

# Kentucky Agri-News



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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Featuring:

- ▶ Agricultural Prices
- ▶ Cold Storage
- ▶ Slaughter
- ▶ Farm Labor
- ▶ Chicken & Eggs
- ▶ Cattle on Feed
- ▶ Milk Production

## KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRICES WERE BOTH MIXED

Livestock prices received by Kentucky farmers were lower with the exception of calves and milk. Corn and soybean prices were up while winter wheat declined.

Cattle prices at mid-November were mixed. Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$102.00 per cwt. (hundred pounds). This was down \$2.00 from the October price while up \$5.00 from November 2004. Beef cow price for mid-month was \$44.00 per cwt., down \$1.00 from October and \$5.00 from a year earlier. This was the lowest beef cow price in 20 months. Calves less than 500 lbs. averaged \$118.00 per cwt. for mid-month. The price was unchanged from October and up \$6.00 from November 2004.

Hog prices for mid-November were all lower. Barrows and gilts for mid-month averaged \$44.00 per cwt., down \$3.00 from October and \$9.00 from November 2004. Prices were the lowest since February 2004. Sow prices at mid-month were \$39.00 per cwt. Prices were down \$3.00 from both the previous month and previous year.

Sheep and lamb prices for October were both up from the previous month. The sheep price for October was \$52.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from the September price. The lamb price at \$105.00 per cwt. was up \$2.00 from September.

Price of all milk for mid-November was \$16.70 per cwt., up 20 cents from the October price while down 10 cents from November 2004. This will be the highest milk price in eight months. The final monthly milk price will vary from the projected mid-month milk 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 mixed with corn and soybeans both up in price and winter wheat lower. Corn at mid-November sold for \$2.00 per bushel, up 11 cents from the October price while down 11 cents from November 2004. The mid-month soybean

price was \$5.75 per bushel, an increase of five cents from the previous month and 10 cents from the previous year. The winter wheat mid-month price was \$3.05 per bushel, down 12 cents from October while up 54 cents from November 2004.

The Preliminary U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from October. The Crop Index was up 1 point (1.0 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers, and tomatoes. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and sweet corn. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2004.

### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

| COMMODITY                            | UNIT | KENTUCKY     |          | US                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
|                                      |      | NOV 2004     | OCT 2005 | NOV 2005                | NOV 2005 |
|                                      |      | Entire Month |          | Mid-Month <sup>a/</sup> |          |
| All Corn <sup>b/</sup> <sub>c/</sub> | Bu.  | 2.11         | 1.89     | 2.00                    | 1.79     |
| Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>               | Bu.  | 5.65         | 5.70     | 5.75                    | 5.68     |
| Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>           | Bu.  | 2.51         | 3.17     | 3.05                    | 3.25     |
| Alfalfa Hay, baled                   | Ton  | 100.00       | 120.00   | 120.00                  | 97.50    |
| All Other Hay, baled                 | Ton  | 58.00        | 70.00    | 70.00                   | 76.30    |
| All Hogs                             | Cwt. | 52.60        | 46.80    | 43.80                   | 44.70    |
| Barrows & Gilts                      | Cwt. | 53.00        | 47.00    | 44.00                   | 45.00    |
| Sows                                 | Cwt. | 42.00        | 42.00    | 39.00                   | 37.70    |
| All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>        | Cwt. | 85.50        | 89.80    | 88.10                   | 91.60    |
| Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>       | Cwt. | 97.00        | 104.00   | 102.00                  | 97.40    |
| Cows                                 | Cwt. | 49.00        | 45.00    | 44.00                   | 45.80    |
| Calves <sup>f/</sup>                 | Cwt. | 112.00       | 118.00   | 118.00                  | 132.00   |
| Sheep                                | Cwt. | --           | 52.00    | --                      | --       |
| Lambs                                | Cwt. | --           | 105.00   | --                      | --       |
| Milk Wholesale                       |      |              |          |                         |          |
| All                                  | Cwt. | 16.80        | 16.50    | 16.70                   | 15.10    |
| Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>g/</sup>        | Bu.  | 24.9         | 24.8     | 21.9                    | 25.0     |

<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, 2005, were greater than year earlier levels for frozen fruit and pork.

| Commodity                   | All U.S. Warehouse Stocks |                 |                | Oct 05 as % of |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
|                             | Oct 31<br>2004            | Sept 30<br>2005 | Oct 31<br>2005 | Oct<br>2004    | Sept<br>2005 |
| Frozen Poultry              |                           | 1,000 lbs       |                | Percent        |              |
| Chicken                     | 800,294                   | 754,882         | 791,484        | 99             | 105          |
| Turkey                      | 472,343                   | 477,801         | 423,457        | 90             | 89           |
| Ducks                       | 823                       | 2,452           | 4,251          | 517            | 173          |
| Total Frozen Poultry        | 1,273,460                 | 1,235,135       | 1,219,192      | 96             | 99           |
| Meat                        |                           |                 |                |                |              |
| Total Frozen Beef           | 452,589                   | 438,750         | 439,309        | 97             | 100          |
| Frozen Pork                 |                           |                 |                |                |              |
| Bellies                     | 15,970                    | 14,117          | 15,520         | 97             | 110          |
| Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u> | 423,058                   | 431,573         | 443,858        | 105            | 103          |
| Total Meat <u>2/</u>        | 889,229                   | 890,932         | 903,356        | 102            | 101          |

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 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004. October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

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

| Class          | October<br>2004 | September<br>2005 | October<br>2005 | Oct 05 as % of  |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                |                 |                   |                 | October<br>2004 | September<br>2005 |
|                | Million Pounds  |                   |                 | Percent         |                   |
| Beef           | 2,114           | 2,161             | 2,081           | 98              | 96                |
| Veal           | 12.4            | 13.2              | 12.6            | 102             | 95                |
| Pork           | 1,779           | 1,743             | 1,816           | 102             | 104               |
| Lamb & Mutton  | 16.3            | 15.6              | 15.8            | 97              | 101               |
| Total U.S.     | 3,921           | 3,933             | 3,925           | 100             | 100               |
| Total Kentucky | 41.2            | 42.7              | 43.3            | 105             | 102               |

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 2004 & 2005 1/

| Class                | Number Slaughtered |         | Total Live Weight |           | Average Live Weight |       |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
|                      | 2004               | 2005    | 2004              | 2005      | 2004                | 2005  |
|                      | 1,000 head         |         | 1,000 lbs.        |           | Pounds              |       |
| <b>Kentucky</b>      |                    |         |                   |           |                     |       |
| Cattle               | 1.3                | 1.6     | 1,160             | 1,428     | 863                 | 891   |
| Hogs                 | 204.5              | 211.8   | 54,236            | 56,535    | 265                 | 267   |
| Sheep & Lambs        | 0.9                | 1.1     | 110               | 151       | 127                 | 135   |
| <b>United States</b> |                    |         |                   |           |                     |       |
| Cattle               | 2,745.9            | 2,677.9 | 3,478,639         | 3,428,477 | 1,267               | 1,280 |
| Hogs                 | 8,969.7            | 9,117.1 | 2,395,671         | 2,449,543 | 267                 | 269   |
| Sheep & Lambs        | 241.3              | 228.5   | 32,465            | 31,420    | 135                 | 138   |

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

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 4 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The

field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 24,000 during the week of October 9-15, 2005.

Field workers in the region were paid \$8.48 per hour, compared to \$7.75 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$8.26 per hour compared to \$7.56 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$9.03.

### UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

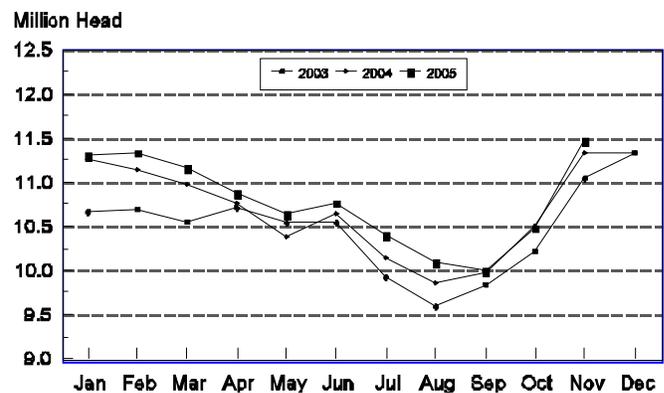
| Type                         | Oct. 2004 | Oct. 2005 | Oct. 2005 % of Oct. 2004 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <b>Egg Production</b>        |           |           |                          |
| Eggs Produced (Million)      | 7,659     | 7,703     | 101                      |
| Average Layers (000)         | 345,056   | 344,043   | 100                      |
| Eggs Per 100 Layers          | 2,220     | 2,239     | 101                      |
| <b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>     |           |           |                          |
| Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)         | 37,354    | 33,081    | 89                       |
| Chicks Hatched (000)         | 34,866    | 35,367    | 101                      |
| <b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b> |           |           |                          |
| Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)         | 607,801   | 623,938   | 103                      |
| Chicks Hatched (000)         | 756,895   | 776,333   | 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 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2004 and 4 percent above November 1, 2003.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Net placements were 2.74 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 880,000, 600-699 pounds were 790,000, 700-799 pounds were 600,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



## MILK PRODUCTION

**Kentucky milk production** for October 2005 totaled 106 million pounds. This was down 6 percent from October 2004 production but up 3 percent from September 2005. The average **number of cows** on farms, at 103,000 head, was down 6,000 head from a year earlier and down 2,000 head from last month. **Milk per cow** averaged 1,030 pounds, down 5 pounds from October 2004 but up 50 pounds from September 2005.

**Milk production** in the **23 major States** during October totaled 13.4 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October

2004. September revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.7 percent from September 2004. The September revision represented a decrease of 27 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. **Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,636 pounds for October, 53 pounds above October 2004. The **number of cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 58,000 head more than October 2004, and 4,000 head more than September 2005.

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

| STATE     | Milk Cows <u>1/</u> |            | Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u> |              | Production <u>2/</u> |            | 2005 as %<br>of 2004 |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
|           | 2004                | 2005       | 2004                   | 2005         | 2004                 | 2005       |                      |
|           | Thousands           |            | Pounds                 |              | Million Pounds       |            | Percent              |
| CA        | 1,740               | 1,770      | 1,770                  | 1,780        | 3,080                | 3,151      | 102                  |
| IL        | 106                 | 104        | 1,480                  | 1,510        | 157                  | 157        | 100                  |
| IN        | 152                 | 155        | 1,585                  | 1,685        | 241                  | 261        | 108                  |
| <b>KY</b> | <b>109</b>          | <b>103</b> | <b>1,035</b>           | <b>1,030</b> | <b>113</b>           | <b>106</b> | <b>94</b>            |
| MO        | 120                 | 114        | 1,230                  | 1,200        | 148                  | 137        | 93                   |
| OH        | 266                 | 270        | 1,410                  | 1,440        | 375                  | 389        | 104                  |
| VA        | 104                 | 105        | 1,355                  | 1,370        | 141                  | 144        | 102                  |
| WI        | 1,238               | 1,237      | 1,475                  | 1,535        | 1,826                | 1,899      | 104                  |
| 23-State  |                     |            |                        |              |                      |            |                      |
| Total     | 8,103               | 8,161      | 1,583                  | 1,636        | 12,824               | 13,353     | 104                  |

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

**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/>