

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: ▶ Census ▶ Cattle ▶ Sheep ▶ Cattle on Feed ▶ Dairy Products ▶ Slaughter

PRELIMINARY CENSUS RESULTS GIVE FIRST LOOK AT KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced that preliminary demographic data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture - the Nation's largest agricultural information-gathering project - are now available at the state and national levels.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 86,605 farms in Kentucky. Land in farms decreased 1 percent from the 1997 Census. The average size of farm was 160 acres, up from 153 acres in 1997. The official definition of a farm or ranch includes all places where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

Demographic data contained in the report include sex of operator, residence on or off the farm, days worked off farm, years present on farm, age group categories, race, and number of persons living in each household. For example, preliminary results show:

- # Sixty-seven percent of all Kentucky farms sold less than \$10,000 worth of agricultural products, compared to 59 percent in 1997 and 55 percent in 1992.
- # Fifty-four percent of Kentucky operators considered farming their primary occupation, up from 40 percent in 1997.
- # The average operator age was 55 years old, up 1 year from 54 years old in 1997.
- # Twenty-five percent of agricultural producers were women in 2002; the number of women who were principal operators decreased 4 percent from 1997.
- # Black principal operators increased by 16 percent and American Indian principal operators also increased by 16 percent from 1997 to 2002.
- # Ninety-two percent of Kentucky's agricultural operations are still run by individuals or families and most are still small farms.

Final 2002 Census of Agriculture data at the national, state and county levels will be released on June 3, 2004. That report will provide first time facts about organic crop acreage and sales, production contracts, farm computer and Internet use, plus the broader, full range of traditional census data including land use and ownership; acres irrigated; crop acreage and quantities harvested; livestock and poultry inventories; value of products sold; value of production contracts; participation in Federal farm programs; and market value of land and buildings. The census of agriculture is currently conducted every 5 years; the first was conducted in conjunction with the 1840 population census.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture introduced new methodology to account for all farms in the United States. Incompleteness in the census mail list has been measured by matching list names against all qualifying operations found by canvassing sample land areas throughout the nation. All results published from the 2002 Census of Agriculture have been adjusted for farms missing from the census mail list. To assist data users to transition to the new, more complete census basis, the 1997 Census of Agriculture results are provided two ways. Data for 1997 are shown as originally published and then reweighted for undercoverage to be more comparable to the 2002 Census of Agriculture results.

All reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be available free through the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/. They can also be accessed through the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service web site at www.nass.usda.gov/ky by clicking on "Agricultural Census". For additional information regarding the Census, call the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service at (800) 928-5277.

KENTUCKY CATTLE SALES REDUCE INVENTORY

Increased sales due to higher prices resulted in lower cattle numbers in **Kentucky** for 2003. Total Cattle and Calves on Kentucky farms January 1, 2004 numbered 2.32 million head, down 5 percent from last year. Beef cows increased from January 1, 2003, bulls over 500 pounds, calf crop and cattle on feed were unchanged, while all other inventory levels decreased.

All Cow inventory for 2004 totaled 1.24 million head unchanged from 2003. Beef cow inventory was up 1 percent from last year to nearly 1.13 million head. Milk cows were down 7 percent to a new record low of 112,000 head. Bulls over 500 pounds totaled 80,000 head, unchanged from 2003.

Heifers over 500 pounds inventory was set at 310,000 head, down 11 percent from a year ago. Beef replacement heifers were also down from the previous year totaling 160,000 head, a 9 percent decrease. Milk replacement heifers declined to 40,000 head, heifers for other uses also decreased to 110,000 head. Steers over 500 pounds totaled 190,000, 14 percent below the previous year. Calves under 500 pounds decreased 7 percent to 500,000 head.

The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 1.11 million head, unchanged from the 2002 level. Cattle on feed for slaughter totaled 10,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2003.

U.S. class estimates on January 1, 2004 and the change from January 1, 2003, are as follows:

- - **All cattle and calves**, 94.9 million, down 1 percent.
- - **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 41.9 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Beef cows** , 32.86 million, down slightly.
- - **Milk cows** , 8.99 million, down 2 percent.
- - **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.3 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Beef replacement heifers** , 5.52 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Milk replacement heifers** , 4.02 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Other heifers** , 9.80 million, down 1 percent.
- - **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.21 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.2 million, down 2 percent.
- - **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.8 million, up 4 percent.

CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS, CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP JANUARY 1, 2003 - 2004

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2003	2004	04 % of 03	2003 <u>1/</u>	2004	04 % of 03
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,430	2,320	95	96,100	94,882	99
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,240	1,240	100	42,125	41,851	99
Beef Cows	1,120	1,128	101	32,983	32,860	100
Milk Cows	120	112	93	9,142	8,991	98
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	350	310	89	19,628	19,341	99
Beef Cow Replacement	175	160	91	5,624	5,517	98
Milk Cow Replacement	45	40	89	4,114	4,020	98
Other Heifers	130	110	85	9,891	9,804	99
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	220	190	86	16,554	16,280	98
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	80	80	100	2,248	2,206	98
Calves Under 500 Lbs	540	500	93	15,545	15,204	98
Cattle on Feed <u>2/</u>	10	10	100	13,220	13,811	104
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,110	1,110	100	38,224	37,903	99

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

SHEEP INVENTORY DECREASES

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million

head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

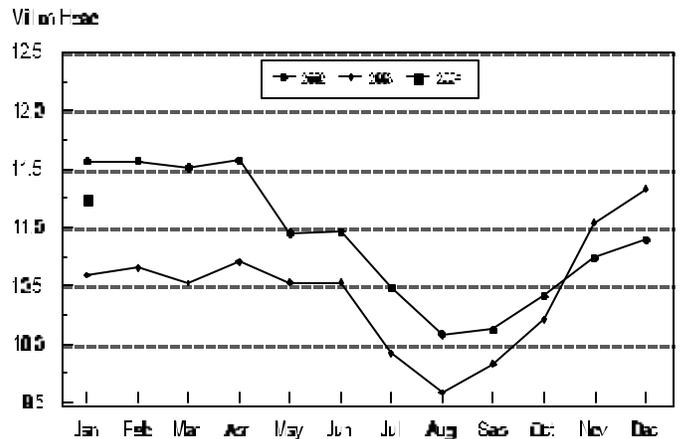
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2004. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 2003 but 3 percent below January 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.84 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.33 million head, up 9 percent from January 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.75 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.66 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 503,000, 600-699 pounds were 529,000, 700-799 pounds were 448,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 268,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001. **Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during December, 9 percent below 2002 and 3 percent below 2001.

United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, DECEMBER 2003

PRODUCT	December 2002	November 2003 ^{1/}	December 2003	Percent of	
				Dec. 2002	Nov. 2003
			(000) Pounds		
BUTTER	127,591	87,976	114,370	90	130
			Percent		
CHEESE					
American Types ^{2/}	317,426	293,171	318,837	100	108
Mozzarella	248,601	229,590	248,145	100	108
All Other Types ^{3/}	181,134	187,617	186,152	103	99
Total	747,161	710,378	753,134	101	106
			(000) Gallons		
			Percent		
FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream (Hard)	53,903	57,908	54,362	101	94
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,231	4,231	4,039	95	95
			Percent		
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	36,956	33,229	32,244	87	97
Yogurt Mix	2,646	2,489	2,376	90	95

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. ^{3/} Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002. December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	December 03 % of	
				December 2002	November 2003
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,107	*1,778	1,973	94	111
Veal	18.0	15.2	19.0	106	125
Pork	1,715	1,715	1,866	109	109
Lamb & Mutton	18.5	16.3	18.0	97	111
Total U.S.	3,858	*3,525	3,876	100	110
Total Kentucky	39.8	46.2	47.3	119	102

^{1/} Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. * Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 2002 & 2003 ^{1/}

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.8	1.8	1,495	1,562	850	864
Hogs	196.0	232.7	52,232	61,870	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.0	110	112	122	117
United States						
Cattle	2,771.8	2,668.2	3,506,036	3,320,134	1,265	1,244
Hogs	8,657.4	9,346.6	2,316,087	2,513,068	268	269
Sheep & Lambs	278.7	262.0	37,145	35,954	133	137

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

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/>