

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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Volume No. 20 Issue No. 7
Released: April 2, 2001

Published twice monthly

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

MARCH 1 PLANTING INTENTIONS

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn producers intend to plant 76.7 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000 and down 1 percent from 1999. Expected acreage was down in almost all areas of the United States.

Soybean growers intend to plant 76.7 million acres in 2001, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record.

Winter wheat seeded acreage at 41.3 million acres was down 5 percent from 2000. This was the lowest seeded acres since 1971.

Eight-State Burley Belt intends to set 182,500 acres, down 8 percent from a year ago.

KENTUCKY

Planting intentions by farmers were generally down for 2001. Tobacco and corn acreage were down from the previous year while soybean acreage was up. Intended acreage for hay and wheat were also down from the previous year while sorghum and barley acreage were unchanged. The intentions survey was conducted as of March 1 and

represents the acreage farmers intend to plant and/or harvest as of that date. Winter wheat and barley were seeded in the fall of 2000.

Farmers intend to plant 1.28 million acres of **corn**, down 50,000 acres from 2000. This was down 4 percent from the previous year and the smallest acreage in 3 years. **Soybean** acreage was expected to be 1.25 million acres, up 4 percent (50,000 acres) from 2000 and the largest acreage in 11 years.

Burley tobacco growers intend to set 120,000 acres for harvest in 2001, down 5,000 acres from the year 2000. The 2001 basic quota for Kentucky was 227.2 million pounds while the effective quota was 226.0 million pounds. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 6,200 acres was down 1,700 acres from 2000 while acreage set to **dark-air tobacco** at 1,700 acres was down 500 acres.

Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2000 totaled 550,000 acres, down 120,000 acres from 2000. The decrease was brought about by low wheat prices and less tobacco being seeded, as wheat is used as a cover crop on tobacco acres. **Grain sorghum** acres was expected to total 11,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. **Barley** acreage at 9,000 acres was the same as in 2000. Farmers expect to harvest 2.30 million acres of **all hay** for the current year, down 150,000 acres from last year's record high harvested acreage.

MARCH 1, 2001 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2000	Ind. 2001	2001 % of 2000	2000	Ind. 2001	2001 % of 2000
	(Thousand Acres)			(Thousand Acres)		
All Tobacco 1/	137.7	130.5	95	485.7	457.7	94
Burley Tobacco 1/	125.0	120.0	96	198.4	182.5	92
Corn	1,330	1,280	96	79,545	76,693	96
Soybeans	1,200	1,250	104	74,496	76,657	103
All Sorghum	11	11	100	9,195	9,368	102
All Wheat 2/	670	550	82	62,529	60,299	96
All Hay 1/	2,450	2,300	94	59,854	63,771	107
Barley 2/	9	9	100	5,844	5,321	91

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

LIVESTOCK PRICES UP, GRAIN PRICES DOWN

Mixed prices were received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-March. Livestock prices were up while grain prices were down.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over brought \$85.00 per cwt. at mid-March, \$4.00 above last month and \$1.00 above March 2000. This was the highest price since last July. **Beef cows** averaged \$43.00 per cwt. at mid-March, \$1.00 above the February price and \$5.00 above the price received last March. This was the highest price received since July 1994. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$105.00 per cwt. at mid-March, \$6.00 above last month and \$5.00 above last year. Calves were at their highest price since April 1991.

Mid-March prices for **barrows and gilts** averaged \$42.00 per cwt. compared to \$37.00 last month and \$40.00 last March. This was the highest barrow and gilts price received in 8 months. **Sows** averaged \$33.00 per cwt., \$2.00 above last month while down \$1.00 from last year. This was the highest sow price in 5 months.

The **all milk** price received was \$14.70 per cwt., up 40 cents from February and \$1.70 from March a year ago.

Corn prices averaged \$2.05 per bushel at mid-March, down 23 cents from last month and 21 cents from March 2000. Corn prices were at their lowest level in 4 months. Prices received for **soybeans** averaged \$4.35 per bushel. This was 32 cents below February, 81 cents below last year and the lowest soybean price in 20 months. **Winter wheat** prices averaged \$2.55 cents per bushel at mid-March compared to \$2.58 last month and \$2.66 a year ago.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March was 104 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.0 percent) from the February Index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, milk, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for apples, lettuce, strawberries, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers were partially offset by lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn. Compared with March 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (8.3 percent) higher. Price increases from March 2000 for milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, corn, apples, grapefruit, and potatoes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAR 2000	FEB 2001	MAR 2001	MAR 2001
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <u>a/</u>	
FARM PRICES					
All Corn <u>b/ c/</u>	Bu.	2.26	2.28	2.05	1.91
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	5.16	4.67	4.35	4.29
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	2.66	2.58	2.55	2.86
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	119.00	118.00	110.00	93.70
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	77.00	70.00	66.00	71.30
All Hogs	Cwt.	39.80	36.80	41.60	45.10
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	40.00	37.00	42.00	45.70
Sows	Cwt.	34.00	31.00	33.00	34.30
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	73.00	71.60	74.90	77.00
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	84.00	81.00	85.00	81.10
Cows	Cwt.	38.00	42.00	43.00	43.20
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	100.00	99.00	105.00	111.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.00	14.30	14.70	13.60
Fluid <u>g/</u>	Cwt.	13.00	14.30	--	13.70
Manufactured	Cwt.	9.00	9.40	--	11.80
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	17.6	16.1	20.3	23.6

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 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 10 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in February 2000. February 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2001 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.88 billion pounds, was 13 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down 12 percent from February 2000. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,218 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.49 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.60 million head, 6 percent below February 2000. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

Type	Feb. 2000	Jan. 2001	Feb. 2001	Feb. 01 % of	
				Feb. 2000	Jan. 2001
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,175	2,205	1,883	87	85
Veal	18	18	16	86	88
Pork	1,558	1,693	1,486	95	88
Lamb & Mutton	20	19	17	87	92
Total U.S.	3,771	3,934	3,402	90	86
Total Kentucky	36.0	41.5	34.4	96	83

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2000 & 2001 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.5	1.2	1,282	1,008	839	856
Hogs	180.4	168.7	47,778	45,092	265	267
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.4	59	71	125	169
United States						
Cattle	2,936.9	2,580.0	3,598,133	3,141,619	1,225	1,218
Hogs	8,076.9	7,603.5	2,112,676	2,005,293	262	264
Sheep & Lambs	293.6	245.3	40,518	35,190	138	143

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, 2001, was 58.8 million head. This was 2 percent above March 2000, but 1 percent below December 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was up 1 percent from March 1, 2000, but down slightly from December 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 1 percent below last quarter.

The December 2000-February 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2000, but 1 percent less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.78 pigs saved per

litter for the December 2000-February 2001 period, compared to 8.76 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 2.91 million sows farrow during the March-May 2001 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, but 3 percent below 1999. Intended farrowings for June-August, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000, but slightly below 1999.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS MARCH 1, 2000 - 2001, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2001 1,000 Head	2001 % of 2000	2001 1,000 Head	2001 % of 2000	2001 1,000 Head	2001 % of 2000	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
							2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	(1,000 Head)													
AR	660	96	105	95	555	96	220	200	135	135	125	120	100	100
CO	770	91	180	88	590	91	370	325	90	70	90	85	95	110
IL	4,100	101	440	102	3,660	101	1,260	1,310	880	890	820	820	660	640
IN	3,250	103	360	103	2,890	103	1,100	1,100	650	670	550	560	500	560
IA	14,800	100	1,120	97	13,680	100	4,310	4,280	3,590	3,760	2,970	3,050	2,770	2,590
KS	1,550	111	160	110	1,390	111	510	480	245	295	230	245	270	370
MI	900	94	120	100	780	93	295	310	215	180	170	160	160	130
MN	5,900	109	600	105	5,300	110	1,910	2,130	1,150	1,300	960	1,080	810	790
MO	2,950	98	380	100	2,570	98	1,140	1,140	680	600	510	510	290	320
NE	2,950	98	360	95	2,590	99	1,030	1,020	630	650	550	520	410	400
NC	9,500	101	1,000	100	8,500	101	3,400	3,500	1,950	1,850	1,650	1,700	1,400	1,450
OH	1,450	101	165	103	1,285	101	535	540	290	305	270	280	175	160
OK	2,260	103	340	110	1,920	102	840	850	300	320	250	260	490	490
PA	1,040	105	120	100	920	106	325	335	225	240	180	190	140	155
SD	1,300	106	135	108	1,165	105	370	400	280	320	250	245	205	200
TX	910	106	90	113	820	105	245	270	165	170	170	160	200	220
WI	600	105	80	123	520	103	195	200	110	110	100	110	100	100
Other ^{1/}	3,864	101	489	102	3,375	101	1,162	1,204	824	839	707	713	639	620
U.S.	58,754	102	6,244	101	52,510	102	19,217	19,594	12,409	12,704	10,552	10,808	9,414	9,405

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

MARCH 1 CORN STOCKS HIGHEST IN YEARS

Kentucky corn stocks totaled 63.0 million bushels on March 1, 2001. This was 24 percent above March 1, 2000 and the largest March 1 corn stocks since 87.4 million bushels in 1993. Corn stored on farms totaled 42.0 million bushels, up 31 percent from the previous year and the largest since March 1, 1993. Corn stored in off-farm facilities, at 21.0 million bushels, climbed 11 percent from March 2000, and accounted for 33 percent of total corn stocks. Off-farm corn stocks were the largest March 1 stocks in 12 years. Off-farm facilities includes grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Soybean and wheat stocks estimates in Kentucky are made only for off-farm stocks. Off-farm stocks of **soybeans** totaled 7.07 million bushels, down 4 percent from the March 1, 2000 level. Kentucky off-farm stocks of **all wheat** was 5.28 million bushels, compared to the March 2000 total of 3.80 million bushels. This was the largest March 1 all wheat stocks since records were started in 1946.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 6.04 billion bushels, up 8 percent from March 1, 2000 and the highest level since 1987. Of the total stocks, 3.60 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 9 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.44 billion bushels, were up 6 percent from the previous year. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2001, totaled 1.40 billion bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2000. On-farm stocks estimated at 780 million bushels, were up 7 percent from the same period a year ago. Off-farm stocks at 625 million bushels were 6 percent lower than March 1, 2000. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 1.34 billion bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 390 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 950 million bushels, were down 4 percent from a year ago.

KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2001 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		March 1 2000	Dec. 1 2000	March 1 2001	March 1 2000	Dec. 1 2000	March 1 2001
(Thousand Bushels)							
Corn	On-Farm	32,000	83,000	42,000	3,300,000	5,550,000	3,600,000
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	18,947	26,969	21,004	2,301,895 ^{5/}	2,972,178 ^{5/}	2,437,353
	Total	50,947	109,969	63,004	5,601,895 ^{5/}	8,522,178 ^{5/}	6,037,353
Sorghum	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	51,700	74,300	40,100
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	173,932	186,736 ^{5/}	125,211
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	225,632	261,036 ^{5/}	165,311
Oats	On-Farm	^{3/}	^{3/}	^{3/}	53,300 ^{5/}	86,900	55,800
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	131	^{4/}	^{4/}	48,500	57,209 ^{5/}	46,319
	Total	131	^{4/}	^{4/}	101,800 ^{5/}	144,109 ^{5/}	102,119
Barley	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	59,300	111,500	58,600
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	^{4/}	110,917	117,369 ^{5/}	103,421
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	170,217	228,869 ^{5/}	162,021
All Wheat	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	424,680 ^{5/}	623,420	389,750
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	3,796	7,204	5,276	991,841 ^{5/}	1,181,666 ^{5/}	949,824
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	1,416,521 ^{5/}	1,805,086 ^{5/}	1,339,574
Soybeans	On-Farm	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	730,000	1,217,000	780,000
	Off-Farm ^{1/}	7,371	9,200	7,067	665,986 ^{5/}	1,022,791 ^{5/}	624,821
	Total	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	1,395,986 ^{5/}	2,239,791 ^{5/}	1,404,821

^{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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Kentucky Agri-News (ISSN:8750-9792)(USPS 0661-550) is published twice monthly by the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service, Louisville, KY 40202-1120. Periodical postage paid at Louisville, KY and additional mailing office. Subscription fee \$10 per year except to data contributors. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 1120, Louisville, KY 40201-1120.