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TOPICS IN THIS REPORT

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Livestock Slaughter

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 April 1, 2006. The inventory was nine percent above April 1, 2005 and ten percent above April 1, 2004. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.74 million steers and steer calves, up 11 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.0 million head, up five percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, five percent above 2005 and one percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.75 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 342,000, 700-799 pounds were 565,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 550,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.96 million, down slightly from 2005 and slightly below 2004.

Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during March, 32 percent above 2005 and 34 percent above 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED: U.S. Cattle Placed on Feed, by Weight
Groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, March 2005, February and March 2006

Month		Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
1,000 head						
March	2005	299	320	609	522	1,750
February	2006	355	300	510	433	1,598
March	2006	380	342	565	550	1,837

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

State	Number on feed March 1		Placed during March 1		Marketed during March		Other disappearance during March		Number on feed April 1	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
1,000 head										
AZ	324	351	27	30	24	28	1	2	326	351
CA	515	550	65	59	70	68	10	6	500	535
CO	1,040	1,090	165	155	175	165	10	10	1,020	1,070
ID	250	255	44	42	53	45	1	2	240	250
IA	465	520	55	55	64	73	1	2	455	500
KS	2,370	2,610	445	480	460	470	15	30	2,340	2,590
NE	2,320	2,450	300	335	350	370	10	15	2,260	2,400
NM	125	143	13	21	23	23	2	2	113	139
OK	340	365	61	68	73	72	3	1	325	360
SD	210	210	31	36	34	35	2	1	205	210
TX	2,690	3,010	480	485	540	540	10	15	2,620	2,940
WA	185	154	22	26	47	27	1	1	159	152
Oth. Sts.	320	315	42	45	50	42	2	3	310	315
U.S.	11,154	12,023	1,750	1,837	1,963	1,958	68	90	10,873	11,812



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
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CHICKENS AND EGGS

MID-MONTH TABLE EGG PRICES RECEIVED BY FLORIDA EGG PRODUCERS.

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-April 2006 averaged 38.0 cents, down 21.0 cents from mid-March. Table egg production in Florida during March was 253 million eggs, up 14 percent from the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 7.84 billion during March 2006, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.73 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 69 million were egg-type. The number of layers during March 2006 averaged 350 million, up one percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up slightly from March 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up two percent from last year. The 350 million layers consisted of 292 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2006, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up one percent from April 1, 2005.

Month	Cents per dozen	
	2005	2006
January	40.0	60.0
February	36.0	36.0
March	33.0	59.0
April	30.0	38.0
May	27.0	
June	25.0	
July	34.0	
August	29.0	
September	50.0	
October	36.0	
November	51.0	
December	60.0	

FLORIDA: Layers on hand first of month, percent molting and molted

	Apr 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006	Apr 2006
Total layers on hand: Thous.	10,839	11,408	11,404	11,434
Percent of layers:				
Being molted	3.0	9.5	10.0	4.0
Molt completed	25.0	34.0	32.0	37.5

LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION, MARCH 2006, PRODUCTION YEAR-TO-DATE EGG PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED STATES

Selected States	Average layers on hand <i>Thousand</i>	Eggs per 100 layers	Egg production <i>Millions</i>				Layers <i>Percent</i>	
			Total	Table	Hatching	Year to date ^{1/}	Being molted	Molt completed
Alabama	8,858	1,930	171	40	131	672	1.0	7.0
Arkansas	14,651	1,925	282	101	181	1,101	0.0	9.5
California	19,693	2,189	431			1,682	5.0	36.0
Florida	11,416	2,295	262	253	9	1,010	4.0	37.5
Georgia	19,237	2,116	407	229	178	1,582	0.5	12.5
Indiana	24,772	2,301	570	557	13	2,196	1.0	30.5
Iowa	52,147	2,288	1,193			3,426	1.5	37.0
Maine	4,075	2,282	93			365	0.0	0.0
Maryland	2,593	2,275	59	58	1	240	4.5	29.5
Michigan	8,436	2,418	204			765	1.0	16.0
Minnesota	11,292	2,258	255	247	8	993	4.0	31.0
Mississippi	6,638	2,004	133	40	93	518	1.0	11.5
Missouri	7,317	2,241	164			604	0.0	24.0
Nebraska	11,817	2,327	275	275	0	1,052	7.0	28.5
New York	4,021	2,412	97			391	1.5	10.5
North Carolina	11,081	2,003	222	82	140	866	1.0	9.0
Ohio	29,053	2,261	657			2,590	1.5	23.5
Pennsylvania	23,818	2,381	567	546	21	2,214	3.5	18.5
South Carolina	5,096	2,119	108	89	19	437	3.0	26.5
Texas	19,247	2,265	436			1,662	1.5	22.5
Virginia	3,389	2,095	71	35	36	281	0.0	14.0
Washington	4,815	2,305	111			424	5.0	47.0
Other States	46,623	2,216	534	403	131	2,028	3.0	23.5
United States	350,085	2,239	7,837	6,733	1,105	30,323	2.3	24.9

^{1/} Production year begins December 1.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The March hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 5,052,000 was two percent above a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on April 1, at 4,074,000 was slightly above a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during March at 731,000 chicks was 11 percent above last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on April 1 at 700,000, were 14 percent below a year ago.

UNITED STATES

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 817 million, up slightly from March 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 659 million on April 1, 2006, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.01 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2006, down one percent from March 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 38.9 million, down seven percent from March 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on April 1, 2006 down five percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 286,000 during March 2006, down nine percent from March 2005.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES

Item	2005	2006	2006 % of 2005
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-- Thousands --

EGG-TYPE:

Eggs in incubators: Apr 1	37,732	35,797	95
Chicks hatched during Mar	41,701	38,918	93
Pullets hatched during Mar for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	314 3,222	286 2,788	91 87

BROILER-TYPE:

Eggs in incubators: Apr 1	660,137	658,570	100
Chicks hatched during Mar	816,552	817,068	100
Pullets hatched during Mar for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	7,077 62,794	7,012 63,416	99 101

^{1/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2004 through August 2005.

^{2/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2004 through August 2005.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 213 million pounds of milk during March 2006, seven percent below the previous March. Production per cow of 1,600 pounds was two percent below last year. Milk cow numbers on Florida dairy farms in March totaled 133,000, four percent below last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.6 billion pounds, up 5.5 percent from March 2005. February revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 5.9 percent from February 2005. The February revision represented a decrease of 7 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,773 pounds for March, 66 pounds above March 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.22 million head, 124,000 head more than March 2005, and 17,000 head more than February 2006.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND U.S.

Month and year	Milk Cows	Monthly milk production	
		Per cow	Monthly Total
	Thous.	Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.
FLORIDA:			
March 2005	139	1,640	228
February 2006	134	1,420	190
March 2006	133	1,600	213
23 MAJOR STATES:			
March 2005	8,099	1,707	13,825
February 2006	8,206	1,587	13,022
March 2006	8,223	1,773	14,579
UNITED STATES:			
March 2005	9,009	1,688	15,206
February 2006	9,090	1,567	14,244
March 2006	9,009	1,750	15,948

MILK PRODUCTION BY QUARTERS, UNITED STATES

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Thousand		Pounds		Mil. Lbs.	
Jan-Mar	9,002	9,093	4,816	5,006	43,350	45,521
Apr-Jun	9,041		5,069		45,831	
Jul-Sep	9,060		4,871		44,134	
Oct-Dec	9,060		4,821		43,674	
Annual						
Total	9,041		19,576		176,989	

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

^{2/} Excludes milk fed to calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for March 2006 was 5.3 million pounds, 13 percent above the same month last year. Commercial production of red meat in the United States for March at 4.11 billion pounds, was six percent above 2005.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND UNITED STATES

Source and kind	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	Year to date 2005	Year to date 2006
FLORIDA					
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	7	6	8	20	19
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	1,058	805	1,053	2,928	2,596
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	16	5	13	37	27
Red meat production (million pounds)	4.7	*4.7	5.3	13.1	14.8
UNITED STATES					
CATTLE:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,725	2,346	2,852	7,596	7,840
Total liveweight (million pounds)	3,370	3,010	3,630	9,499	10,025
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,237	1,283	1,273	1,250	1,279
Beef production (million pounds)	2,042	1,825	2,209	5,725	6,078
CALVES:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	68	53	59	198	168
Total liveweight (million pounds)	22	19	22	64	61
Average liveweight (pounds)	328	362	370	328	367
Veal production (million pounds)	13	12	13	38	37
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	8,950	8,055	9,234	25,538	26,204
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,424	2,190	2,511	6,902	7,137
Average liveweight (pounds)	271	272	272	270	272
Pork production (million pounds)	1,804	1,633	1,871	5,138	5,321
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	280	203	250	704	676
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	39	29	36	98	97
LAMB AND MUTTON:					
	20	15	18	50	49
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,878	3,484	4,112	10,950	11,486

*Revised