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Featuring: ► **Milk Production** ► **Dairy Products** ► **Annual Hatchery** ► **Slaughter**
 ► **Cattle on Feed** ► **Cold Storage** ► **Chicken & Eggs**

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for March 2006 totaled 123 million pounds, up 13 percent from last month and up 1 percent from March 2005. Average number of milk cows, at 101,000 head, was unchanged from last month but down 6 percent from last year. Milk per cow averaged 1,220 pounds, up 140 pounds from last month and up 80 pounds from last year.

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 & MILK PRODUCTION FOR MARCH, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows ^{1/}		Milk Per Cow ^{2/}		Production ^{2/}		2006 as % of 2005
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,744	1,785	1,850	1,920	3,226	3,427	106
IL	105	104	1,670	1,720	175	179	102
IN	156	163	1,700	1,775	265	289	109
KY	107	101	1,140	1,220	122	123	101
MO	119	115	1,400	1,500	167	173	104
OH	268	273	1,520	1,550	407	423	104
VA	105	103	1,495	1,560	157	161	103
WI	1,233	1,241	1,560	1,620	1,923	2,010	105
23 State Total	8,099	8,223	1,707	1,773	13,825	14,579	105

^{1/} Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U. S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, FEBRUARY 2006

PRODUCT	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006 ^{1/}	Feb. 2006	Percent of Feb. 05 Jan. 06	
BUTTER	113,492	147,251	133,996	118	91
CHEESE		(000) Pounds		Percent	
American Types ^{2/}	293,137	324,545	302,764	103	93
Mozzarella	239,290	259,574	242,545	101	93
All Other Types ^{3/}	174,938	188,218	173,267	99	92
Total	707,365	772,337	718,576	102	93
FROZEN PRODUCTS		(000) Gallons		Percent	
Ice Cream (Hard)	64,240	61,826	62,925	98	102
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,457	4,131	4,622	104	112
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	34,755	34,385	34,511	99	100
Yogurt Mix	2,622	2,430	2,719	104	112

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. ^{3/} Includes Swiss, Cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

**Broiler-Type Chicks: Number Hatched by Month, 19 Selected States
and United States, 2005**

State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
	<i>1,000</i>						
AL	109,254	100,258	113,313	110,636	116,314	113,094	116,085
AR	114,808	104,306	116,222	110,184	115,852	112,381	112,523
DE	14,702	13,004	14,897	14,522	14,803	14,808	15,103
FL	4,854	4,483	4,953	4,819	4,948	4,901	5,068
GA	123,719	111,800	123,271	117,954	123,890	120,832	121,744
KY	25,524	23,483	26,823	25,155	26,782	25,401	25,826
LA	14,661	13,446	15,018	14,854	15,182	14,476	15,225
MD	31,788	28,134	32,238	31,037	32,634	31,496	32,776
MS	72,503	67,202	73,387	71,086	70,896	68,830	72,443
NC	66,311	60,474	68,661	67,320	69,619	66,766	66,046
OK	23,595	21,794	23,882	23,425	24,437	23,871	23,992
PA	14,168	12,975	14,870	14,343	15,008	13,974	14,384
SC	17,470	16,705	19,051	18,431	18,780	18,195	18,746
TX	54,511	50,007	56,850	55,280	58,066	55,744	56,826
VA	23,587	21,485	23,751	23,859	24,321	23,683	23,969
CA, MO, TN & WV	65,017	60,352	67,403	65,710	68,035	65,524	65,947
19 Sts ¹	776,472	709,908	794,590	768,615	799,567	773,976	786,703
Oth Sts ²	21,104	22,130	21,962	23,558	24,426	22,969	21,679
US 2005	797,576	732,038	816,552	792,173	823,993	796,945	808,382
US 2004	774,338	728,730	792,265	774,943	810,784	786,913	806,992
2005 as % of 2004	103	100	103	102	102	101	100

State	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
AL	117,170	111,274	111,950	107,611	115,375	1,342,334
AR	112,714	107,785	109,949	102,476	114,254	1,333,454
DE	15,013	13,927	14,390	13,384	14,741	173,294
FL	5,080	4,855	5,109	4,930	5,039	59,039
GA	121,747	117,952	119,293	111,709	122,618	1,436,529
KY	26,252	24,832	24,531	23,329	25,240	303,178
LA	15,225	14,657	14,547	14,162	15,064	176,517
MD	32,502	31,504	31,707	30,906	32,687	379,409
MS	70,772	62,351	66,023	63,516	69,691	828,700
NC	67,182	62,610	64,184	63,993	68,078	791,244
OK	24,341	23,211	23,265	22,898	24,132	282,843
PA	15,184	14,439	14,644	13,602	14,716	172,307
SC	18,634	18,055	18,280	17,027	18,537	217,911
TX	55,091	53,828	52,052	51,441	56,744	656,440
VA	23,544	22,489	22,836	22,704	23,655	279,883
CA, MO, TN & WV	68,013	65,339	64,593	62,653	65,967	784,553
19 Sts ¹	788,464	749,108	757,353	726,341	786,538	9,217,635
Oth Sts ²	24,010	22,038	19,096	21,525	21,987	266,484
US 2005	812,474	771,146	776,449	747,866	808,525	9,484,119
US 2004	810,619	770,268	757,033	730,652	793,542	9,337,079
2005 as % of 2004	100	100	103	102	102	102

¹/States in the weekly hatchery estimating program. ²/Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005. March 2005 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. March 2006 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	March 06 % of	
				March 2005	February 2006
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,042	1,825	2,209	108	121
Veal	13.3	11.7	13.3	100	114
Pork	1,804	1,633	1,871	104	115
Lamb & Mutton	19.5	14.7	18.2	94	124
Total U.S.	3,878	3,484	4,112	106	118
Total Kentucky	39.6	37.2	44.2	112	119

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. MARCH 2005 & 2006 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.7	1.5	1,492	1,380	885	931
Hogs	191.9	214.2	51,531	57,783	269	270
Sheep & Lambs	1.1	0.8	141	110	126	136
United States						
Cattle	2,725.1	2,852.4	3,369,749	3,630,357	1,237	1,273
Hogs	8,949.7	9,234.1	2,423,674	2,510,925	271	272
Sheep & Lambs	280.1	249.7	38,819	36,327	139	145

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

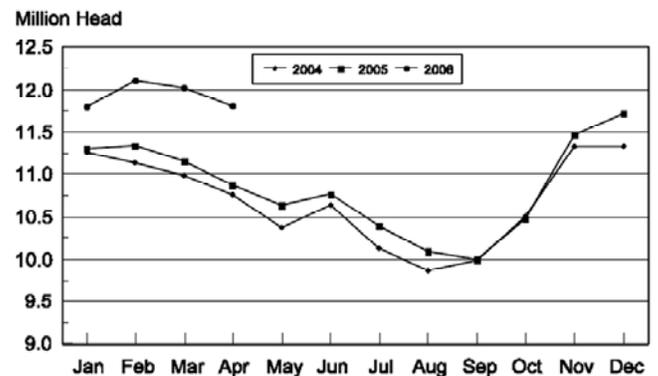
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

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 April 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above April 1, 2005 and 10 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 5 percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, 5 percent above 2005 and 1 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.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots**



COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, butter, beef, eggs, and cheese.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks			Mar 06 as % of		
Commodity	Mar 31 2005	Feb 28 2006	Mar 31 2006	Mar 2005	Feb 2006
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	673,470	923,913	867,479	129	94
Turkey	414,159	317,854	374,579	90	118
Ducks	1,250	4,601	7,930	634	172
Total Frozen Poultry	1,088,879	1,246,368	1,249,988	115	100
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	372,323	428,296	422,995	114	99
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	81,265	64,638	67,776	83	105
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	543,778	525,086	499,425	92	95
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	931,583	973,737	941,266	101	97

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type		Mar. 2005	Mar. 2006	Mar. 06 % of Mar. 05
Egg Production				
Eggs Produced	(Million)	7,738	7,837	101
Average Layers	(000)	346,959	350,085	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers		2,230	2,239	100
Egg Type Hatchery				
Eggs Set Apr. 1	(000)	37,732	35,797	95
Chicks Hatched	(000)	41,701	38,918	93
Broiler Type Hatchery				
Eggs Set Apr. 1	(000)	660,137	658,570	100
Chicks Hatched	(000)	816,552	817,068	100

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/>