

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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

GRAIN PRICES GENERALLY UP

Mid-August prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for corn and winter wheat while down for most livestock commodities.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over at mid-August averaged \$71.00 per cwt., down \$1.00 from the previous month and \$13.00 from the previous year. Prices turned down after mid-year 2001 and have been generally lower since that time. The mid-August price was the lowest since August 1999. **Beef cows** averaged \$36.00 per cwt. at mid-month, down \$1.00 from July and \$8.00 from a year earlier.

Calves under 500 pounds averaged \$80.00 per cwt., unchanged from July, while down \$16.00 from a year earlier.

The mid-month price for **barrows and gilts** was \$31.00 per cwt. This was \$5.00 lower than July and \$18.00 lower than a year earlier.

Sows averaged \$20.00 per cwt. for mid-August, up \$2.00 from the previous month, while down \$19.00 from the previous year.

The **all milk** price averaged \$12.80 per cwt., unchanged from July while down \$5.20 from a year earlier. Milk price continued to be the lowest in years.

The mid-August **corn** price was \$2.55 per bushel, up 23 cents from the previous month and 42 cents from a year earlier. This was the highest corn price since April 1998. **Soybean** price was \$5.60 per bushel, down 2 cents from July while up 58 cent from August 2001.

Winter wheat averaged \$3.25 per bushel. This was up 31 cents from July, 67 cents from August a year earlier and the highest in over three years.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 9 points (8.2 percent) below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		AUG 2001	JULY 2002	AUG 2002	AUG 2002
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
All Corn ^{b/} ^{c/}	Bu.	2.13	2.32	2.55	2.48
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	5.02	5.62	5.60	5.65
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	2.58	2.94	3.25	3.59
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	90.00	100.00	95.00	101.00
All Other Hay,	Ton	52.00	58.00	55.00	71.30
All Hogs	Cwt.	48.60	35.30	30.60	34.20
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	49.00	36.00	31.00	34.90
Sows	Cwt.	39.00	18.00	20.00	20.80
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	74.40	63.60	62.60	63.60
Steers & Heifers ^{e/}	Cwt.	84.00	72.00	71.00	66.30
Cows	Cwt.	44.00	37.00	36.00	36.10
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	96.00	80.00	80.00	94.70
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	18.00	12.80	12.80	11.20
Fluid ^{g/}	Cwt.	18.00	12.80	--	11.30
Manufactured	Cwt.	13.50	-	--	9.80
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{h/}	Bu.	22.8	15.2	12.0	13.8

^{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/} Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. ^{h/} Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 12 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT

There were 1.21 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

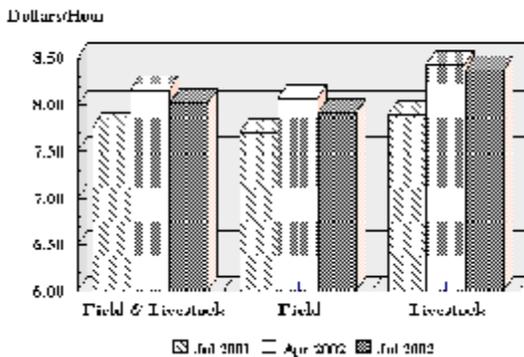
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.37 per hour compared with

\$7.89 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

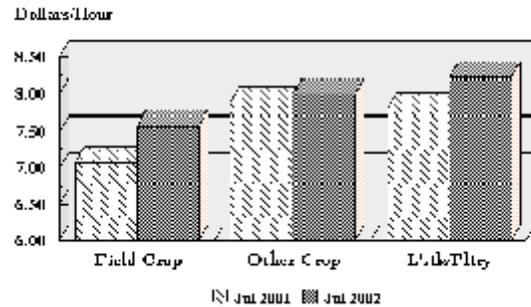
The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 32,000 during the week of July 7-13, 2002.

Field workers in the region were paid \$7.22 per hour compared to \$6.77 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$7.64 per hour compared to \$7.34 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$7.75.

U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker



Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in July, up 10 percent from the 3.64 billion pounds produced in July 2001 and a new record high for July. July 2001 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year and a new record high for July. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.19 million head, up 8 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 1,248 pounds, up 32 pounds from July a year ago. **Pork production** totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and a new record high for July. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 8 percent above July 2001. The average live weight was 260 pounds, unchanged from July a year ago.

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

Type	July 2001	June 2002	July 2002	July 02 % of	
				July 2001	June 2002
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,177	2,303	2,426	111	105
Veal	15.7	14.6	16.7	106	114
Pork	1,435	1,480	1,557	108	105
Lamb & Mutton	17.1	15.1	16.3	96	108
Total U.S.	3,645	3,812	4,016	110	105
Total Kentucky	31.9	32.0	34.5	108	108

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 2001 & 2002 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	0.9	1.0	779	885	907	921
Hogs	160.8	178.0	42,052	45,626	261	256
Sheep & Lambs	0.7	1.0	98	120	137	120
United States						
Cattle	2,942.5	3,187.1	3,577,258	3,977,918	1,216	1,248
Hogs	7,447.6	8,067.5	1,936,790	2,101,406	260	260
Sheep & Lambs	243.5	257.6	34,185	32,649	140	127

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

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.09 million head on August 1, 2002. The inventory was 7 percent below August 1, 2001 and 1 percent below August 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.84 million, 7 percent below 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.80 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 369,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 591,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.19 million, 7 percent above 2001 and 5 percent above 2000. **Other disappearance** totaled 45,000 during July, 24 percent below 2001 but 2 percent above 2000.

Cattle on feed August 1, 2002, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.75 million, down 7 percent from the previous year and 1 percent below August 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.62 million, 6 percent below 2001 and 3 percent below 2000.

Marketings during July totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2001 and 6 percent above 2000.

Other disappearance during July was 36,000 head, 29 percent below 2001 and 3 percent below 2000.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 2001	July 2002	July '02 as % of July '01
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,195	7,341	102
Average Layers (000)	332,231	335,269	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,166	2,190	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	29,995	33,183	111
Chicks Hatched (000)	38,640	35,218	91
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	637,953	645,086	101
Chicks Hatched (000)	769,449	781,421	102

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for pork, poultry, red meat, beef, and vegetables. Cooler stocks of pecans were also above last year while freezer stocks of tart cherries were only half of the July 31, 2001 level.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks			July 2002 as % of		
Commodity	July 31 2001	June 30 2002	July 31 2002	July 2001	June 2002
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs		Percent		
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	26,098	34,326	36,277	139	106
Other Chicken	607,662	814,009	827,987	136	102
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	642,856	855,416	870,788	135	102
Turkey	534,170	644,100	702,994	132	109
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,185,721	1,506,300	1,580,945	133	105
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	351,360	396,869	423,235	120	107
Pork:					
Bellies	24,996	51,019	30,431	122	60
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	339,547	497,817	473,851	140	95
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	717,437	918,037	920,920	128	100

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for July 2002 totaled 131 million pounds, down 3 percent from July 2001, and down 2 percent from June 2002. Average number of cows on farms, at 123,000, was down 6,000 head from a year earlier, and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,065 pounds, up 20 pounds from last year, but down 15 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during July totaled 12.3 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent

from July 2001. June revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 2.2 percent from June 2001. The June revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,580 pounds for July, 28 pounds above July 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 40,000 head more than July 2001, and 7,000 head more than June 2002.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows ^{1/}		Milk Per Cow ^{1/}		Production ^{2/}		2002 as % of 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,592	1,650	1,770	1,815	2,818	2,995	106
IL	115	115	1,405	1,420	162	163	101
IN	154	151	1,395	1,435	215	217	101
KY	129	123	1,045	1,065	135	131	97
MO	146	137	1,055	1,120	154	153	99
OH	258	265	1,420	1,450	366	384	105
VA	118	120	1,300	1,300	153	156	102
WI	1,288	1,265	1,455	1,445	1,874	1,828	98
20 State							
Total	7,746	7,786	1,552	1,580	12,025	12,305	102

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

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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