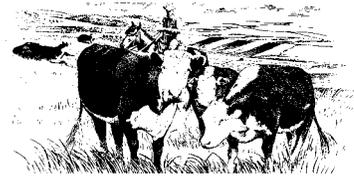


# California Livestock Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle On Feed .....	1-2
Milk Production --- Farm Prices .....	2
Livestock Slaughter – Hog Inventory .....	3

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on January 1, 2006. The inventory was 4 percent above January 1, 2005 and 5 percent above January 1, 2004. The inventory included 7.57 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.15 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.88 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 8 percent above 2003. This is the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.79 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 575 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 554 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 430 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.72 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during December, 1 percent below 2004 but 1 percent above 2003.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 550 thousand head on January 1, 2006, unchanged from the previous month, but 3 percent above January 2005. During December, placements of 69.0 thousand head were 4 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 60.0 thousand head were 3 percent below December of 2004. Other disappearance totaled 9.00 thousand head.

## 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	
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2004	2005
1,000 Head							
Arizona	329	328	100	33	35	30	27
California	530	550	104	72	69	62	60
Colorado	1,100	1,070	97	135	155	145	140
Idaho	305	280	92	55	48	62	50
Iowa	435	500	115	71	65	55	53
Kansas	2,390	2,470	103	490	495	450	435
Nebraska	2,300	2,400	104	390	350	380	305
New Mexico	129	137	106	14	20	15	13
Oklahoma	355	365	103	53	64	52	57
South Dakota	186	190	102	42	46	34	28
Texas	2,740	2,940	107	405	465	420	470
Washington	185	161	87	39	26	32	34
Other States	350	335	96	35	46	40	43
United States	11,334	11,726	103	1,834	1,884	1,777	1,715
State	Other Disappearance During December 2/		Number On Feed January 1 1/		2006/2005		
	2004	2005	2005	2006			
1,000 Head							
Percent							
Arizona	1	2	331	334	101		
California	5	9	535	550	103		
Colorado	10	5	1,080	1,080	100		
Idaho	3	3	295	275	93		
Iowa	1	2	450	510	113		
Kansas	20	30	2,410	2,500	104		
Nebraska	10	15	2,300	2,430	106		
New Mexico	2	1	126	143	113		
Oklahoma	6	2	350	370	106		
South Dakota	2	3	192	205	107		
Texas	25	15	2,700	2,920	108		
Washington	2	1	190	152	80		
Other States	5	3	340	335	99		
United States	92	91	11,299	11,804	104		

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 3.18 billion pounds of milk in December 2005. This was 4 percent above November 2005, and 3 percent above December 2004. Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,795 pounds, 70 pounds more than in November 2005, and 20 pounds more than a year ago.

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

Month	California 1/						Total Milk Receipts 6/		United States 1/ 2/					
	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/5/				Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds			
Jan.	1,701	1,739	1,760	1,770	2,994	3,078	2,993	3,076	8,044	8,083	1,624	1,640	13,061	13,258
Feb.	1,706	1,742	1,675	1,635	2,858	2,848	2,856	2,845	8,051	8,076	1,531	1,519	12,329	12,270
Mar.	1,710	1,748	1,815	1,845	3,104	3,225	3,100	3,223	8,059	8,095	1,661	1,702	13,387	13,779
Apr.	1,716	1,751	1,790	1,820	3,072	3,187	3,070	3,184	8,063	8,109	1,636	1,683	13,194	13,647
May	1,720	1,754	1,830	1,875	3,148	3,289	3,144	3,288	8,064	8,121	1,692	1,757	13,641	14,266
June	1,724	1,757	1,755	1,810	3,026	3,180	3,021	3,178	8,083	8,132	1,607	1,686	12,988	13,712
July	1,729	1,760	1,780	1,775	3,078	3,124	3,076	3,122	8,096	8,145	1,623	1,681	13,143	13,692
Aug.	1,733	1,763	1,775	1,790	3,076	3,156	3,075	3,153	8,102	8,157	1,601	1,667	12,970	13,595
Sept.	1,737	1,765	1,715	1,745	2,979	3,080	2,974	3,079	8,104	8,157	1,533	1,594	12,426	13,005
Oct.	1,740	1,770	1,770	1,780	3,080	3,151	3,077	3,147	8,103	8,160	1,583	1,634	12,824	13,336
Nov.	1,741	1,770	1,700	1,725	2,960	3,053	2,956	3,049	8,102	8,160	1,531	1,590	12,404	12,974
Dec.	1,741	1,770	1,775	1,795	3,090	3,177	3,087		8,097	8,164	1,610	1,665	13,037	13,592

- 1/ Revised 2005 data.
- 2/ Twenty-three-state total.
- 3/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.
- 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.
- 5/ Data was revised for October, November and December 2004.
- 6/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling Branches. Excludes on farm usage.



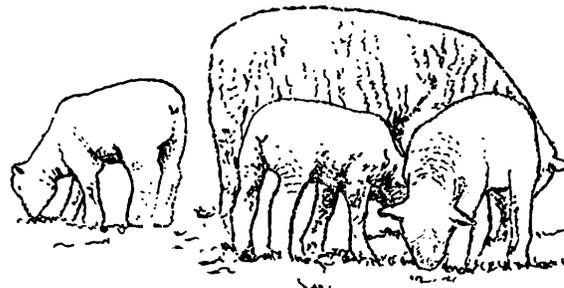
**AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/**

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		December 2004	November 2005	Dec. 15, 2005	December 2004	November 2005	Dec. 15, 2005
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	114.00	135.00	131.00	86.00	91.70	92.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	119.00	142.00	138.00	92.10	97.50	97.70
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	52.40	43.60	45.50
Cows 2/	Cwt.	46.10	42.80	43.70	48.60	46.00	46.60
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	90.80	94.80	96.00	91.90	97.30	99.10
Calves 2/	Cwt.	120.00	124.00	124.00	122.00	133.00	135.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	42.50	42.00	---	44.60	45.40	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.50	93.50	---	101.00	107.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	15.17	13.64	13.70	16.40	15.10	14.70

- 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 2005 totaled 134.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 4 percent above the previous month and 3 percent above December 2004. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In December 2005, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,382 pounds; calves 186 pounds; and hogs 242 pounds.



### RED MEAT PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH FOR DECEMBER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004.

Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60.1 thousand head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231 thousand head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

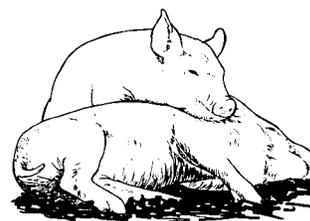
January to December 2005 commercial red meat production was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays. December 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, DECEMBER 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 Pounds		Pounds	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	120.1	121.4	161,060	167,841	1,341	1,382
U.S. Total	2,690.3	2,665.9	3,410,332	3,413,978	1,268	1,281
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	7.8	4.9	1,084	905	139	186
U.S. Total	74.6	60.1	24,883	22,249	334	370
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	242.1	231.0	33,816	32,931	140	143
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	221.6	235.9	54,625	57,104	246	242
U.S. Total	9,249.9	9,233.3	2,496,228	2,510,190	270	272
<b>RED MEAT</b>	December 2004	November 2005	December 2005	Dec. 05 Dec. 04	Dec. 05 Nov. 05	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	130.2	129.9	134.6	103	104	
U.S. Total	3,930.4	3,942.3	3,952.7	101	100	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.



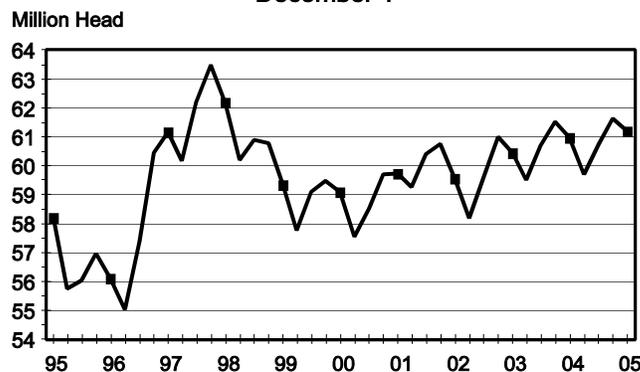
### U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP SLIGHTLY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

U.S. Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory December 1



## **Financial FACTS** **for the 2007 Farm Bill**

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey to provide the financial facts policymakers will use to craft the 2007 Farm Bill.



**NASS**

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture