



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK MARCH 2000

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RELEASE DATES FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL REPORTS

April 14 Cattle on Feed
April 17 Milk Production
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April 25 Dairy Products - Annual
April 28 Agricultural Prices

CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT

On March 1, 2000, Arizona had 275,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 72,000 head from a year ago. Placements totaled 27,000 head, the same as February 1999. During February, 24,000 head were marketed, a decrease of 1,000 head from last February.

On March 1, 2000, California had 405,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down 10,000 head from February 1, 2000 but up 20,000 head from March 1999. Placements totaled 50,000 head, up 5,000 head from a year ago. During February, 52,000 head were marketed, an increase of 12,000 head from last February.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.33 million head on March 1, 2000. The inventory was up 9 percent from the 10.42 million head on March 1, 1999 and 9 percent above March 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.88 million, 4 percent above 1999 and 26 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.80 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 351,000, 600-699 pounds were 476,000, 700-799 pounds were 596,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 457,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 2.05 million, 12 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during February, 20 percent above 1999 and 13 percent above 1998.

Cattle on feed March 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.70 million, up 9 percent from the previous year and 10 percent above March 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 24 percent above 1998. Marketings during February totaled 1.75 million, 12 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. Other disappearance during February was 47,000 head, 12 percent above 1999 but 16 percent below 1998.

*** SPECIAL NOTE ***

The year-to-year relationship for placements, marketings, and other disappearance was affected by an extra day in February 2000 due to leap year. This extra day increased the percent change from February 1999. For example, adjusting placements to an average daily basis for the United States and historic 7 States would indicate February placements only slightly above and 1 percent below 1999, respectively.

CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED, NUMBER PLACED ON FEED, NUMBER MARKETED, AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, BY MONTH, STATE, AND UNITED STATES 1999-2000

State 1/	Number on Feed 2/						Placements			Marketings			Other Disappearance		
	February 1			March 1			During February			During February			During February 3/		
	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent
*AZ	202	275	136	203	275	135	27	27	100	25	24	96	1	3	300
*CA	385	415	108	385	405	105	45	50	111	40	52	130	5	8	160
*CO	1,140	1,200	105	1,130	1,180	104	235	250	106	240	265	110	5	5	100
ID	270	300	111	275	305	111	57	70	123	45	57	127	7	8	114
*IA	350	385	110	360	375	104	56	39	70	45	48	107	1	1	100
*KS	2,030	2,340	115	2,030	2,320	114	390	420	108	380	430	113	10	10	100
*NE	2,150	2,370	110	2,160	2,310	107	410	390	95	390	440	113	10	10	100
NM	113	113	100	107	105	98	8	10	125	13	15	115	1	3	300
OK	385	** 420	109	365	400	110	54	54	1000	71	69	97	3	5	167
SD	184	200	109	184	200	109	33	37	112	32	36	113	1	1	100
*TX	2,660	2,900	109	2,610	2,830	108	400	430	108	440	490	111	10	10	100
WA	195	211	108	181	210	116	43	50	116	51	45	88	6	6	100
Other															
Sts	445	445	100	430	415	97	50	53	106	60	75	125	5	8	160
US	10,509	** 11,574	110	10,420	11,330	109	1,808	1,880	104	1,832	2,046	112	65	78	120

1/ States indicated with an asterisk are the historic seven states preparing monthly estimates of cattle on feed.

2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

3/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

** Revised.

BEEF, PORK, AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in February, up 7 percent from the previous record high for February of 3.54 billion pounds produced in 1999.

February 1999 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year and 6 percent higher than the previous record high for February set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 8 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 18.0 million pounds, 6 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95 thousand head, down 5 percent from February 1999. The average live weight was 32 pounds above last year, at 318 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous record high for February set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 2 percent above 1999. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was equal to the previous record low for February set a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 293 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.5 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4 percent higher than last year, veal was 2 percent higher, pork was unchanged, and lamb & mutton was up 3 percent.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: ARIZONA AND U.S. 1/

Class	February 1999	January 2000	February 2000	February 2000 as % of	
				February 1999	January 2000
		1,000 Lbs			Percent
ARIZONA 2/					
Total Red Meat	27,100	30,400	30,600	113	101
UNITED STATES					
		Million Lbs			
Beef	1,998	2,178	2,175	109	100
Veal	17	17	18	106	105
Pork	1,501	1,570	1,554	104	99
Lamb and Mutton	20	19	20	100	105
Total Red Meat	3,537	3,784	3,767	107	100

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

2/ Breakdown by class not available, includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 2000 AND U.S., JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2000 1/

Species	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
	February 2000			January-February 2000		
	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight 2/	Number Slaughtered	Total Dressed Weight 3/	Average Live Weight 2/
	1,000 Head	1,000 Lbs	Lbs	1,000 Head	Million Lbs	Lbs
Cattle	41.0	51,380	1,252	5,873.9	4,353	1,227
Calves 4/				187.7	35	314
Hogs	0.4	108	258	16,208.1	3,124	262
Sheep 4/				574.7	39	138

1/ Includes slaughter under federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Average live weights based on unrounded data.

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

4/ Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations but included in U.S. total.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION UP 8.2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 8.2 percent from production in these same States in February 1999. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds was up 4.9 percent from January 1999. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 24 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,505 pounds for February, 101 pounds above February 1999 without adjusting for the extra day.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 72,000 head more than February 1999 and 3,000 head more than January 2000.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION: BY STATE, FEBRUARY 1999-00

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999
	1,000 Head		Lbs		Million Lbs		Percent
AZ	132	137	1,835	1,935	242	265	9.5
CA	1,447	1,496	1,555	1,710	2,250	2,558	13.7
FL	158	157	1,365	1,425	216	224	3.7
ID	306	332	1,490	1,620	456	538	18.0
IL	125	120	1,310	1,480	164	178	8.5
IN	136	141	1,300	1,380	177	195	10.2
IA	219	215	1,380	1,500	302	323	7.0
KY	135	130	985	1,070	133	139	4.5
MI	292	298	1,405	1,510	410	450	9.8
MN	545	540	1,385	1,475	755	797	5.6
MO	162	157	1,140	1,220	185	192	3.8
NM	223	238	1,615	1,730	360	412	14.4
NY	702	700	1,320	1,370	927	959	3.5
OH	260	259	1,310	1,400	341	363	6.5
PA	615	617	1,375	1,475	846	910	7.6
TX	341	350	1,430	1,470	488	515	5.5
VT	162	159	1,290	1,365	209	217	3.8
VA	122	120	1,205	1,330	147	160	8.8
WA	248	246	1,695	1,785	420	439	4.5
WI	1,366	1,356	1,300	1,370	1,776	1,858	4.6
20-State Total	7,696	7,768	1,404	1,505	10,804	11,692	8.2

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

1999 WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1999 was 46.5 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1998. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.15 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from 1998. The average price paid for wool sold in 1999 was \$0.38 per pound for a total value of \$17.9 million dollars, down 39 percent from \$29.4 million dollars in 1998.

Mohair production in the three major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) during 1999 was 2.90 million pounds, down 43 percent from 1998. Goats and kids clipped, at 444,000 head, was down 37 percent from 1998. Average weight per clip was 6.5 pounds compared with 7.2 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$10.0 million dollars, down 20 percent from 1998.

SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN, WEIGHT PER FLEECE, WOOL PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 1998 AND 1999

State	Sheep and Lambs Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production		Price per Pound		Value of Production 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head		Lbs		1,000 Lbs		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
AZ	120	135	6.5	6.1	780	830	0.47	0.40	367	332
CA	480	480	7.5	7.6	3,600	3,630	0.61	0.35	2,196	1,271
CO	490	460	6.9	7.0	3,364	3,227	0.53	0.40	1,783	1,291
ID	222	237	9.4	9.3	2,093	2,194	0.66	0.36	1,381	790
MT	367	336	9.3	9.5	3,423	3,196	0.78	0.50	2,670	1,598
NV	67	74	9.1	9.1	607	670	0.58	0.33	352	221
NM	265	280	9.0	8.3	2,379	2,320	0.89	0.56	2,117	1,299
TX	1,300	1,170	7.1	6.8	9,230	7,956	0.63	0.49	5,815	3,898
UT	337	320	9.4	9.4	3,157	3,010	0.62	0.32	1,957	963
WA	39	42	8.5	8.4	330	353	0.55	0.40	182	141
WY	650	570	8.5	8.6	5,540	4,930	0.77	0.49	4,266	2,416
U.S.	6,428	6,150	7.7	7.6	49,255	46,549	0.60	0.38	29,415	17,852

1/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. U.S. value is summation of State's value.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 4 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 96 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.3 percent) from the February index. Higher prices for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the March index increase.

Compared with March 1999, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price decreases from March 1999 for milk, oranges,

eggs, and rice offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and calves.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 120 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 point (0.8 percent) from February and 5 points (4.3 percent) above March 1999. Higher prices in March for feed concentrates, complete feeds, nitrogen materials, and gasoline more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle and mixed fertilizers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: ARIZONA AND U.S., MARCH 1999 AND 2000 AND FEBRUARY 2000

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1999 Entire Month	February 2000 Entire Month	March 2000 Mid-Month	March 1999 Entire Month	February 2000 Entire Month	March 2000 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	0.524	0.489	2/	0.551	0.459	0.478
All Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	2.65	2.54	2.57
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	2.82	2.89	2.84
Winter Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	2.53	2.37	2.37
All Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	105.00	83.00	90.00	79.00	72.60	74.80
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	105.00	84.00	90.00	83.20	77.40	78.00
Other Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	95.00	76.00	80.00	67.40	66.70	66.70
Grapefruit 5/	\$ Box	13.10	13.30	11.80	13.80	15.20	15.00
Oranges 5/	\$ Box	29.30	16.20	12.80	21.50	13.70	13.60
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	18.90	29.60	35.30	20.50	26.90	25.70
Tangerines 5/	\$ Box	34.30	22.20	19.90	28.60	22.60	21.20
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	34.10	35.80	36.60	35.20	37.10	38.60
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	64.10	68.90	70.90	65.50	71.20	72.80
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	63.80	68.60	70.60	62.40	67.60	69.30
Calves	\$ Cwt	82.20	101.00	106.00	87.30	105.00	107.00
All Milk 8/ 9/	\$ Cwt	13.90	11.30	11.30	15.00	11.80	11.80

1/ Includes both spot and contract sales.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Not available for Arizona.

4/ Mid-month.

5/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Grapefruit 67 lbs., Lemons 76 lbs., Oranges 75 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs.

6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

7/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

8/ Including milk diverted to manufacturing.

9/ Preliminary: Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

U.S. PRICE INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX 1990-92 = 100	1999		2000	
	February	March	February	March
Prices Received	96	96	92	96
Prices Paid	115	115	119	120
Ratio 1/	83	83	77	80

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.