

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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Published twice monthly

Volume No. 23 Issue No. 23  
Released: December 1, 2004

**FEATURING:**    ♦ Agricultural Prices    ♦ Cold Storage    ♦ Livestock Slaughter    ♦ Farm Labor  
                     ♦ Chicken & Eggs    ♦ Cattle on Feed    ♦ Milk Production

## KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRICES BOTH MIXED

Prices received by Kentucky were unchanged for hogs while mixed for both for cattle and crops.

Cattle and calf prices for mid-November continued the recent price retreat. Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$96.00 per cwt., for mid-month. This was down \$4.00 from October while up \$9.00 from November 2003. Prices have declined monthly since setting a record high of \$108.00 per cwt. during August. Beef cows prices at \$49.00 per cwt. were down \$1.00 from a month earlier while up \$4.00 from a year earlier. Beef cow prices have been on the decline since setting a recent high of \$54.00 per cwt. for July. Calves less than 500 lbs. were selling for \$112.00 per cwt. at mid-November. This was down \$2.00 from the October price while up \$14.00 from November 2003. Calf prices have been on the decline since setting a record high \$123.00 per cwt. during August.

Prices of hogs were steady at mid-month. Barrows and gilts for mid-November were \$52.00 per cwt., the same as the October price and up \$18.00 from November 2003. Sows at \$42.00 per cwt. were unchanged from the previous month and up \$13.00 from a year earlier.

The all milk price for mid-November was projected to be \$16.50 per cwt., down 20 cents from October's price while up 80 cents from a year earlier. The final monthly all milk price will vary from the projected mid-month price due to price changes announced by Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by class.

Mid-month prices of corn and soybeans were both down from the previous month while winter wheat price increased. The corn price for mid-November was \$1.95 per bushel, down 21 cents from the October price and 44 cents from a year earlier. Soybeans at mid-month averaged \$5.25 per bushel, down 51 cents from October 2004 and

\$1.99 from a year earlier. Corn prices have trended downward after setting a recent high of \$3.09 per bushel in April 2004. Soybean prices have also declined monthly after setting a record high \$9.12 per bushel in June 2004. The winter wheat price for mid-November was \$2.75 per bushel, up 11 cents from a year earlier while down 74 cents from a year earlier.

The preliminary U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, 1 point above October. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November, 2003.

### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		NOV 2003	OCT 2004	NOV 2004	NOV 2004
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <sup>a/</sup>	
All Corn <sup>b/</sup> <sub>c/</sub>	Bu.	2.39	2.16	1.95	2.00
Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	7.24	5.76	5.25	5.31
Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	3.49	2.64	2.75	3.39
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	115.00	100.00	100.00	94.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	67.00	58.00	58.00	67.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	33.80	51.60	51.60	55.30
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.00	52.00	52.00	55.80
Sows	Cwt.	29.00	42.00	42.00	44.50
All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>	Cwt.	76.90	88.00	84.70	84.20
Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>	Cwt.	87.00	100.00	96.00	89.10
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	50.00	49.00	48.60
Calves <sup>f/</sup>	Cwt.	98.00	114.00	112.00	124.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.70	16.70	16.50	15.80
Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>g/</sup>	Bu.	14.1	23.9	26.5	27.7

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

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2004, were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, beef, orange juice, eggs and cheese.

Commodity	All U. S. Warehouse Stocks			Oct. 04 as % of	
	Oct. 31, 2003	Sept. 30, 2004	Oct. 31, 2004	Oct. 2003	Sept. 2004
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	600,664	777,874	800,245	133	103
Turkey	582,683	527,388	490,375	84	93
Ducks	2,690	918	826	31	90
Total Frozen Poultry	1,186,037	1,306,180	1,291,446	109	99
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	375,171	457,244	459,023	122	100
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	21,135	11,344	16,066	76	142
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	446,843	422,116	445,212	100	105
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	836,916	894,397	917,817	110	103

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.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.92 billion pounds in October, down 6 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in October 2003. October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.78 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 267 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,400 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004	Oct. 04 as % of	
				October 2003	September 2004
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,212	2,104	2,114	96	100
Veal	16.3	13.0	12.4	76	96
Pork	1,912	1,772	1,779	93	100
Lamb & Mutton	17.9	16.3	16.3	91	100
Total U.S.	4,158	3,905	3,921	94	100
Total Kentucky	48.0	43.0	41.2	86	96

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 2003 & 2004 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.7	1.3	1,507	1,160	866	863
Hogs	238.8	204.5	63,299	54,236	265	265
Sheep & Lambs	1.1	0.9	146	110	130	127
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	3,009.5	2,745.7	3,704,306	3,479,458	1,231	1,267
Hogs	9,649.2	8,970.2	2,578,610	2,392,890	267	267
Sheep & Lambs	265.1	241.4	35,626	32,418	134	134

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

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 2 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year

earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee** totaled 38,000 during the week of October 10-16, 2004.

Field workers in the region were paid \$7.75 per hour, compared to \$7.56 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$7.56 per hour compared to \$8.12 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$8.14.

### UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

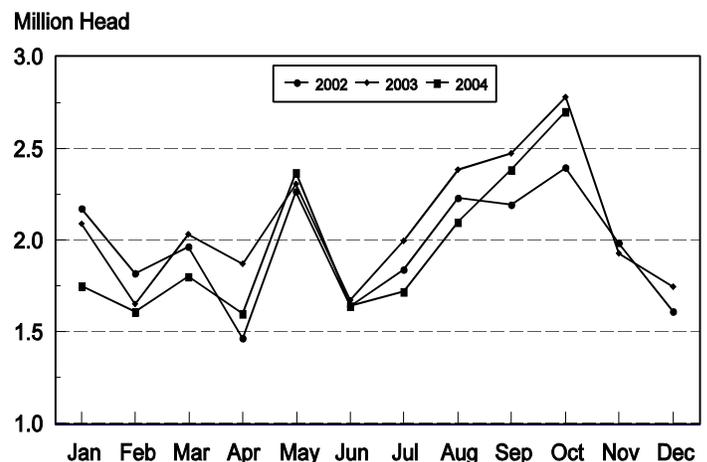
Type	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2004 % of Oct. 2003
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,439	7,643	103
Average Layers (000)	335,333	344,194	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,218	2,221	100
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	29,088	37,001	127
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,812	35,971	103
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	587,923	607,594	103
Chicks Hatched (000)	734,961	757,530	103

## 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 11.3 million head on November 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2003 and 5 percent above November 1, 2002.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.70 million, 3 percent below 2003 but 13 percent above 2002. This is the second lowest placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.64 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 912,000, 600-699 pounds were 764,000, 700-799 pounds were 529,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 496,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent below 2003 and 9 percent below 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 66,000 during October, 35 percent below 2003 and 21 percent below 2002.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Placed



## MILK PRODUCTION

**Kentucky** milk production for October 2004 totaled 113 million pounds, down 2 percent from October 2003 but up 5 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 109,000 head, was down 2,000 head from a year earlier but unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,035 pounds, unchanged from October 2003 but up 45 pounds from September 2004.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent

from October 2003. September revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from September 2003. The September revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,576 pounds for October, 15 pounds above October 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 26,000 head more than October 2003, but unchanged from September 2004.

### MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR OCTOBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2004 as %
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	of 2003
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,698	1,740	1,720	1,770	2,921	3,080	105
IL	109	106	1,495	1,480	163	157	96
IN	155	152	1,650	1,605	256	244	95
<b>KY</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>98</b>
MO	126	120	1,200	1,230	151	148	98
OH	259	266	1,420	1,420	368	378	103
VA	109	104	1,245	1,355	136	141	104
WI	1,250	1,238	1,465	1,475	1,831	1,826	100
20 State Total	7,743	7,769	1,561	1,576	12,083	12,245	101

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

**Internet Access:** Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) 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 National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>