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LIVESTOCK DAIRY & POULTRY

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

March 2005

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Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was two percent above March 1, 2004 and six percent above March 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, six percent below 2004 and eight percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighting less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, four percent below 2004 and six percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during February, ten percent above 2004 and seven percent above 2003.

CATTLE ON FEED: U.S. Number Placed on Feed, by weight groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, February 2004, January and February 2005

Month	Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
<i>1,000 head</i>					
February	319	351	548	394	1,612
January	380	458	628	419	1,885
February	277	308	526	412	1,523

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

State	Number on feed February 1			Placed during February			Marketed during February			Other disappearance during February			Number on feed March 1		
	2004	2005	2005-04	2004	2005	2005-04	2004	2005	2005-04	2004	2005	2005-04	2004	2005	2005-04
	<i>1,000 head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	296	325	110	27	23	85	25	24	96	3	2	67	295	322	109
CA	500	525	105	56	49	88	52	54	104	4	5	125	500	515	103
CO	1,040	1,060	102	155	175	113	165	185	112	10	10	100	1,020	1,040	102
ID	275	*270	98	43	33	77	52	52	100	1	1	100	265	250	94
IA	385	465	121	61	57	93	40	55	138	1	2	200	405	465	115
KS	2,420	2,420	100	390	360	92	405	390	96	15	20	133	2,390	2,370	99
NE	2,280	2,350	102	350	315	90	345	330	96	15	15	100	2,270	2,320	102
NM	117	129	110	16	13	81	20	14	70	1	3	300	112	125	112
OK	350	350	100	47	48	102	59	56	95	3	2	67	335	340	101
SD	200	205	103	43	32	74	32	26	81	1	1	100	210	210	100
TX	2,770	2,720	98	350	340	97	420	360	86	10	10	100	2,690	2,690	100
WA	*195	190	97	26	32	123	34	35	103	2	2	100	185	185	100
Oth. Sts.	310	330	106	48	46	96	45	53	118	3	3	100	310	320	103
U.S.	*11,138	*11,139	100	1,612	1,523	94	1,694	1,634	96	69	76	110	10,987	11,153	102

*Revised

AVERAGE PRICES, NEBRASKA, DOLLARS PER CWT

Week ended	Slaughter steers Choice 1150-1500 lbs			Slaughter heifers Choice 1000-1300 lbs		
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
Feb 26	82.24	85.70		82.26	86.30	
Mar 05	85.48	89.73		85.59	89.70	
Mar 12	88.62	93.20		88.60	92.76	

CHICKENS AND EGGS

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-March 2005 averaged 36.0 cents per dozen, a decrease from mid-February of two cents. Table egg production in Florida during February was 208 million eggs, nine percent below the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 5.90 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 956 million were broiler-type and 58 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2005 averaged 349 million, up three percent from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down three percent from February 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2005, totaled 349 million, up three percent from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up one percent from a year ago.

February 2005 contained 28 days, while February 2004 contained 29 days due to the leap year.

**LAYERS AND EGGS: Selected States and U.S.,
February 2005**

Selected States	Avg. layers on hand	Egg production	Rate of lay
	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Millions</i>	
Alabama	9,232	165	61.6
Arkansas	15,099	261	59.6
California	20,546	415	69.7
Florida	10,465	216	71.2
Georgia	20,958	397	65.3
Indiana	23,545	472	69.1
Iowa	49,860	1,000	69.2
Maine	2,733	26	33.0
Maryland	3,088	64	71.5
Michigan	7,527	152	69.6
Minnesota	11,023	230	72.0
Mississippi	7,132	125	60.4
Missouri	7,415	148	68.8
Nebraska	12,093	244	69.6
New York	4,177	91	75.1
North Carolina	10,948	196	61.7
Ohio	28,129	558	68.4
Pennsylvania	24,455	522	73.6
South Carolina	5,138	105	70.5
Texas	18,142	364	69.2
Virginia	3,107	55	61.0
Washington	4,998	107	73.8
Other States	49,164	449	69.0
United States	348,974	6,908	68.3

UNITED STATES HOG AND PIGS

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004 -February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrowed during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are down 1 percent from the same period in both 2004 and 2003. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 37 percent last year.

**HOGS AND PIGS: Inventory number, sows farrowing and
pig crop, 2004-05, United States**

	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	<i>1,000 head</i>		
MARCH 1 INVENTORY:			
All hogs and pigs	59,520	59,899	101
Kept for breeding	5,961	5,941	100
Market	53,558	53,957	101
MARKET HOGS AND PIGS			
BY WEIGHT GROUPS:			
Under 60 pounds	19,823	19,817	100
60 - 119 pounds	12,954	13,087	101
120 - 179 pounds	11,205	11,430	102
180 pounds	9,578	9,624	100
SOWS FARROWING:			
December ^{1/} -February	2,836	2,851	101
March-May	2,870	2,870	100
December ^{1/} -May	5,706	5,721	100
June-August	2,905	2,880	99
September-November	2,852		
June-November	5,757		
PIG CROP:			
December ^{1/} -February	25,105	25,489	102
March-May	25,633		
June-August	26,162		
September-November	25,588		

^{1/} December preceding year.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The February hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 4,483,000 was four percent below a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on March 1, at 4,066,000, were slightly below a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during February at 648,000 chicks was five percent above last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on March 1, at 618,000 were 18 percent above a year ago.

UNITED STATES

The February 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 731 million, was up slightly from February of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on March 1, 2005, up two percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.21 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2005, down two percent from February 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 32.9 million, up three percent from February 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on March 1, 2005, up one percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 208,000 during February 2005, down 27 percent from February 2004.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES

Item	2004	2005	2005 % of 2004
<i>-- Thousands --</i>			
EGG-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Mar 1	34,263	34,706	101
Chicks hatched during Feb	32,078	32,910	103
Pullets hatched during Feb for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	285	208	73
7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	2,960	3,207	108
BROILER-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Mar 1	647,596	658,866	102
Chicks hatched during Feb	724,936	731,274	100
Pullets hatched during Feb for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	7,340	7,205	98
7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	61,256	62,345	102

^{1/} 2005 includes pullet chicks hatched August 2003 through July 2004.

^{2/} 2005 includes pullet chicks hatched November 2003 through July 2004.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 203 million pounds of milk during February 2005, three percent above the previous February. Production per cow of 1,460 pounds was three percent above last year. Milk cow numbers on Florida dairy farms in February totaled 139,000, unchanged from last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from February 2004. However, production was 2.8 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2004. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,516 pounds for February, 15 pounds below February 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.07 million head, 23,000 head more than February 2004, but 9,000 head less than January 2005.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND U.S.

Month and year	Milk cows	Monthly milk production	
		Per cow	Monthly Total
	<i>Thous.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>
FLORIDA:			
February 2004	139	1,415	197
January 2005	138	1,500	207
February 2005	139	1,460	203
20 MAJOR STATES:			
February 2004	8,051	1,531	12,329
January 2005	8,083	1,640	13,258
February 2005	8,074	1,516	12,240
UNITED STATES:			
February 2004	8,993	1,512	13,595
January 2005	8,993	1,620	13,570
February 2005	8,980	1,498	13,450

MILK PRODUCTION BY QUARTERS, UNITED STATES

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>	
Jan-Mar	9,144	8,993	4,710	4,755	43,069	42,759
Apr-Jun	9,109	9,001	4,827	4,869	43,965	43,824
Jul-Sep	9,073	9,027	4,601	4,679	41,746	42,239
Oct-Dec	9,011	9,019	4,609	4,655	41,532	41,983
Annual Total	9,084	9,010	18,749	18,957	170,312	170,805

^{1/} Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk fed to calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for February 2005 was 4.1 million pounds, seven percent below the same month last

year. Commercial production of red meat in the United States for February at 3.42 billion pounds, was slightly above 2004.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND UNITED STATES

Source and kind	February 2004	January 2005	February 2005	Year to date 2004	Year to date 2005
FLORIDA					
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	9	7	6	16	13
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	1,544	1,126	1,094	2,727	2,220
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	16	12	10	31	22
Red meat production (million pounds)	4.4	4.5	4.1	9.1	8.6
UNITED STATES					
CATTLE:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,429	2,528	2,341	5,006	4,869
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,994	3,190	2,937	6,213	6,127
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,233	* 1,263	1,254	1,241	1,259
Beef production (million pounds)	1,804	* 1,917	1,767	3,728	3,682
CALVES:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	72	68	62	151	130
Total liveweight (million pounds)	24	22	20	54	42
Average liveweight (pounds)	336	329	328	336	329
Veal production (million pounds)	15	13	12	31	25
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	7,887	8,478	8,104	16,676	16,582
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,113	2,288	2,187	4,477	4,475
Average liveweight (pounds)	268	270	270	268	270
Pork production (million pounds)	1,571	1,704	1,629	3,329	3,333
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	213	209	215	432	424
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	30	29	30	61	59
LAMB AND MUTTON:					
	15	14	15	30	29
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,405	* 3,648	3,423	7,119	7,070

* Revised.