

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 1120  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120  
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277  
E-mail: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov  
and the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner

Volume No. 19 Issue No. 23  
Released: December 1, 2000

Published twice monthly

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

## GRAIN PRICES UP WHILE HOG AND MILK PRICES DECLINE

Livestock and grain prices received at mid-November were mostly up or unchanged from last month. Hog and milk prices were down.

Prices received at mid-November for **steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$82.00 per cwt. This was \$2.00 above October and \$8.00 above last November. **Beef cows** were unchanged from last month at \$37.00 per cwt. and were \$3.00 above November 1999. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$94.00 per cwt. at mid-month, \$2.00 above October and \$13.00 above last November. This was the highest calf price in 3 months.

Prices received for **barrows and gilts** dropped \$5.00 to \$34.00 per cwt. at mid-November. This was \$2.00 above last year but still the lowest price received in 11 months. **Sow** prices averaged \$27.00 per cwt., \$7.00 below October while \$3.00 above November 1999. This was also the lowest price received in 11 months.

The **all-milk** prices continued to decline averaging \$14.00 per cwt. at mid-November. This was 10 cents below last month and \$3.80 below this time last year. Prices have declined for the past five months.

**Corn** prices at \$1.90 per bushel showed a little improvement with a nine cent increase over last month while averaging six cents below the same period last year. **Soybean** prices at mid-November averaged \$4.60 per bushel, up two cents from last month while averaging five cents above November a year ago. **Winter wheat** prices averaged \$2.20 per bushel at mid-November for the highest in 5 months. This price was 24 cents above last month while one cent below last year.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in November was 97 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.3 percent) from the October Index. Higher prices for broilers, cattle, corn and cauliflower were partially offset by lower prices for hogs, peanuts, milk and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, cattle and cottonseed were partially offset by lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes and lettuce.

Compared with November 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.3 percent) higher. Price increases from November 1999 for cotton, cattle, corn and tomatoes were partially offset by lower prices for milk, apples, oranges and potatoes.

### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		NOV 1999	OCT 2000	NOV 2000	NOV 2000
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <sup>a/</sup>	
All Corn <sup>b/</sup> <sup>c/</sup>	Bu.	1.96	1.81	1.90	1.83
Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	4.55	4.58	4.60	4.51
Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	2.21	1.96	2.20	2.61
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	122.00	110.00	110.00	90.40
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	79.00	72.00	72.00	69.60
All Hogs	Cwt.	31.70	38.80	33.70	35.90
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	32.00	39.00	34.00	36.30
Sows	Cwt.	24.00	34.00	27.00	28.00
All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>	Cwt.	64.40	69.40	71.20	69.50
Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>	Cwt.	74.00	80.00	82.00	74.30
Cows	Cwt.	34.00	37.00	37.00	36.90
Calves <sup>f/</sup>	Cwt.	81.00	92.00	94.00	106.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	17.80	14.10	14.00	12.20
Fluid <sup>g/</sup>	Cwt.	17.90	14.10	--	12.20
Manufactured	Cwt.	9.80	10.10	--	10.10
Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>h/</sup>	Bu.	16.2	21.4	17.7	19.6

<sup>a/</sup> Preliminary. <sup>b/</sup> Includes contract sales paid during month. <sup>c/</sup> Includes yellow and white corn. <sup>d/</sup> "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. <sup>e/</sup> 500 lbs. and over. <sup>f/</sup> Under 500 lbs. <sup>g/</sup> Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. <sup>h/</sup> 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, 2000 were greater than year earlier levels for red meat and potatoes. Cooler stocks of pecans and apples were also higher than a year earlier.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Oct. 00 as % of	
Commodity	Oct. 31, 1999	Sept. 30, 2000	Oct. 31, 2000	Oct. 1999	Sept. 2000
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	39,080	30,749	32,162	82	105
Other Chicken	772,018	778,200	720,612	93	93
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	820,499	817,653	761,423	93	93
Turkey	494,496	527,783	478,020	97	91
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,320,334	1,351,169	1,244,000	94	92
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	322,474	384,793	394,063	122	102
Pork:					
Bellies	22,489	21,341	23,134	103	108
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	438,060	439,428	451,086	103	103
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	780,276	849,952	870,310	112	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 4.10 billion pounds in October, up 2 percent from the 4.00 billion pounds produced in October 1999 and up slightly less than 2 percent from the previous record high for October set in 1998. October 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 2000 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.35 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year and 2 percent higher than the previous record high for October set in 1997. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.14 million head, up 2 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, 1 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 18 million pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous record low for October set in 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 279 thousand head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 4 pounds from October a year ago.

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

Type	October 1999	September 2000	October 2000	Oct. 00 as % of	
				October 1999	September 2000
		Million Pounds		Percent	
Beef	2,265	2,275	2,345	104	103
Veal	19	17	18	98	110
Pork	1,698	1,552	1,715	101	111
Lamb & Mutton	20	17	18	94	106
Total U.S.	4,001	3,861	4,097	102	106
Total Kentucky	40.3	36.9	38.7	96	105

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 1999 & 2000 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
		1,000 head	1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.8	1.5	1,471	1,278	813	846
Hogs	203.3	192.5	52,865	50,685	260	263
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.9	108	148	130	171
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	3,094.2	3,141.5	3,754,963	3,867,280	1,214	1,231
Hogs	8,943.2	8,881.0	2,316,042	2,328,946	259	262
Sheep & Lambs	304.9	278.7	39,769	37,306	130	134

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

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 6 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.24 million hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of October 8-14, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 952,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.9 percent of the October hired workforce compared to 12.3 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.29 per hour during the October 2000 survey week, up 46 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.74 per hour, up 43

cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$7.84 per hour compared with \$7.43 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 43 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee** totaled 33,000 during the week of October 8-14, 2000.

Field workers in the region were paid \$6.40 per hour, compared to \$6.01 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$7.03 per hour compared to \$7.14 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$7.03.

### UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Oct. 1999	Oct. 2000	Oct. 2000 % of Oct. 1999
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,131	7,106	100
Average Layers (000)	325,272	327,145	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,192	2,172	99
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	31,011	28,644	92
Chicks Hatched (000)	39,044	35,231	90
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	572,876	563,263	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	697,434	711,012	102

### 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 11.9 million head on November 1, 2000. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 1999 and 10 percent above November 1, 1998.

**Placements in feedlots** during October totaled 2.83 million, 9 percent below 1999 and slightly below 1998. Net placements were 2.76 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 1.07 million, 600-699 pounds were 755,000, 700-799 pounds were 531,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 477,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.92 million, 4 percent above 1999 and 8 percent above 1998. **Other disappearance** totaled 66,000 during October, 17 percent below 1999 but 27 percent above 1998.

### CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** November 1, 2000, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million, up 4 percent from the previous year and 11 percent above November 1, 1998.

**Placements in feedlots** during October totaled 2.39 million, 9 percent below 1999 and slightly below 1998. **Marketings** during October totaled 1.65 million, 5 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998. **Other disappearance** during October was 50,000 head, 21 percent below 1999 but 11 percent above 1998.

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

## U.S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 2.9 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for October 2000 totaled 139 million pounds, up 5 percent from October 1999 and up 3 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 131,000 head, was unchanged from a year earlier and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,060 pounds, up 45 pounds from October 1999 and up 40 pounds from September 2000.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent

from production in these same States in October 1999. September revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was up 2.7 percent from September 1999. The September revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 15 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,514 pounds for October, 23 pounds above October 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.85 million head, 105,000 head more than October 1999 and 2,000 head more than September 2000.

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

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2000 as % of 1999
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,480	1,544	1,760	1,735	2,605	2,679	103
IL	121	119	1,340	1,400	162	167	103
IN	135	149	1,325	1,420	179	212	118
<b>KY</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>105</b>
MO	158	152	1,130	1,180	179	179	100
OH	259	264	1,400	1,450	363	383	106
VA	121	119	1,315	1,275	159	152	96
WI	1,362	1,352	1,385	1,415	1,886	1,913	101
20 State Total	7,746	7,851	1,491	1,514	11,549	11,888	103

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/>

STATE STATISTICIAN  
LELAND E. BROWN

DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN  
WILLIAM BRANNEN



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 1120  
Louisville, KY 40201  
502-582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277

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.