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**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

*Agricultural Prices  
Hogs & Pigs  
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Cold Storage Highlights  
Poultry Highlights  
Farm Marketings*

*Dear producers and other data users:*

*Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.*

*Mark Harris*  
State Statistician

## Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points below the November Index. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, dairy, eggs, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of

dairy, tobacco, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, grapes, and soybeans. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December 2003.

The Food Commodities Index decreased 4 points (3.3 percent) from last month to 118. The index is up 2 points (1.7 percent) from December 2003.

### Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary December 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Dec 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Nov 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 15, 2004	Dec 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Nov 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 15, 2004	% of Parity	Parity Price <sup>2</sup>
		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	3.52	3.37	3.25	3.68	3.46	3.38	34	10.00
Corn	Bushel	2.28	2.13	2.00	2.31	2.05	1.99	30	6.74
Oats	Bushel	1.40	1.56	1.60	1.58	1.49	1.42	36	3.93
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	4.14	3.04	2.95	4.20	3.06	2.94	27	11.00
Soybeans	Bushel	7.14	5.18	5.30	7.17	5.36	5.41	34	15.90
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	53.00	51.00	51.00	80.60	86.20	84.30		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	54.00	51.00	51.00	87.00	94.00	92.40		
Other, Baled	Ton	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.50	67.80	67.10		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	15.40	23.80	24.30	17.40	25.80	27.10	52	51.90
Hogs	Cwt	36.20	56.60	56.60	34.20	55.70	54.50	52	105.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	36.40	56.80	56.80	34.60	56.10	54.90		
Sows	Cwt	27.90	47.30	48.30	28.10	45.70	46.00		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	98.60	88.80	91.80	90.40	85.10	86.80	51	170.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	100.00	90.00	93.10	95.60	90.20	91.90		
Cows	Cwt	51.80	51.10	50.60	49.20	48.90	48.70		
Calves	Cwt	123.00	130.00	131.00	112.00	124.00	121.00	53	228.00
Sheep	Cwt	38.80	38.00		45.10	41.50			83.60
Lambs	Cwt	90.50	89.00		97.70	101.00			201.00

<sup>1</sup> Entire month average except hay. <sup>2</sup> Parity price based on data for December 2004.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices December 29, 2004.

## Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004, was 2.85 million head. This was down 2 percent from December 1, 2003 and unchanged from September 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 355,000 head, was down 4 percent from December 1, 2003 and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.5 million head, was 1 percent below last year but slightly above last quarter.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

### Hogs and Pigs: December 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2003-2004

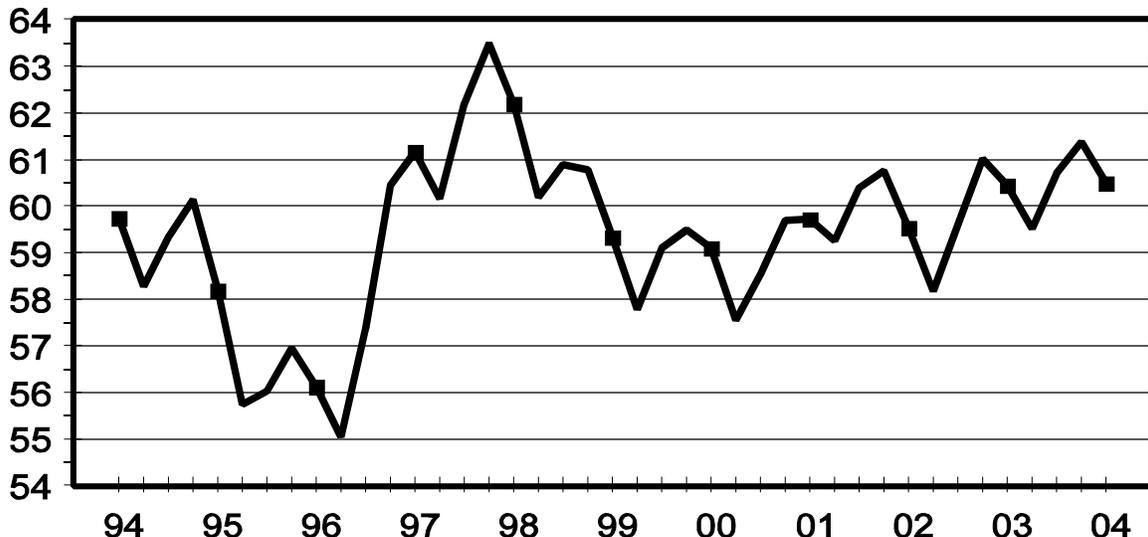
Item	Nebraska			United States <sup>1</sup>		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
December 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	2,900	2,850	98	60,444	60,501	100
Breeding	370	355	96	6,009	5,969	99
Market	2,530	2,495	99	54,434	54,531	100
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	960	970	101	19,778	19,636	99
60-119 pounds	650	650	100	13,238	13,439	102
120-179 pounds	490	470	96	11,109	11,286	102
180 pounds and over	430	405	94	10,311	10,171	99
Sows Farrowing						
December-February <sup>2</sup>	180	175	97	2,769	2,836	102
March-May	185	175	95	2,886	2,870	99
June-August	185	175	95	2,918	2,888	99
September-November	185	170	92	2,856	2,852	100
Total Sows Farrowing	735	695	95	11,429	11,445	100
Pig Crop						
December-February <sup>2</sup>	1,575	1,558	99	24,400	25,105	103
March-May	1,647	1,558	95	25,629	25,633	100
June-August	1,628	1,558	96	25,974	26,010	100
September-November	1,665	1,530	92	25,488	25,558	100
Total Pig Crop	6,515	6,204	95	101,490	102,305	101

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding. <sup>2</sup> December preceding year.

Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, December 28, 2004.

## U.S. Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory December 1

Million Head



# Facts or Opinions?

Which would you choose to make decisions?

Make the facts *known* to agriculture's leaders. If asked, please respond to the USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey.



## USDA ARMS: A Key Source of Knowledge

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey or ARMS is USDA's primary source of knowledge about financial conditions, production practices, resource uses, and economic well-being of farms and ranches. It is the basis for analyzing the implications of actions or events on farms and agricultural stakeholders. It also provides the basis for characterizing farm operations and farm households.

As a result, ARMS is the critical ingredient in the development of federal farm legislation, trade regulations, university research, state grants, and various other programs. It is a critical ingredient in our understanding of American agriculture and the people involved in it. If asked, please participate in the ARMS Survey being conducted this winter.

Mark Harris, Director  
Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

## Livestock Slaughter, Cold Storage, and Poultry

### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

November 2004 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays. November 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

### Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, November 2004 with Comparisons

Item	Total <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 2004 Percent of	
		Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004
Nebraska <i>1,000 Head</i>			
Cattle, head	542.8	110	93
Hogs, head	597.0	105	94
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	564.0	114	93
United States			
Cattle, head	2,541.0	104	93
Calves, head	68.0	87	109
Hogs, head	8,963.6	104	100
Sheep & Lambs, head	242.1	103	100
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,771.0	107	96

<sup>1</sup> Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, December 23, 2004.

### Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, November 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Nov. 2004 Percent of	
		Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004
<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>			
Total red meats	900,016	109	101
Beef	455,939	122	101
Pork	431,104	98	101
Poultry	1,063,586	115	83
Turkey	294,156	84	62
Chicken	768,850	135	96

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, December 21, 2004.

### Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, November 2004 with Comparisons

Item	2003		2004	2004/2003
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Number of Layers				
Nebraska	11.8	12.0	102	
30 States	315.7	321.2	102	
United States	338.3	343.5	102	
Eggs Produced				
Nebraska	261	265	102	
30 States	6,835	6,978	102	
United States	7,326	7,455	102	
Chickens Hatched, Nov				
United States				
Egg-type	30.2	38.4	127	
Broiler	707.6	730.8	103	

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, December 21, 2004.

## Farm Marketings: Percent of Sales, by Crop and Month, Nebraska, 2000-2004

Crop Year	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
<i>Percent</i>												
<b>Corn</b>												
2000-01		14	11	11	12	6	7	5	4	6	10	9
2001-02	6	13	15	8	11	6	7	6	7	6	8	7
2002-03	7	13	13	10	13	7	9	7	6	4	5	6
2003-04	5	15	16	12	14	8	9	6	3	4	4	4
<b>Sorghum Grain</b>												
2000-01		22	9	14	11	7	6	4	5	7	9	4
2001-02	2	20	14	17	16	5	5	5	5	4	4	3
2002-03	7	16	18	13	9	6	7	6	6	5	2	5
2003-04	3	20	20	18	18	6	7	3	1	1	1	2
Crop Year	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
<i>Percent</i>												
<b>Soybeans</b>												
2000-01	7	23	10	10	14	7	5	4	6	5	5	4
2001-02	2	28	14	11	15	6	8	5	3	2	3	3
2002-03	6	23	12	11	14	9	6	7	4	3	3	2
2003-04	9	42	12	9	11	4	5	2	1	1	2	2
<b>Dry Edible Beans</b>												
2000-01	20	19	7	10	14	5	4	5	4	2	5	5
2001-02	29	23	4	9	11	4	2	4	4	2	4	4
2002-03	25	26	3	5	3	2	4	6	6	3	5	12
2003-04	38	18	4	6	7	5	4	3	3	4	4	4
Crop Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<i>Percent</i>												
<b>Wheat</b>												
2000-01	31	19	8	5	4	6	8	2	3	3	5	6
2001-02	27	12	5	8	2	9	10	4	5	6	4	8
2002-03	48	15	11	4	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	2
2003-04	29	10	10	12	8	7	6	4	5	3	2	4
<b>Oats</b>												
2000-01	20	10	8	6	2	6	4	5	7	11	5	16
2001-02	33	22	11	1	3	2	3	3	9	7	2	4
2002-03	39	14	10	3	1	10	6	4	4	3	1	5
2003-04	42	37	8	2	1	1	3		3			3
Crop Year	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<i>Percent</i>												
<b>Hay</b>												
2000-01	9	8	6	8	10	9	15	10	9	8	5	3
2001-02	6	8	8	9	10	12	10	13	8	8	5	3
2002-03	6	9	6	9	10	11	15	11	9	8	4	2
2003-04	3	5	6	10	12	14	15	11	9	6	5	4

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, August 31, 2004, September 29, 2004, November 30, 2004

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