

# 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** producers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Expected acreage was up in the eastern Corn Belt as growers are switching back to corn after planting soybeans last year when persistent wet weather in the spring prevented them from seeding corn.

**Soybean** growers intend to plant an estimated 73.2 million acres of soybeans, down 1 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean acreage has declined.

**Winter wheat** planted area for the 2003 crop was 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002.

**Eight-State Burley Belt** intends to set 151,100 acres, down 5 percent from a year ago and 8 percent from two years earlier.

### KENTUCKY

Planting intentions were mixed for the 2003 crop season. Kentucky corn was up in acreage while soybeans and tobacco were down. Intended acreage for hay was unchanged while winter wheat and barley acreage were down from the previous year. Grain sorghum acreage was up.

Farmers intend to plant 1.25 million acres of **corn**, up 120,000 acres from the 2002 crop year and the largest acreage in 3 years. This would be up 11 percent from last year's lower planted acreage. **Soybean** acreage was expected to be 1.17 million acres, down 9 percent (120,000 acres) from 2002 and equals the acreage of 1995.

**Burley tobacco** growers intend to set 98,000 acres for harvest in 2003, down 6,000 acres from the 2002 harvest. The decrease was due to a decline in effective quota as it was reduced from 224.5 million pounds for 2002 to 206.1 million for 2003. Acreage set to **dark-fired tobacco** at 5,000 acres was up 100 acres from the 2002 acreage while the acreage set to **dark-air tobacco** at 3,500 acres was up 200 acres from 2002.

**Winter wheat** seeded in the fall of 2002 totaled 480,000 acres, down 70,000 acres from the 2002 crop and the smallest acreage since 1986. The decrease was brought about by wet soil conditions at seeding time last fall and less cover crop wheat acreage being planted on tobacco acres.

**Grain sorghum** was expected to total 14,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from the previous year. **Barley** acreage at 9,000 acres was down 1,000 acres from the previous year. Farmers intend to harvest 2.40 million acres of **all hay** for the 2003 crop season, unchanged from the previous year. The acreage of all hay harvested during a crop season depends on moisture received as in a drier summers farmers will cut more hay to fed their cattle.

### MARCH 1, 2003 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS-PLANTED ACRES, KENTUCKY & UNITED STATES

CROPS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2002	Ind. 2003	03 % of 02	2002	Ind. 2003	03 % of 02
	(Thousand Acres)			(Thousand Acres)		
All Tobacco 1/	112.2	106.5	95	430.3	417.5	97
Burley Tobacco 1/	104.0	98.0	94	159.6	151.1	95
Corn	1,130	1,250	111	79,054	79,022	100
Soybeans	1,290	1,170	91	73,758	73,182	99
All Sorghum	12	14	117	9,580	9,451	99
All Wheat 2/	550	480	87	60,358	61,697	102
All Hay 1/	2,400	2,400	100	64,497	63,552	99
Barley 2/	10	9	90	5,073	5,379	106

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

# LIVESTOCK PRICES STEADY AS CROP PRICES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-March were unchanged for livestock while down for crops.

**Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$73.00 per cwt. at mid-March. This was unchanged from February and down \$5.00 from March 2002. **Beef cows** averaged \$36.00 per cwt., the same as the February price while down \$5.00 from last March. **Calves** under 500 pounds averaged \$86.00 per cwt., unchanged from February and down \$9.00 from a year earlier.

Prices received for **barrows and gilts** for mid-March averaged \$33.00 per cwt., unchanged from February and down \$2.00 from March 2002. **Sows** averaged \$24.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from February while down \$6.00 from a year earlier.

The price for **all milk** at mid-March was \$12.00 per cwt., down 40 cents from February and \$1.50 from a year earlier.

Corn, soybean and winter wheat prices continue to be down from the previous month while up from the March 2002 prices. The **corn** price was \$2.65 per bushel, down 8 cents from February while up 54 cents from a year earlier. The mid-month **soybean** price was \$5.75 per bushel, down 2 cents from the February price and up \$1.21 from March 2002. **Winter wheat** averaged \$3.20 per bushel, a decrease of 20 cents from the February price while up 49 cents from a year earlier.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March was 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3 year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 7 points (6.6 percent) from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

**AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)**

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		MAR 2002	FEB 2003	MAR 2003	MAR 2003
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.11	2.73	2.65	2.30
Soybeans b/	Bu.	4.54	5.77	5.75	5.58
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.71	3.40	3.20	3.27
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	105.00	105.00	105.00	96.20
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	61.00	61.00	61.00	82.30
All Hogs	Cwt.	34.80	32.60	32.60	35.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	35.00	33.00	33.00	35.60
Sows	Cwt.	30.00	23.00	24.00	24.20
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	69.10	64.10	64.10	72.20
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	78.00	73.00	73.00	76.20
Cows	Cwt.	41.00	36.00	36.00	39.80
Calves f/	Cwt.	95.00	86.00	86.00	96.40
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.50	12.40	12.00	11.00
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	16.5	11.9	12.3	15.2

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/ 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 3.50 billion pounds in February, virtually unchanged from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2002. February 2002 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 2 percent from February 2002. The average live weight was 1,261 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.52 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, 2 percent above February 2002. The average live weight was 267 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

**COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/**

Type	Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 03 % of	
				Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,987	2,292	1,944	98	85
Veal	14.3	*17.8	15.8	110	89
Pork	1,482	1,749	1,521	103	87
Lamb & Mutton	17.8	15.9	15.0	84	94
Total U.S.	3,502	4,076	3,497	100	86
Total Kentucky	32.7	41.5	33.2	101	80

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

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2002 & 2003 1/**

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2003	
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.5	1.4	1,228	1,282	844	890
Hogs	161.2	161.9	42,667	43,357	265	268
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.6	114	87	149	148
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,615.6	2,569.8	3,282,512	3,240,026	1,255	1,261
Hogs	7,501.2	7,680.3	2,000,262	2,047,380	267	267
Sheep & Lambs	259.4	224.2	35,592	29,872	137	133

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, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 2002, and 2 percent below December 1, 2002.

Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, but 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved

per litter for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 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 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in both 2002 and 2001.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 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, 2002 - 2003, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2003 1,000 Head	2003 % of 2002	2003 1,000 Head	2003 % of 2002	2003 1,000 Head	2003 % of 2002	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
							2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	(1,000 Head)													
AR	275	47	75	71	200	41	250	130	65	20	80	20	90	30
CO	710	90	120	67	590	97	330	305	95	85	70	85	115	115
IL	3,950	94	420	93	3,530	94	1,330	1,270	940	860	820	780	660	620
IN	3,100	97	320	94	2,780	97	1,040	1,040	720	660	580	560	520	520
IA	14,900	99	1,040	93	13,860	99	4,360	4,300	3,800	3,810	3,220	3,100	2,600	2,650
KS	1,460	91	160	94	1,300	91	490	430	270	250	290	250	380	370
MI	870	91	100	83	770	92	310	270	215	190	165	165	150	145
MN	6,100	105	590	104	5,510	105	2,070	2,120	1,330	1,320	1,060	1,190	770	880
MO	2,950	100	360	97	2,590	100	1,120	1,230	630	570	520	480	310	310
NE	2,850	95	375	96	2,475	95	1,070	1,000	680	610	500	470	360	395
NC	9,600	98	1,000	100	8,600	98	3,450	3,350	2,000	2,000	1,850	1,800	1,500	1,450
OH	1,430	97	160	97	1,270	97	545	525	310	305	290	280	160	160
OK	2,460	107	330	100	2,130	109	860	880	310	380	280	310	510	560
PA	1,070	98	120	92	950	99	345	340	255	245	200	180	160	185
SD	1,290	102	145	97	1,145	102	375	380	295	295	265	270	185	200
TX	890	98	100	100	790	98	265	220	175	210	165	160	205	200
WI	500	100	60	100	440	100	165	165	105	100	90	90	80	85
Other <sup>1/</sup>	3,702	99	481	99	3,221	99	1,112	1,155	780	745	727	704	622	617
U.S.	58,107	98	5,956	96	52,151	98	19,487	19,110	12,975	12,655	11,172	10,894	9,377	9,492

<sup>1/</sup>Individual State estimates not available for the 33 other States. Kentucky included in Other States.

## KENTUCKY CORN STOCKS LOWEST SINCE 1996

**Kentucky corn** stocks totaled 40.4 million bushels on March 1, 2003. This compares with 63.0 million bushels on hand March 1, 2002 and is the smallest March 1 corn stocks since 1996. Corn stored on farms totaled 22.0 million bushels, down from 39 million bushels a year ago, also the lowest March level since 1996. Corn stored in off-farm facilities, at 18.4 million bushels, declined 23 percent from March 2002, and accounted for 45 percent of total corn stocks. Soybean and wheat stocks estimates in Kentucky are made only for off-farm stocks. Off-farm stocks of **soybeans** totaled 6.68 million bushels, down 15 percent from the March 1, 2002 level. Kentucky off-farm stocks of **all wheat** was 2.81 million bushels, compared to the March 2002 total of 3.85 million bushels. Off-farm stocks include grain stored at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. Stocks of **grain sorghum** and **barley** stored in off-farm facilities are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**U.S. corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 5.13 billion bushels, down 11 percent from March 1, 2002. Of the total stocks, 2.94 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 12 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.19 billion bushels, were down 10 percent from the previous year. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2003, totaled 1.20 billion bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2002. On-farm stocks totaled 636 million bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 566 million bushels were down 13 percent from a year ago. **All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 905 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks were estimated at 233 million bushels, down 31 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 672 million bushels, were down 23 percent from a year ago.

### KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES STOCKS OF GRAIN, MARCH 1, 2003 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP	POSITION	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
		March 1 2002	Dec. 1 2002	March 1 2003	March 1 2002	Dec. 1 2002	March 1 2003
(Thousand Bushels)							
Corn	On-Farm	39,000	56,000	22,000	3,355,000	4,800,000	2,940,000
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	23,755	22,760	18,364	2,440,263 <sup>5/</sup>	2,837,971 <sup>5/</sup>	2,192,318
	Total	62,755	78,760	40,364	5,795,263 <sup>5/</sup>	7,637,971 <sup>5/</sup>	5,132,318
Sorghum	On-Farm	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	38,100	53,600 <sup>5/</sup>	27,500
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	156,007	178,252 <sup>5/</sup>	135,312
	Total	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	194,107	231,852 <sup>5/</sup>	162,812
Oats	On-Farm	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>	40,200	52,500 <sup>5/</sup>	35,000
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	163	84	53,158 <sup>5/</sup>	51,284 <sup>5/</sup>	47,438
	Total	<sup>4/</sup>	163	84	93,358 <sup>5/</sup>	103,784 <sup>5/</sup>	82,438
Barley	On-Farm	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	46,000	83,400	36,730
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	<sup>4/</sup>	95,748	86,601	86,783
	Total	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	141,748	170,001	123,513
All Wheat	On-Farm	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	338,500	384,800	233,200
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	3,849	4,628	2,812	871,268	935,069 <sup>5/</sup>	671,667
	Total	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	1,209,768	1,319,869 <sup>5/</sup>	904,867
Soybeans	On-Farm	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	687,000	1,170,000	635,500
	Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>	7,823	9,292	6,677	648,987	943,641 <sup>5/</sup>	566,308
	Total	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	<sup>2/</sup>	1,335,987	2,113,641 <sup>5/</sup>	1,201,808

<sup>1/</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. <sup>2/</sup> Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately. <sup>3/</sup> On-Farm oat stocks estimates not made.

<sup>4/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. <sup>5/</sup> 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/>