

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: * Prospective Plantings * Agricultural Prices * Livestock Slaughter
* Hogs & Pigs * Grain Stocks

MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn growers intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999 but down 3 percent from 1998.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.9 million acres in 2000, up 1 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the largest planted area for soybeans on record.

Winter wheat seeded acreage at 43.2 million acres was down less than 1 percent from 1999 but 1 percent above the previously published level.

Eight-State Burley Belt intends to set 207,700 acres for harvest, down 31 percent from last year's 300,400 acres and below the historic low of 1986.

KENTUCKY

The planting intentions for Kentucky's big three crops were mixed. Corn acreage was up slightly, soybeans were unchanged with the year before while burley tobacco was down significantly. The decrease in burley set acreage was due to a 45 percent decrease in the basic poundage quota

that farmers can sell. Of the remaining crops, all hay, winter wheat, barley, grain sorghum and dark tobacco were all up from the previous year. The intentions survey was conducted as of March 1 and represents the acreages farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of that date. Winter wheat and barley were seeded in the fall of 1999.

Farmers intend to plant 1.33 million acres of **corn**. This was up less than 1 percent from the previous year. **Soybean** acreage was expected to total 1.20 million acres, unchanged from the 1999 crop.

Burley tobacco growers intend to set 130,000 acres for harvest. The decrease in acreage resulted from a decrease in effective quota. The basic poundage quota was 168.9 million pounds. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** and **dark-air tobacco** were all up from the previous year.

Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 1999 totaled 670,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the December estimate and the previous year. **Grain sorghum** acres were expected to total 15,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from the previous year. **Barley** acreage at 10,000 was up 1,000 acres from the 1999 crop. Farmers expect to harvest a record high 2.45 million acres of **all hay** for the current year, up 2 percent from 1999.

MARCH 1, 2000 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	1999	Ind. 2000	2000 % of 1999	1999	Ind. 2000	2000 % of 1999
	(Thousand Acres)		Percent	(Thousand Acres)		Percent
All Tobacco 1/	221.7	142.5	64	644.3	500.7	78
Burley Tobacco 1/	210.0	130.0	62	300.4	207.7	69
Corn	1,320	1,330	101	77,431	77,881	101
Soybeans	1,200	1,200	100	73,780	74,871	101
All Sorghum	10	15	150	9,288	8,979	97
All Wheat 2/	650	670	103	62,814	61,664	98
All Hay 1/	2,400	2,450	102	63,160	63,052	100
Barley 2/	9	10	111	5,223	5,733	110

1/ Harvested acreage. 2/ Includes acreage planted preceding fall.

LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN PRICES MOSTLY UP

Kentucky farmers received higher prices for most livestock and grain commodities at mid-March.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$84.00 per cwt. at mid-March. This was \$3.00 more than last month and \$17.00 more than March a year ago. Steer and heifer prices are at their highest level in over eight years. Prices at mid-March for **beef cows** were \$38.00 per cwt., a \$2.00 increase over last month and \$3.00 above last year. Beef cows have averaged in the thirty dollar range since February 1997. **Calves** under 500 lbs. reached the \$100.00 per cwt. mark for the first time since May 1991. This was \$6.00 above last month and \$21.00 above last March.

Prices received for **barrows and gilts** at mid-month averaged \$41.00 per cwt. This was \$3.00 above February's price and \$16.00 above the price of \$25.00 per cwt. received last March. This was the highest prices have been since June 1998. **Sow** price was the only livestock price decrease at mid-March averaging \$34.00 per cwt. This was down \$4.00 from February but \$13.00 above March a year ago.

The **all milk** price remained unchanged from last month at \$13.00 per cwt. This was \$4.60 below last March.

Mid-March **corn** prices averaged \$2.25 per bushel. This was 2 cents above last month and the highest price since April 1999. **Soybean** prices at \$5.05 per bushel were 1 cent below February and 25 cents above last March. **Winter wheat** prices increased 3 cents to \$2.35 per bushel at mid-March. This was 22 cents above March a year ago.

The preliminary **U.S.** 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.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAR 1999	FEB 2000	MAR 2000	MAR 2000
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <u>a/</u>	
FARM PRICES					
All Corn <u>b/</u> <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.29	2.23	2.25	2.03
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	4.80	5.06	5.05	4.87
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	2.13	2.32	2.35	2.37
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	123.00	122.00	121.00	78.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	80.00	79.00	79.00	66.70
All Hogs	Cwt.	32.50	38.00	40.70	41.30
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	25.00	38.00	41.00	41.70
Sows	Cwt.	21.00	38.00	34.00	34.50
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	59.30	70.20	73.00	69.30
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	67.00	81.00	84.00	72.80
Cows	Cwt.	35.00	36.00	38.00	38.60
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	79.00	94.00	100.00	107.0
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	17.60	13.00	13.00	11.80
Fluid <u>g/</u>	Cwt.	17.70	13.00	--	11.90
Manufactured	Cwt.	10.90	9.50	--	10.20
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	14.2	17.0	18.1	20.3

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

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.

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.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

Type	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000	Feb. 00 % of	
				Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000
Million Pounds			Percent		
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 & Mutton	20	19	20	100	105
Total U.S.	3,537	3,784	3,767	107	100
Total Kentucky	39.3	37.6	36.0	92	96

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 1999 & 2000 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.8	1.5	1,549	1,282	876	839
Hogs	199.0	180.4	51,552	47,778	259	265
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.5	62	59	132	125
United States						
Cattle	2,722.5	2,937.1	3,324,180	3,598,357	1,221	1,225
Hogs	7,907.7	8,067.3	2,044,799	2,108,491	259	261
Sheep & Lambs	299.5	293.0	40,513	40,417	135	138

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2000, was 58.1 million head. This was 3 percent below March 1999, and 2 percent below December 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 1999, and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, was 3 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 1999-February 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 24.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 3 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.79 pigs saved per

litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.73 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the March-May 2000 quarter, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for June-August 2000, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period last year and 7 percent below 1998.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS MARCH 1, 1999 - 2000, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Head	1999	Head	1999	Head	1999	(1,000 Head)							
AR	695	95	110	100	585	94	220	225	155	135	135	125	115	100
CO	860	102	210	111	650	100	335	370	105	90	100	90	110	100
IL	4,050	92	430	91	3,620	92	1,410	1,260	900	880	880	820	740	660
IN	3,150	82	350	83	2,800	82	1,330	1,100	790	650	710	550	600	500
IA	15,000	101	1,160	95	13,840	102	4,380	4,340	3,480	3,660	2,970	3,050	2,750	2,790
KS	1,400	92	145	88	1,255	92	515	510	280	245	255	230	315	270
MI	960	97	120	109	840	95	280	295	225	215	190	170	185	160
MN	5,400	96	570	97	4,830	96	1,960	1,910	1,230	1,150	990	960	830	810
MO	3,050	98	380	95	2,670	99	1,130	1,160	720	690	510	520	340	300
NE	3,050	92	390	93	2,660	92	1,140	1,060	750	630	550	550	440	420
NC	9,400	99	1,000	100	8,400	99	3,400	3,400	1,950	1,950	1,750	1,650	1,400	1,400
OH	1,450	88	160	82	1,290	89	580	540	355	300	310	275	210	175
OK	2,190	107	310	107	1,880	107	770	840	300	300	240	250	450	490
PA	1,000	91	120	100	880	90	340	330	250	230	210	180	180	140
SD	1,230	93	125	96	1,105	93	410	370	310	280	240	250	230	205
TX	860	113	80	89	780	116	295	245	135	165	110	170	130	200
WI	570	85	65	76	505	86	210	195	135	110	130	100	110	100
Other ^{1/}	3,832	96	490	94	3,343	96	1,273	1,162	829	833	715	708	657	640
U.S.	58,147	97	6,215	95	51,933	97	19,978	19,312	12,899	12,513	10,995	10,648	9,792	9,460

^{1/}Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States. Kentucky included in Other States.

MARCH 1 CORN STOCKS UP WHILE SOYBEAN STOCKS DOWN

Kentucky corn stocks for March 1, 2000 totaled 50.4 million bushels. This was an increase of 11 percent from March 1, 1999 and the largest March 1 corn stocks in 5 years. On-farm storage totaled 32.0 million bushels, 64 percent of the total corn in storage. Off-farm stocks at 18.4 million bushels includes grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Off-farm stocks were up 28 percent from a year earlier and the highest March 1 off-farm stocks in 11 years. Off-farm stocks of **soybeans** at 7.37 million bushels was down 17 percent from the previous year. On-farm stocks for Kentucky are no longer published separately and are included in the U.S. unallocated stocks. Kentucky off-farm **wheat** stocks totaled 3.80 million bushels. Stocks were down 17 percent from last year's 4.56 million bushels. The 1999 March 1 wheat stocks were the highest on record.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 5.61 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 1999. Of the total stocks, 3.30 billion bushels, were stored on farms, down 8 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 2.31 billion bushels, were up 9 percent from a year ago. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 1.40 billion bushels, down 4 percent from March 1, 1999. On-farm stocks, at 730 million bushels were down 10 percent from the same period a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 677 million bushels, were 4 percent higher than March 1, 1999. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 1.41 billion bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 423 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 989 million bushels, were up 1 percent from a year ago.

KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2000 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		March 1 1999	Dec. 1 1999	March 1 2000	March 1 1999	Dec. 1 1999	March 1 2000
(Thousand Bushels)							
Corn	On-Farm	31,000	69,000	32,000	3,570,000	5,180,000	3,300,000
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	14,359	17,237	18,350	2,128,428	2,844,701 ^{5/}	2,305,529
	Total	45,359	86,237	50,350	5,698,428	8,024,701 ^{5/}	5,605,529
Sorghum	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	60,900	89,300	51,700
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	161,536	259,137 ^{5/}	173,368
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	222,436	348,437 ^{5/}	225,068
Oats	On-Farm	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	61,700	82,100	52,900
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	168	^{4/}	131	50,850	53,872 ^{5/}	48,523
	Total	168	^{4/}	131	122,550	135,972 ^{5/}	101,423
Barley	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	86,900	109,500 ^{5/}	59,300
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	119,808	119,721 ^{5/}	110,883
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	200,708	229,221 ^{5/}	170,183
All Wheat	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	471,220	648,800	423,180
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	4,557	6,532	3,796	979,191	1,236,811 ^{5/}	989,201
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	1,450,411	1,885,611 ^{5/}	1,412,381
Soybeans	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	815,000	1,150,000	730,000
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	8,918	7,573	7,371	642,338	1,032,875 ^{5/}	667,324
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	1,457,338	2,182,875 ^{5/}	1,397,324

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. ^{2/} Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. ^{3/} On-Farm oat stocks estimates not made.
^{4/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{5/} Revised.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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