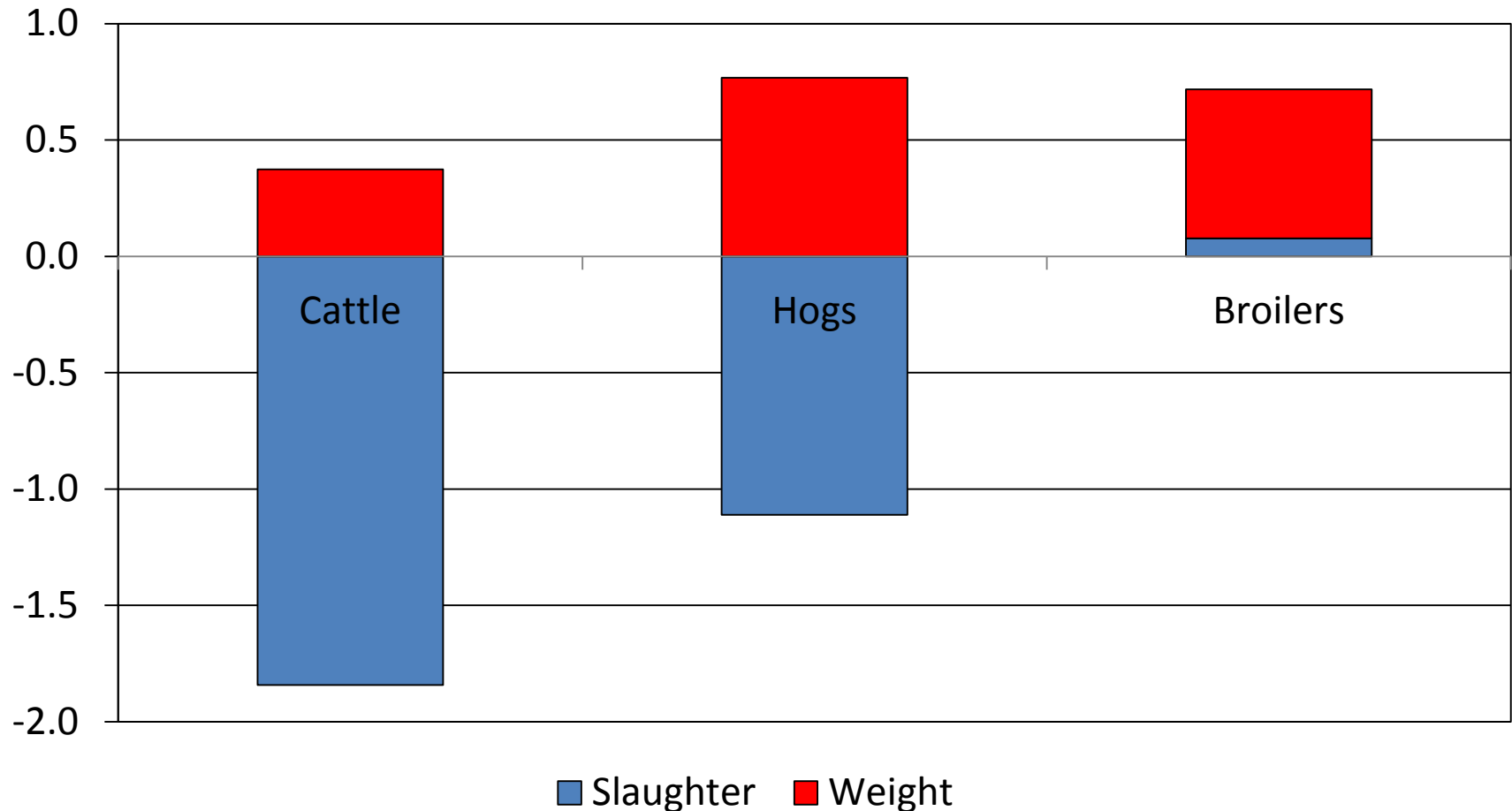
Billion Pounds



Note: Cattle and Hogs are on dressed basis, broilers are on ready to cook basis.

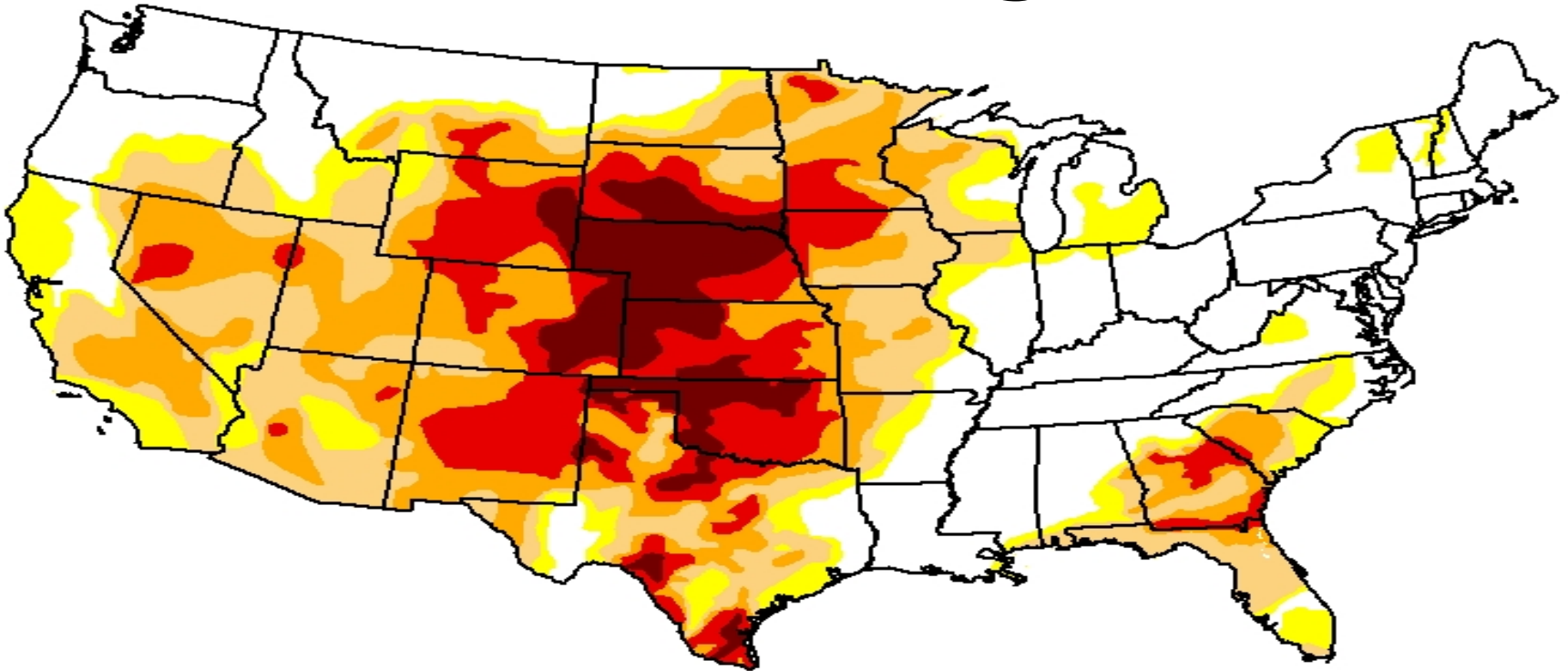
Change in Meat Production 2013 to 2014: Weights Partially Offset Declines for Beef and Pork

Billion Pounds



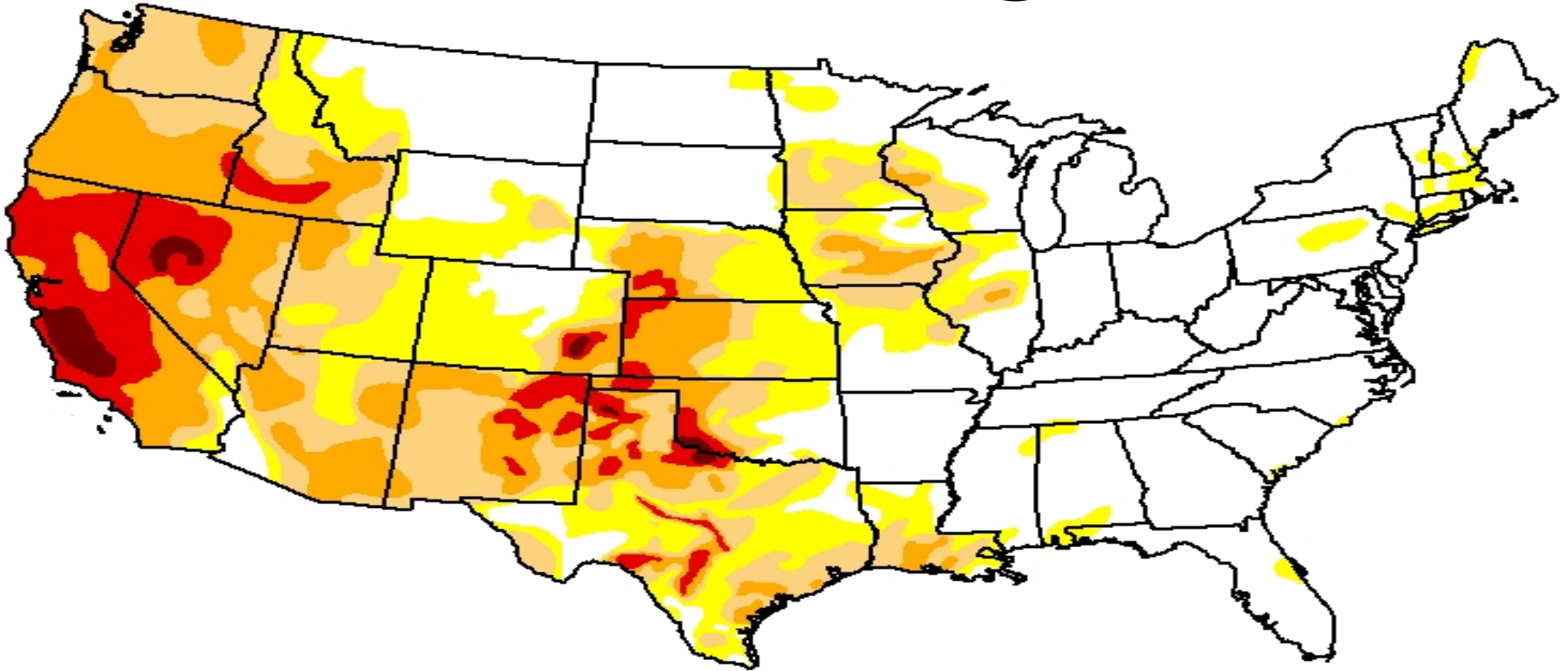
Note: Cattle and Hogs are on dressed basis, broilers are on ready to cook basis.

February 19, 2013: 56 Percent of Continental U. S. in Drought



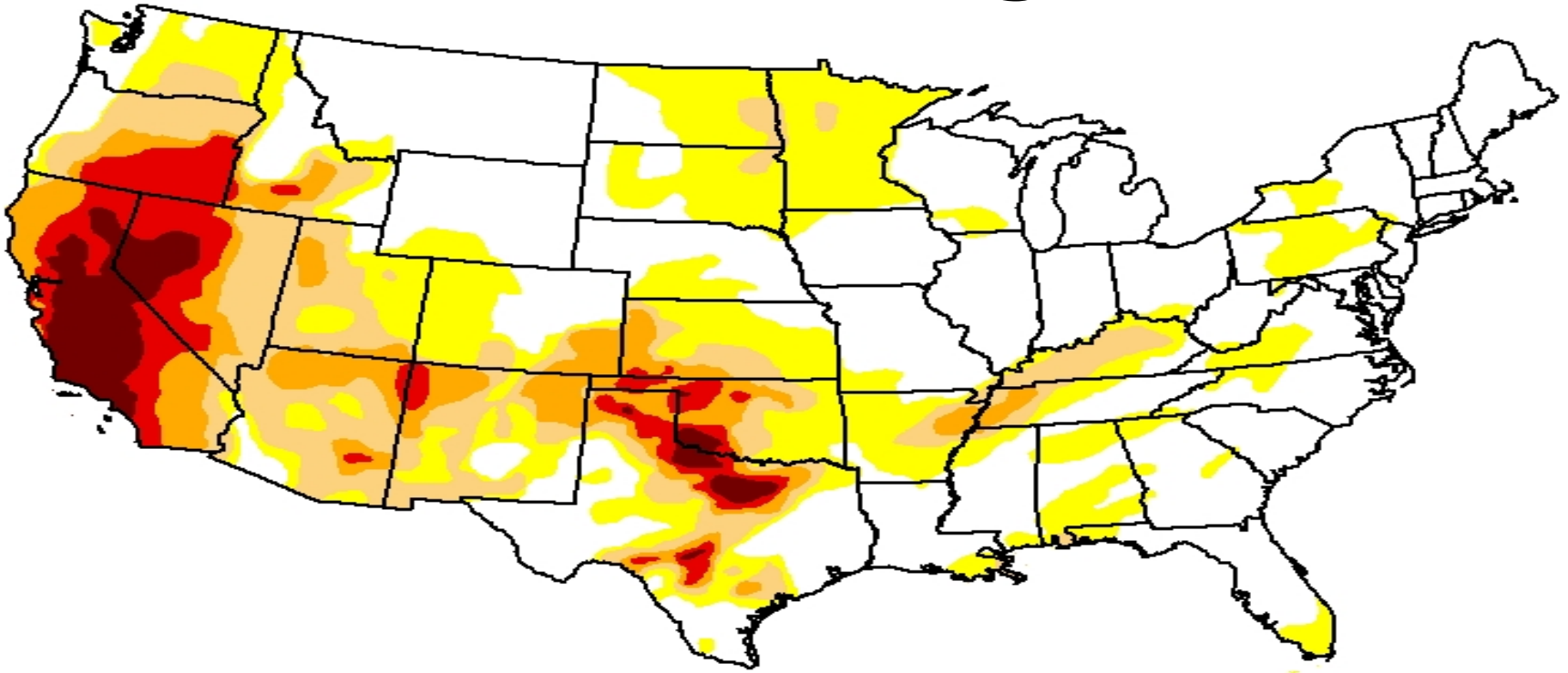
Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

February 11, 2014: 38 Percent of Continental U. S. in Drought



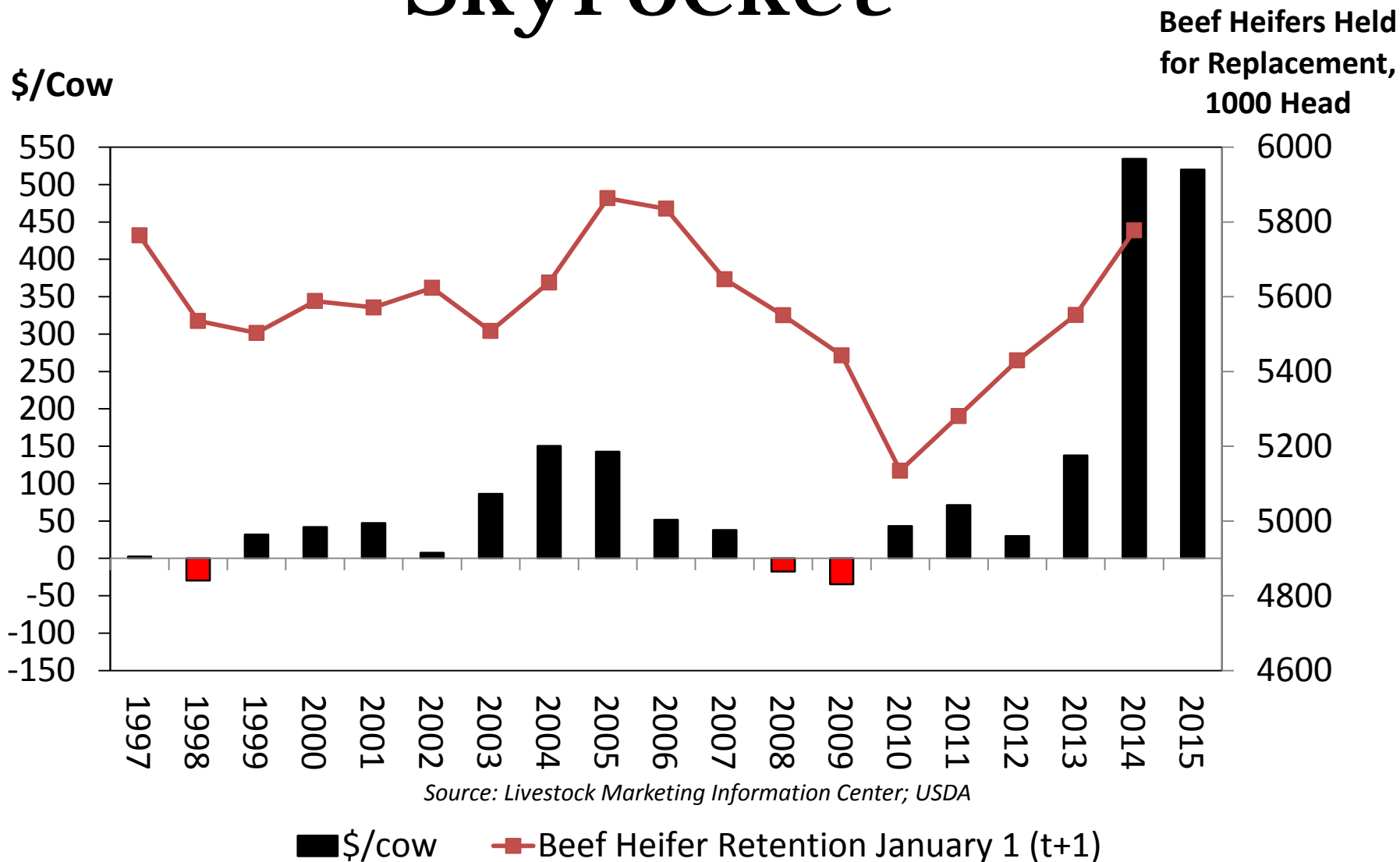
Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

February 10, 2015: 29 Percent of Continental U. S. in Drought



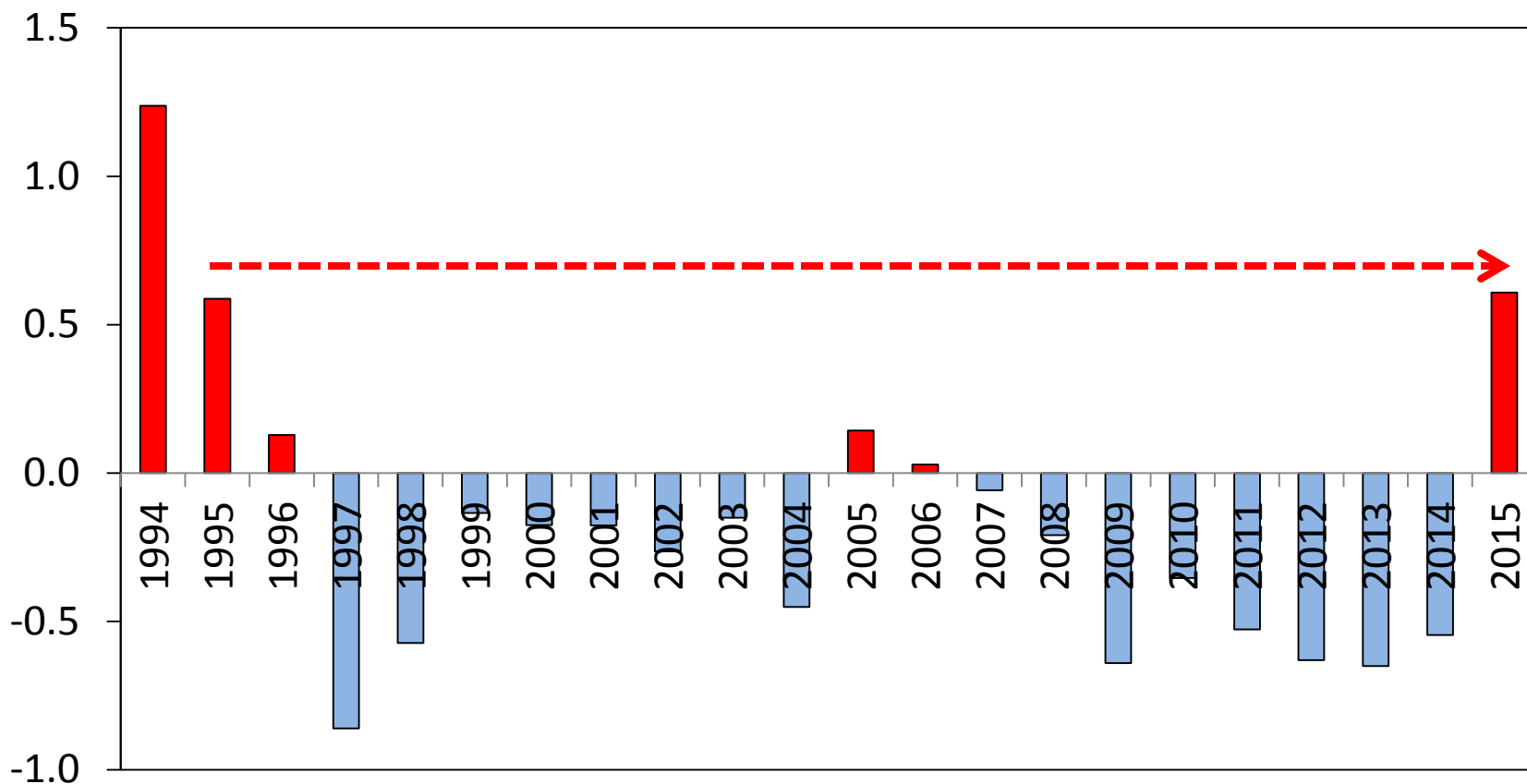
Source: U.S. Drought Monitor

Cow-Calf Returns Skyrocket



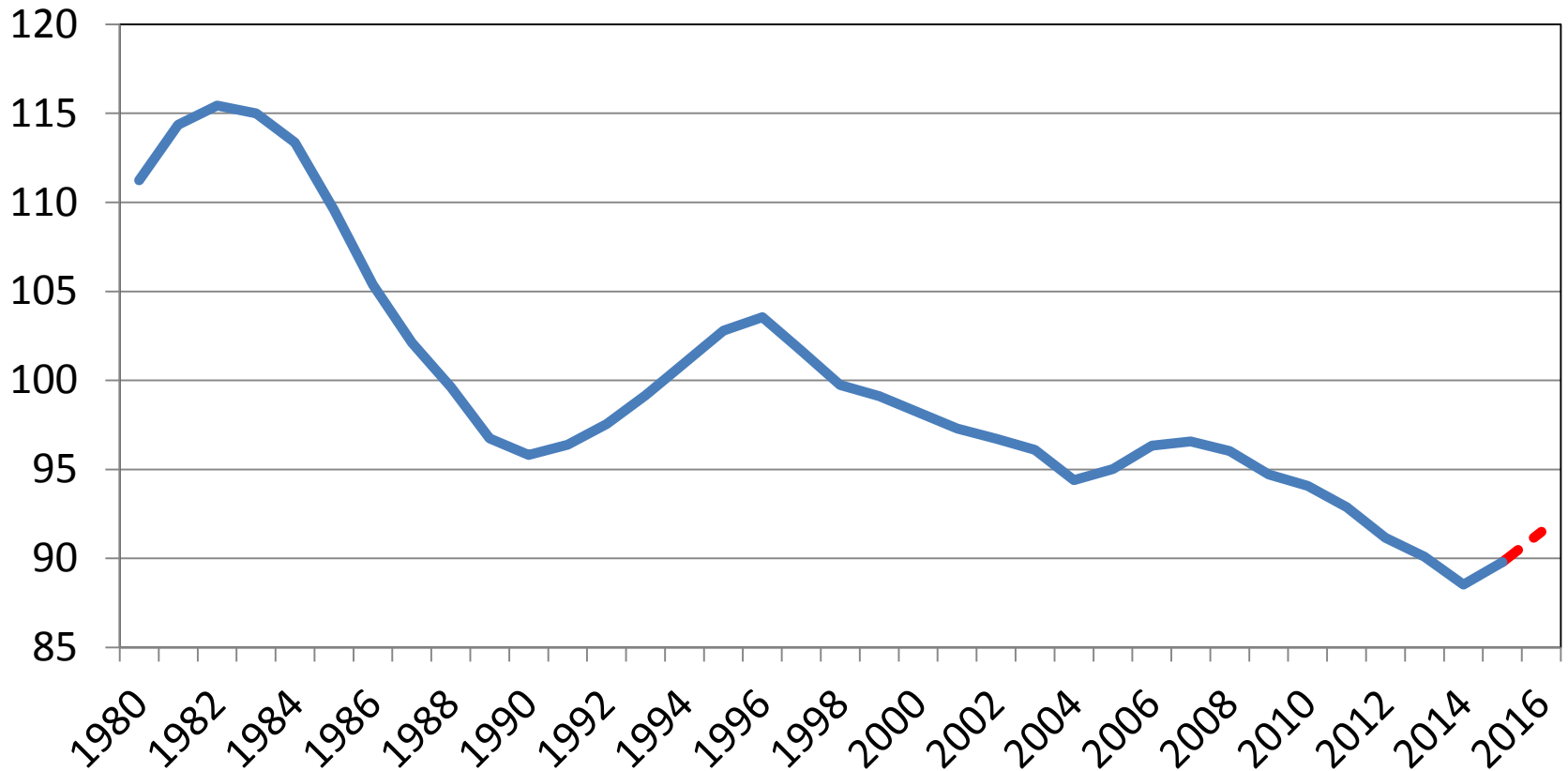
2014 Beef Cow Inventory Increase Largest Since 1994

Year-over-year
Change, Million
Head

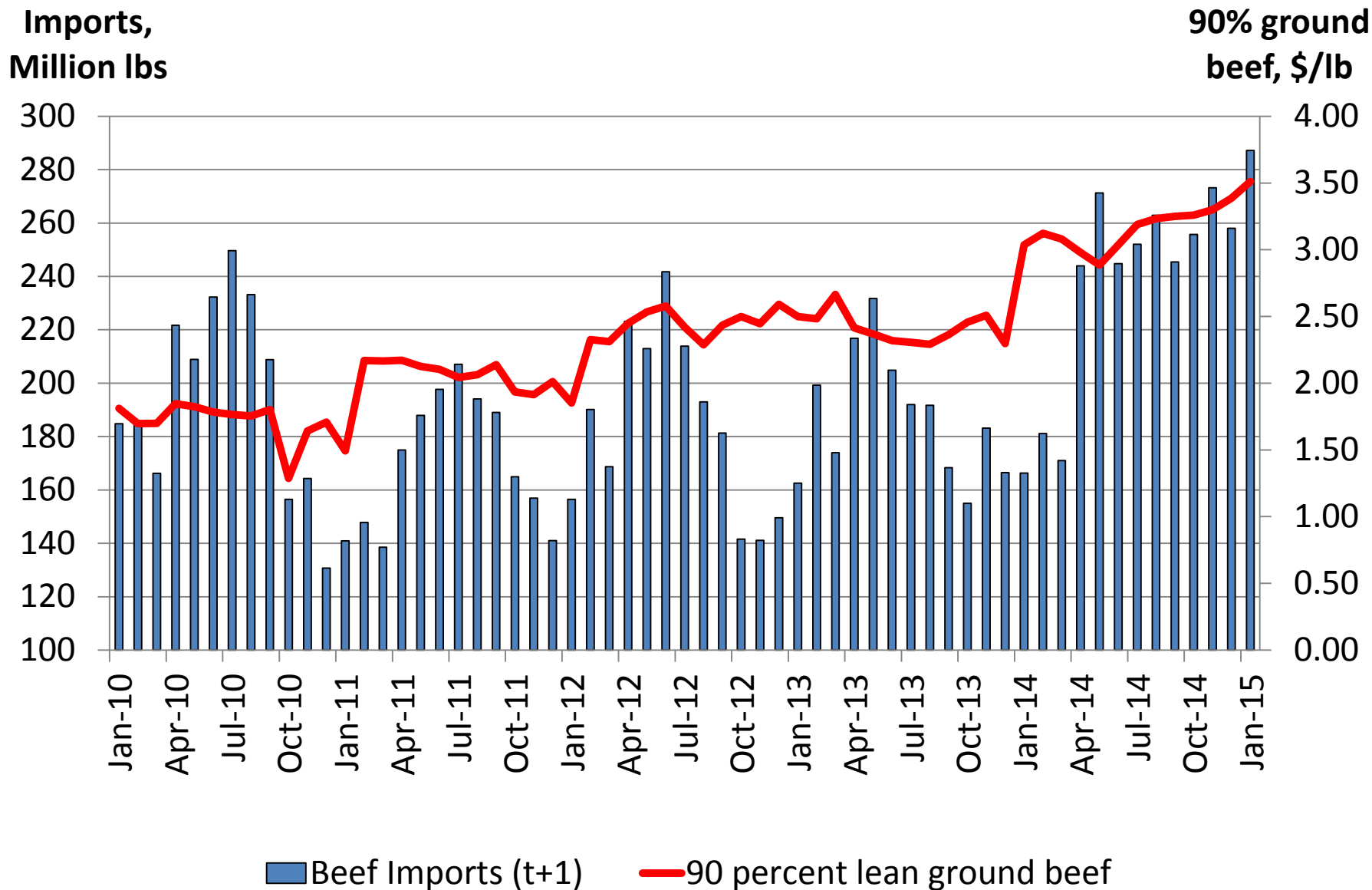


Cattle Herd on January 1, 2015, Expands For First Time Since 2007

Million Head

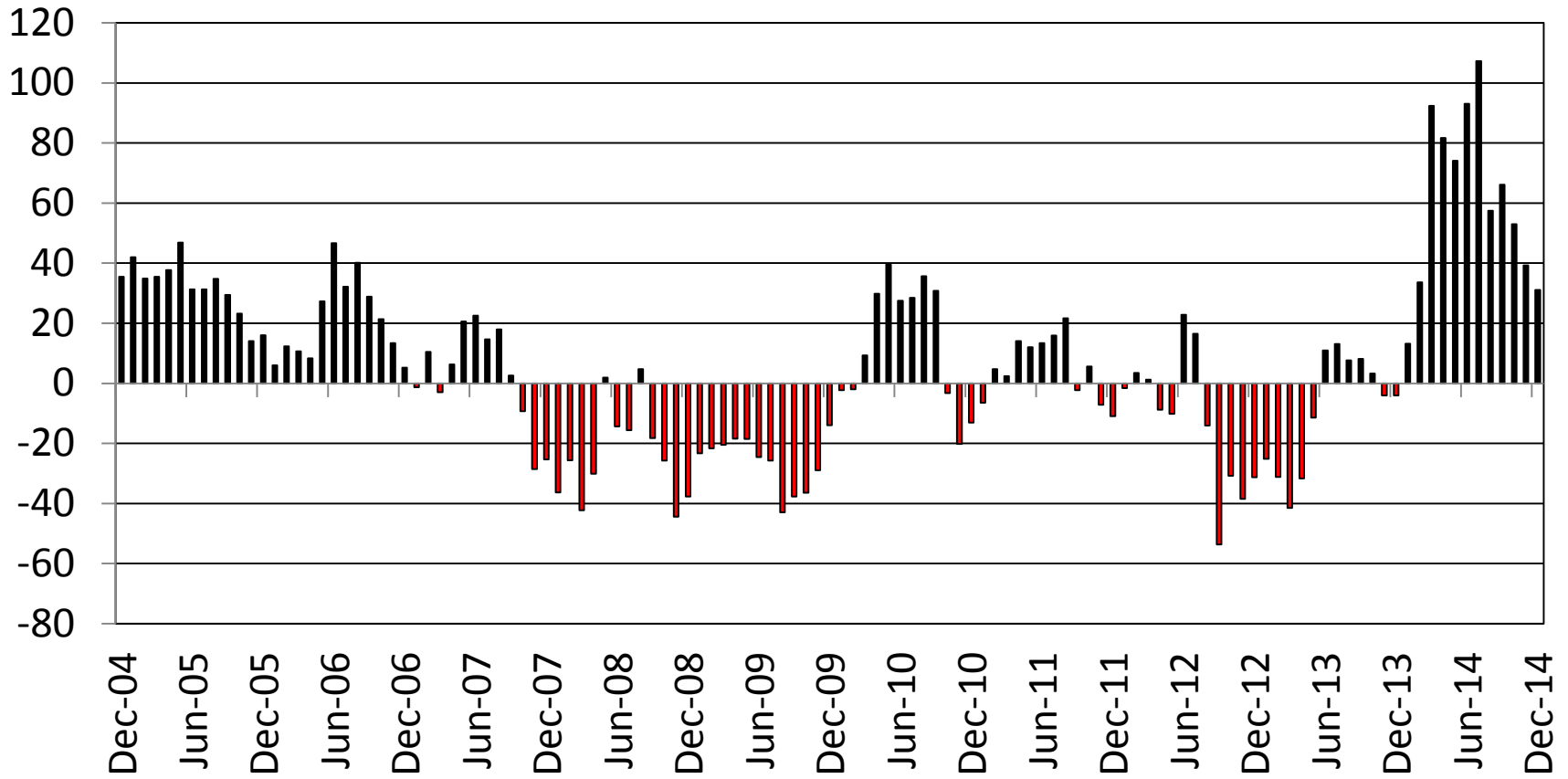


Record U. S. Beef Imports in 2014



Robust Farrow-to-Finish Returns for Hogs in Iowa

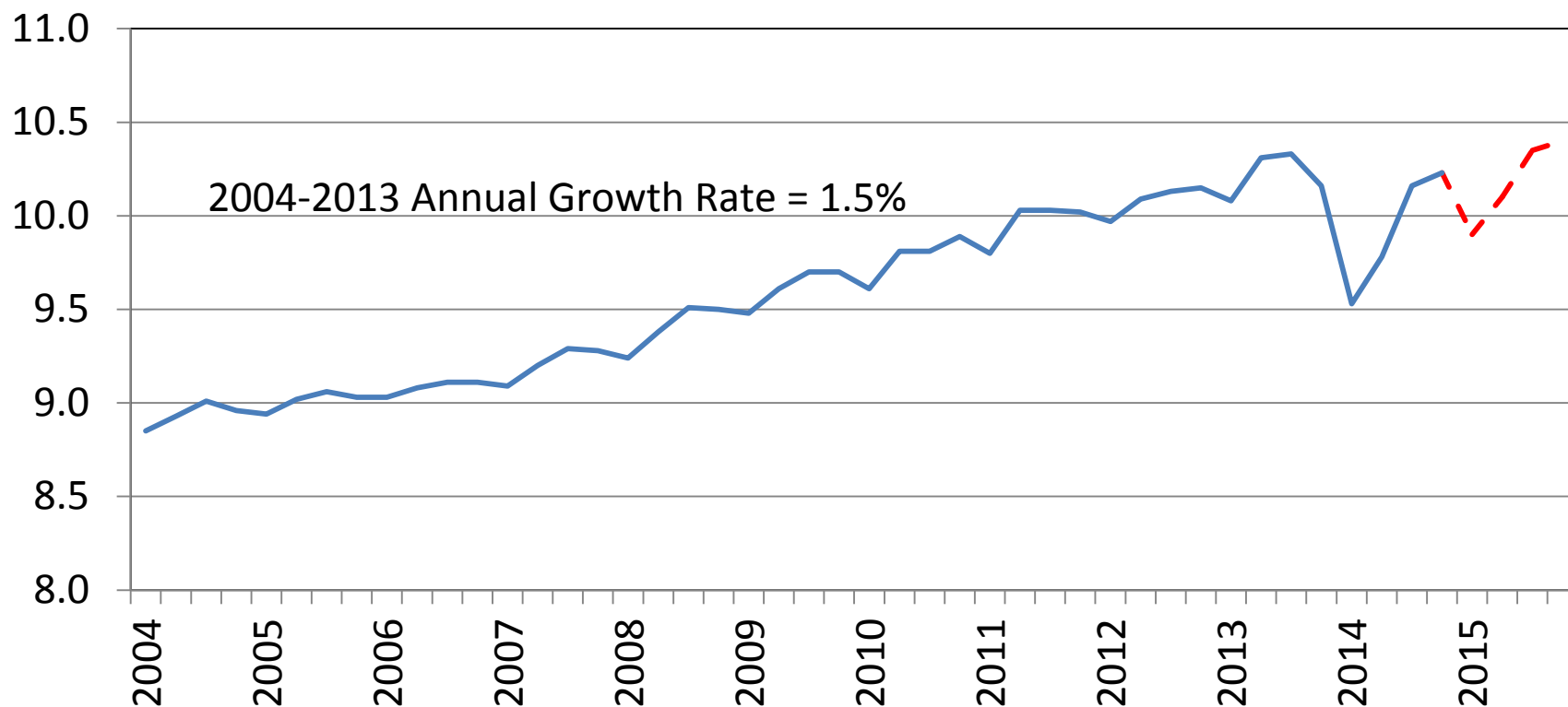
\$/Head



Source: Iowa State University

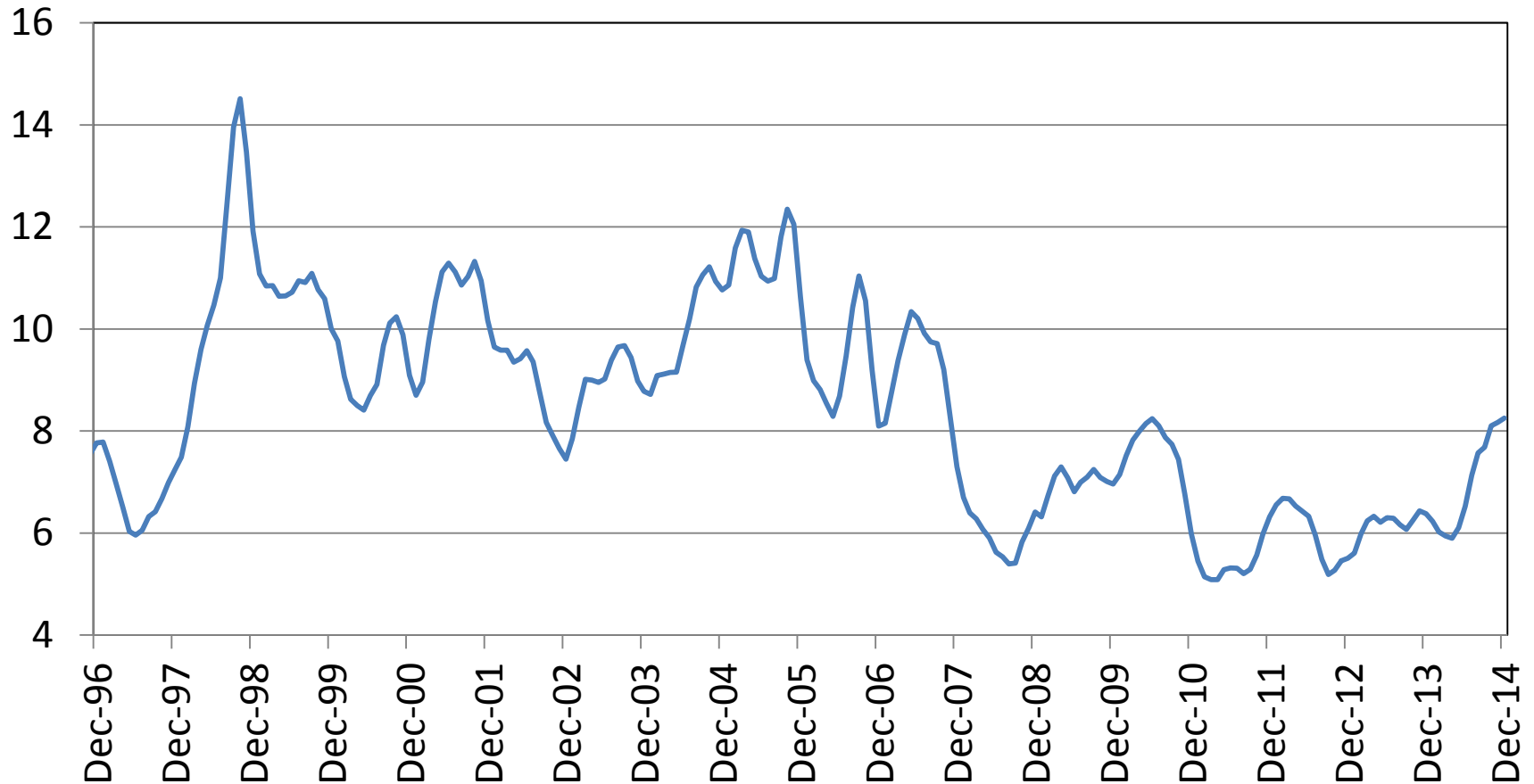
Rebound in Pigs Per Litter after PEDv

Litter Rate



Ratio of Broiler Composite Price Relative to Feed Cost Rebounds

NE Composite
\$/lb/1 lb feed



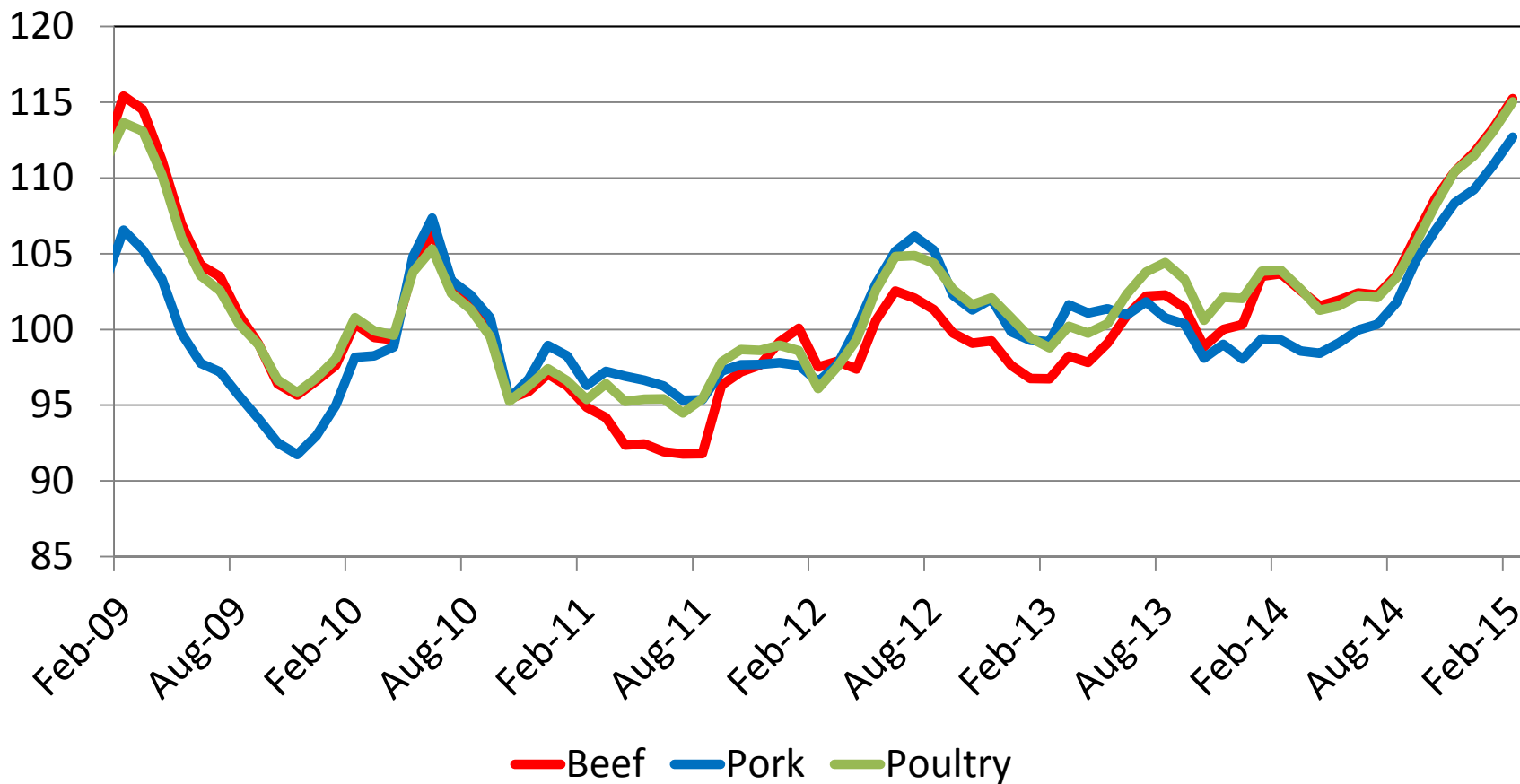
Source: WAOB estimates, 3-month moving average of ratio. Corn price is monthly marketing-year weighted average price received by farmers. Soybean meal is Decatur simple monthly average of 48 percent protein. Assumes 1 lb of feed is 30 percent soybean meal and 70 percent corn. NE Composite is a weighted average of thighs, drumsticks, breasts and wings.

Important Factors for 2015

- U. S. Dollar strength vis-à-vis other exporters
- Lower U. S. exports
- Expected larger pig crops in the U. S.

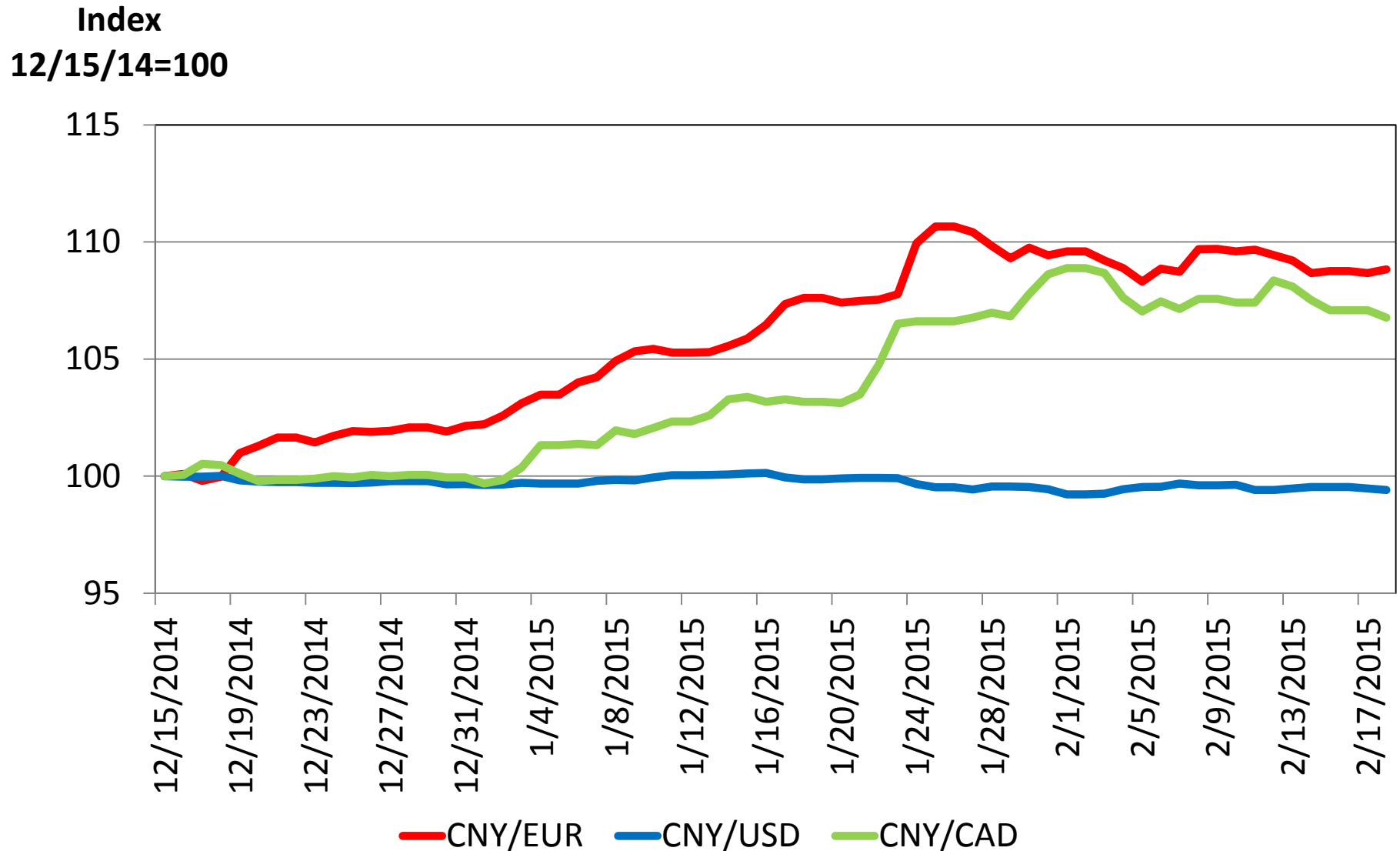
U.S. Dollar Strength Relative to Competitors a Headwind for Exports

Country-
Weighted Index



Source: USDA-ERS. Real export-weighted exchange rates for each commodity.

Chinese Yuan Strengthening Relative to Euro and Canadian Dollar

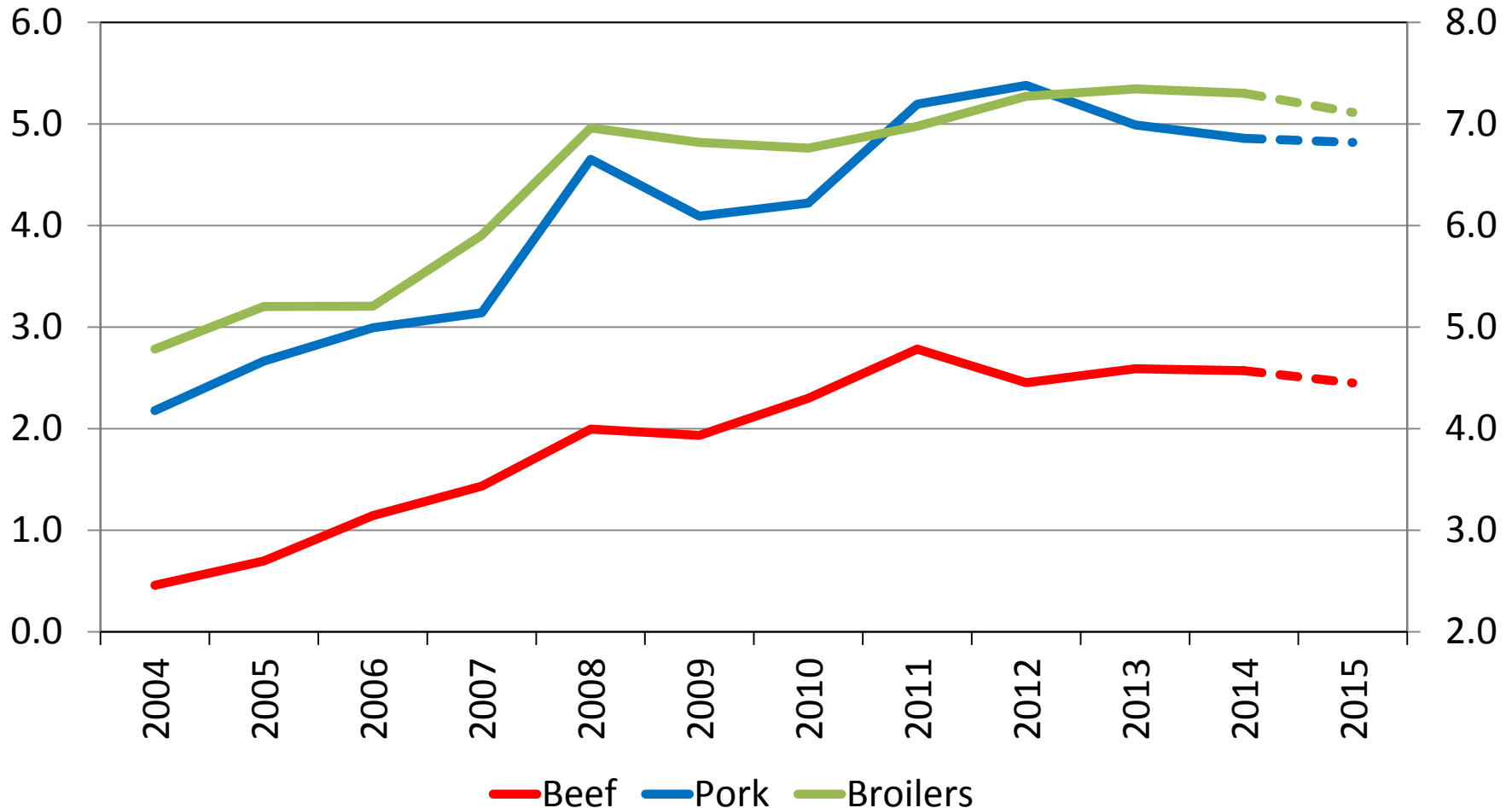


All values are nominal

U. S. Meat Exports Lower in 2015

**Beef & Pork,
Billion Pounds**

**Broilers,
Billion Pounds**



Much Larger U. S. Pig Crop Expected in 2015

Year-over-year %
Change

