

# Kentucky Agri-News



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Published Twice Monthly  
Volume No. 27, Issue No. 11  
Released: June 2, 2008

In cooperation with the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Richie Farmer, Commissioner

Featuring: ▶ Agricultural Prices    ▶ Slaughter    ▶ Egg Production    ▶ Farm Labor  
             ▶ Milk Production        ▶ Cattle on Feed    ▶ Cold Storage

## KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK PRICES ADVANCE WHILE GRAIN PRICES WERE MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for cattle, hogs and corn at mid-May while down for winter wheat and milk. Soybeans prices were unchanged.

Cattle prices for mid-May were up from the previous month. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$96.00 per cwt. (hundredweight) for mid-month. This was up \$5.00 from the April price while down \$4.00 from May 2007. This would be the highest steer and heifer price in eight months. **Beef cow** price at \$51.00 per cwt. was up \$2.00 from the April price and \$1.00 from May a year earlier. This would be the highest beef cow price since July 2005. **Calves** less than 500 pounds averaged \$107.00 per cwt. for mid-May. This was up \$3.00 from the April price while down \$7.00 from the May 2007.

Hog prices were also up for mid-May. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-month were \$58.00 per cwt. This was up \$16.00 from the April price and \$6.00 from the previous year. This would be the highest price since July 1997. **Sow** price at \$29.00 per cwt. was up \$8.00 from the previous month but down \$2.00 from May 2007.

Sheep prices were down while lamb prices were up. The **sheep** price for April was \$33.00 per cwt., down \$2.00 from March while unchanged from April 2007. The **lamb** price for April was \$116.00 per cwt, up \$10.00 from March and April 2007. The April lamb price would be the highest in 36 months.

The milk price continued strong even with the price decrease for mid-month. The price of **all milk** was \$18.60 per cwt., a decrease of \$1.50 from the April price of \$20.10 per cwt. One year ago the price was \$18.80 per cwt. The final price will vary from the projected mid-month milk price due to price changes announced by Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by milk classes (fluid and various manufactured products).

Grain prices for the month were mixed. The mid-May **corn** price was \$5.10 per bushel, an increase of four cents from the April price and up \$1.40 from May 2007. This is two cents less than the record high corn price of \$5.12 per bushel set in

July 1996. The mid-month **soybean** price of \$12.30 per bushel was unchanged from the April price while up \$4.92 per bushel from May a year earlier. Price of **winter wheat** at mid-May was \$6.50 per bushel, down \$1.01 from a month earlier while up \$2.17 from May 2007.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 150 based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (3.4 percent) from April. The Crop Index was up 4 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for hogs, cattle, onions, and broilers and lower prices for eggs, lettuce, wheat, and broccoli. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, corn, and apples. Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 14 points (10 percent) from May 2007.

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

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		MAY 2007	APR 2008	MAY 2008	MAY 2008
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <i>a/</i>	
All Corn <i>b/ c/</i>	Bu.	3.70	5.06	5.10	5.12
Soybeans <i>b/</i>	Bu.	7.38	12.30	12.30	12.30
Winter Wheat <i>b/</i>	Bu.	4.33	7.51	6.50	7.76
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	135.00	175.00	175.00	177.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	75.00	100.00	95.00	134.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	51.20	41.20	56.80	54.10
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	52.00	42.00	58.00	55.50
Sows	Cwt.	31.00	21.00	29.00	23.00
All Beef Cattle <i>d/</i>	Cwt.	88.00	80.90	85.20	90.50
Steers & Heifers <i>e/</i>	Cwt.	100.00	91.00	96.00	95.40
Cows	Cwt.	50.00	49.00	51.00	53.10
Calves <i>f/</i>	Cwt.	114.00	104.00	107.00	116.00
Sheep	Cwt.	32.00	33.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	102.00	116.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	18.80	20.10	18.60	18.20
Hog-Com Ratios <i>g/</i>	Bu.	13.8	8.1	11.1	10.6

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

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007. April 2007 contained 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2008 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds. Pork production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

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

Type	April 2007	March 2008	April 2008	April 08 % of	
				April 2007	March 2008
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,015.0	*2,100.4	2,254.5	112	107
Veal	11.9	*11.3	11.9	101	105
Pork	1,711.5	1,962.9	2,015.3	118	103
Lamb & Mutton	15.0	16.0	15.3	102	96
Total U.S.	3,753.4	*4,090.6	4,297.0	114	105
Total Kentucky	46.6	49.5	50.0	107	101

<sup>1/</sup> Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. \*Revised.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 2007 & 2008 <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.4	1.6	1,265	1,502	937	965
Hogs	230.0		60,605		264	
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.8	110	106	132	127
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,701.4	2,959.6	3,324,065	3,714,432	1,235	1,259
Hogs	8,466.9	9,994.7	2,284,838	2,690,031	270	269
Sheep & Lambs	216.6	221.4	29,941	30,609	138	138

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

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2007	April 2008	April '08 as % of April '07
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,472	7,384	99
Average Layers (000)	345,578	341,159	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,162	2,164	100
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	35,948	39,643	110
Chicks Hatched (000)	39,254	41,051	105
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	679,796	665,215	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	799,293	797,481	100

## APRIL FARM LABOR

There were 919,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned

\$10.32 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 29,000 during the week of April 6-12, 2008. This compares to 22,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$10.05 per hour, up 28 cents per hour from 2007. Field workers earned an average \$8.87 per hour compared to \$8.64 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$10.07 per hour, up \$1.00 per hour from a year ago.

## APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for April 2008 totaled 113 million pounds, down 3 percent from April 2007 but up less than 1 percent from March 2008. Average number of milk cows on farms at 92,000 head, was unchanged from a year earlier but up 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,230 pounds, down 40 pounds from April 2007, but unchanged from last month.

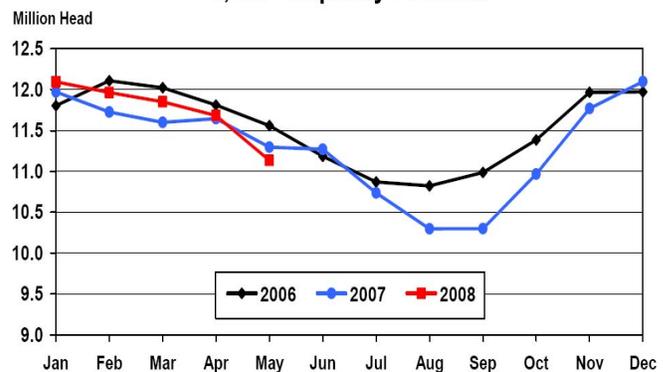
Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from

April 2007. March revised production, at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from March 2007. The March revision represented a decrease of 10 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,757 pounds for April, 12 pounds above April 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.44 million head, 152,000 head more than April 2007, and 8,000 head more than March 2008.

## 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 11.1 million head on May 1, 2008. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2007 and 4 percent below May 1, 2006. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.54 million, 2 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.46 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315,000, 600-699 pounds were 278,000, 700-799 pounds were 428,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 2.01 million, 11 percent above 2007 and 13 percent above 2006. This is the highest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 75,000 during April, 24 percent below 2007 and 14 percent below 2006.

United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, eggs, butter and beef.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2008 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2007	March 31 2008	April 30 2008	April 2007	March 2008
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	606,083	764,765	753,427	124	99
Turkey	360,220	428,133	492,738	137	115
Ducks	6,630	4,227	3,316	50	78
Total Frozen Poultry	972,933	1,197,125	1,249,481	128	104
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	417,256	423,230	429,289	103	101
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	61,796	98,896	100,376	162	101
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	528,527	652,683	652,220	123	100
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	970,254	1,098,783	1,104,502	114	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.

**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/>