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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**  
Livestock Slaughter  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
U.S. Farm Labor & Wage Rates

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during April totaled 0.7 million pounds, 22 percent below the previous month but the same as April 2006.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during April, the same as the previous month and April 2006. Average live weight was 860 pounds, down 16 pounds from the previous month and 14 pounds below April 2006. Total live weight, at 619,000 pounds, was 3 percent below the previous month and 4 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during April totaled 300 head, down 100 head from March but the same as from the previous year. Live weight averaged 506 pounds, up 17 pounds from March but 25 pounds below April 2006. Total live weight, at 166,000 pounds, was down 10 percent from March and 1 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during April totaled 1,600 head, down 400 head from the previous month but 100 head above the previous year. Average live weight was 186 pounds, down 36 pounds from March and 4 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 305,000 pounds, 32 percent below March but 6 percent above a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during April was 300 head, down 100 head from March but up 200 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 86 pounds, down 13 pounds from the previous month and 6 pounds below the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.8 billion pounds in April, up 4 percent from the 3.6 billion pounds produced in April 2006.

April 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.7 million head, up 4 percent from April 2006. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,235 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 11.8 million pounds, 14 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,900 head, up 19 percent from April 2006. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from last year, at 347 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.7 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.5 million head, up 6 percent from April 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.1 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 216,900 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 3 pounds from April a year ago.

**January to April 2007 commercial red meat production** was 15.5 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was up 12 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	March	April		January - April		April		January - April	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.0	2.9	2,608.6	2,701.6	10,451.8	10,854.5
Calves	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.3	47.7	56.9	215.0	268.9
Hogs	2.0	1.5	1.6	6.5	6.5	7,959.3	8,465.3	34,166.9	35,150.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.1	247.1	216.9	924.4	916.7
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	640	644	619	2,616	2,538	3,222,245	3,324,260	13,212,331	13,675,701
Calves	184	167	166	629	670	17,156	19,674	76,452	86,521
Hogs	447	287	305	1,342	1,341	2,160,169	2,284,018	9,275,061	9,488,060
Sheep & Lambs	41	10	23	64	108	33,477	30,004	131,018	127,845
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	876	874	860	872	875	1,240	1,235	1,269	1,264
Calves	489	531	506	524	515	361	347	358	324
Hogs	222	190	186	206	206	272	270	272	270
Sheep & Lambs	99	92	86	107	98	136	139	142	140
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.9	0.7	0.7	3.0	3.0	3,614.8	3,753.0	15,115.3	15,472.8

## May Farm Prices Received Index Rises 4 Points from Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 138 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 4 points from April. The Crop Index was up 3 points and the Livestock Index increased 5 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, hogs, hay and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, cattle, broccoli and cauliflower. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of sweet corn, broilers, peaches and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, oranges and apples.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 27 points from May 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 139, increased 4 points from last month and increased 28 points from May 2006.

### Prices Paid Index up 1 Point

The May Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 158 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 point from April and 9 points above May 2006. Higher prices in May for hay & forages, gasoline, mixed fertilizers and nitrogen fertilizers more than offset lower prices for feed supplements, complete feeds, diesel fuel and feeder cattle.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	May 2006	April 2007	May 2007 <sup>1</sup>	May 2006	April 2007	May 2007 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.85	7.12	7.39	5.68	6.88	7.15
Rice, per cwt	8.37	10.10	9.89	8.03	9.94	10.00
Upland cotton, per pound	.455	.463	2/ .445	.464	.473	2/ .452
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	113.00	124.00	138.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	62.70	64.30	66.50	82.20	94.30	93.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	102.00	103.00	101.00	86.30	99.90	98.60
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	45.10	48.50	51.00	47.40	49.20	51.60
Calves, per cwt	118.00	121.00	121.00	134.00	127.00	126.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.350	.500	.510
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.427	.723	.773
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.90	16.60	17.80

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>3</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>4</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

## United States Farm Labor

There were 961,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 8-14, 2007, unchanged from a year ago. A large increase in California was enough to offset the large declines in hired workers in most other regions, resulting in a net change of zero from last April. Of these hired workers, 720,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 241,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.17 per hour during the April 2007 reference week, up 39 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.35 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.55 per hour compared with \$9.31 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.41 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	April 09-15 2006	January 7-13 2007 <sup>2</sup>	April 8-14 2007	April 9-15 2006	January 7-13 2007 <sup>2</sup>	April 8-14 2007
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>961</b>		<b>961</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---		---	241		241
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>720</b>		<b>720</b>
150 Days or More	26		24	581		580
149 Days or Less	8		7	139		140
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>40.6</b>		<b>38.0</b>	<b>40.8</b>		<b>40.6</b>
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>		<b>\$8.80</b>	<b>\$9.78</b>		<b>\$10.17</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$7.64		\$8.54	\$8.95		\$9.35
Livestock	\$8.15		\$8.00	\$9.31		\$9.55

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> The January 2007 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

---Data not published.

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