

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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Volume No. 19 Issue No. 1
Released: January 3, 2000

Published twice monthly

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

GRAIN PRICES DOWN, LIVESTOCK PRICES UP

Kentucky farmers received lower prices for their grain but higher prices for livestock at mid-December.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over for mid-December were \$3.00 above last month at \$77.00 per cwt. This was \$16.00 above last December and equals the highest price since March 1994. **Beef cow** prices at \$35.00 per cwt. were up \$1.00 from last month while \$5.00 above December a year ago. This equals the price received by farmers last August. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$86.00 per cwt., \$5.00 above last month and \$18.00 above the December 1998 price.

Barrow and gilt prices averaged \$33.00 per cwt. at mid-December. This was \$1.00 above last month while \$15.00 above last December. **Sow** prices were unchanged from last month at \$24.00 per cwt. but averaged \$11.00 more than December a year ago.

The **all milk** price at mid-December averaged \$13.60 per cwt., down \$4.20 from last month and \$4.60 from last December.

Prices received for **corn** at mid-December was down 1 cent from November at \$1.95 per bushel. This compares to \$2.22 per bushel last year and continues the under \$2.00 trend begun in July. **Soybean** prices at mid-December averaged \$4.50 per bushel, down 5 cents from last month, down \$1.02 from last December and the lowest price in five months. Prices received for **winter wheat** dropped to \$2.15 per bushel at mid-December, 6 cents below November while averaging 5 cents above last year.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease.

Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		DEC	NOV	DEC	DEC
		1998	1999	1999	1999
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
All Corn ^{b/} ^{c/}	Bu.	2.22	1.96	1.95	1.72
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	5.52	4.55	4.50	4.29
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	2.10	2.21	2.15	2.18
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	107.00	122.00	120.00	73.20
All Other Hay,	Ton	70.00	79.00	78.00	65.90
All Hogs	Cwt.	17.80	31.70	32.60	35.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	18.00	32.00	33.00	35.80
Sows	Cwt.	13.00	24.00	24.00	25.60
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	53.60	64.40	66.90	66.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	61.00	74.00	77.00	70.80
Cows	Cwt.	30.00	34.00	35.00	34.70
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	68.00	81.00	86.00	97.80
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	18.20	17.80	13.60	12.40
Fluid ^{g/}	Cwt.	16.00	17.90	--	12.40
Manufactured	Cwt.	18.20	9.80	--	10.70
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{h/}	Bu.	8.02	16.2	16.7	20.6

^{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.

DECEMBER 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 460,000 hogs and pigs on Kentucky farms as of December 1, 1999, down 12 percent from a year ago, and 4 percent below September 1999. Breeding inventory, at 55,000 head, was down 15 percent from both a year ago and from the September 1999 level. Market hog inventory, at 405,000 head, was 11 percent below December 1, 1998, and 2 percent below the September 1, 1999 level. There were 1,400 operations with hogs during 1999, down from 1,700 in 1998 and 2,100 in 1997. Beginning in March 2000 the National Agricultural Statistics Service will no longer publish quarterly hog numbers for Kentucky. Hog & pig information for all States will be published by State in December. Colorado and Texas will be added to the 17 States published in March, June and September. Georgia and Kentucky will no longer be published at the State level, but included in the "Other States" category in March, June and September.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below September 1, 1999. Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998, and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, and 1 percent less than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, 4 percent below

last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.66 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 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 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1997. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 7 percent of the operations and 69 percent of the inventory. This is the fourth 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 2,005 accounted for 46.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 42 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory up from 23 percent last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS December 1, 1998 - 99, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Head	1998	Head	1998	Head	1998	(1,000 Head)								
AR	710		110	100	600	94			165		150			110
GA	480		60	86	420	102			100		80	80	70	70
IL	4,100		420	79	3,680	85					920			660
IN	3,250		370	82	2,880	80			840		780			470
IA	15,400		1,160	92	14,240	101					3,120			2,900
KS	1,460		150	88	1,310	92			290		280			250
KY	460		55	85	405	89			110		90	70		65
MI	980		120	100	860	86			270		180			155
MN	5,500		560	90	4,940	97					960			780
MO	3,150		410	103	2,740	94			770		570			310
NE	3,000		390	93	2,610	88			780		600			430
NC	9,500		1,000	100	8,500	98					1,850			1,450
OH	1,500		170	85	1,330	89			370		330			175
OK	2,260		310	111	1,950	119			320		265			550
PA	1,050		120	100	930	95			255		210			155
SD	1,260		120	92	1,140	90			320		280			210
WI	570		65	76	505	83			130		130			100
Other	4,777		654	100	4,124	104					790			847
U.S.	59,407		6,244	93	53,163	96	20,14	19,29	13,63	13,10	11,585	11,07	10,16	9,687

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 11.75 million head on December 1, 1999. The inventory was 6 percent above December 1, 1998 and 3 percent above December 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.17 million, 5 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997. Net placements were 2.09 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 766,000, 600-699 pounds were 657,000, 700-799 pounds were 416,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 331,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 7 percent above 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 83,000 during November, 6 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997.

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle on feed December 1, 1999, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.01 million, up 6 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above December 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.82 million, 5 percent above 1998 but slightly below 1997.

Marketings during November totaled 1.53 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 7 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance during November was 62,000 head, 2 percent below 1998 and 10 percent below 1997.

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

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 1999, were greater than year earlier levels for chicken. November 1999 stocks of chicken, at 789 million pounds, broke the previous record November high of 663 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Nov. 99 as % of	
Commodity	Nov. 30 1998	Oct. 31 1999	Nov. 30 1999	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs		Percent		
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	15,418	39,080	44,161	286	113
Other Chicken	642,346	772,018	736,325	115	95
Total Chicken ^{1/}	663,309	820,499	788,595	119	96
Turkey	310,363	494,496	249,475	80	50
Total Frozen Poultry ^{2/}	978,163	1,320,334	1,042,555	107	79
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	328,183	322,474	301,723	92	94
Pork:					
Bellies	41,711	22,489	25,711	62	114
Total Frozen Pork ^{3/}	443,437	438,060	411,712	93	94
Total Meat ^{4/}	794,123	780,276	733,194	92	94

^{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 3.89 billion pounds in November, up 4 percent from the previous record high for November set in 1995 and up 5 percent from the 3.72 billion pounds produced in November 1998. November 1998 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. November 1999 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous record high for November set in 1995 and 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 6 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,216 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous record high for November set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.90 million head, 1 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 22 million pounds, was up 12 percent from November 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 329 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 2 pounds from November a year ago.

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

Type	November 1998	October 1999	November 1999	Nov. 99 as % of	
				November 1998	October 1999
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,003	2,265	2,146	107	95
Veal	19	19	19	98	100
Pork	1,683	1,698	1,708	101	101
Lamb & Mutton	19	20	22	112	110
Total U.S.	3,725	4,001	3,894	105	97
Total Kentucky	47.9	40.3	40.3	84	100

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. NOVEMBER 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	
Kentucky						
Cattle	5.8	1.7	5,916	1,404	1,024	813
Hogs	228.6	202.0	59,874	52,961	262	262
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.7	80	85	151	131
United States						
Cattle	2,772.6	2,942.9	3,356,978	3,359,187	1,211	1,216
Hogs	8,809.0	8,898.3	2,299,611	2,329,416	261	262
Sheep & Lambs	298.1	329.2	38,710	43,526	130	132

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

U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.4 PERCENT

Kentucky milk production for November 1999 totaled 131 million pounds, unchanged from November 1998, but 1 percent below October 1999. Average number of cows, at 131,000 head, was 5,000 head below the previous year and unchanged from the previous month. Milk per cow, at 1,000 pounds during November, was up 35 pounds from a year ago, but 15 pounds lower than October 1999.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during November totaled 11.3 billion pounds, up 4.4 percent from production in these same

States in November 1998. October revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds was up 4.0 percent from October 1998. The October revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 29 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,458 pounds for November, 51 pounds or 3.6 percent above November 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 58,000 head more than November 1998 and 7,000 head more than October 1999.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR NOVEMBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Production 2/		1999 as % of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,436	1,484	1,590	1,725	2,283	2,560	112
IL	126	121	1,350	1,330	170	161	95
IN	138	136	1,300	1,275	179	173	97
KY	136	131	965	1,000	131	131	100
MO	166	160	1,125	1,140	187	182	97
OH	262	259	1,310	1,380	343	357	104
VA	123	121	1,185	1,290	146	156	107
WI	1,368	1,364	1,325	1,325	1,813	1,807	100
20-State							
Total	7,697	7,755	1,407	1,458	10,829	11,306	104

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

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Nov 1998	Nov 1999	'99 as % of '98
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,723	7,018	104
Average Layers (000)	318,797	328,086	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,109	2,139	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	32,405	29,985	93
Chicks Hatched (000)	31,251	33,078	106
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	618,483	614,258	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	678,003	673,736	99

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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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.