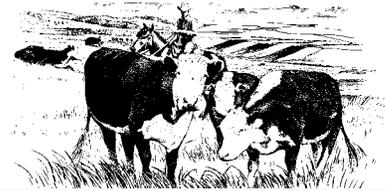


# California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly  
Released: August 27, 1998

(USPS 598-250)  
VOL. 20 NO. 8

 CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle on Feed .....	1
Commercial Slaughter & Red Meat Production .....	2
Farm Prices .....	3
Number of Farms .....	4

## NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES

3:00 P.M. EDT

Sept 18	Cattle on Feed	Oct. 16	Cattle on Feed
18	Cold Storage	20	Cold Storage
25	Livestock Slaughter	23	Livestock Slaughter
25	Hogs & Pigs	29	Catfish
29	Trout		

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 395 thousand head on August 1, 1998, up 1 percent from last month and 4 percent from August 1997. During July, placements of 55.0 thousand head were 22 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 45.0 thousand head were 10 percent lower than a year earlier. Other disappearance was 5.00 thousand head.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.05 million, 3 percent below 1997, but 4 percent above 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 50.0 thousand during July, 12 percent below 1997 and 19 percent below 1996.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter markets in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 8.99 million head on August 1, 1998. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 1997 and 19 percent above August 1, 1996.

## CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN STATES

Cattle on feed in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 7.71 million on August 1, 1998. This was up 2 percent from the previous year and 22 percent above August 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.68 million, 4 percent below 1997, but 13 percent above 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 1997, but 10 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.88 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 302 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 477 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 636 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 511 thousand.

Marketings during July totaled 1.76 million, 5 percent below 1997, but 5 percent above 1996.

Other disappearance during July was 41.0 thousand head, 2 percent below 1997 and 11 percent below 1996.

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

State	Number on feed July 1 1/			Placed During July		Marketed During July	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
	----- Thousand Head -----						
Arizona	189	200	106	26	21	38	25
California	390	390	100	45	55	50	45
Colorado	920	880	96	235	225	250	260
Iowa	280	265	95	45	26	54	45
Kansas	1,960	1,870	95	570	530	520	460
Nebraska	1,540	1,600	104	370	290	400	420
Texas	2,400	2,620	109	460	530	540	500
Seven-State Total	7,679	7,825	102	1,751	1,677	1,852	1,755
State	Other Disappearance During July 2/		Number on Feed August 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
	----- Thousand Head -----				Percent		
Arizona	1	0	176	196	111		
California	5	5	380	395	104		
Colorado	5	5	900	840	93		
Iowa	1	1	270	245	91		
Kansas	10	10	2,000	1,930	97		
Nebraska	10	10	1,500	1,460	97		
Texas	10	10	2,310	2,640	114		
Seven-State Total	42	41	7,536	7,706	102		

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

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California production of red meat during July 1998 totaled 87.9 million pounds (dressed weight), 2 percent above last month and fractionally above July 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In July, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,237 pounds; calves, 114 pounds; and hogs, 208 pounds.

**RED MEAT AND PORK PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS FOR JULY**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July. This was up 3 percent from the previous record high of 3.66 billion pounds produced in July 1997.

July 1997 and July 1998 both contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays (including one holiday).

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, down 4 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year to 1,203 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 24 percent below July a year ago and equal to the previous record low for July set in 1994. Calf slaughter totaled 133 thousand head, down 1 percent from July 1997. The average live weight was 262 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.53 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the previous year and 11 percent higher than the previous record high for July set in 1992. Hog kills totaled 8.27 million head, 13 percent above 1997. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was 1 pound below the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 13 percent from July 1997 and 5 percent below the previous record lows for July set in 1994 and 1995. Sheep slaughter totaled 281 thousand head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 6 pounds from July a year ago.

January-July red meat production was 25.8 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated production percentage changes from last year were as follows: beef, up 1 percent; veal, down 23 percent; pork, up 10 percent; lamb and mutton, down 2 percent.



**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, JULY 1997-98 1/**

Class & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Avg. Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	87.8	85.8	109,357	106,072	1,245	1,237
U.S.	3,181.3	3,038.6	3,748,208	3,655,999	1,178	1,203
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	16.9	21.6	6,014	2,478	356	114
U.S.	134.4	133.3	45,173	34,894	336	262
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S.	306.4	281.2	41,090	35,925	134	128
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	159.5	187.8	33,200	39,100	208	208
U.S.	7,311.5	8,268.6	1,847,094	2,084,344	253	252
	July 1997	June 1998	July 1998	July 98 July 97	July 98 June 98	
	--- Million Pounds ---			-- Percent --		
<b>RED MEAT</b>						
California	87.5	86.3	87.9	100	102	
U.S.	3,657.3	3,732.6	3,780.7	103	101	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

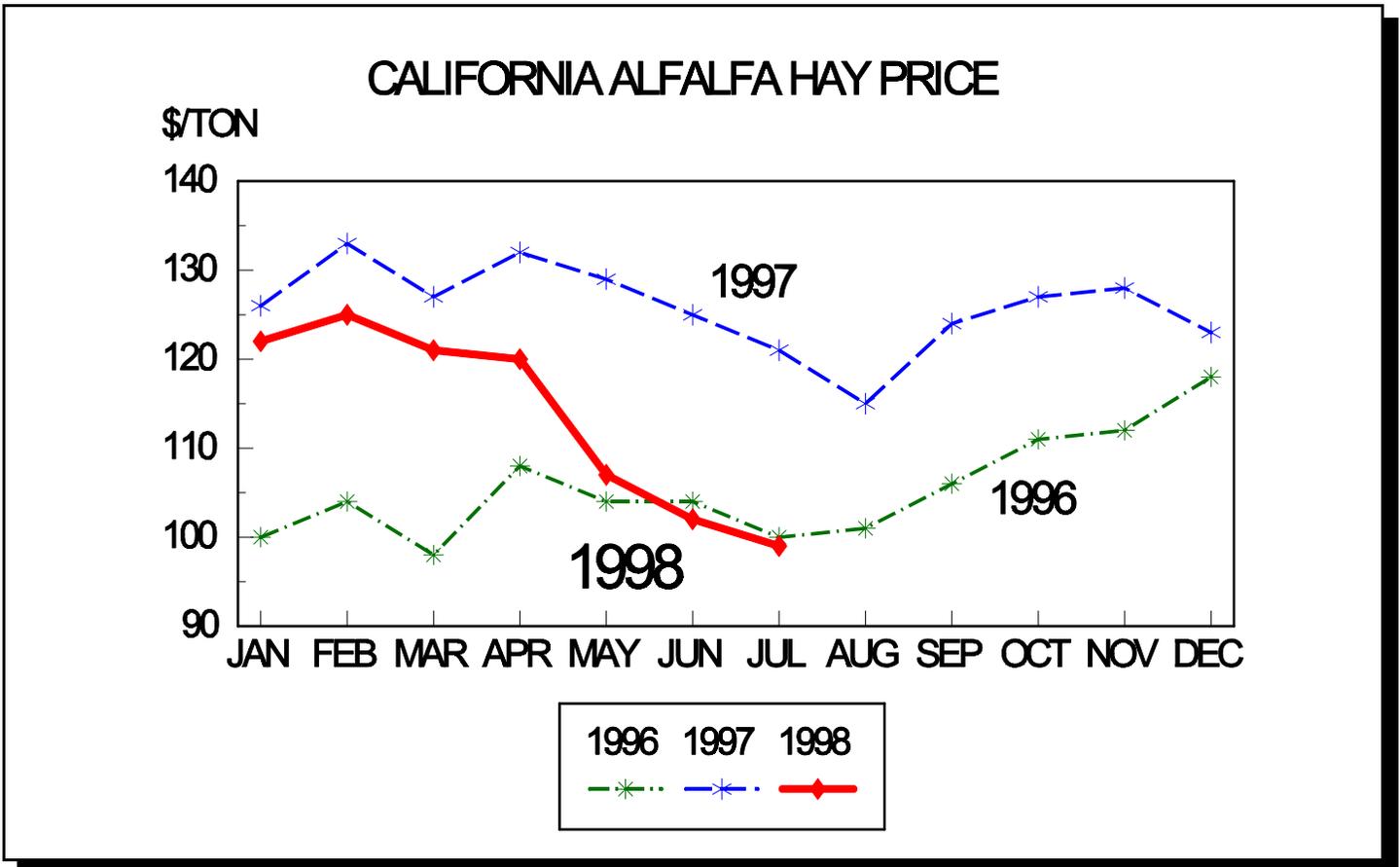
**FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/**

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		July 1997	June 1998	July 15, 1998	July 1997	June 1998	July 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	120.00	100.00	99.00	98.40	91.80	88.60
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	121.00	102.00	99.00	106.00	96.50	93.40
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	58.90	42.20	36.10
Cows 2/	Cwt.	36.00	34.50	33.00	38.20	36.10	34.40
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	61.50	62.00	60.00	65.40	64.50	60.70
Calves 2/	Cwt.	71.00	70.00	68.00	86.90	81.70	78.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	32.00	32.00	29.00	39.40	30.70	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	87.00	90.00	84.00	81.10	88.70	---
Milk Cows 3/	Head	1,240.00	---	1,290.00	1,100.00	---	1,120.00
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	11.64	13.60	14.00	12.10	14.00	14.30

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.



**FARM NUMBERS**

In 1997, an estimated 84.0 thousand farms operated on 30.0 million acres in California. The average farm size is 357 acres.

The number of farms increased 2 percent from 1996, but the land in farms remained the same as the previous year.

**NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1996-98 <sup>1/</sup>**

State and Item		1995	1996	1997
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	No. of Farms	80,000	82,000	84,000
	Land in Farms (Acres)	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
	Avg. Size of Farms (Acres)	375	366	357
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	No. of Farms	2,071,520	2,063,910	2,057,910
	Land in Farms (Acres)	972,253,000	970,048,000	968,338,000
	Avg. Size of Farms (Acres)	469	470	471

<sup>1/</sup> A farm is a place that sells or normally would sell \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the year. Includes places with five or more horses, regardless of sales. Excludes boarding stables and racetracks.