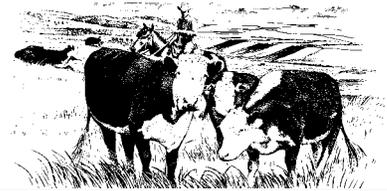


California Livestock Review



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**CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES 3:00 P.M. EST

Dec. 18	Cold Storage	Jan. 22	Cold Storage
18	Cattle On Feed	22	Cattle On Feed
23	Livestock Slaughter	22	Livestock Slaughter

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 400 thousand head on November 1, 1998. This was up 1 percent from last month and 3 percent above November 1997. During October, placements of 60.0 thousand head and marketings of 50.0 thousand head were unchanged from a year ago. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

700-799 pounds were 685 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 719 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.77 million, 2 percent below 1997, but 4 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 52.0 thousand during October, 43 percent below 1997 and 33 percent below 1996.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. cattle and calves on feed for slaughter from 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.76 million head on November 1, 1998. The inventory was 2 percent below November 1, 1997, but 7 percent above November 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.83 million, 3 percent below 1997 and 6 percent below 1996. Net placements were 2.78 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 776 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 649 thousand,

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 2 PERCENT FOR THE HISTORIC SEVEN-MONTHLY STATES

Cattle on feed in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 9.20 million head on November 1, 1998, down 2 percent from the previous year, but 8 percent above November 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.40 million, 2 percent below 1997 and 6 percent below 1996. Marketings during October totaled 1.53 million, 1 percent below 1997, but 7 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during October was 45.0 thousand head, 42 percent below 1997 and 21 percent below 1996.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS FOR THE SEVEN-SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed October 1 ^{1/}			Placed During October		Marketed During October	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
----- Thousand Head -----							
Arizona	193	201	104	51	27	28	20
California	385	395	103	60	60	50	50
Colorado	1,050	1,000	95	300	345	200	170
Iowa	290	260	90	93	74	57	32
Kansas	2,220	2,090	94	530	540	370	360
Nebraska	1,850	1,760	95	610	600	320	320
Texas	2,570	2,670	104	810	750	520	580
Seven-State Total	8,558	8,376	98	2,454	2,396	1,545	1,532
State	Other Disappearance During October ^{2/}		Number on Feed November 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
----- Thousand Head -----					Percent		
Arizona	1	3	215	205	95		
California	5	5	390	400	103		
Colorado	10	5	1,140	1,170	103		
Iowa	1	2	325	300	92		
Kansas	30	10	2,350	2,260	96		
Nebraska	10	10	2,130	2,030	95		
Texas	20	10	2,840	2,830	100		
Seven-State Total	77	45	9,390	9,195	98		

^{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 October 1998 totaled 92.3 million pounds (dressed weight), unchanged from last month, but 1 percent below October 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In October 1998, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,250 pounds; calves, 122 pounds; and hogs, 211 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous record low for October set last year. Sheep slaughter totaled 323 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 5 pounds from October a year ago.

January - October red meat production was 37.5 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year; veal, down 23 percent; pork, up 10 percent; and lamb and mutton, down 3 percent.

**U.S. COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER
SETS RECORD HIGHS FOR OCTOBER**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.03 billion pounds in October, up 1 percent from the previous record high for October of 4.00 billion pounds produced in October 1997.

October 1997 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, while October 1998 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.05 million head, down 5 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year to 1,214 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 25 percent below October a year ago and 5 percent below the previous record low for October set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 125 thousand head, down 11 percent from October 1997. The average live weight was 283 pounds.

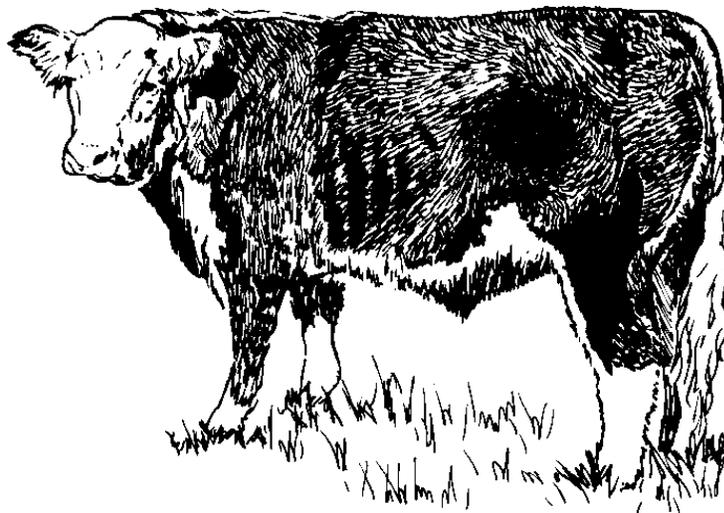
Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous record high for October set one year ago. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 7 percent above 1997. The average live weight, at 257 pounds, was unchanged from the previous year.

OCTOBER COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER 1/

Species & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
CATTLE						
California	93.3	88.1	117,867	110,114	1,263	1,250
U.S. Total	3,224.4	3,053.0	3,854,277	3,705,942	1,195	1,214
CALVES						
California	15.4	13.8	5,428	1,673	352	122
U.S. Total	140.8	124.8	46,815	35,356	333	283
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	335.2	322.8	44,104	41,109	132	127
HOGS						
California	170.7	203.3	36,201	42,883	212	211
U.S. Total	8,777.3	9,348.9	2,253,803	2,401,576	257	257
	October 1997	September 1998 2/	October 1998	Oct. 98 Oct. 97	Oct. 98 Sept. 98	
RED MEAT	--- Million Pounds ---			-- Percent --		
California	93.5	92.5	92.3	99	100	
U.S. Total	4,002.7	3,828.6	4,033.1	101	105	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

2/ Revised U.S. total.



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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		October 1997	Sept. 1998	Oct. 15, 1998	October 1997	Sept. 1998	Oct. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	123.00	91.00	93.00	100.00	86.50	85.20
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	127.00	93.00	96.00	106.00	89.10	88.10
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	47.30	29.50	28.50
Cows 2/	Cwt.	32.00	33.50	30.00	33.10	32.60	30.70
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	64.50	57.25	60.00	67.30	58.90	61.50
Calves 2/	Cwt.	70.00	63.50	70.00	84.30	74.10	74.70
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	34.00	27.50	26.50	35.80	27.70	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	86.50	78.00	71.00	87.20	71.40	---
Milk Cows 3/	Head	1,240.00	---	1,310.00	1,090.00	---	1,180.00
Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	13.45	16.30	17.20	14.10	16.60	17.30

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.

