

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

## KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRICES CONTINUED MIXED

Livestock prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for cattle and milk while mixed for hogs. Soybean price was up while corn and winter wheat prices were down.

Cattle prices continue to be strong. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over at mid-May averaged \$111.00 per cwt., an increase of \$2.00 from the April price and \$14.00 from May 2004. This was the second month that steer and heifer prices set a record high. **Beef cow** prices at \$55.00 per cwt. were up \$3.00 from April, \$4.00 from May 2004 and were the second highest on record. The record price of \$55.10 per cwt. occurred in May 1979. **Calves** less than 500 lbs. averaged a record high \$134.00 per cwt. The mid-month price was up \$2.00 from April and \$19.00 from a year earlier.

**Barrows and gilts** at mid-May averaged \$55.00 per cwt., up \$6.00 from the April price while \$2.00 lower than May 2004. **Sows** at \$37.00 per cwt. were down \$4.00 from both the previous April and May 2004.

The April **sheep** price was \$45.00 per cwt. and the **lamb** price was \$121.00 per cwt.

Price of **all milk** for mid-May was \$16.00 per cwt., up 10 cents from the previous month while down \$4.20 from the previous year. The final monthly all 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 sold by class.

The **corn** mid-May price was \$2.05 per bushel, down 14 cents from the April price and \$1.01 from May 2004. The **soybean** price at \$6.20 per bushel at mid-month was up three cents from the April price while down \$2.74 from a year earlier. The mid-May **winter wheat** price was \$3.10 per bushel, down seven cents from April and 29 cents from May 2004.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 122, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from April. The Crop and Livestock Indices were unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for hogs, strawberries, hay, and potatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, asparagus, and dairy. The overall index was also affected by the 3-year average seasonal change in the mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cantaloup, sweet corn, grapes, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, calves, and asparagus. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 7 points (5.4 percent) from May 2004.

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

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAY 2004	APR 2005	MAY 2005	MAY 2005
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <sup>a/</sup>	
All Corn <sup>b/ c/</sup>	Bu.	3.06	2.19	2.05	1.92
Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	8.94	6.17	6.20	6.09
Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	3.39	3.17	3.10	3.13
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	100.00	110.00	115.00	116.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	64.00	64.00	67.00	76.10
All Hogs	Cwt.	56.40	48.70	54.30	55.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	57.00	49.00	55.00	56.10
Sows	Cwt.	41.00	41.00	37.00	41.70
All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>	Cwt.	86.00	95.30	97.60	92.90
Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>	Cwt.	97.00	109.00	111.00	96.90
Cows	Cwt.	51.00	52.00	55.00	58.70
Calves <sup>f/</sup>	Cwt.	115.00	132.00	134.00	141.00
Sheep	Cwt.	--	45.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	--	121.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	20.20	15.90	16.00	14.90
Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>g/</sup>	Bu.	18.4	22.2	26.5	28.9

<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.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004. April 2004 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2005 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005	April 05 % of	
				April 2004	March 2005
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,956	2,043	1,890	97	93
Veal	13.9	13.3	13.0	93	98
Pork	1,725	1,803	1,704	99	94
Lamb & Mutton	17.5	19.5	15.5	89	80
Total U.S.	3,713	3,879	3,622	98	93
Total Kentucky	41.9	39.6	35.8	85	90

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

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

Type	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	1.4	1.5	1,183	1,320	862	901
Hogs	208.1	173.3	55,039	46,742	264	270
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	1.1	119	145	123	129
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,697.7	2,560.1	3,237,188	3,122,560	1,200	1,220
Hogs	8,653.2	8,443.8	2,317,191	2,285,987	268	271
Sheep & Lambs	256.2	220.8	34,836	31,077	136	141

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

### UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2004	April 2005	April '05 as % of April '04
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,358	7,388	100
Average Layers (000)	342,612	343,975	100
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,148	2,148	100
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	33,347	35,875	108
Chicks Hatched (000)	37,466	38,267	102
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	661,541	663,426	100
Chicks Hatched (000)	774,629	789,780	102

## APRIL FARM LABOR

There were 978,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 746,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 232,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.34 per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.23 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier.

The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia** totaled 32,000 during the week of April 10-16, 2005. This compares to 35,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$8.59 per hour, down 46 cents per hour from 2004. Field workers earned an average \$8.38 per hour compared to \$8.48 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$7.69 per hour, down 93 cents per hour from a year ago.

## APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

**Kentucky** milk production for April 2005 totaled 123 million pounds, down 2 percent from April 2004 and down 1 percent from March 2005. Average number of milk cows on farms at 107,000 head, was down 2,000 head from a year earlier but unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,150 pounds, down 5 pounds from April 2004, and down 10 pounds from last month.

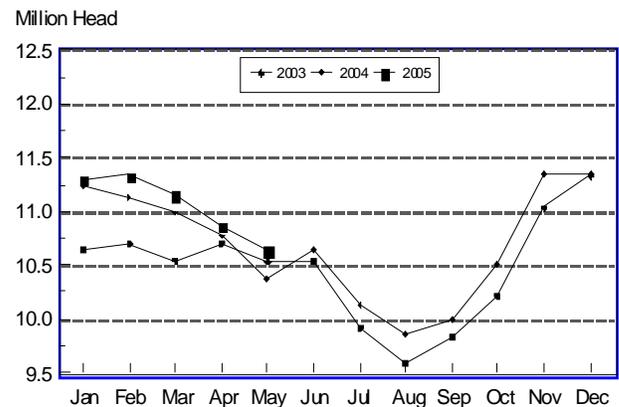
Milk production in the **23 major States** during April totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from

April 2004. March revised production, at 13.8 billion pounds, was up 2.9 percent from March 2004. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 20 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,679 pounds for April, 43 pounds above April 2004. The number of cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.11 million head, 44,000 head more than April 2004, and 12,000 head more than March 2005.

## 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 10.6 million head on May 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above May 1, 2004 and 1 percent above May 1, 2003. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.57 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340,000, 600-699 pounds were 225,000, 700-799 pounds were 500,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 595,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent below 2004 and 9 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during April, 7 percent below 2004 but 43 percent above 2003.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2005, were greater than year earlier levels for pork, vegetables, chicken, butter and cheese.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2005 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2004	March 31 2005	April 30 2005	April 2004	March 2005
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	645,821	672,686	694,710	108	103
Turkey	548,773	416,846	450,427	82	108
Ducks	1,020	320	272	27	85
Total Frozen Poultry	1,195,614	1,089,852	1,145,409	96	105
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	421,180	372,404	326,697	78	88
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	48,363	81,265	89,505	185	110
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	448,550	543,677	563,464	126	104
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	882,600	931,563	906,548	103	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.

**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/>

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