

Kentucky Agri-News

Published Twice Monthly
Volume No. 24, Issue No. 17
Released: September 1, 2005



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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

KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED AS CROP PRICES DECLINE

Crop prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were down from July while livestock prices were mixed. Livestock with the exception of cows and sows increased in price.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$104.00 per cwt. at mid-August, up \$1.00 from the July price while down \$4.00 from August 2004. **Beef cow** prices at \$50.00 per cwt. at mid-month was down \$2.00 from July and \$3.00 from August 2004. This was the lowest cow price in five months. **Calves** less than 500 lbs. averaged \$121.00 per cwt. at mid-August. This was up \$1.00 from July while down \$2.00 from a year earlier.

Hog prices were similar to cattle prices. Animals for slaughter were up in price while breeding stock was down. **Barrows and gilts** at mid-August averaged \$50.00 per cwt., an increase of \$1.00 from July while down \$4.00 from August 2004. **Sows** averaged \$36.00 per cwt., down \$4.00 from July and \$13.00 from August last year. The mid-month sow price was the lowest since February 2004.

Sheep and lamb prices were mixed with sheep prices up and lamb prices down. The **sheep** price at \$45.00 per cwt. was up \$3.00 from the June price. The July **lamb** price at \$98.00 per cwt. was down \$13.00 from a month earlier.

The **all milk** price for mid-August was \$16.70 per cwt. This was up 50 cents from a month and year earlier. This was the highest milk price in five months. The final monthly all milk price will vary from the projected mid-month milk price due to price changes announced by the Milk Marketing Orders, actual milk fat content and quantity sold by milk class.

Prices received for corn, soybeans and winter wheat were all down from July. The mid-August **corn** price was \$2.10 per bushel, down 25 cents from July and 30 cents from August 2004. The estimated mid-month price would be the lowest corn price

since May 2002. The mid-month **soybean** price was \$6.15 per bushel, down 72 cents from July and 44 cents from August last year. This would be the lowest soybean price in five months. The mid-August **winter wheat** price was \$3.00 per bushel, a decrease of 28 cents from July while up three cents from August 2004.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 117, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.8 percent) from July. The Crop Index was down 2 points (1.7 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and sweet corn. Higher prices were received for lettuce, peaches, strawberries, and turkeys. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 3 points (2.5 percent) from August 2004.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		AUG 2004	JULY 2005	AUG 2005	AUG 2005
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
All Corn ^{b/ c/}	Bu.	2.40	2.35	2.10	1.89
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	6.59	6.87	6.15	6.09
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	2.97	3.28	3.00	3.11
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	100.00	115.00	115.00	109.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	58.00	67.00	67.00	74.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	53.80	48.60	49.40	50.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	54.00	49.00	50.00	50.50
Sows	Cwt.	49.00	40.00	36.00	38.60
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	94.80	90.80	91.00	84.70
Steers & Heifers ^{e/}	Cwt.	108.00	103.00	104.00	88.00
Cows	Cwt.	53.00	52.00	50.00	51.90
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	123.00	120.00	121.00	131.00
Sheep	Cwt.	--	45.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	--	98.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	16.20	16.20	16.70	14.70
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{g/}	Bu.	22.4	20.7	23.5	26.5

^{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.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS UP 2 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT

There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

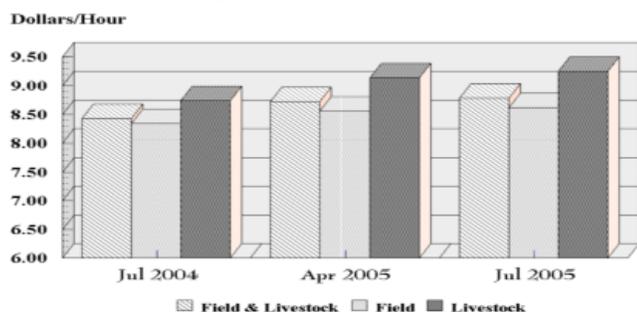
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year

earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

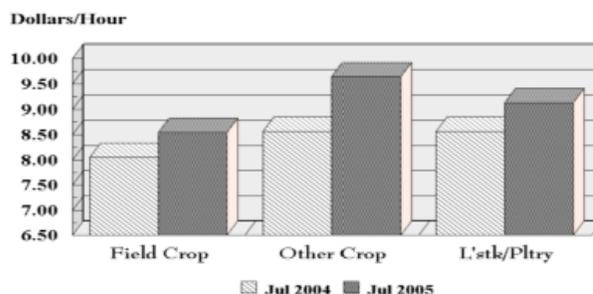
The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 24,000 during the week of July 10-16, 2005.

Field workers in the region were paid \$8.46 per hour compared to \$7.63 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$8.19 per hour compared to \$8.40 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$8.68.

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 3.62 billion pounds in July, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in July 2004. July 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. July 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 2 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5 percent below July 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

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

Type	July 2004	June 2005	July 2005	July 05 % of	
				July 2004	June 2005
Million Pounds				Percent	
Beef	2,104	2,228	2,085	99	94
Veal	13.3	13.2	12.4	93	94
Pork	1,576	1,707	1,505	95	88
Lamb & Mutton	14.2	15.3	13.5	95	88
Total U.S.	3,708	3,963	3,616	98	91
Total Kentucky	39.6	35.5	33.8	85	95

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 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	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.0	1.0	828	918	856	913
Hogs	201.0	166.3	52,289	44,426	260	267
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	1.0	123	153	118	148
United States						
Cattle	2,787.2	2,718.4	3,454,091	3,410,124	1,239	1,254
Hogs	8,095.8	7,662.0	2,123,485	2,025,963	262	264
Sheep & Lambs	220.9	200.8	28,378	26,881	128	134

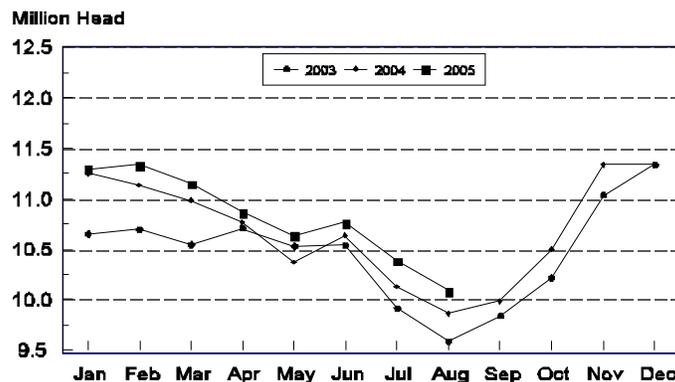
^{1/} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

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 10.1 million head on August 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 2004 and 5 percent above August 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.62 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 338,000, 700-799 pounds were 465,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.92 million, slightly below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of July since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 during July, 3 percent above 2004 but unchanged from 2003.

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



UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 2004	July 2005	July '05 as % of July '04
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,557	7,560	100
Average Layers (000)	342,479	340,184	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,207	2,222	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	31,522	35,305	112
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,919	35,310	101
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	663,491	662,712	100
Chicks Hatched (000)	806,658	807,654	100

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and eggs.

Commodity	All U.S. Warehouse Stocks			July 2005 as % of	
	July 31 2004	June 30 2005	July 31 2005	July 2004	June 2005
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	730,290	690,166	704,490	96	102
Turkey	599,589	509,678	508,168	85	100
Ducks	972	518	552	57	107
Total Frozen Poultry	1,330,851	1,200,362	1,213,210	91	101
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	427,047	342,191	380,372	89	111
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	23,383	70,634	50,254	215	71
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	366,812	492,566	445,578	121	90
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	807,671	851,816	847,659	105	100

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for July 2005 totaled 115 million pounds, down 3 percent from both July 2004 and June 2005. Average number of cows on farms, at 106,000, was down 5,000 head from a year earlier, and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,085 pounds, up 20 pounds from last year, but down 20 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during July totaled 13.7 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from July 2004. June revised production, at 13.7 billion pounds,

was up 5.6 percent from June 2004. The June revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 28 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,682 pounds for July, 59 pounds above July 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.14 million head, 48,000 head more than July 2004, and 12,000 head more than June 2005.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>1/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2005 as % of 2004
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,729	1,760	1,780	1,775	3,078	3,124	101
IL	107	104	1,520	1,580	163	164	101
IN	150	156	1,640	1,700	246	265	108
KY	111	106	1,065	1,085	118	115	97
MO	122	117	1,240	1,220	151	143	95
OH	265	270	1,450	1,480	384	400	104
VA	104	105	1,370	1,390	142	146	103
WI	1,240	1,236	1,520	1,600	1,885	1,978	105
23 State							
Total	8,096	8,144	1,623	1,682	13,143	13,698	104

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

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/>