

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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

KENTUCKY CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES REMAIN STRONG

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for corn, soybeans and winter wheat while steady to slightly mixed for livestock.

Cattle and calf prices held steady to increasing. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over at mid-December averaged \$87.00 per cwt., unchanged from November while up \$13.00 from December 2002. **Beef cow** prices averaged \$47.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from the previous month and \$14.00 from a year earlier. **Calves** under 500 pounds for mid-December averaged \$98.00 per cwt., unchanged from the previous month while up \$16.00 from a year earlier.

Prices received for hogs and pigs were unchanged to down from November. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-December averaged \$34.00 per cwt., unchanged from November and up \$4.00 from December 2002. **Sows** at \$28.00 were down \$1.00 from the previous month while up \$6.00 from the previous year.

The price of **all milk** for mid-December was \$15.00 per cwt. This was down 70 cents from November while up \$2.10 from the previous year.

Grain prices continued to be a bright spot of the farm economy. The mid-December price of **corn** was \$2.50 per bushel, up 11 cents from November while down 6 cents from December 2002. The **soybean** price for mid-December was \$7.70 per bushel, up 46 cents from the previous month and \$2.05 from the previous year. This was the highest soybeans price in over 5 years. The **winter wheat** price was \$3.70 per bushel, up 21 cents from November and up 3 cents from a year earlier. This was the highest winter wheat price since May 1997.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 115, based on 1990-92=100, was 2 points (1.7 percent) below the November index. The Livestock Products Index was down 4 points (3.4 percent) from November while the All Crops Index was unchanged. Lower prices received for eggs, milk, lettuce, and cattle more than offset higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli, and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and lettuce offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 15 points (15 percent) from December 2002. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, was 4 points (3.3 percent) below last month but 19 points (19 percent) above December 2002.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		DEC 2002	NOV 2003	DEC 2003	DEC 2003
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
All Corn ^{b/ c/}	Bu.	2.56	2.39	2.50	2.32
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	5.65	7.24	7.70	7.29
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	3.67	3.49	3.70	3.62
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	110.00	115.00	110.00	87.90
All Other Hay,	Ton	64.00	67.00	64.00	66.90
All Hogs	Cwt.	29.70	33.80	33.80	34.90
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	30.00	34.00	34.00	35.30
Sows	Cwt.	22.00	29.00	28.00	28.30
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	64.20	76.90	77.40	92.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	74.00	87.00	87.00	98.60
Cows	Cwt.	33.00	45.00	47.00	49.90
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	82.00	98.00	98.00	113.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	12.90	15.70	15.00	13.70
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{g/}	Bu.	11.6	14.1	13.5	15.0

^{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/} Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

DECEMBER 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 380,000 hogs and pigs on Kentucky farms as of December 1, 2003, up 3 percent from a year ago. Breeding inventory at 45,000 head was 13 percent above a year ago, and market hog inventory at 335,000 head was 2 percent above December 1, 2002.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September-November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September-November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for

operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 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 2003-February 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003, but 1 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for March-May 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in 2003, and 3 percent below 2002.

The operations-related estimates that are traditionally included were not included in this December 2003 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report to allow a more complete analysis of the estimates in consideration of the 2002 Census of Agriculture data. These operation estimates will be combined with cattle, sheep, and dairy operations into a single Livestock Operations report that will be published in Spring 2004. Beginning December 2004, all annual livestock operation estimates, farm numbers, and land in farms will be combined into a new single report released annually. These operation-related estimates will no longer be published in the individual commodity reports.

HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBERS BY CLASS & WEIGHT GROUPS

December 1, 2002 - 2003, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	TOTAL		BREEDING		MARKET		MARKET HOGS							
	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs		120-179 lbs		180 lbs +	
	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	1,000	% of	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Head	2002	Head	2002	Head	2002	(1,000 Head)							
AR	310	102	85	106	225	100	115	125	40	30	35	30	35	40
GA	295	86	48	87	247	85	133	114	67	56	50	42	40	35
IL	3,950	95	410	95	3,540	95	1,320	1,280	920	860	800	750	680	650
IN	3,100	97	300	91	2,800	98	1,010	990	690	670	620	580	550	560
IA	15,800	101	1,060	101	14,740	101	4,400	4,510	3,950	4,130	3,250	3,100	2,950	3,000
KS	1,630	107	160	100	1,470	107	440	510	320	285	290	270	320	405
KY	380	103	45	113	335	102	110	110	80	90	75	70	65	65
MI	950	110	110	110	840	111	285	300	180	205	145	175	150	160
MN	6,400	107	600	103	5,800	107	2,110	2,210	1,330	1,420	1,080	1,200	900	970
MO	2,950	100	340	94	2,610	101	1,190	1,280	530	530	480	460	390	340
NE	2,900	98	370	101	2,530	98	1,010	980	670	650	500	490	405	410
NC	9,900	102	1,000	100	8,900	102	3,450	3,550	2,050	2,150	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500
OH	1,520	106	160	103	1,360	106	525	560	310	330	275	280	175	190
OK	2,340	100	360	109	1,980	99	910	920	280	320	200	290	620	450
PA	1,100	102	120	96	980	103	340	360	250	235	185	185	180	200
SD	1,260	96	145	104	1,115	95	370	385	310	250	265	260	225	220
WI	490	94	55	92	435	95	165	165	110	100	95	85	90	85
U.S.	60,040	101	5,966	99	54,074	101	19,461	19,821	13,054	13,250	10,881	10,839	10,105	10,164

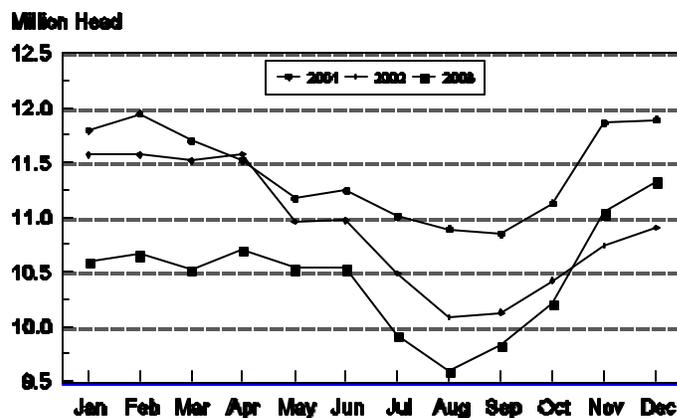
U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002 but 5 percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002 but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 578,000, 700-799 pounds were 379,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001. **Other disappearance** totaled 97,000 during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2003, were greater than year earlier levels for frozen eggs, vegetables, potatoes, and total turkey.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Nov. 03 as % of	
Commodity	Nov. 30, 2002	Oct. 31, 2003	Nov. 30, 2003	Nov. 2002	Oct. 2003
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs		Percent		
Chicken	800,423	600,664	583,846	73	97
Turkey	334,339	582,683	353,353	106	61
Ducks	7,551	2,690	1,836	24	68
Total Frozen Poultry	1,142,313	1,186,037	939,035	82	79
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	512,567	375,171	371,824	73	99
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	18,059	21,135	33,885	188	160
Total Frozen Pork 1/	463,942	446,843	439,852	95	98
Total Meat 2/	997,688	836,916	827,731	83	99

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ 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 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,236 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	Nov 2002	Oct 2003	Nov 2003	Nov. 03 as % of	
				Nov 2002	Oct 2003
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,164	2,211	1,780	82	81
Veal	16.9	16.4	15.2	90	93
Pork	1,709	*1,910	1,715	100	90
Lamb & Mutton	17.8	18.0	16.3	92	91
Total U.S.	3,907	4,154	3,526	90	85
Total Kentucky	41.7	48.0	46.2	111	96

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. NOVEMBER 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	1.4	2.9	1,171	2,711	825	938
Hogs	206.5	227.8	55,210	60,065	267	264
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.9	92	111	123	121
United States						
Cattle	2,861.1	2,425.8	3,606,284	2,998,990	1,260	1,236
Hogs	8,654.2	8,581.9	2,315,147	2,311,656	268	269
Sheep & Lambs	271.1	236.3	35,777	32,546	132	138

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

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for November 2003 totaled 114 million pounds, down 7 percent from November 2002 and down 1 percent from October 2003. Average number of cows, at 111,000 head, was down 9,000 head from last year and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow, at 1,025 pounds, was up 5 pounds from a year earlier, but down 10 pounds from October 2003.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during November totaled 11.6 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from November 2002.

October revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds was down 0.1 percent from October 2002. The October revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 13 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,509 pounds for November, 13 pounds above November 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 82,000 head less than November 2002, and 10,000 head less than October 2003.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR NOVEMBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2003 as %
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	of 2002
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,669	1,706	1,685	1,655	2,812	2,823	100
IL	115	108	1,420	1,450	163	157	96
IN	147	143	1,420	1,460	209	209	100
KY	120	111	1,020	1,025	122	114	93
MO	135	125	1,125	1,190	152	149	98
OH	261	258	1,350	1,380	352	356	101
VA	119	109	1,235	1,225	147	134	91
WI	1,266	1,249	1,385	1,410	1,753	1,761	100
20-State							
Total	7,792	7,710	1,496	1,509	11,657	11,637	100

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

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Nov 2002	Nov 2003	'03 as % of '02
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,226	7,275	101
Average Layers (000)	337,808	336,052	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,139	2,165	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	29,123	33,321	114
Chicks Hatched (000)	31,146	30,129	97
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Dec 1 (000)	619,589	636,411	103
Chicks Hatched (000)	690,052	707,619	103

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/>