

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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**FEATURING:** \* Agricultural Prices \* Cold Storage \* Livestock Slaughter \* Farm Labor  
\* Chicken & Eggs \* Cattle on Feed \* Milk Production

## CATTLE AND CORN PRICES UNCHANGED

**Kentucky** farmers received mixed prices for their livestock and grains at mid-November.

Prices received for **steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over were unchanged from last month at \$74.00 per cwt. This was \$13.00 above November 1998 and remained the highest price since April 1994. **Beef cow** prices at \$33.00 per cwt., have remained the same for three consecutive months and were \$3.00 above November's price a year ago. This was the lowest prices have been since January 1999. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$80.00 per cwt. at mid-November, \$1.00 below last month while \$14.00 above last November.

**Barrows and gilts** at mid-November averaged \$31.00 per cwt., down \$1.00 from last month, while up \$11.00 from last year. Prices received for **sows** were down \$1.00 to \$23.00 per cwt., while \$7.00 above the same period last year.

**All-milk** prices at mid-November were \$17.50 per cwt., ten cents above last month, but equal to November a year ago.

Prices received for **corn** at mid-November averaged \$1.95 per bushel unchanged from last month, but 34 cents below November 1998. This was the fifth month in a row that prices were below \$2.00. **Soybean** prices at mid-November averaged \$4.50 per bushel, 13 cents below last month and \$1.13 below a year ago. Prices received for **winter wheat** averaged \$2.10 per bushel, ten cents above October while 18 cents below November 1998.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 93 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the October index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affect the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce. These marketing changes account for most of the November index increase. Higher prices for broilers, eggs, potatoes, and corn slightly offset price decreases for milk, soybeans, oranges, hogs, and lettuce.

Compared with November 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (6.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, apples, and calves.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		NOV 1998	OCT 1999	NOV 1999	NOV 1999
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.29	1.95	1.95	1.72
Soybeans b/	Bu.	5.63	4.63	4.50	4.35
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.28	2.00	2.10	2.36
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	107.00	122.00	124.00	77.30
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	70.00	79.00	81.00	64.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	19.80	31.70	30.70	32.90
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	20.00	32.00	31.00	33.40
Sows	Cwt.	16.00	24.00	23.00	24.30
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	53.60	64.20	64.20	66.20
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	61.00	74.00	74.00	70.80
Cows	Cwt.	30.00	33.00	33.00	33.00
Calves f/	Cwt.	66.00	81.00	80.00	91.60
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	17.50	17.40	17.50	14.40
Fluid g/	Cwt.	17.50	17.50	--	14.40
Manufactured	Cwt.	15.40	10.50	--	11.30
Hog-Corn Ratios h/	Bu.	8.6	16.3	15.7	19.1

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.

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, pork, and fruit. Total frozen pork stocks, at 425 million pounds, broke the previous record October high of 412 million pounds set in 1998. Likewise, October 1999 stocks of chicken, at 829 million pounds, also broke the previous record October high of 619 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Oct. 99 as % of	
Commodity	Oct. 31, 1998	Sept. 30, 1999	Oct. 31, 1999	Oct. 1998	Sept. 1999
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs			Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	12,692	30,749	40,260	317	131
Other Chicken	600,342	853,986	779,127	130	91
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	618,882	894,615	828,740	134	93
Turkey	658,732	596,358	492,826	75	83
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,282,706	1,496,963	1,326,926	103	89
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	358,231	294,369	318,203	89	108
Pork:					
Bellies	16,440	19,273	22,488	137	117
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	411,885	430,585	424,811	103	99
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	794,919	746,279	762,750	96	102

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.00 billion pounds in October, down 1 percent from the 4.03 billion pounds produced in October 1998. October 1998 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.09 million head, up 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,213 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 4 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 4 percent from the previous record low for October set last year. Sheep slaughter totaled 305 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	October 1998	September 1999	October 1999	Oct. 99 as % of	
				October 1998	September 1999
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,236	2,276	2,265	101	99
Veal	21	20	19	88	92
Pork	1,757	1,618	1,698	97	105
Lamb & Mutton	20	19	20	96	102
Total U.S.	4,035	3,934	4,001	99	102
Total Kentucky	52.1	37.3	40.3	77	108

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 1998 & 1999 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	6.3	1.8	6,467	1,471	1,026	813
Hogs	252.3	203.3	64,899	52,865	257	260
Sheep & Lambs	0.6	0.8	80	108	128	130
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	3,054.5	3,094.5	3,707,605	3,754,951	1,214	1,213
Hogs	9,351.5	8,946.6	2,402,301	2,316,801	257	259
Sheep & Lambs	323.3	304.8	41,159	39,756	127	130

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

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS AND WAGE RATES BOTH UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 1999, up 3 percent from a year ago. There were 989,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 296,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12 percent of the October hired workforce compared to 11 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$7.83 per hour during the October 1999 survey week, up 23 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.31 per hour, up 16 cents from last October. Livestock

workers earned \$7.43 per hour compared with \$7.28 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 16 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 31,000 during the week of October 10-16, 1999.

Field workers in the region were paid \$6.01 per hour, compared to \$6.23 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$7.14 per hour compared to \$6.92 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$6.94.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Oct. 1998	Oct. 1999	Oct. 1999 % of Oct. 1998
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,791	7,126	105
Average Layers (000)	314,847	325,069	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,157	2,192	102
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	30,435	31,106	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,649	38,559	111
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	578,772	573,510	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	693,189	697,787	101

## U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on November 1, 1999. The inventory was 6 percent above November 1, 1998 and 4 percent above November 1, 1997.

**Placements in feedlots** during October totaled 3.09 million, 9 percent above 1998 and up 6 percent from 1997. Net placements were 3.01 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 1.02 million, 600-699 pounds were 797,000, 700-799 pounds were 687,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 588,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.83 million, 3 percent above 1998 and 1 percent above 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 80,000 during October, 54 percent above 1998 but 12 percent below 1997.

## CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** November 1, 1999, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.77 million, up 6 percent from the previous year and 4 percent above November 1, 1997.

**Placements in feedlots** during October totaled 2.61 million, 9 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997. **Marketings** during October totaled 1.56 million, 1 percent above both 1998 and 1997. **Other disappearance** during October was 63,000 head, 40 percent above 1998 but 18 percent below 1997.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

## U.S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.3 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for October 1999 totaled 131 million pounds, down 2 percent from October 1998, but up 3 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 131,000 head, was down 6,000 from a year earlier and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,000 pounds, up 30 pounds from October 1998 and up 40 pounds from September 1999.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from production in these same States in October 1998. September revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds

was up 4.9 percent from September 1998. The September revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 37 million pounds from last months preliminary. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,496 pounds for October, 50 pounds above October 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 57,000 head more than October 1998 but 1,000 head less than September 1999. October is the first month that the dairy cow herd has not expanded from the previous month in the 20 major States since February of this year. The total increase from February to September was 51,000 head of cows.

### MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR OCTOBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		1999 as % of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,432	1,480	1,650	1,760	2,363	2,605	110
IL	126	121	1,340	1,340	169	162	96
IN	137	135	1,300	1,325	178	179	101
<b>KY</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>98</b>
MO	167	161	1,125	1,150	188	185	98
OH	262	259	1,350	1,410	354	365	103
VA	123	121	1,205	1,315	148	159	107
WI	1,366	1,364	1,380	1,395	1,885	1,903	101
20 State Total	7,695	7,752	1,446	1,496	11,125	11,598	104

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

**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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