



## FRENCH HIDES AND SKINS REPORT 2017

### OVERALL VIEW

From a market perspective, 2017 was the worst year since the global financial crisis of 2008. After APLF in Hong Kong prices slowly eroded till October when a bottom was found. Cow hides were most affected with a decrease close to 20% whereas quality bull hides held their own for the luxury auto market in Europe. Ovine skins for nappa remained in the doldrums apart from finer wools making better money for double face production. Europe remains the main outlet for French hides and skins with Italy taking in about 75/80% of all production and China importing about 10% of the French production.

### MAIN PRODUCTION FACTS

The French cattle herd is estimated at around 19.8 million head.(down 0.6%) and **The overall French bovine kill was down 1.00% at 3 376 000 head** of which 1 648 500 were cows (-0.5%). French heifers were at 597 800 up 1.6%, steers 171 000 down 7.6% and total bull production ended at 958 900 head- down 2.0%.

**The EU cattle slaughter expressed in tonnes is expected to increase in 2018** by 2.4% at 6 972 thousand tonnes.

French bovine production is expected to decrease slightly in 2018(-0.5%) which would end a fourth straight year of growth up to 2017. The bull kill is expected to increase slightly (+0.5%). The cow kill should decrease

about 0.4% and beef consumption in general is expected to be down - 1.5%. France remains the biggest consumer of beef and veal per habitant | Europe per year at 23 kgs each.

French veal slaughter was down at 1 245 500 million head, (-1.80%). Production is again expected to be down in 2018(-1.2%). The French domestic market is under pressure with less demand for premium meats during a time of changing diets and high feeding costs for veal animals.

Ovine and caprin slaughter decreased in 2017 by 2.5% compared to 2016. Total slaughter 4.9 million, of which 3.6 million lambs, 571 000 sheep, and 685 000 goats. Household Consumption of ovine meat decreased 4.7%.

***\*Report compiled by NICK WINTERS vice-president SGCP and head of international relations.***