



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK APRIL 2000

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ARIZONA CATTLE ON FEED UP 28 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

On April 1, 2000, Arizona had 273,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down 1 percent from last month, and up 28 percent from a year ago. Placements totaled 30,000 head, 23 percent below the previous March. During March, 27,000 head were marketed, unchanged from March 1999.

On April 1, 2000, California had 405,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, unchanged from last month and up 5 percent from April 1, 1999. Placements totaled 59,000 head, 7 percent above March 1999. During March, 51,000 head were marketed, 2 percent above last March.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.19 million head on April 1, 2000. The inventory was 8 percent above April 1, 1999 and 11 percent above April 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.79 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.35 million head, up 7 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.02 million, 1 percent below 1999 but

18 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.92 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 331,000, 600-699 pounds were 406,000, 700-799 pounds were 715,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 564,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 2.05 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 10 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during March, 42 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

Cattle on feed April 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.57 million, up 8 percent from the previous year and 11 percent above April 1, 1998. The inventory included 5.74 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, up 8 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.72 million, 1 percent below 1999 but 21 percent above 1998. Marketings during March totaled 1.76 million, 6 percent above 1999 and 12 percent above 1998. Other disappearance during March was 74,000 head, 42 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

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 During March			Marketings During March			Other Disappearance During March 3/			
	March 1			April 1			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	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent
*AZ	202	275	135	214	273	128	39	30	77	27	27	100	1	5	500	
*CA	385	405	105	385	405	105	55	59	107	50	51	102	5	8	160	
*CO	1,140	1,180	104	1,120	1,170	104	240	250	104	240	250	104	10	10	100	
ID	270	305	111	280	320	114	58	69	119	49	47	96	4	7	175	
*IA	350	375	104	360	375	104	57	57	100	56	56	100	1	1	100	
*KS	2,030	2,320	114	2,080	2,280	110	440	400	91	380	420	111	10	20	200	
*NE	2,150	2,310	107	2,180	2,310	106	480	400	105	350	390	111	10	10	100	
NM	113	105	98	94	93	99	13	13	100	24	22	92	2	3	150	
OK	385	400	110	345	380	110	69	73	106	86	87	101	3	6	200	
SD	184	200	109	182	200	110	45	34	76	46	32	70	1	2	200	
*TX	2,660	2,830	108	2,560	2,760	108	530	520	98	565	570	101	15	20	133	
WA	195	210	116	179	221	123	46	53	115	42	38	90	6	4	67	
Other																
Sts	445	415	97	415	405	98	59	58	98	71	63	89	3	5	167	
US	10,509	11,330	109	10,394	11,192	108	2,031	2,016	99	1,986	2,053	103	71	101	142	

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.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGH FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.04 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the previous record high of 4.02 billion pounds produced in March 1999.

March 1999 and 2000 both contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 3 percent from 1999. The average live weight was down 1 pounds from the previous year, at 1,215 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 103 thousand head, down 12 percent from March 1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 3 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from March 1999 and down 8 percent from the previous record low for March set in 1997 and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 344 thousand head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.6 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4 percent higher than last year, veal was 1 percent higher, pork was 1 percent lower, and lamb & mutton was down 6 percent.

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

Class	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000	March 2000 as % of	
				March 1999	February 2000
		1,000 Lbs		Percent	
ARIZONA 2/					
Total Red Meat	30,900	30,600	33,800	110	111
UNITED STATES					
		Million Lbs			
Beef	2,231	2,175	2,300	103	106
Veal	20	18	20	98	109
Pork	1,737	1,554	1,700	98	109
Lamb and Mutton	29	20	24	83	119
Total Red Meat	4,017	3,767	4,044	101	107

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, MARCH 2000 AND U.S., JANUARY-MARCH 2000 1/

Species	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
	March 2000			January-March 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	45.7	56,376	1,232	9,004.9	6,653	1,223
Calves 4/				290.5	55	317
Hogs	0.4	101	225	25,018.6	4,825	262
Sheep 4/				918.9	63	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.

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION UP 3.8 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from production in these same States in March 1999. February revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from 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. The February revision represented a slight decrease of 1 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,634 pounds for March, 49 pounds above March 1999.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 57,000 head more than March 1999 and 4,000 head more than February 2000.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION UP 5.1 PERCENT

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.6 billion pounds, 5.1 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.19 million head, 58,000 head more than the same period last year.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION: BY STATE, MARCH 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	2,135	2,125	282	291	3.2
CA	1,452	1,500	1,795	1,815	2,606	2,723	4.5
FL	159	157	1,540	1,560	245	245	
ID	309	334	1,660	1,730	513	578	12.7
IL	125	120	1,480	1,580	185	190	2.7
IN	136	143	1,380	1,490	188	213	13.3
IA	218	215	1,540	1,610	336	346	3.0
KY	134	130	1,110	1,195	149	155	4.0
MI	296	291	1,565	1,625	463	473	2.2
MN	545	540	1,550	1,585	845	856	1.3
MO	161	156	1,310	1,350	211	211	
NM	231	240	1,770	1,900	409	456	11.5
NY	700	700	1,480	1,520	1,036	1,064	2.7
OH	260	260	1,450	1,495	377	389	3.2
PA	614	618	1,565	1,620	961	1,001	4.2
TX	342	350	1,625	1,640	556	574	3.2
VT	162	160	1,440	1,520	233	243	4.3
VA	122	119	1,335	1,440	163	171	4.9
WA	249	246	1,885	1,940	469	477	1.7
WI	1,366	1,354	1,465	1,505	2,001	2,038	1.8
20-State Total	7,713	7,770	1,585	1,634	12,228	12,694	3.8

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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RELEASE DATES FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL REPORTS

May 16 Milk Production
 May 19 Cattle on Feed
 May 19 Livestock Slaughter
 May 19 Farm Labor
 May 31 Agricultural Prices



PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 4 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the March index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, eggs, and strawberries more than offset price decreases for cotton, corn, grapefruit, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the April index increase.

Compared with April 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.1 percent) higher. Price increases from April 1999 for hogs, cattle,

tomatoes, and calves more than offset price decreases for lettuce, milk, oranges, and carrots.

PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from March but 4 points (3.5 percent) above April 1999. Lower prices in April for LP gas, feed grains, feed concentrates, and diesel fuel were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, hay and forages, feeder pigs, and self-propelled machinery.

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

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		April 1999 Entire Month	March 2000 Entire Month	April 2000 Mid-Month	April 1999 Entire Month	March 2000 Entire Month	April 2000 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	0.554	2/	2/	0.567	0.479	0.450
All Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	4.38	2.59	2.55
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	4.68	2.62	2.73
Winter Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	4.14	2.38	2.29
All Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	94.00	90.00	94.00	81.90	74.80	80.70
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	95.00	90.00	94.00	85.60	78.00	84.50
Other Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	70.00	80.00	84.00	65.80	66.70	67.40
Grapefruit 5/	\$ Box	12.90	11.80	10.50	14.50	15.00	14.90
Oranges 5/	\$ Box	23.00	12.80	15.60	19.80	13.60	13.40
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	22.50	35.30	27.80	23.20	25.70	25.20
Tangerines 5/	\$ Box	23.20	19.90	15.90	32.30	21.20	23.10
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	36.00	38.60	41.20	35.10	39.00	39.60
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	64.70	71.30	71.90	66.00	73.40	73.80
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	64.40	71.00	71.60	62.70	69.80	70.10
Calves	\$ Cwt	86.30	112.00	116.00	88.20	109.00	110.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	12.10	11.40	11.30	12.60	11.90	11.90

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/ 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	
	March	April	March	April
Prices Received	97	96	95	99
Prices Paid	115	115	119	119
Ratio 1/	84	83	80	83

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