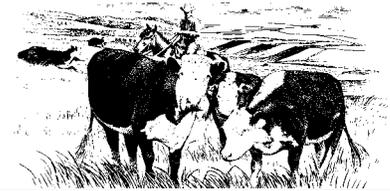


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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placement for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 308 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 526 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 412 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, 4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed-cattle marketing for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 76.0 thousand during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 515 thousand head on March 1, 2005, 2 percent below last month, but 3 percent above March 2004. During February, placements of 49.0 thousand head were 13 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 54.0 thousand head were 4 percent above February of 2004. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

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

State	Number On Feed February 1 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2004	2005
1,000 Head							
Arizona	296	325	110	27	23	25	24
California	500	525	105	56	49	52	54
Colorado	1,040	1,060	102	155	175	165	185
Idaho 2/	275	270	98	43	33	52	52
Iowa	385	465	121	61	57	40	55
Kansas	2,420	2,420	100	390	360	405	390
Nebraska	2,280	2,350	103	350	315	345	330
New Mexico	117	129	110	16	13	20	14
Oklahoma	350	350	100	47	48	59	56
South Dakota	200	205	103	43	32	32	26
Texas	2,770	2,720	98	350	340	420	360
Washington	195	190	97	26	32	34	35
Other States	310	330	106	48	46	45	53
UNITED STATES 2/	11,138	11,339	102	1,612	1,523	1,694	1,634
State	Other Disappearance During February 3/		Number On Feed March 1 1/		2005/2004		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	Percent		
1,000 Head							
Arizona	3	2	295	322	109		
California	4	5	500	515	103		
Colorado	10	10	1,020	1,040	102		
Idaho	1	1	265	250	94		
Iowa	1	2	405	465	115		
Kansas	15	20	2,390	2,370	99		
Nebraska	15	15	2,270	2,320	102		
New Mexico	1	3	112	125	112		
Oklahoma	3	2	335	340	101		
South Dakota	1	1	210	210	100		
Texas	10	10	2,690	2,690	100		
Washington	2	2	185	185	100		
Other States	3	3	310	320	103		
UNITED STATES	69	76	10,987	11,152	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/ Data revised for "Number On Feed February 1, 2005."

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

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2004	January 2005	Feb. 15, 2005	February 2004	January 2005	Feb. 15, 2005
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	96.00	116.00	125.00	81.20	84.20	84.70
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	97.00	121.00	131.00	85.10	90.90	91.90
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	42.60	53.20	50.40
Cows 2/	Cwt.	41.50	46.90	47.80	46.00	50.50	52.80
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	80.00	91.20	91.80	82.30	94.40	93.80
Calves 2/	Cwt.	101.00	123.00	120.00	111.00	125.00	128.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	43.00	46.50	---	40.80	53.50	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	93.00	100.00	---	106.00	114.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	1,600.00	---	---	1,620.00	---
Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	12.41	14.01	13.40	13.60	15.90	15.40

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 HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 55 PERCENT

California's 2004 honey production, at 17.6 million pounds, was 45 percent below 2003. Producing colonies totaled 390 thousand, down 19 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 45 pounds, compared to 67 pounds produced per colony in 2003.



U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. The yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies, which produced honey in more than one State, were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

U.S. HONEY PRICES DOWN 22 PERCENT

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State-level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the "All Other Honey, Area Specialties class." Honey prices for the 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

HONEY PRODUCTION FOR TOP FIVE STATES AND U.S. 1/

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Average Price Per Pound 2/		Value of Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000		Lbs.		1,000 Lbs.		Cents		\$1,000	
California	480	390	67	45	32,160	17,550	139	101	44,702	17,726
Florida	210	205	71	98	14,910	20,090	132	100	19,681	20,090
Minnesota	120	135	83	75	9,960	10,125	144	104	14,342	10,530
N. Dakota	340	390	87	78	29,580	30,420	136	105	40,229	31,941
S. Dakota	215	215	70	105	15,050	22,575	143	106	21,522	23,930
UNITED STATES 3/	2,599	2,556	70	72	181,727	183,582	139	109	253,106	201,790

1/ For producers with five or more colonies.

2/ Prices weighted by sales.

3/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. U.S. "Value of Production" is the U.S. production multiplied by the U.S. price per pound.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during February 2005 totaled 107.4 million pounds (dressed weight), 14 percent below last month, but 2 percent above February 2004. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2005, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,301 pounds; calves 134 pounds; and hogs 241 pounds.

**U.S. COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER
PORK PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH FOR FEBRUARY**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004.

Beef production, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.1 million pounds, 16 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61.9 thousand head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 328 pounds, 8 pounds below last year.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from February 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 215 thousand head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

January to February 2005 commercial red meat production was 7.10 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

February 2004 and 2005 both contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2004-05 ^{a/}

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		1,000 Lbs.		Lbs.	
CATTLE						
California	101.0	99.7	127,854	129,629	1,266	1,301
U.S.	2,429.2	2,341.2	2,993,963	2,936,554	1,233	1,254
CALVES						
California	8.5	8.7	1,784	1,165	209	134
U.S.	71.5	61.9	24,011	20,291	336	328
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	212.5	215.0	29,601	30,125	139	140
HOGS						
California	180.3	194.2	44,049	46,800	244	241
U.S.	7,887.4	8,103.8	2,112,505	2,187,417	268	270
RED MEAT	February 2004	January 2005 ^{b/}	February 2005	Feb. 05 Feb. 04	Feb. 05 Jan. 05	
	Million Lbs.		Percent			
California	105.4	125.1	107.4	102	86	
U.S.	3,404.8	3,648.5	3,423.0	101	94	

^{a/} Includes slaughter under Federal-inspection and other commercial slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

^{b/} Revised U.S. total.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2004

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2004 remained the same as last year's production totaling 1.43 billion pounds. The month of December 2004 had the largest red meat production with 130 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States totaled 45.4 billion pounds in 2004, 3 percent below last year's production of 46.6 billion. The month of March 2004 had the largest red meat production with 3.95 billion pounds.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH ^{1/}

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Million Lbs.			
January	123.9	120.8	4,081.3	3,715.5
February	106.6	105.4	3,499.6	3,404.8
March	114.9	122.9	3,709.7	3,945.0
April	119.7	115.6	3,849.5	3,712.8
May	122.8	109.8	3,946.1	3,596.9
June	121.2	122.6	3,995.9	3,927.6
July	122.4	115.5	4,053.9	3,707.9
August	115.4	122.0	3,920.4	3,879.6
September	120.9	124.7	4,018.1	3,906.3
October	127.5	117.8	4,162.6	3,921.1
November	110.0	121.7	3,536.5	3,770.1
December	123.6	130.2	3,880.0	3,930.4
TOTAL	1,428.8	1,428.9	46,621.5	45,418.0

^{1/} Includes total beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton, but excludes farm slaughter.

**NUMBER OF LICENSED DAIRY OPERATIONS
IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES ^{1/}**

State	2003	2004
	Number	
California	2,060	2,030
Indiana	2,010	1,900
Iowa	2,500	2,420
Michigan	2,840	2,680
Minnesota	6,235	5,810
New York	6,700	6,630
Ohio	3,960	3,780
Pennsylvania	9,130	8,720
Wisconsin	16,400	15,570
Other States	18,540	17,290
UNITED STATES	70,375	66,830

^{1/} Average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk, based on counts collected from State and other regulatory agencies.

MARKETING-YEAR AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		2003	2004	2003	2004
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	35.70	49.50	37.20	49.30
Cows ^{1/}	Cwt.	41.10	47.20	42.90	50.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	83.20	88.30	84.20	90.20
Calves	Cwt.	96.60	111.00	102.00	119.00
Sheep	Cwt.	31.30	32.20	34.90	38.80
Lambs	Cwt.	88.00	90.40	94.40	101.00
Milk Cows ^{2/}	Head	1,300.00	1,560.00	1,340.00	1,580.00

^{1/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{2/} Calendar year average.

FARM NUMBERS

In 2004, an estimated 77.0 thousand farms operated on 26.7 million acres in California. The average farm size is 347 acres. The number of farms decreased by 2 percent from 2003, while land in farms decreased by 1 percent from the previous year

The number of U.S. farms in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.05 million acres from 2003. The average size farm during 2004 was 443 acres, an increase of two acres from the previous year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 1/

State and Item		2002	2003	2004
CALIFORNIA	Number of Farms	79,700	78,500	77,000
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	27,600	27,100	26,700
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	347	345	347
UNITED STATES	Number of Farms	2,135,360	2,126,860	2,113,470
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	940,300	938,650	936,600
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	440	441	443

1/ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.