

FEATURING: •Agricultural Prices •Hogs & Pigs • Cattle on Feed • Cold Storage
 •Livestock Slaughter • Milk Production • Egg Production

GRAIN PRICES DECLINE, LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-December declined from November's final price for crops and hogs. Prices for cattle improved or were unchanged.

Corn prices for mid-December, at \$2.25 per bushel, were down 4 cents from November and 49 cents from December 1997. Prices for **soybeans** at mid-December averaged \$5.55 per bushel, down 8 cents from November and \$1.39 from December 1997. Soybean prices have been below \$6.00 a bushel for 5 months. Mid-December's price for **winter wheat** averaged \$2.25 per bushel, down 3 cents from November and \$1.04 from last December. Prices have been below \$3.00 a bushel since March of this year.

Barrow and gilt prices averaged \$16.00 per cwt. at mid-December, down \$4.00 from November and \$25.00 below last year. This would be the lowest price on record. Prices have been on a steady decline since June. Prices at mid-December for **sows** averaged \$12.00 per cwt., down \$4.00 from November and \$23.00 below December 1997. This was the lowest price for sows since January 1971 when they were \$11.40 per cwt.

Prices for **steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$62.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from last month but \$5.00 below December 1997. December **beef cow** prices were unchanged from last month at \$30.00 per cwt. and down \$2.00 from last December. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$69.00 per cwt., up \$3.00 from November but \$4.00 below December 1997.

The mid-December **all-milk** price of \$18.20 per cwt. was up 70 cents from last month and \$3.20 from December 1997. This was the highest milk price on record.

The **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.0 percent) from November. Price decreases from November for cattle, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset price increases for corn, milk, tomatoes, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in December. Compared with December 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (6.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1997 for hogs, corn, cattle and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		DEC	NOV	DEC	DEC
		1997	1998	1998	1998
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
All Corn ^{b/ c/}	Bu.	2.74	2.29	2.25	1.96
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	6.94	5.63	5.55	5.27
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	3.29	2.28	2.25	2.73
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	104.00	106.00	105.00	81.40
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	68.00	69.00	68.00	69.40
All Hogs	Cwt.	40.80	19.80	15.80	14.70
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	41.00	20.00	16.00	14.90
Sows	Cwt.	35.00	16.00	12.00	11.30
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	58.60	53.60	54.30	55.80
Steers & Heifers ^{e/}	Cwt.	67.00	61.00	62.00	59.40
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	30.00	30.00	29.70
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	73.00	66.00	69.00	79.50
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.00	17.50	18.20	18.10
Fluid ^{g/}	Cwt.	15.00	17.50	--	18.20
Manufactured	Cwt.	12.80	15.40	--	17.30
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{h/}	Bu.	14.9	8.6	7.0	7.5

^{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.

PART-TIME Intermittent Employment Opportunity: The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) has positions available for interviewers collecting agricultural data from farmers and agribusinesses, Starting pay \$7.00/hr & 32.5 cents/mile. Positions available statewide. If interested, please call: 1-800-928-5277.

DECEMBER 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 520,000 hogs and pigs on Kentucky farms as of December 1, 1998, down 9 percent from a year ago, and unchanged from September 1998. Breeding inventory, at 65,000 head, was down 7 percent from a year ago, and unchanged from the September 1998 level. Market hog inventory, at 455,000 head, was 9 percent below December 1, 1997, and the same as September 1, 1998.

Kentucky hog producers farrowed 30,000 sows during September - November 1998, compared with 31,000 during the same period in 1997. Pigs saved per litter averaged 8.50, producing a pig crop of 255,000 head, compared with 259,000 a year ago. The June - November 1998 pig crop totaled 499,000 head from 59,000 sows. This was 4 percent below the June - November 1997 total of 518,000 pigs from 62,000 sows. Producers intend to farrow 30,000 sows during December 1998 - February 1999, 3 percent below actual farrowings during the same period in 1997. March through May 1999 farrowings are also estimated at 30,000, unchanged from the same period a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1998, was 62.2 million head. This was 2 percent above December 1997, but 2 percent below the September 1, 1998. Breeding inventory, at 6.67 million head, was down 4 percent from December 1, 1997 and down 3 percent from September 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 55.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter. The September - November 1998 U.S. pig crop at 25.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 1997 and 11 percent more than

1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter fell to an average of 8.65 pigs saved per litter for the September - November period, compared to 8.67 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.20 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 2.89 million sows farrow during the December 1998 - February 1999 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998 but 8 percent above 1997. Intended farrowings for March - May 1999, at 2.88 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 1 percent below 1997.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 114,380 during 1998, down 6 percent from last year and 20 percent below 1996. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 6 percent of the operations and 64 percent of the inventory. This is the third time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 1,915 accounted for 42 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 23 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS
December 1, 1997 - 98, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	1998	% of	1998	% of	1998	% of	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	1997	1,000	1997	1,000	1997	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	(1,000 Head)													
AR	750	87	110	100	640	85	295	200	165	165	155	150	135	125
GA	430	83	60	86	370	82	165	145	130	100	100	75	55	50
IL	4,850	103	530	96	4,320	104	1,580	1,550	980	1,050	840	920	750	800
IN	4,050	103	450	98	3,600	103	1,230	1,370	880	840	760	780	620	610
IA	15,300	105	1,260	93	14,040	106	4,370	4,280	3,650	3,710	2,780	3,180	2,440	2,870
KS	1,590	104	170	85	1,420	107	580	535	260	290	260	280	230	315
KY	520	91	65	93	455	91	200	185	120	110	105	90	75	70
MI	1,120	109	120	92	1,000	111	320	340	200	270	205	180	175	210
MN	5,700	100	620	95	5,080	111	1,990	2,020	1,270	1,270	990	960	800	830
MO	3,300	93	400	91	2,900	93	1,360	1,130	650	770	610	570	490	430
NE	3,400	97	420	96	2,980	97	1,180	1,160	800	780	640	600	440	440
NC	9,700	101	1,000	100	8,700	101	3,350	3,400	2,000	2,000	1,840	1,850	1,410	1,450
OH	1,700	100	200	95	1,500	101	650	590	340	370	320	330	180	210
OK	1,920	116	280	117	1,640	116	480	590	260	320	200	265	470	465
PA	1,100	100	120	100	980	100	360	340	260	255	210	210	150	175
SD	1,400	100	130	81	1,270	102	450	405	330	320	260	280	200	265
WI	690	93	85	81	605	95	240	215	155	130	125	130	115	130
Other	4,636	104	652	102	3,983	104	1,437	1,545	869	891	788	790	722	758
U.S.	62,156	102	6,672	96	55,483	102	20,237	20,000	13,319	13,641	11,188	11,640	9,457	10,203

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 11.03 million head on December 1, 1998. The inventory was 4 percent below December 1, 1997 but 4 percent above December 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 7 percent below 1997 and 13 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.97 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 740,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 437,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 317,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 2 percent above 1997 and slightly above 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 78,000 during November, 8 percent below 1997 and 16 percent below 1996.

CATTLE ON FEED HISTORIC 7 STATES

Cattle on feed December 1, 1998, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.41 million, down 3 percent from the previous year but 5 percent above December 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.73 million, 6 percent below 1997 and 12 percent below 1996.

Marketings during November totaled 1.45 million, 1 percent above 1997 and 2 percent above 1996.

Other disappearance during November was 63,000 head, 9 percent below 1997 and 5 percent below 1996.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 1998, were greater than year earlier levels for butter, pork, concentrated orange juice, and chicken. Cooler stocks of pecans, peanuts, apples, and natural cheese were higher than a year earlier.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Nov. 98 as % of	
Commodity	Nov. 30 1997	Oct. 31 1998	Nov. 30 1998	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	28,727	12,692	15,592	54	123
Other Chicken	575,273	583,342	622,989	108	107
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	609,900	601,882	644,132	106	107
Turkey	438,556	661,156	297,751	68	45
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,050,420	1,268,130	946,437	90	75
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	378,160	358,231	329,010	87	92
Pork:					
Bellies	25,365	16,440	42,397	167	258
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	334,100	411,885	440,877	132	107
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	741,025	794,919	792,754	107	100

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 3.73 billion pounds in November, up 8 percent from the 3.45 billion pounds produced in November 1997. Beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,211 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.68 billion pounds, up 14 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above the previous record high for November set in 1994. This marked the fifth successive month and the eighth month overall in 1998 for record high pork production. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 14 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was down 5 percent from the previous record low for November set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 298 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 4 pounds from November a year ago. November 1997 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays. November 1998 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	November 1997	October 1998	November 1998	Nov. 98 as % of	
				November 1997	October 1998
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	1,934	2,235	2,004	104	90
Veal	24	21	19	81	91
Pork	1,473	1,757	1,683	114	96
Lamb & Mutton	20	20	19	95	94
Total U.S.	3,450	4,033	3,726	108	92
Total Kentucky	35.1	52.1	47.9	136	92

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. NOVEMBER 1997 & 1998 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	
Kentucky		1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Cattle	4.0	5.8	3,929	5,916	983	1,024	
Hogs	174.7	228.3	46,018	59,773	263	262	
Sheep & Lambs	0.6	0.5	71	80	127	151	
United States							
Cattle	2,760.3	2,774.5	3,279,861	3,358,722	1,188	1,211	
Hogs	7,742.1	8,808.9	2,015,206	2,299,701	260	261	
Sheep & Lambs	309.5	297.8	41,408	38,666	134	130	

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

U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 3.0 PERCENT

Kentucky milk production for November 1998 totaled 127 million pounds, down 7 percent from November 1997, and 4 percent below October 1998. Average number of cows, at 131,000 head, was 10,000 head below the previous year and 1,000 head lower than the previous month. Milk per cow, at 970 pounds during November, was unchanged from a year ago, and 30 pounds lower than October 1998.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during November totaled 10.9 billion pounds, up 3.0 percent from production in these same States in November 1997. October revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was up 1.7 percent from October 1997. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,408 pounds for November, 39 pounds above November 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 9,000 head more than November 1997 and unchanged from October 1998.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR NOVEMBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		1998 as % of 1997
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,343	1,394	1,685	1,660	2,263	2,314	102
IL	145	139	1,250	1,320	181	183	101
IN	140	142	1,250	1,285	175	182	104
KY	141	131	970	970	137	127	93
MO	164	164	1,090	1,140	179	187	105
OH	274	266	1,260	1,305	345	347	101
VA	120	120	1,260	1,215	151	146	97
WI	1,385	1,368	1,250	1,315	1,731	1,799	104
20-State							
Total	7,737	7,746	1,369	1,408	10,591	10,909	103

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

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Nov 1997	Nov 1998	'98 as % of '97
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,572	6,709	102
Average Layers (000)	309,670	318,154	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,122	2,109	99
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	32,767	31,685	97
Chicks Hatched (000)	27,846	30,810	111
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	593,348	617,920	104
Chicks Hatched (000)	648,088	673,907	104

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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1,160

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