

# Kentucky Agri-News



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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 ADVANCE WHILE GRAIN PRICES WERE MIXED

Farmers in **Kentucky** received good prices during August for their cattle and hogs while milk prices for the month were down. Grain prices were mixed with corn down in price while winter wheat was up from last month.

Mid-August cattle prices were up compared to July prices. **Steers and heifers** weighing 500 lbs. and over at mid-month averaged \$100.00 per cwt. (hundredweight). This was up \$4.00 from the July price while down \$5.00 from August 2007. This would be the highest price since September 2007. The **beef cow** price at \$58.00 per cwt. was up \$2.00 from the previous month and \$10.00 from the previous year. This would be a record high price for beef cows in Kentucky. **Calves** weighing less than 500 lbs. averaged \$105.00 per cwt., an increase of \$4.00 from July while down \$10.00 from a year earlier.

Hog prices for mid-August were also up from July. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-August averaged \$62.00 per cwt., an increase of \$7.00 from the previous month and \$12.00 from a year earlier. This would be the highest barrow and gilt price since August 1986. The price of sows at mid-month was \$45.00 per cwt. This was up \$21.00 from July and \$3.00 from August 2007. This would be the highest sow price since February 2005.

Sheep and lamb prices were mixed with sheep prices being up while lamb prices were down. The July **sheep** price of \$32.00 per cwt. was up \$5.00 from June and \$7.00 from July 2007. The **lamb** price for July was \$100.00 per cwt., down \$11.00 from June while up \$1.00 from July 2007.

Price of milk continues strong but declined during mid-August. The mid-month **all milk** price was \$20.50 per cwt. This would be down \$2.00 from July and \$3.50 from August 2007. The final milk price farmers receive 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 mid-August were mixed. The mid-month **corn** price was \$5.30 per bushel, down 83 cents from the July price while up \$1.95 from August a year earlier. The corn price would be the lowest in four months. The **winter wheat** mid-August price was \$6.50 per bushel. This was up 82 cents from the previous month, up 75 cents from August 2007 and would be the highest price in four months. The mid-month **soybean** price was \$12.70 per bushel. There was no July soybean price published due to confidentiality rules. The August 2007 price was \$8.01 per bushel.

The Preliminary **U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** by Farmers in August at 155 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 4 points (2.5 percent) from July. The Crop Index was down 7 points (3.8 percent) and the Livestock Index declined 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, broilers, soybeans, and milk. Higher prices were realized for wheat, hogs, eggs, and strawberries. 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 cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 points (12 percent) from August 2007.

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

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		AUG 2007	JULY 2008	AUG 2008	AUG 2008
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <sup>a</sup>	
All Corn <sup>b/</sup> <sup>c/</sup>	Bu.	3.35	6.13	5.30	4.90
Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	8.01	C	12.70	12.10
Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	5.75	5.68	6.50	7.70
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	145.00	175.00	175.00	180.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	85.00	95.00	95.00	126.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	49.70	53.80	61.30	59.70
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	50.00	55.00	62.00	61.10
Sows	Cwt.	42.00	24.00	45.00	33.10
All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>	Cwt.	91.30	86.40	89.90	96.10
Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>	Cwt.	105.00	96.00	100.00	100.00
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	56.00	58.00	57.60
Calves <sup>f/</sup>	Cwt.	115.00	101.00	105.00	114.00
Sheep	Cwt.	30.00	30.00	--	--
Lambs	Cwt.	92.00	105.00	--	--
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	24.00	22.50	20.50	18.50
Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>g/</sup>	Bu.	14.8	8.8	11.6	12.2

<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.

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT

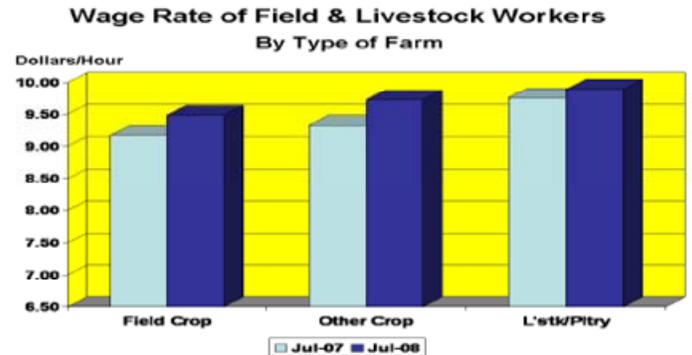
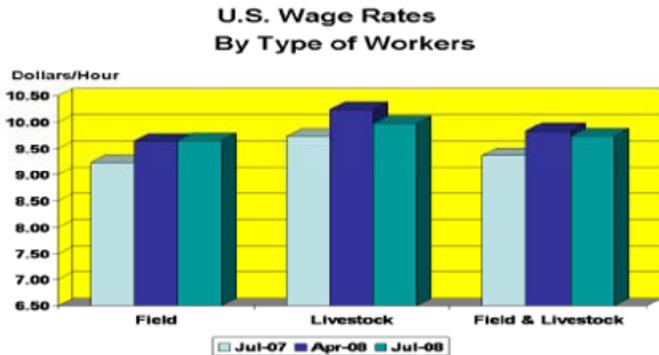
There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year

earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 21,000 during the week of July 6-12, 2008.

Field workers in the region were paid \$9.80 per hour compared to \$8.55 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$9.38 per hour compared to \$9.85 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$10.72.



## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.25 billion pounds in July, up 8 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in July 2007. July 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2008 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 6 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.85 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.47 million head, up 13 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

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

Type	July 2007	June 2008	July 2008	July 08 % of	
				July 2007	June 2008
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,256.7	*2,262.7	2,372.7	105	105
Veal	10.7	11.7	12.3	116	105
Pork	1,659.5	1,762.1	1,852.9	112	105
Lamb & Mutton	13.5	13.1	13.7	101	104
Total U.S.	3,940.4	4,049.6	4,251.6	108	105
Total Kentucky	45.4	42.2	45.6	100	108

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 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	1.1	1.3	1,088	1,200	980	960
Hogs	226.3		59,253		262	
Sheep & Lambs	1.2	1.2	153	143	130	117
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,903.1	3,064.0	3,673,852	3,888,150	1,269	1,273
Hogs	8,399.0	9,465.2	2,217,224	2,480,080	264	262
Sheep & Lambs	206.0	207.8	26,985	27,411	131	132

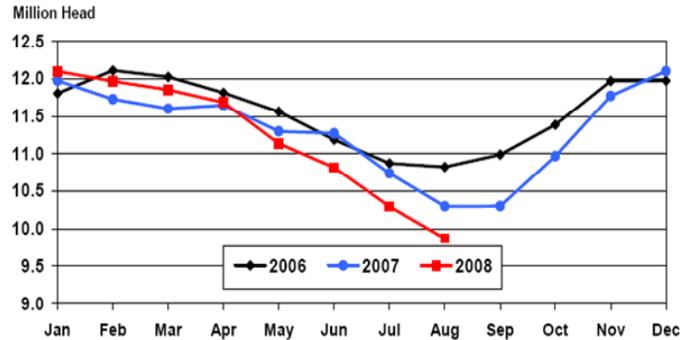
<sup>1/</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

## 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 9.87 million head on August 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below August 1, 2007 and 9 percent below August 1, 2006.

**Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent above 2007 but 15 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.62 million. This is the second lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 476,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 2.04 million, 2 percent above 2007 and 5 percent above 2006. **Other disappearance** totaled 45,000 during July, 26 percent below 2007 and 22 percent below 2006.

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



## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 2007	July 2008	July '08 as % of July '07
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,599	7,601	100
Average Layers (000)	340,035	336,101	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,235	2,262	101
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	32,441	33,040	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,952	37,929	105
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	674,016	650,798	97
Chicks Hatched (000)	818,983	806,555	98

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, and cheese.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks				July 2008 as % of	
Commodity	July 31 2007	June 30 2008	July 31 2008	July 2007	June 2008
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	665,583	768,776	747,227	112	97
Turkey	503,547	562,693	618,448	123	110
Ducks	9,186	1,684	2,485	27	148
Total Frozen Poultry	1,178,316	1,333,153	1,368,160	116	103
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	467,733	421,222	424,064	91	101
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	31,619	74,372	59,163	187	80
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	455,854	517,189	492,227	108	95
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	943,491	963,948	940,722	100	98

## MILK PRODUCTION

**Kentucky** milk production for July 2008 totaled 95 million pounds, down 7 percent from July 2007 and down 2 percent from June 2008. Average number of cows on farms, at 90,000, was up 1,000 head from a year earlier, but down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,060 pounds, down 90 pounds from last year, and down 10 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during July totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from July

2007. June revised production, at 14.7 billion pounds, was up 3.2 percent from June 2007. The June revision represented a decrease of 19 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,742 pounds for July, unchanged from July 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 143,000 head more than July 2007, and 5,000 head more than June 2008.

### MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>1/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2008 as % of 2007
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,816	1,846	1,900	1,850	3,450	3,415	99
IL	103	102	1,550	1,520	160	155	97
IN	167	166	1,700	1,650	284	274	96
<b>KY</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>
MO	110	111	1,220	1,170	134	130	97
OH	276	282	1,530	1,540	422	434	103
VA	100	97	1,450	1,425	145	138	95
WI	1,248	1,252	1,675	1,675	2,090	2,097	100
23 State							
Total	8,322	8,465	1,742	1,742	14,500	14,750	102

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/>