

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner  
Published twice monthly

Volume No. 21 Issue No. 23  
Released: December 2, 2002

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

## GRAIN PRICES INCREASE WHILE LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-month were up for grains while mixed for livestock.

**Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over at mid-November averaged \$73.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from the October price of \$72.00 and unchanged from a year earlier. **Beef cows** averaged \$31.00 per cwt., down \$3.00 from October and \$5.00 from November 2001. This was the lowest beef cow price since December 1998. Prices received for **calves** averaged \$81.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from October while down \$3.00 from a year earlier.

**Barrows and gilts** for mid-November averaged \$28.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from October and \$6.00 from a year earlier. **Sows** averaged \$20.00 per cwt., unchanged from October while down \$9.00 from a year earlier.

The **all milk** price for mid-November averaged \$13.40 per cwt. The milk price was up 50 cents from the previous month while down \$3.20 from a year earlier. This would be the highest milk price in seven months.

Corn, soybeans and winter wheat were all up in price from October. The **corn** price for mid-November was \$2.50 per bushel, up 4 cents from October and 59 cents from November 2001. The mid-month **soybean** price was \$5.65 per bushel, the highest since August 1998. The price was up 9 cents from the previous October and \$1.41 from a year earlier. The **winter wheat** price for mid-November was \$3.80 per bushel, up 38 cents from the October and \$1.19 from a year earlier. This was the highest price that winter wheat has been since May 1997.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 97, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the October index. Higher prices for soybeans, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for hogs, milk, lettuce, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflower.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.3 percent) above November, 2001. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, turkeys, and calves.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		NOV 2001	OCT 2002	NOV 2002	NOV 2002
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <sup>a/</sup>	
All Corn <sup>b/</sup> <sub>c/</sub>	Bu.	1.91	2.46	2.50	2.30
Soybeans <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	4.24	5.56	5.65	5.43
Winter Wheat <sup>b/</sup>	Bu.	2.61	3.42	3.80	4.15
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	105.00	100.00	105.00	101.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	61.00	58.00	61.00	75.40
All Hogs	Cwt.	33.80	28.60	27.70	27.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.00	29.00	28.00	27.70
Sows	Cwt.	29.00	20.00	20.00	19.50
All Beef Cattle <sup>d/</sup>	Cwt.	64.10	62.90	62.90	66.50
Steers & Heifers <sup>e/</sup>	Cwt.	73.00	72.00	73.00	70.90
Cows	Cwt.	36.00	34.00	31.00	32.60
Calves <sup>f/</sup>	Cwt.	84.00	80.00	81.00	90.40
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	16.60	12.90	13.40	11.70
Fluid <sup>g/</sup>	Cwt.	16.60	12.90	--	11.70
Manufactured	Cwt.	11.80	--	--	10.50
Hog-Corn Ratios <sup>h/</sup>	Bu.	17.7	11.6	11.1	11.9

<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, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for poultry, red meat, orange juice concentrate, and vegetables. Cooler stocks of pecans were also above last year.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Oct. 02 as % of	
Commodity	Oct. 31, 2001	Sept. 30, 2002	Oct. 31, 2002	Oct. 2001	Sept. 2002
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs		Percent		
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	21,578	34,370	33,103	153	96
Other Chicken	607,108	794,757	816,195	134	103
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	634,658	835,420	855,386	135	102
Turkey	497,925	672,455	628,946	126	94
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,141,825	1,515,567	1,493,215	131	99
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	395,118	493,950	524,443	133	106
Pork:					
Bellies	28,216	9,452	10,353	37	110
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	430,564	480,227	491,957	114	102
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	849,018	996,891	1,040,084	123	104

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 4.38 billion pounds in October, up 3 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2001 and a new record high for October. October 2001 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.51 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year and a new record high for October. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.27 million head, up 3 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 1,270 pounds, up 23 pounds from October a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.83 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.40 million head, 1 percent above October 2001. The average live weight was 264 pounds, down 3 pounds from October a year ago. Lamb and mutton production, at 19.6 million pounds, was down 1 percent from October 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 300,200 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from October a year ago.

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

Type	October 2001	September 2002	October 2002	Oct. 02 as % of	
				October 2001	September 2002
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,389	2,201	2,512	105	114
Veal	17.9	16.3	18.7	105	115
Pork	1,838	1,638	1,831	100	112
Lamb & Mutton	19.7	17.6	19.6	99	111
Total U.S.	4,265	3,873	4,382	103	113
Total Kentucky	42.0	38.6	43.8	104	113

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

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 2001 & 2002 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.6	2.0	1,411	1,684	885	850
Hogs	210.0	220.1	55,052	57,586	262	262
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.9	117	112	144	127
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	3,162.0	3,266.6	3,943,776	4,148,613	1,247	1,270
Hogs	9,334.2	9,402.9	2,488,339	2,482,579	267	264
Sheep & Lambs	289.1	300.2	39,721	39,285	137	131

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

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 5 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.19 million hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned

\$8.44 per hour compared with \$8.39 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.33 was up 24 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee** totaled 36,000 during the week of October 6-12, 2002.

Field workers in the region were paid \$7.13 per hour, compared to \$7.04 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$7.46 per hour compared to \$7.77 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$7.50.

### UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Oct. 2001	Oct. 2002	Oct. 2002 % of Oct. 2001
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,347	7,410	101
Average Layers (000)	337,085	338,036	100
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,180	2,192	101
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	28,380	30,352	107
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,816	32,044	89
<b>Broiler Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	587,589	574,279	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	747,495	720,310	96

### 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 10.7 millionhead on November 1, 2002. The inventory was 9 percent below both November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2000.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.39 million, 12 percent below 2001 and 16 percent below 2000. Net placements were 2.30 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 809,000, 600-699 pounds were 638,000, 700-799 pounds were 521,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 420,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.98 million, 4 percent above 2001 and 3 percent above 2000. **Other disappearance** totaled 84,000 during October, 24 percent above 2001 and 27 percent above 2000.

### CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** November 1, 2002, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.3 million, down 9 percent from both the previous year and November 1, 2000.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.01 million, 13 percent below 2001 and 16 percent below 2000. **Marketings** during October totaled 1.71 million, 4 percent above both 2001 and 2000. **Other disappearance** during October was 75,000 head, 32 percent above 2001 and 50 percent above 2000.

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

## U.S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 2.3 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for October 2002 totaled 124 million pounds, down 5 percent from October 2001 but up 4 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 120,000 head, was down 6,000 head from a year earlier and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,035 pounds, up 5 pounds from October 2001 and up 45 pounds from September 2002.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent

from October 2001. September revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from September 2001. The September revision represented a decrease of 91 million pounds or 0.7 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,544 pounds for October, 22 pounds above October 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 67,000 head more than October 2001, and 8,000 head more than September 2002.

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

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2002 as % of 2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,609	1,664	1,745	1,755	2,808	2,920	104
IL	114	115	1,390	1,430	158	164	104
IN	154	149	1,375	1,420	212	212	100
<b>KY</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>95</b>
MO	141	136	1,085	1,120	153	152	99
OH	257	264	1,380	1,380	355	364	103
VA	118	119	1,290	1,295	152	154	101
WI	1,281	1,268	1,400	1,435	1,793	1,820	102
20 State Total	7,726	7,793	1,522	1,544	11,756	12,030	102

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/>