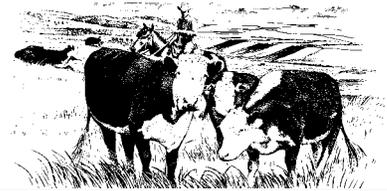


# California Livestock Review



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## NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES 3:00 P.M. ET

May 15	Cattle on Feed	June 19	Cattle on Feed
20	Cold Storage	19	Cold Storage
22	Livestock Slaughter	19	Livestock Slaughter

## CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 370 thousand head on April 1, 1998, down 1 percent from last month and 3 percent from a year ago. During March, placements of 50.0 thousand head were 23 percent less than a year earlier. Marketings of 45.0 were 10 percent lower than a year earlier. Other disappearance was 10.0 thousand head.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3 PERCENT

U.S. cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.11 million head on April 1, 1998. The inventory was 3 percent below April 1, 1997, but 3 percent above April 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.18 million steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.88 million head, down 2 percent from 1997. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.71 million, 13 percent below 1997 and 12 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.61 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 223 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 447

thousand, 700-799 pounds were 606 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 432 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.87 million, 6 percent above 1997 and 7 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 94.0 thousand during March, 9 percent above 1997 and 24 percent above 1996.

## CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN MONTHLY STATES

Cattle on feed April 1, 1998, in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 8.61 million, down 3 percent from the previous year, but 4 percent above April 1, 1996. The inventory included 5.25 million steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.33 million head, down 3 percent from 1997. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.42 million, 16 percent below 1997 and 15 percent below 1996. Marketings during March totaled 1.58 million, 6 percent above 1997 and 7 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during March was 69.0 thousand head, 11 percent above 1997 and 23 percent above 1996.

## CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SEVEN SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed March 1 1/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
----- Thousand Head -----							
Arizona	224	220	98	34	25	33	25
California	370	375	101	65	50	50	45
Colorado	1,060	1,030	97	210	190	165	210
Iowa	355	350	99	40	26	54	50
Kansas	2,210	2,120	96	440	360	370	360
Nebraska	2,050	2,120	103	320	290	325	340
Texas	2,500	2,620	105	585	480	500	550
Total 7 States	8,769	8,835	101	1,694	1,421	1,497	1,580
State	Other Disappearance During March 2/		Number on Feed April 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
----- Thousand Head -----							
Arizona	1	8	224	212	95		
California	5	10	380	370	97		
Colorado	15	10	1,090	1,000	92		
Iowa	1	1	340	325	96		
Kansas	10	20	2,270	2,100	93		
Nebraska	15	10	2,030	2,060	101		
Texas	15	10	2,570	2,540	99		
Total 7 States	62	69	8,904	8,607	97		

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding

**CATTLE ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S.**

ITEM	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- 1,000 Head --		Percent	-- 1,000 Head --		Percent
On Feed April 1	380	370	97	10,391	10,107	97
Placed (March)	65	50	77	1,966	1,708	87
Marketed (March)	50	45	90	1,764	1,872	106
Other Disappearance (March) <u>1/</u>	5	10	200	86	94	109
Kinds On Feed April 1						
Steers and Steer Calves	340	325	96	6,386	6,181	97
Heifers and Heifer Calves	37	40	108	3,939	3,875	98
Cows and Bulls	3	5	167	66	51	77

1/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

California milk producers produced 2.43 billion pounds of milk in March 1998, 17 percent above last month and 3 percent above last

year. Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,790 pounds, 255 pounds above last month, but 15 pounds less than last year.

**MILK PRODUCTION**

State	Milk Cows			Milk Per Cow			Milk Production and Comparisons					Grain and Other Concentrates					
	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar 98 Feb 98	Mar 98 Mar 97	Daily feed			Value		
												Apr. 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998	Apr. 1, 1998	Apr. 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998	Apr. 1, 1998
	--- 1,000 Head ---			--- Pounds ---			--- Million pounds ---			--- Percent ---		--- Lbs./Cow ---			--- Dollars/Cwt. ---		
CA	1311	1,356	1,360	1,805	1,535	1,790	2,366	2,081	2,434	117	103	21.0	22.0	20.5	8.40	7.90	8.00
WI	1400	1,376	1,373	1,355	1,260	1,420	1,897	1,734	1,950	112	103	18.5	18.0	18.7	7.70	7.60	7.40
U.S.	7763	7,726	7,725	1,500	1,351	1,529	11,641	10,434	11,808	113	101	19.5	19.8	19.8	8.79	8.47	8.36

**AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1997	February 1998	March 15, 1998	March 1997	February 1998	March 15, 1998
		----- Dollars -----					
All Hay, Baled	Ton	126.00	123.00	121.00	102.00	97.20	97.50
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	127.00	125.00	121.00	116.00	106.00	104.00
Hogs <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	49.40	35.70	35.20
Cows <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	33.00	33.50	34.50	36.90	36.00	35.60
Steers and Heifers <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	63.00	63.50	64.00	67.90	63.30	64.20
Calves <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	68.00	74.00	73.00	80.00	88.70	89.70
Sheep <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	37.00	33.00	36.50	42.50	40.70	---
Lambs <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	99.00	78.00	71.00	99.70	73.40	---
Milk Cows <u>3/</u>	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	12.39	13.70	13.20	13.50	14.70	14.50

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

**CALIFORNIA'S GROSS INCOME FROM MEAT ANIMALS IN 1997**

The 1997 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for California totaled \$1.46 billion, 16 percent above 1996. By species, gross income increased 18 percent for cattle and calves and 5 percent for hogs and pigs, but fell 5 percent for sheep and lambs.

Total 1997 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 16 percent, to \$1.45 billion, due to the increase in cash receipts for cattle and calves and hogs and pigs. Production of all species increased 5 percent in 1997. Production of cattle and calves increased 5 percent, but declined 5 percent for sheep and lambs and hogs and pigs. Average 1997 prices rose for all species.

**U.S. 1997 GROSS INCOME FROM MEAT ANIMALS UP 12 PERCENT**

The 1997 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled \$50.3 billion, up 12 percent from 1996. Gross income rose for all three species. Gross income from cattle and calves showed the most increase at 16 percent, while both hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs increased 4 percent.

Total 1997 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals rose 12 percent to \$49.9 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 72 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 27 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs, but declined slightly for cattle and calves. Average prices rose from 1996's level for all three species.

**CALIFORNIA AND U.S. MEAT ANIMALS PRODUCTION AND INCOME, 1996-97**

Species	Year	Production 1/	Marketings 2/	Average Price per 100 lbs.		Value of Production	Cash Receipts 3/	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
		- 1,000 Lbs Live Weight -		--- Dollars ---		----- Thousand Dollars -----			
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>				(Cattle)	(Calves)				
Cattle & Calves	1996	1,896,073	2,607,200	42.40	55.70	779,264	1,118,487	6,856	1,125,343
	1997	1,997,350	2,681,775	48.80	68.10	953,090	1,322,892	8,287	1,331,179
				(Sheep)	(Lamb)				
Sheep & Lambs	1996	61,366	102,727	26.70	89.40	48,111	85,052	975	86,027
	1997	58,342	96,550	33.80	91.60	46,765	80,949	954	81,903
Hogs & Pigs 4/	1996	77,815	80,425	52.00	---	40,440	41,895	2,236	44,131
	1997	74,055	79,525	54.70	---	40,076	43,914	2,284	46,198
Total Meat Animals	1996	2,035,254	2,790,352	---	---	867,815	1,245,434	10,067	1,255,501
	1997	2,129,747	2,857,850	---	---	1,039,931	1,447,755	11,525	1,459,280
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				(Cattle)	(Calves)				
Cattle & Calves	1996	41,328,808	56,172,016	58.70	58.40	22,276,583	31,103,293	273,222	31,376,515
	1997	41,060,249	57,158,530	63.10	78.90	24,892,648	36,094,571	319,746	36,414,317
				(Sheep)	(Lamb)				
Sheep and Lambs	1996	565,669	783,146	29.90	82.20	434,998	612,477	10,405	622,882
	1997	591,308	781,787	37.90	90.30	478,449	635,112	10,829	645,941
Hogs & Pigs 4/	1996	23,267,241	24,116,755	51.90	---	12,013,037	12,698,454	49,889	12,748,343
	1997	24,094,229	24,340,989	52.90	---	12,633,892	13,196,781	49,698	13,246,479
Total Meat Animals	1996	65,161,718	81,071,917	---	---	34,724,618	44,414,224	333,516	44,747,740
	1997	65,745,786	82,281,306	---	---	38,004,989	49,926,464	380,273	50,306,737

1/ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

2/ Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the State.

3/ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

4/ Cash receipts for 1996 and 1997 include allowance for higher average price of State inshipments and outshipments of feeder pigs.

**U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 8 PERCENT**

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1998 was 60.1 million head. This was 8 percent above March 1997, but 1 percent below December 1, 1997.

Breeding inventory, at 6.99 million head, was up 2 percent from March 1, 1997 and unchanged from December 1, 1997. Market hog inventory, at 53.1 million head, was 8 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

**U.S. MARCH 1 HOG AND PIG INVENTORY BY CLASS AND WEIGHT GROUPS, 1996-98**

Item	1996	1997	1998	1998/1996	1998/1997
<b>MARCH 1 INVENTORY</b>	---- 1,000 Head ----		--- Percent ---		
All Hogs & Pigs	56,340	55,838	60,070	107	108
Kept For Breeding	6,765	6,842	6,986	103	102
Market	49,575	48,996	53,084	107	108
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:					
Under 60 Pounds	18,790	18,575	20,129	107	108
60-119 Pounds	11,980	11,713	12,750	106	109
120-179 Pounds	10,095	10,032	10,787	107	108
180 Pounds & Over	8,710	8,676	9,418	108	109

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California production of red meat during March 1998 totaled 83.2 million pounds (dressed weight), 5 percent above last month, but 1 percent below March 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally inspected and State inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,216 pounds; calves, 148 pounds; and hogs, 214 pounds.

**U.S. MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.73 billion pounds in March, up 8 percent from the 3.44 billion pounds produced in March 1997. March 1997 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays. March 1998 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight, at 1,200 pounds, was up 39 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 23.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago and 8 percent below the record low for March set in 1991. Calf slaughter totaled 127 thousand head, down 3 percent from March 1997. The average live weight was 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.60 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 12 percent above 1997. The average live weight, at 257 pounds, was one pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 26.0 million pounds, was up slightly from March 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 386 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up four pounds from March a year ago.

January-March red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, 6 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated production from last year was as follows: beef production, up 2 percent; veal, down 20 percent; pork, up 12 percent; lamb and mutton, up 1 percent.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, MARCH 1997-98 a/**

Species & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
Calif.	81.5	82.8	101,410	100,653	1,244	1,216
U.S.	2,858.8	2,894.4	3,319,0710	3,472,3466	1,161	1,200
<b>CALVES</b>						
Calif.	16.3	15.6	5,701	2,315	351	148
U.S.	130.8	127.2	45,536	37,568	348	295
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
Calif.	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	397.4	386.0	52,879	53,067	133	137
<b>HOGS</b>						
Calif.	160.4	169.4	34,401	36,312	214	214
U.S.	7,582.2	8,477.4	1,937,5400	2,175,3455	256	257
<b>RED MEAT</b>	March 1997	February 1998	March 1998	Mar. 98 Mar. 97	Mar. 98 Feb. 98	
	--- Million Pounds ---			-- Percent --		
Calif.	84.2	79.5	83.2	99	105	
U.S.	3,441.4	3,476.0	3,726.1	108	107	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.