

Kentucky Agri-News



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Featuring:

▶ Cattle
▶ Slaughter

▶ Sheep
▶ Farm Numbers

▶ Cattle on Feed
▶ Livestock Operations

KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY INCREASES

The cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2007 was estimated at 2.46 million head. Inventory was up 80,000 head from the revised 2.38 million for last year and is the largest since 1998. This was due in part to ample forage supplies and a declining cattle price. Most of the individual breakdown categories were up with the exception of milk cows, milk cow replacement heifers, and calves less than 500 lbs. which all showed declines.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 1.30 million head, up 80,000 from the revised 1.22 million for 2006. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 1.21 million head and milk cows were estimated at 93,000 head. Milk cow numbers in Kentucky continue to decline.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 350,000 head, an increase of 20,000 head from last year's estimate of 330,000. Beef replacement heifers at 190,000 head were up 10,000 from January 2006, dairy heifers at 40,000 were down 10,000 and other heifers at 120,000 were up 20,000 head from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 220,000 head, an increase of 15,000 from 2006. Bulls 500 lbs. and over numbered 80,000 head, an increase of 5,000 head from last year. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 510,000 head, a decrease of 40,000 from the revised 2006 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 20,000 head, an increase of 5,000 head from the previous year.

The 2006 calf crop was estimated at 1.13 million calves, an increase of 30,000 from the revised previous year estimate.

U.S. class estimates on January 1, 2007 and the change from January 1, 2006, are as follows:

- All cattle and calves, 97.0 million, slightly above.
- All cows and heifers that have calved, 42.0 million, down slightly.
- Beef cows, 32.9 million, down slightly.
- Milk cows, 9.13 million, up 1 percent.
- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.1 million, up 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.88 million, down slightly.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.31 million, up 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 9.90 million, up 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, down 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 15.5 million, down slightly.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up 1 percent.

The 2006 calf crop was estimated at 37.6 million head, down slightly from 2005. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2005.

**CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS,
CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP
JANUARY 1, 2006 – 2007**

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2006	2007	07 % of 06	2006 <u>1/</u>	2007	07 % of 06
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,380 <u>1/</u>	2,460	103	96,702	97,003	100
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,220 <u>1/</u>	1,300	107	42,056	42,023	100
Beef Cows	1,118 <u>1/</u>	1,207	108	32,994	32,894	100
Milk Cows	102	93	91	9,063	9,129	101
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	330	350	106	19,984	20,086	101
Beef Cow Replacement	180	190	106	5,904	5,877	100
Milk Cow Replacement	50	40	80	4,275	4,310	101
Other Heifers	100	120	120	9,805	9,899	101
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	205	220	107	16,933	17,222	102
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	75	80	107	2,263	2,215	98
Calves Under 500 Lbs	550 <u>1/</u>	510	93	15,465	15,456	100
Cattle on Feed <u>2/</u>	15	20	133	14,132	14,269	101
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,100 <u>1/</u>	1,130	103	37,575	37,567	100

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and lambs and goat inventories in **Kentucky** show an increase from last year.

All meat and other goats in Kentucky were estimated at 74,000 head, an increase of 6,000 from January 2006. Milk goats at 5,300 head, was unchanged from the previous year's estimate.

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2007, was estimated at 37,000 head up 2,000 from the previous year's estimate of 35,000 head. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 30,000, an increase of 1,000 head from 2006. All market sheep and lambs were estimated at 7,000 head, an increase of 1,000 head from the previous year. Breeding ewes decreased by 500 to 22,000, while breeding rams increased 500 to 2,000. Replacement lambs numbered 6,000, an increase of 1,000 head from 2006. Lamb crop for 2006 increased by 2,000 from last year to 25,000 head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2007, totaled 6.19 million head, down 1 percent from 2006, but still 1 percent above 2005. After two consecutive year to year increases inventory growth was hampered by extremely dry weather in the Southwestern part of the United States. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.62 million head on January 1, 2007, down slightly from 4.64 million head on January

1, 2006. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.71 million head, were 1 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2007, totaled 1.57 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2006. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 25 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total marketings. The 2006 lamb crop of 4.09 million head, was down 1 percent from 2005. The 2006 lambing rate was 112 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2006, down 3 percent from 2005. The leading sheep and lamb state was Texas with 1.07 million head.

All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2007, totaled 2.93 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.44 million head up 3 percent from 2006. All market goats and kids totaled 494,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2007, meat and all other goats totaled 2.40 million head, up 5 percent from 2006. Milk goat inventory increased 2 percent to 296,000 head while angora goats were down 8 percent totaling 238,000 head. The 2006 kid crop totaled 1.92 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2005. The number one goat and kid state was Texas with 1.30 million head.

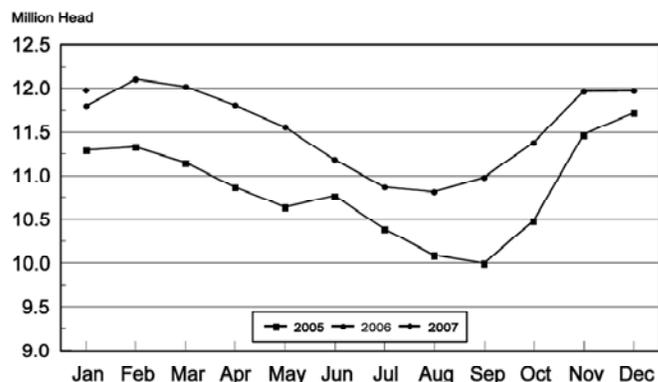
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on January 1, 2007. The inventory was 1 percent above January 1, 2006 and 6 percent above January 1, 2005. This is the highest January 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.57 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.30 million head, up 4 percent from January 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.71 million, 9 percent below 2005 and 7 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.63 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 470,000, 600-699 pounds were 504,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 320,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.63 million, 5 percent below 2005 and 9 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month

of December since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 88,000 during December, 3 percent below 2005 and 4 percent below 2004.

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



RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in December 2005. December 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, down 2 percent from December 2005. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,297 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.79 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, 4 percent below December 2005. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	December 2005	November 2006	December 2006	December 06 % of	
				December 2005	November 2006
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,057	2,217	2,040	99	92
Veal	13.5	14.3	14.4	107	101
Pork	1,866	1,890	1,793	96	95
Lamb & Mutton	16.5	15.3	15.3	92	100
Total U.S.	3,954	4,137	3,863	98	93
Total Kentucky	42.3	46.5	43.4	102	93

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 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	1.6	1.4	1,428	1,338	883	945
Hogs	204.4	209.8	55,094	56,654	270	270
Sheep & Lambs	1.2	1.0	153	109	133	111
United States						
Cattle	2,667.1	2,609.1	3,415,148	3,382,844	1,280	1,297
Hogs	9,234.5	8,883.1	2,510,536	2,418,256	272	272
Sheep & Lambs	230.8	223.7	32,899	30,456	143	136

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

KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

Kentucky estimated that 84,000 farms operated in the State in the past year. This is unchanged from 2005. A farm is defined as “any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year”. Total sales include government payments. Farm numbers include properties with acres enrolled in the Conservation or Wetland Reserve government programs. Research and institutional farms are included in the farm definition. Kentucky farms were placed into 5 sales categories: 53,000 with sales of \$1,000-\$9,999; 25,000 with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999; 3,400 with sales of \$100,000-\$249,999; 1,450 with sales of \$250,000-\$499,999; and 1,150 with sales of \$500,000 or more. Kentucky had the fourth highest number of farms in the Nation. Number one Texas had 230,000, Missouri had 105,000, and Iowa had 88,600. There were 13.7 million acres of land in farms for 2006. Urban encroachment upon less profitable farms and the tobacco buy-out help explain the 100,000 acres decline from last year. Of the approximate 25.4 million total acres in Kentucky, 53.9 percent is farmland. The average farm size was 163 acres, an acre less than it was last year.

Kentucky cattle and calf operations totaled 45,000 farms in 2006. There were 38,000 operations with beef cows, 2,000 with milk cows, 1,400 with sheep and lambs, and 900 with hogs and pigs. Compared to a year earlier cattle and calf operations and beef cows were unchanged, milk cows lost 200 operations, sheep and lambs gained 100 operations and hog and pigs gained 100 operations.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2006 was estimated at 2.09 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2005. Total land in farms, at 932.4 million acres, decreased 780 thousand acres, or 0.08 percent, from 2005. The average farm size was 446 acres during 2006, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses. Farm numbers declined in the \$1,000-\$9,999 and the \$100,000 - \$249,999 sales classes. Farm numbers rose slightly in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 and the two largest sales classes. The decline in the smallest sales class is most likely due to normal attrition, such as retirements, and

rising incomes. The changes within the other sales classes were a result of operations moving to larger sales classes by consolidation and expansion. Because of rising incomes, many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2005 moved into the next higher sales class in 2006 without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations. The largest percentage changes from 2005 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.1 percent, to 1.15 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 2.4 percent, to 81,350 farms, in the \$500,000 & over sales class. The number of farms with less than \$100,000 in sales fell 0.6 percent from 2005 and the number of farms with \$100,000 or more in sales rose 0.7 percent. Land in farms also shifted from lower sales classes to higher sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 3.0 percent, to 114.7 million acres, while land operated by farms in the largest sales class, \$500,000 & over in sales, increased 1.7 percent, to 213.4 million acres.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 971,400 during 2006, down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Beef cow operations in 2006 were down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Milk cow operations were 4 percent below last year and 8 percent below two years ago. The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows. The number of operations with hogs totaled 65,540 during 2006, down 3 percent from 2005 and 6 percent from 2004. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 80 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with sheep totaled 69,090 during 2006, up 1 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 90.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.6 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.6 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 28.7 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 24.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.3 percent of the inventory.

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 National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>
