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Featuring: ►**Prospective Plantings** ►**Agricultural Prices** ►**Livestock Slaughter** ►**Hogs & Pigs** ►**Grain Stocks**

MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn producers intend to plant 78.0 million acres, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest corn acreage since 2001 when 75.7 million acres were planted for all purposes.

Soybean producers intend to plant 76.9 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the largest planted area on record.

Winter wheat planted acreage for the 2006 crop was 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Burley tobacco farmers intend to set 83,500 acres, 17 percent below 2005 and down 45 percent from two years ago.

KENTUCKY

Farmers intend to plant 1.07 million acres of **corn**. This was down 180,000 acres from the 2005 crop. Acreage for **soybeans** intended to be planted was 1.43 million acres, an increase of 170,000 acres from 2005. This would be the largest acreage planted since 1984. The decrease in intended corn acreage was made up by the increase in intended soybean acreage.

Burley tobacco growers intend to set 58,000 acres for harvest, down 12,000 acres from the 2005 crop. The is the second year that tobacco can be raised anywhere provided that the producer has a production contract to sell their tobacco production. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 6,000 acres was unchanged from the 2005 crop and acreage set to **dark-air tobacco** at 3,800 acres was up 100 acres from 2005.

Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2005 totaled 410,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the 2005 crop. **Grain sorghum** intended acreage totaled 27,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from the 2005 crop. **Barley** acreage seeded at 15,000 acres was up 5,000 acres from the 2005 crop. Farmers intend to harvest 2.42 million acres of **all hay**, up 10,000 acres from 2005. All hay is made up of alfalfa hay and all other hay. The acreage of all hay harvested during the summer depends to a great measure on moisture received during the growing season and temperatures experienced. With a drier summer farmers will cut more hay to feed their cattle.

MARCH 1, 2006 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2005	Ind. 2006	06 % of 05	2005	Ind. 2006	06 % of 05
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
Corn	1,250	1,070	86	81,759	78,019	95
Soybeans	1,260	1,430	113	72,142	76,895	107
All Sorghum	25	27	108	6,454	6,483	100
All Hay 1/	2,410	2,420	100	61,649	61,478	100
All Tobacco 1/	79.7	67.8	85	298.0	306.6	103
Burley Tobacco 1/	70.0	58.0	83	100.1	83.5	83
All Wheat 2/	390	410	105	57,229	57,128	100
Barley 2/	10	15	150	3,875	3,667	95

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

KENTUCKY CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES REMAIN MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were steady for corn while down for soybeans and wheat. Cattle prices were varied for individual categories while hog categories were all up in price.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged $102.00 per cwt. (hundred weight) for mid-March. This was down $2.00 from February and $1.00 from March 2005. **Beef cow** price at mid-month was $48.00 per cwt., up $1.00 from February while down $2.00 from the previous March. **Calves** less than 500 lbs. were $131.00 per cwt. at mid-month. This was unchanged from February while up $5.00 from March 2005. This was the highest calf price since June 2005.

Hog prices were strong at mid-March. **Barrows and gilts** at mid-month averaged $45.00 per cwt., up $3.00 from the February price while down $4.00 from March 2005. **Sows** at mid-March were $32.00 per cwt. This was up $1.00 from February while down $11.00 from March a year earlier.

Sheep and lamb prices for February were both down from the January price. The **sheep** price for February was $53.00 per cwt., down $3.00 from January. The **lamb** price was $96.00 per cwt., down $5.00 from January.

The **all milk** price for mid-March was $14.00 per cwt. This was down 90 cents from the February and $2.70 from March 2005. This would be the lowest milk price since August 2003. The final monthly milk price will vary from the projected mid-month price due to price changes announced by the Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity of milk sold by class.

Grain prices were steady to lower for mid-March. The **corn** price at mid-March was $2.25 per bushel, unchanged from the February price while up 5 cents from March 2005. The **soybean** mid-month price was $5.70, down 26 cents from February and 42 cents from March a year earlier. Soybeans were at their lowest price since October 2005. **Winter wheat** price was $3.30 per bushel, down 27 cents from February while up 53 cents from March 2005.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflowers. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of asparagus, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton, and corn. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points (5.0 percent) from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from last month and 7 points (5.7 percent) from March 2005.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY MAR 2005	KENTUCKY FEB 2006	KENTUCKY MAR 2006	US MAR 2006
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.20	2.25	2.25	2.01
Soybeans b/	Bu.	6.12	5.96	5.70	5.55
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.77	3.57	3.30	3.67
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	110.00	120.00	120.00	100.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	64.00	70.00	70.00	86.60
All Hogs	Cwt.	49.70	41.60	44.50	42.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	49.00	42.00	45.00	42.80
Sows	Cwt.	43.00	31.00	32.00	34.40
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	90.30	90.30	89.00	89.20
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	103.00	104.00	102.00	94.10
Cows	Cwt.	50.00	47.00	48.00	49.90
Calves f/	Cwt.	126.00	131.00	131.00	138.00
Sheep	Cwt.	--	53.00	–	–
Lambs	Cwt.	–	96.00	–	–
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	16.70	14.90	14.00	12.80
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	22.6	18.5	19.8	21.1

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005. February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

Type	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006	Feb. 06 % of Feb. 2005	Feb. 06 % of Jan. 2006
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,767	2,044	1,825	103	89
Veal	12.0	12.5	11.7	97	94
Pork	1,629	1,817	1,633	100	90
Lamb & Mutton	15.1	16.2	14.7	97	91
Total U.S.	3,424	3,890	3,484	102	90
Total Kentucky	38.6	45.5	37.2	96	82

1/Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2005 & 2006 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered 2005	Number Slaughtered 2006	Total Live Weight 2005	Total Live Weight 2006	Average Live Weight 2005	Average Live Weight 2006
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.6	1.5	1,427	1,365	914	922
Hogs	188.3	179.0	50,255	48,335	267	270
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.0	109	119	124	115
United States						
Cattle	2,342.9	2,345.9	2,936,796	3,009,921	1,253	1,283
Hogs	8,107.8	8,054.7	2,188,843	2,190,183	270	272
Sheep & Lambs	214.0	202.5	29,993	29,344	140	145

1/Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006, was 60.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2005-February 2006 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, up 1 percent from 2005, and up 2 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

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, unchanged from last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS
MARCH 1, 2005 - 2006, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
							Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
State	2006 1,000 Head	2006 % of 2005	2006 1,000 Head	2006 % of 2005	2006 1,000 Head	2006 % of 2005	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
							(1,000 Head)							
AR	270	82	85	100	185	76	145	140	35	15	30	15	35	15
CO	820	101	150	107	670	100	365	350	115	90	85	80	105	150
IL	4,050	101	420	98	3,630	102	1,360	1,280	840	870	760	800	610	680
IN	3,100	103	310	107	2,790	103	1,000	1,020	650	710	570	560	490	500
IA	16,300	101	1,100	102	15,200	101	4,330	4,670	4,230	4,150	3,490	3,440	2,970	2,940
KS	1,720	102	165	106	1,555	102	540	520	255	285	280	345	450	405
MI	960	104	100	100	860	105	325	315	190	200	160	175	145	170
MN	6,400	102	580	98	5,820	102	2,230	2,240	1,390	1,370	1,250	1,310	840	900
MO	2,700	95	345	105	2,355	93	1,190	1,085	520	490	480	460	330	320
NE	2,900	105	355	100	2,545	106	970	1,000	600	660	470	490	355	395
NC	9,500	98	1,020	101	8,480	98	3,410	3,400	2,030	1,940	1,830	1,690	1,420	1,450
OH	1,530	102	160	100	1,370	102	550	550	310	320	300	310	180	190
OK	2,330	98	360	100	1,970	98	960	910	330	360	260	220	470	480
PA	1,110	101	100	95	1,010	102	290	360	290	280	230	210	185	160
SD	1,440	106	155	107	1,285	106	430	445	295	310	270	280	220	250
TX	930	102	100	105	830	102	295	265	190	190	160	195	170	180
WI	420	98	50	100	370	97	145	145	90	90	80	70	65	65
Other 1/	3,624	101	470	102	3,154	101	1,132	1,143	727	784	655	667	604	561
U.S.	60,104	101	6,025	101	54,079	101	19,667	19,838	13,087	13,114	11,360	11,317	9,644	9,811

1/Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States. Kentucky included in Other States.

KENTUCKY CORN STOCKS DOWN FROM A YEAR EARLIER

Corn stocks in **Kentucky** totaled 57.2 million bushels on March 1, 2006. This was down 8 percent from the 61.9 million stored on March 1, 2005. Corn stored on farms totaled 33.0 million bushels, down 8.00 million bushels from a year earlier. Corn stored in off-farm facilities totaled 24.2 million bushels, up 3.35 million bushels from a year earlier and the largest March 1 off-farm stocks since 1988. Off-farm facilities included grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Soybean and wheat stocks in Kentucky are published only for off-farm stocks. On-farm stocks are not estimated for the State. Off-farm stocks of **soybeans** totaled 7.60 million bushels, up 2.72 million bushels from the previous March 1. Kentucky off-farm stocks of **all wheat** was 5.69 million bushels, down 646,000 bushels from March 1, 2005. Off-farm stocks of **grain sorghum**, **barley** and **oats** were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, were up 12 percent from a year ago. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2005. This was the largest March 1 stocks level on record, exceeding the previous record set in 1999 by 1 percent. Soybean stocks stored on farms were estimated at a record high 872 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 797 million bushels, were up 36 percent from last March and were also at a record high level. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, were up 5 percent from a year ago.

KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2006 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		Mar 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006	Mar 2005	Dec 2005	Mar 2006
		(Thousand Bushels)					
Corn	On-Farm	41,000	84,000	33,000	4,137,000	6,325,000	4,055,000
	Off-Farm 1/	20,887	24,817	24,237	2,619,334	3,489,957 5/	2,932,178
	Total	61,887	108,817	57,237	6,756,334	9,814,957 5/	6,987,178
Sorghum	On-Farm	2/	2/	2/	33,400	55,000	25,900
	Off-Farm 1/	4/	4/	4/	170,122	235,376 5/	166,939
	Total	2/	2/	2/	203,522	290,376 5/	192,839
Oats	On-Farm	3/	3/	3/	43,500	60,100	41,900
	Off-Farm 1/	4/	116	4/	38,946	35,617 5/	32,812
	Total	4/	116	4/	82,446	95,717 5/	74,712
Barley	On-Farm	2/	2/	2/	79,680	103,650	68,400
	Off-Farm 1/	4/	4/	4/	111,001	104,335	98,164
	Total	2/	2/	2/	190,681	207,985	166,564
All Wheat	On-Farm	2/	2/	2/	304,710	513,010 5/	256,000
	Off-Farm 1/	6,335	8,200	5,689	679,681	916,414 5/	716,240
	Total	2/	2/	2/	984,391	1,429,424 5/	972,240
Soybeans	On-Farm	2/	2/	2/	795,000	1,345,000	872,000
	Off-Farm 1/	4,887	10,303	7,603	586,364	1,157,098 5/	796,555
	Total	2/	2/	2/	1,381,364	2,502,098 5/	1,668,555

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. 2/ Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. 3/ On-Farm oats stocks estimates not made. 4/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. 5/ Revised.

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at **http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky**. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at **http://www.usda.gov/nass/**