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Kentucky Field Office
Leland E. Brown, Director
PO Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 582-5293 or (800) 928-5277
Email: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov

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

Featuring: ▶ **County Estimates** ▶ **Cold Storage** ▶ **Dairy Products** ▶ **Slaughter**
▶ **Cattle on Feed** ▶ **Milk Production** ▶ **Chicken & Eggs**

UNION, CHRISTIAN AND HENDERSON TOP CORN PRODUCING COUNTIES

Union County was the top producing corn county in **Kentucky**. For 2005 Union County produced 13,601,200 bushels from 91,900 acres harvested with a yield of 148 bushels per acre. Christian County was second in production with 11,547,500 bushels, followed by Henderson County with 10,678,400 bushels. Other counties with six million bushels or more of production were Logan, McLean, Todd and Hickman. Carlisle was the highest yielding county in Kentucky with 153 bushels per acre. Kentucky's corn production for 2005 was estimated at 155.8 million

bushels, a 10 percent decrease from 2004. The smaller production resulted from a decrease in yield brought about by the dry summer. Harvesting conditions this past fall were ideal. Farmers reported a better than expected crop. Yields averaged 132 bushels per acre, down 20 bushels from 2004 and the smallest yield in three years. Acreage harvested for grain averaged 1.18 million acres, the largest harvested acreage in five years. **U.S.** corn for grain production was estimated at 11.1 billion bushels, down 6 percent from the 11.8 billion bushels produced in 2004.

DAVIESS, HENDERSON AND GRAVES LEAD STATE IN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Daviess County was the leading **Kentucky** soybean producing county with 3,565,000 bushels produced. This was from 77,500 acres harvested for beans with a yield of 46 bushels per acre. Henderson County was second with 3,375,000 bushels and Graves was third with 2,728,000 bushels. There were 6 more counties producing over 2,000,000 bushels. Casey was the highest yielding soybean county with 52 bushels per acre. Soybean production for the State was estimated at 53.8 million bushels in 2005, down 6 percent from the 2004 crop and the smallest crop in three

years. Yield was estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, down one bushel from the previous year. Growing season for soybeans began early and most soybeans were planted ahead of schedule. The lack of moisture through most of the summer concerned many farmers but rain received from the hurricanes in August resulted in a better yield than expected. Late maturing soybeans suffered no frost damage. Harvesting conditions were excellent. Harvested acreage at 1.25 million acres was down 50,000 acres from 2004. **U.S.** soybean production totaled 3.09 billion bushels. This was 1 percent below 2004.

CHRISTIAN, LOGAN AND TODD WERE TOP THREE WHEAT COUNTIES

Christian County produced 3,431,000 bushels of winter wheat and was the number one wheat producing county in **Kentucky**. Yield averaged 73 bushels per acre and harvested acreage totaled 47,000 acres. Logan was second with 2,546,000 bushels while Todd was third with 2,023,500 bushels. Other counties producing more than one million bushels were Simpson and Warren. Barren and Warren were the top yield producing counties with 85 bushels per acre. Kentucky's winter wheat production for

2005 totaled 20.4 million bushels, down 1 percent from the 2004 crop. Yield averaged 68 bushels per acre, up 14 bushels from 2004 and the highest yield on record. The 2005 winter wheat crop was excellent with good quality and one of the best crops in recent years. Moisture was adequate through early May and grain heads filled well. Disease and insect problems were few. Harvested acreage at 300,000 acres was down 80,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** winter wheat production was estimated at 1.50 billion bushels, down slightly from the 2004 crop.

BARREN COUNTY CONTINUED AS CATTLE CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY

Barren County continued to have the largest number of cattle in **Kentucky** with 89,000 head on January 1, 2006. Warren was second with 68,500 head while Pulaski was third with 67,100 head. Kentucky ranked 11th in the nation with 2.40 million head, 7 percent above the previous year. All cattle and calves in the **U.S.** totaled 97.1 million head, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Texas had the largest cattle herd with 14.1 million head. Kansas, Nebraska, California and Oklahoma had cattle inventories of 5.00 million head or more on January 1, 2006.

Barren County also had the largest beef cow inventory in **Kentucky** with 37,100 head on January 1, 2006. Other top counties included Pulaski with 32,300 head, Warren with 31,900 head, Madison with 25,000 head and Breckinridge with 24,200 head. Kentucky ranked 8th in the U.S. with 1.13 million head, the largest beef cow herd east of the Mississippi River. There were 33.3 million beef cows in the **U.S.**, up 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Texas had 5.48 million beef cows, the largest inventory in the U.S. Other leading states included Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska and South Dakota.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, cheese, and eggs.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Feb 06 as % of	
Commodity	Feb 28, 2005	Jan 31, 2006	Feb 28, 2006	Feb 2005	Jan 2006
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	634,778	920,749	920,028	145	100
Turkey	379,408	262,335	313,337	83	119
Ducks	3,236	3,273	4,601	142	141
Total Frozen Poultry	1,017,422	1,186,357	1,237,966	122	104
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	400,240	452,470	429,248	107	95
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	75,321	60,966	64,765	86	106
Total Frozen Pork ^{1/}	541,218	524,424	518,925	96	99
Total Meat ^{2/}	956,171	997,158	968,536	101	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.

U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, JANUARY 2006

PRODUCT	January	December	January	Percent of	
	2005	2005 ^{1/}		2006	Jan.
				2005	2005
		(000) Pounds		Percent	
BUTTER	128,653	126,167	145,477	113	115
CHEESE					
American Types ^{2/}	322,188	325,024	317,278	98	98
Mozzarella	251,399	267,131	259,676	103	97
All Other Types ^{3/}	181,097	199,132	187,305	103	94
Total	754,684	791,287	764,259	101	97
		(000) Gallons		Percent	
FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream (Hard)	60,440	55,565	61,211	101	110
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,299	4,366	4,015	93	92
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	34,919	30,014	34,213	98	114
Yogurt Mix	2,529	2,568	2,362	93	92

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. ^{3/} Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2005

Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2005, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.7 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production, at 24.8 billion pounds, slightly higher than the previous year. Veal production totaled 165 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year, setting a new record low. Pork production, at 20.7 billion pounds, was slightly higher than the previous year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production set a new record low, totaling 191 million pounds, 4 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2005 totaled 32.4 million head, down 1 percent from 2004, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,256 pounds, up 16 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 52.8 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 30.7 percent, dairy cows 7.1 percent, other cows 7.9 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 734,400 head, down 13 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal

inspection. The average live weight was 353 pounds, up 23 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103.6 million head, slightly higher than 2004 with 99.0 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.7 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.70 million head, was down 5 percent from 2004 with 94.7 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2004 to 138 pounds.

Red meat production in Kentucky during 2005 totaled 472.2 million pounds, down 6 percent from the 2004 level. Beef production totaled 14.8 million pounds live weight, 4 percent above the 2004 level. Pork production, at 618 million pounds live weight was 6 percent below the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 1.79 million pounds live weight, was 28 percent above the 2004 total. During 2005, animals were slaughtered at 54 plants in Kentucky, of which 19 were under federal inspection.

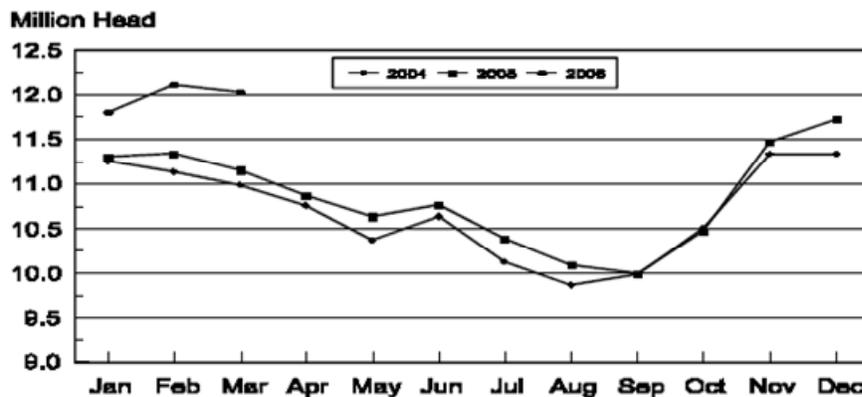
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

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 March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004. This was the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net

placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This was the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.

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



MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for February 2006 totaled 106 million pounds, down 4 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 101,000, was down 9,000 head from a year earlier, and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,050 pounds, up 50 pounds from last year, but down 100 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from

February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 10,000 head more than January 2006.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Feb. 2005	Feb. 2006	Feb. 06 % of Feb. 05
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,928	6,974	101
Average Layers (000)	348,791	349,653	100
Eggs Per 100 Layers	1,986	1,995	100
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Mar. 1 (000)	36,774	36,514	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	33,932	33,665	99
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Mar. 1 (000)	658,866	665,624	101
Chicks Hatched (000)	731,274	733,145	100

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/>