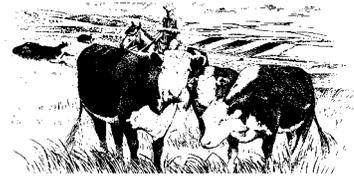


California Livestock Review



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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2004. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 2003, but 3 percent below January 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.84 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.33 million head, up 9 percent from January 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.75 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.66 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 503 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 529 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 448 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 268 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 90.0 thousand during December, 9 percent below 2002 and 3 percent below 2001.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 510 thousand head on January 1, 2004, 2 percent above last month and 4 percent above January 2003. During December, placements of 70.0 thousand head were 27 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 55.0 thousand head remained the same as December of 2002. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed December 1 1/			Placed During December		Marketed During December	
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	295	284	96	25	32	27	22
California	500	500	100	55	70	55	55
Colorado	1,070	1,060	99	145	180	185	190
Idaho	300	310	103	44	53	47	60
Iowa	350	370	106	65	50	59	48
Kansas	2,300	2,480	108	390	410	470	435
Nebraska	2,180	2,280	105	340	350	370	340
New Mexico	123	121	98	12	14	15	17
Oklahoma	340	350	103	34	53	41	45
South Dakota	195	200	103	38	31	27	30
Texas	2,700	2,840	105	360	420	400	410
Washington	195	205	105	32	30	40	38
Other States	350	330	94	55	55	65	50
United States	10,898	11,330	104	1,595	1,748	1,801	1,740

State	Other Disappearance During December 2/		Number On Feed January 1 1/		2004/2003
	2002	2003	2003	2004	
	1,000 Head				
Arizona	4	1	289	293	101
California	10	5	490	510	104
Colorado	10	10	1,020	1,040	102
Idaho	2	3	295	300	102
Iowa	1	2	355	370	104
Kansas	20	25	2,200	2,430	110
Nebraska	10	10	2,140	2,280	107
New Mexico	1	3	119	115	97
Oklahoma	3	3	330	355	108
South Dakota	1	1	205	200	98
Texas	30	20	2,630	2,830	108
Washington	2	2	185	195	105
Other States	5	5	335	330	99
United States	99	90	10,593	11,248	106

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 MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 2.96 billion pounds of milk in December 2003. This was 5 percent above November 2003 and 1 percent above December 2002.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,740 pounds, 75 pounds more than November 2003, but 10 pounds less than a year ago.

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

Month	California 1/						Total Milk Receipts 5/		United States 1/ 2/					
	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/		2002	2003	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003			2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,624	1,681	1,745	1,770	2,834	2,975	2,832	2,973	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548
Feb.	1,626	1,686	1,620	1,635	2,634	2,757	2,630	2,753	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,484	11,401	11,588
Mar.	1,631	1,691	1,830	1,830	2,985	3,095	2,982	3,093	7,745	7,811	1,654	1,660	12,810	12,969
Apr.	1,635	1,693	1,795	1,780	2,935	3,014	2,933	3,014	7,758	7,798	1,621	1,622	12,575	12,645
May	1,639	1,692	1,875	1,820	3,073	3,079	3,070	3,075	7,769	7,783	1,678	1,668	13,039	12,983
June	1,645	1,691	1,800	1,755	2,961	2,968	2,960	2,957	7,782	7,775	1,587	1,590	12,348	12,366
July	1,647	1,693	1,810	1,745	2,981	2,954	2,977	2,951	7,781	7,765	1,578	1,590	12,281	12,345
Aug.	1,651	1,697	1,810	1,740	2,988	2,953	2,985	2,951	7,785	7,750	1,570	1,563	12,223	12,110
Sept.	1,658	1,702	1,700	1,655	2,819	2,817	2,817	2,815	7,781	7,744	1,497	1,503	11,648	11,643
Oct.	1,664	1,702	1,760	1,710	2,929	2,910	2,924	2,902	7,789	7,720	1,539	1,552	11,991	11,978
Nov.	1,669	1,696	1,685	1,665	2,812	2,824	2,808	2,804	7,792	7,708	1,496	1,511	11,657	11,650
Dec.	1,676	1,698	1,750	1,740	2,933	2,955	2,931	---	7,801	7,708	1,575	1,589	12,290	12,251

1/ Revised 2003 data.

2/ Twenty-state total.

3/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.

4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

5/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling Branches. Excludes on farm usage.



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

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		December 2002	November 2003	Dec. 15, 2003	December 2002	November 2003	Dec. 15, 2003
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	94.00	90.00	86.00	91.10	80.70	81.30
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	95.00	98.00	89.00	98.00	88.00	87.90
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	30.30	34.80	34.90
Cows 2/	Cwt.	34.50	44.00	47.00	34.60	47.80	49.90
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	74.50	97.50	98.50	75.00	100.00	98.60
Calves 2/	Cwt.	95.00	101.00	109.00	95.30	112.00	113.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	36.50	40.50	---	38.70	40.10	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	79.00	87.50	---	87.20	99.20	---
Milk Cows 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	10.60	12.90	12.10	11.90	14.50	13.70

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.

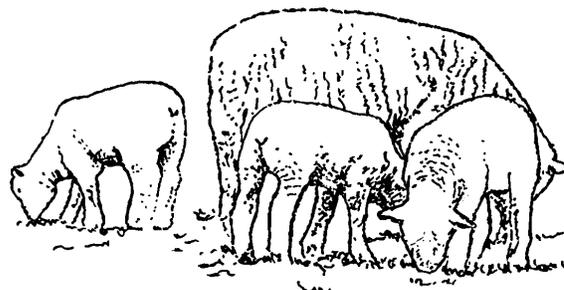
2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

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

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during December 2003 totaled 123.7 million pounds (dressed weight), 13 percent above last month and 3 percent above December 2002. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In December 2003, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,264 pounds; calves 222 pounds; and hogs 242 pounds.



U.S. PORK PRODUCTION AT RECORD MONTHLY HIGH FOR DECEMBER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002.

December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, while **December 2003** contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight, at 1,244 pounds, was down 21 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97.5 thousand head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 269 pounds, 1 pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 262 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago.

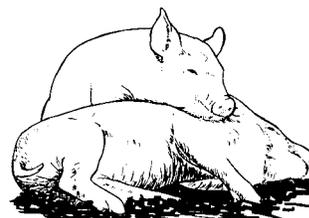
January to December 2003 commercial red meat production was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent from last year.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, DECEMBER 2002-03 ^{a/}

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	111.4	112.6	143,180	142,252	1,286	1,264
U.S. Total	2,771.8	2,668.2	3,506,036	3,320,134	1,265	1,244
CALVES						
California	11.9	10.6	1,663	2,351	140	222
U.S. Total	98.2	97.5	29,998	31,427	305	322
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	278.7	262.0	37,145	35,954	133	137
HOGS						
California	228.2	236.4	54,252	57,281	238	242
U.S. Total	8,657.4	9,346.6	2,316,087	2,513,068	268	269
RED MEAT	December 2002	November 2003 ^{b/}	December 2003	Dec. 03 Dec. 02	Dec. 03 Nov. 03	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	120.5	109.8	123.7	103	113	
U.S. Total	3,858.2	3,524.7	3,876.0	100	110	

^{a/} Farm slaughter excluded.

^{b/} Revised data.



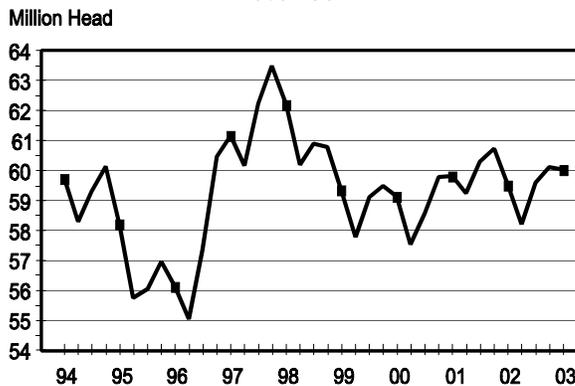
U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September-November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September-November 2003 period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

U.S. Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory December 1



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