

# California Livestock Review



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

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.3 million head on November 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2003 and 5 percent above November 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.70 million, 3 percent below 2003, but 13 percent above 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.64 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 912 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 764 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 529 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 496 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent below 2003 and 9 percent below 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 66.0 thousand during October, 35 percent below 2003 and 21 percent below 2003.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 525 thousand head on November 1, 2004, 1 percent above last month, and 6 percent above November 2003. During October, placements of 70.0 thousand head were 3 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 59.0 thousand head were 9 percent above October of 2003. Other disappearance totaled 6.00 thousand head.

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

State	Number On Feed October 1 1/			Placed During October		Marketed During October	
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
Thousand Head							
Arizona	275	298	108	26	48	22	21
California	485	520	107	68	70	54	59
Colorado	950	1,020	107	270	260	160	185
Idaho	270	275	102	88	78	60	47
Iowa	310	375	121	113	125	72	68
Kansas	2,300	2,220	97	570	570	410	375
Nebraska	1,830	1,940	106	640	600	320	325
New Mexico 2/	123	136	111	19	29	20	29
Oklahoma	350	340	97	78	87	74	64
South Dakota	145	143	99	68	65	34	38
Texas	2,720	2,770	102	680	650	530	520
Washington	195	175	90	51	43	45	37
Other States	265	285	108	110	76	54	30
<b>UNITED STATES 2/</b>	<b>10,218</b>	<b>10,497</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>1,798</b>
State	Other Disappearance During October 3/		Number On Feed November 1 1/		2004/2003		
	2003	2004	2003	2004			
Thousand Head					Percent		
Arizona	1	4	278	321	115		
California	4	6	495	525	106		
Colorado	10	5	1,050	1,090	104		
Idaho	3	1	295	305	103		
Iowa	1	2	350	430	123		
Kansas	30	15	2,430	2,400	99		
Nebraska	10	5	2,140	2,210	103		
New Mexico	4	2	118	134	114		
Oklahoma	4	3	350	360	103		
South Dakota	2	1	177	169	95		
Texas	30	20	2,840	2,880	101		
Washington	1	1	200	180	90		
Other States	1	1	320	330	103		
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11,043</b>	<b>11,334</b>	<b>103</b>		

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/ Revised 2004 data for Number on Feed October 1.

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

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California's production of red meat during October 2004 totaled 117.7 million pounds (dressed weight), 6 percent below last month and 8 percent below October 2003. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In October 2004, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,342 pounds; calves 142 pounds; and hogs 243 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 241 thousand head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

January to October 2004 commercial red meat production was 37.7 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year; veal was down 12 percent; pork was up 3 percent from last year; and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY FROM LAST MONTH**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.92 billion pounds in October, down 6 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in October 2003.

October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

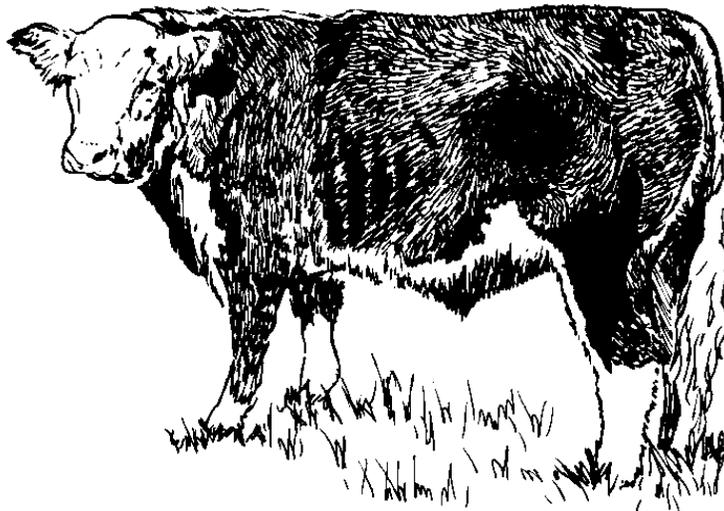
Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 24 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 62.5 thousand head, down 28 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year at 330 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.78 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year at 267 pounds.

**OCTOBER COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER 1/**

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousand Head		Thousand Pounds		Pounds	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	122.9	108.5	157,785	145,559	1,284	1,342
U.S. Total	3,009.5	2,745.7	3,704,306	3,479,458	1,231	1,267
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	10.2	7.8	1,931	1,103	190	142
U.S. Total	87.2	62.5	26,881	20,645	308	330
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California						
U.S. Total	265.1	241.4	35,626	32,418	134	134
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	215.6	202.6	51,705	49,291	240	243
U.S. Total	9,649.2	8,970.2	2,578,610	2,392,890	267	267
<b>RED MEAT</b>	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004	Oct. 04 Oct. 03	Oct. 04 Sep. 04	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	127.4	124.6	117.7	92.0	94	
U.S. Total	4,158.3	3,905.3	3,921.2	94.0	100	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.



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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		October 2003	September 2004	Oct. 15, 2004	October 2003	September 2004	Oct. 15, 2004
Dollars							
Hay, All Baled 2/	Ton	88.00	110.00	115.00	83.70	87.70	89.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	94.00	113.00	119.00	89.10	95.50	97.80
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	36.70	54.80	51.40
Cows 2/	Cwt.	42.00	49.70	48.00	44.60	53.10	50.40
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	96.00	88.00	89.00	97.80	89.30	91.10
Calves 2/	Cwt.	100.00	112.00	113.00	112.00	129.00	127.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	36.00	35.00	---	35.00	41.80	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	89.00	87.50	---	96.80	101.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	1,350.00	---	1,650.00	1,380.00	---	1,640.00
Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	13.50	13.91	13.60	15.00	15.40	15.50

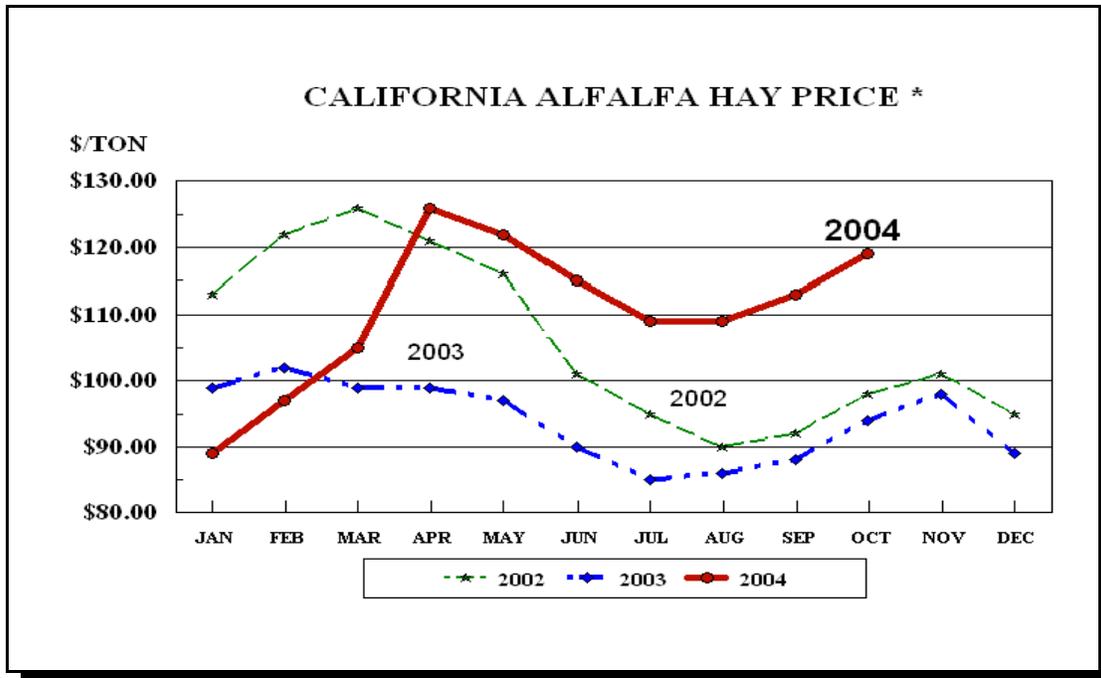
1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Prices include barrows, gilts, and sows.

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

**For information on part-time jobs collecting agricultural data in your local area, please call 1-800-851-1127.**



\* Includes All Qualities.

Source: California Agricultural Statistics Service



**NATIONAL  
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**United States  
Department  
of Agriculture**

**Five Reasons to Respond**  
*to the 2005 January Livestock Reports*

- Creates a "Level Playing Field" - Official USDA reports derived from this survey will be made available to everyone at the same time. No individual or organization will have an unfair advantage due to early access to the data.
- Supports Exports Program -- Provides production estimates to build stronger markets abroad for U.S. commodities.
- Reduces Risk -- Provides for orderly marketing of commodities, with less price variation.
- Benefits Agriculture -- Farm associations use official USDA estimates to promote agriculture.
- Increases Efficiency -- Suppliers, transportation operators, and storage providers use this information to better allocate their resources and to meet expected needs geographically.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is conducting the January Cattle and January Sheep reports. These surveys will provide information on first of the year livestock inventories, peak numbers of other livestock, and on-farm grain storage capacity. Results will be released January 28, 2005 and published in the "California Livestock Review."

Only a sample of producers is selected to represent agriculture nationwide, so every response is critical. California Agricultural Statistics representatives will contact 1,800 livestock producers during early January. Although the interview will take about 20 minutes, the benefits are immeasurable. **Thank you in advance for your participation!**