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Idaho Milk Production Up 8 Percent

Idaho milk production during March 1999 totaled 507 million pounds, up 8 percent from the same month last year and 11 percent higher than February 1999. Average milk production per cow in March 1999 was 1,650 pounds, down 10 pounds from March 1998 and up 160 pounds from February 1999. The average number of milk cows in March was 307,000 head, 24,000 more than in March 1998 and 1,000 more than February 1999.

Nationally, March milk production in the 20 major States totaled 12.1 billion pounds, 4.0 percent above production in these same States in March 1998. February revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds, was up 4.0 percent from February 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,577 pounds for March, 62 pounds above March 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 5,000 head less than March 1998, but 2,000 head more than February 1999.

Milk Production, Average Number of Cows, Selected States, March 1998-1999

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1999 As Percent of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		
Arizona	130	132	1,885	2,135	245	282	115
California	1,408	1,452	1,665	1,785	2,344	2,592	111
Florida	162	159	1,415	1,490	229	237	103
IDAHO	283	307	1,660	1,650	470	507	108
Illinois	129	125	1,510	1,480	195	185	95
Indiana	134	136	1,430	1,330	192	181	94
Iowa	224	215	1,472	1,540	330	331	100
Kentucky	141	134	1,105	1,110	156	149	96
Michigan	297	297	1,530	1,580	454	469	103
Minnesota	555	545	1,465	1,555	813	847	104
Missouri	174	162	1,240	1,320	216	214	99
New Mexico	216	225	1,705	1,755	368	395	107
New York	697	700	1,440	1,490	1,004	1,043	104
Ohio	265	260	1,460	1,460	387	380	98
Pennsylvania	624	614	1,535	1,565	958	961	100
Texas	362	342	1,475	1,585	534	542	101
Vermont	161	162	1,430	1,470	230	238	103
Virginia	125	122	1,345	1,350	168	165	98
Washington	249	249	1,805	1,885	449	469	104
Wisconsin	1,373	1,366	1,410	1,435	1,936	1,960	101
20 STATE TOTAL	7,709	7,704	1,515	1,577	11,678	12,147	104

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Idaho Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms in Idaho in 1998, at 24,500, is unchanged from 1997. This is 500 farms more than the 24,000 farms reported in 1996. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 12.0 million acres, remains unchanged from 1997. The average farm size in Idaho was also unchanged from 1997 at 490 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1998 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1997. Total land in farms is 953.8 million acres, down 2.2 million acres from last year. This decline in land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average farm size decreased 1 acre from 1997 to 435 acres.

Stocks

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on April 1 totaled 53,500,000 cwt., 2,500,000 cwt. less than on hand April 1, 1998. Disappearance, at 86,150,000 cwt., is up from last year's 84,314,000 cwt. but below 1996's 86,800,000 cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 3,300,000 cwt., below last year's 4,600,000 cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 50,200,000 cwt., was 1,200,000 cwt. below the amount stored on April 1, 1998.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1, 1999 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 8.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 53.5 million cwt. will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.8 percent or 4.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 15.2 percent or approximately 8.1 million cwt.

Fall Potatoes: Production & Stocks 1993-98 Idaho & 15 Fall States

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DECEMBER 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
			JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 1	APRIL 1	MAY 1
		1,000 Cwt.					
IDAHO							
1993	126,192	94,500	85,000	75,500	65,000	52,000	35,000
1994	138,801	100,500	89,500	78,000	68,000	55,000	39,500
1995	132,657	96,000	85,000	73,500	62,500	49,500	36,000
1996	142,800	102,000	92,000	82,000	70,000	56,000	41,000
1997	140,314	102,000	91,500	81,000	69,500	56,000	41,500
1998	139,650	101,000	90,500	79,000	67,500	53,500	
15 STATES							
1993	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,585	103,210
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840
1998	424,897	282,300	246,220	211,100	174,100	130,890	

Honey Production Down 22 Percent

Idaho honey production in 1998 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 6 million pounds, down 22 percent from 1997. The estimate of 120,000 colonies producing honey in 1998, remains unchanged from last years estimate. Yield per colony averaged 50 pounds, down 14 pounds from the 64 pounds in 1997. Producer honey stocks were 2.2 million pounds on December 15, 1998, down 4 percent from a year earlier.

Nationally, honey production in 1998 from producers with five or

more colonies totaled 220 million pounds, up 12 percent from 1997. There were 2.63 million colonies producing honey in 1998, up slightly from 1997. Yield per colony averaged 83.7 pounds, up 9.0 pounds from the 74.7 pounds in 1997. Colonies which produced in more than one state were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 80.8 million pounds on December 15, 1998, up 14 percent from a year earlier.

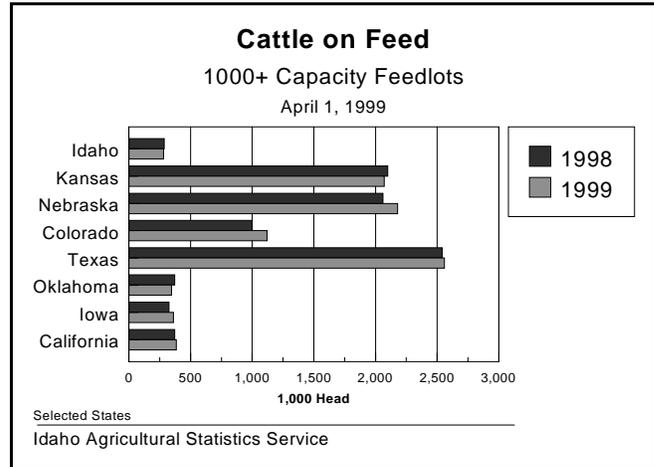
Idaho Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle on feed for the slaughter market in Idaho from feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head on April 1, 1999 totaled 280,000 head, down 2 percent from the April 1, 1998 inventory. The inventory was up 2 percent from the number on hand as of March 1, 1999.

Placements of cattle into State feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during March totaled 58,000 head, up 3,000 head from March 1998 placements. Marketings during March totaled 49,000 head, up 12,000 head from March 1998 marketings.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States from feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.38 million head on April 1, 1999, up 3 percent from April 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.02 million, 18 percent above 1998 and 3 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.95 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 357,000, 600-699 pounds were 468,000, 700-799 pounds were 739,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 457,000. Marketings of fed

cattle during March totaled 1.98 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 12 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during March, 24 percent below 1998 and 16 percent below 1997.



Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}

State	April 1, 1998	March 1, 1999	April 1, 1999		
			Number	As % of 1998	As % of March
		---1,000 Head---			---Percent---
Arizona	212	203	214	101	105
California	370	385	385	104	100
Colorado	1,000	1,130	1,120	112	99
IDAHO	285	275	280	98	102
Iowa	325	*360	360	111	100
Kansas	2,100	2,020	2,070	99	102
Nebraska	2,060	2,160	2,180	106	101
New Mexico	91	107	94	103	88
Oklahoma	370	365	345	93	95
South Dakota	167	184	182	109	99
Texas	2,540	2,610	2,560	101	98
Washington	178	181	179	101	99
Other States	420	430	415	99	97
United States	10,118	*10,410	10,384	103	100

^{1/}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. *Revised.

Idaho Fruit Production Increases

Idaho fruit production increased from 1997, but production left unharvested was substantial for the apple crop. Apple production totaled 180 million pounds, up 64 percent from last year, but poor prices resulted in 40 million pounds of this production being left unharvested in 1998. Peach production was 9.0 million pounds, up 20 percent from 1997. Prune and Plum production in 1998 was estimated to be 4,500 tons, up from last year's 3,000 tons. Sweet cherry production was 2,200 tons, up 38 percent from last year's 1,600 tons.

Nationally, apple production at 10.9 billion pounds, is up 6 percent from the 1997 crop. However, utilized production is only up 3 percent from 1997 due to poor prices. Peach production totaled 2.43 billion pounds, down 8 percent from last year. Sweet cherry production declined 7 percent from a year ago, at 209,700 tons. Prune and plum production in Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington totaled 25,600 tons, up slightly from last year's crop.

Idaho Red Meat Production Up 8 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for March 1999 totaled 45.9 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year. March production showed a 15 percent increase from February's 39.8 million pounds. Accumulated red meat production for the January - March 1999 period totaled 131.4 million pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in March, up 8 percent from the 3.73 billion pounds produced in March 1998 and up 7 percent from the previous record high for March set in 1995. Beef production at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 1998. Pork production totaled 1.74

billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year and 6 percent higher than the previous record high for March set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 8 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent from March 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 423 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago. January - March red meat production was 11.4 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 19 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 2 percent.

Commercial Red Meat Production, Selected States and United States^{1/}

State	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999	March 1999 As Percent Of 2/	
				March 1998	February 1999
	<i>Million Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
California	83.1	80.9	93.8	113	116
Colorado	155.1	171.1	181.5	117	106
IDAHO	42.5	39.8	45.9	108	115
Illinois	212.8	200.3	228.9	108	114
Iowa	511.1	498.0	573.5	112	115
Kansas	465.1	461.9	513.6	110	111
Minnesota	165.6	159.7	184.8	112	116
Montana	1.1	1.3	1.3	123	105
Nebraska	553.1	531.8	586.2	106	110
Nevada		0.1	0.1	132	103
Oklahoma	68.4	68.6	77.9	114	114
Oregon	3.4	3.1	3.7	108	118
South Dakota	84.1	*83.0	93.9	112	113
Texas	403.2	361.6	418.3	104	116
Utah	35.9	37.1	43.4	121	117
Washington	54.3	51.1	54.2	100	106
Wyoming	0.4	0.5	0.4	115	91
UNITED STATES	3,725.9	3,535.3	4,016.0	108	114

1/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. 2/ Percentages based on unrounded data. * Revised