

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Volume No. 19 Issue No. 11
Released: June 1, 2000

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Published twice monthly

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LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN PRICES MIXED

Kentucky farmers received mixed prices for livestock and grain commodities at mid-May.

Steers and heifers were unchanged from last month at \$85.00 per cwt., the highest price received since May 1991 and \$18.00 above last May. **Beef cow** prices remained steady at \$40.00 per cwt. and the highest price in almost 3 years. This was an increase of \$3.00 over last year. **Calves** at mid-May averaged \$99.00 per cwt. This price was \$3.00 below last month while \$21.00 above May 1999.

Mid-May prices received for **barrows and gilts** averaged \$47.00 per cwt., \$1.00 above last month and \$13.00 above May a year ago. This was the highest prices have been since October 1997. **Sow** prices averaged \$5.00 above last month at \$43.00 per cwt. This was \$13.00 above May a year ago while equal to the price received in August 1997.

The **all milk** price for mid-May was \$13.30 per cwt. This was twenty cents above last month and last May and equals the price received last December.

Prices received for **corn** averaged \$2.30 per bushel, one cent above last month and seven cents above a year ago. This was the highest price since January 1999. **Soybean** prices averaged \$5.40 per bushel, eleven cents above last month and 77 cents above last year. This was the highest soybean prices had been since January 1999. **Winter wheat** prices averaged \$2.35 per bushel at mid-May, an increase of twenty cents over last month and 37 cents above last May.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 102 based on 1990-

92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the April index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, broilers, and peaches more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and asparagus. These marketing changes accounted for all of the May index increase. Higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, hogs, and hay offset price decreases for strawberries, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes. Compared with May 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.1 percent) higher. Price increases from May 1999 for cattle, lettuce, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for oranges, milk, cantaloupes, and strawberries.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		MAY 1999	APR 2000	MAY 2000	MAY 2000
		Entire Month		Mid-Month ^{a/}	
FARM PRICES					
All Corn ^{b/} _{c/}	Bu.	2.23	2.29	2.30	2.06
Soybeans ^{b/}	Bu.	4.63	5.29	5.40	5.15
Winter Wheat ^{b/}	Bu.	1.98	2.15	2.35	2.39
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	122.00	116.00	114.00	93.90
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	79.00	75.00	74.00	71.30
All Hogs	Cwt.	33.80	45.70	46.80	48.80
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.00	46.00	47.00	49.20
Sows	Cwt.	30.00	38.00	43.00	40.80
All Beef Cattle ^{d/}	Cwt.	59.80	74.20	74.20	69.40
Steers & Heifers ^{e/}	Cwt.	67.00	85.00	85.00	73.20
Cows	Cwt.	37.00	40.00	40.00	39.00
Calves ^{f/}	Cwt.	78.00	102.00	99.00	109.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.10	13.10	13.30	12.00
Fluid ^{g/}	Cwt.	13.20	13.10	--	12.00
Manufactured	Cwt.	10.20	8.80	--	10.20
Hog-Corn Ratios ^{h/}	Bu.	15.2	20.0	20.3	23.7

^{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.

1999 AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE FOR KENTUCKY

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of chemicals on corn and soybeans for the 1999 crop year. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season or after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed.

CORN: AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, KENTUCKY, 1999 ^{1/}

Agricultural Chemical	Area Applied	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent		Pounds per Acre		
Herbicides:					
2, 4-D	3	1.0	0.49	0.49	21
Acetochlor	38	1.0	1.36	1.36	678
Atrazine	87	1.0	1.54	1.57	1,806
Glyphosate	14	1.2	0.74	0.91	166
Metolachlor	29	1.0	1.43	1.43	537
Nicosulfuron	5	1.0	0.03	0.03	2
Paraquat	17	1.0	0.50	0.50	112
Primisulfuron	13	1.0	0.02	0.02	3
Prosulfuron	11	1.0	0.007	0.007	1
Simazine	7	1.0	1.22	1.22	109
Insecticides:					
Lambda-Permethrin	45	1.0	0.02	0.02	9
	4	1.0	0.07	0.07	4

^{1/}Planted acres in 1999 for Kentucky were 1.32 million acres.

SOYBEANS: AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, KENTUCKY, 1999 ^{1/}

Agricultural Chemical	Area Applied	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent		Pounds per Acre		
Herbicides:					
Chlorimuron-ethyl	9	1.6	0.01	0.02	3
Fenoxaprop	15	1.0	0.18	0.18	31
Fluazifop-P-butyl	15	1.0	0.06	0.06	11
Fomesafen	7	1.0	0.33	0.33	29
Glyphosate	78	1.1	0.75	0.84	784
Imazaquin	6	1.0	0.08	0.08	5
Imazethapyr	9	1.0	0.06	0.06	6
Paraquat	6	1.0	0.25	0.25	17
Pendimethalin	7	1.0	0.74	0.74	60
Sulfosate	3	1.0	0.64	0.64	21
Thifensulfuron	7	1.0	0.002	0.002	*

^{1/}Planted acres in 1999 for Kentucky were 1.20 million acres. *Total applied is less than 1,000 lbs.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2000 were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, chicken, and potatoes. April 2000 stocks of chicken, at 836 million pounds, broke the previous record April high of 820 million pounds set in 1999. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier. Butter stocks were 9 percent above March 2000 but 15 percent below a year ago.

Commodity	All U.S. Warehouse Stocks			April 2000 as % of	
	April 30 1999	March 31 2000	April 30 2000	April 1999	March 2000
Frozen Poultry			1,000 lbs		Percent
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	25,500	38,320	34,917	137	91
Other Chicken	783,632	766,558	794,423	101	104
Total Chicken ^{1/}	819,612	810,871	836,102	102	103
Turkey	455,411	387,545	412,940	91	107
Total Frozen Poultry ^{2/}	1,281,033	1,202,340	1,253,319	98	104
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	316,758	350,521	366,310	116	105
Pork:					
Bellies	109,521	60,139	63,414	58	105
Total Frozen Pork ^{3/}	596,929	515,212	499,235	84	97
Total Meat ^{4/}	936,388	887,647	888,373	95	100

^{1/} Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. ^{2/} Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. ^{3/} Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, spare-ribs, trim-mings, and other frozen pork. ^{4/} Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

APRIL ALL HIRED WAGE RATE HIGHER

There were 1.05 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 9-15, 2000, up 2 percent from a year ago. There were 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 217,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.8 percent of the April hired workforce compared to 8.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the April 2000 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.58 per hour, up 35 cents from last April. Livestock

workers earned \$7.56 per hour compared with \$7.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 21,000 during the week of April 9-15, 2000. This compares to 29,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$7.09 per hour, up 37 cents per hour from 1999. Field workers earned an average \$6.51 per hour compared to \$6.17 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$6.90 per hour, up 27 cents per hour from a year ago.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for April 2000 totaled 162 million pounds, up 9 percent from April 1999 and up 1 percent from March 2000. Average number of milk cows on farms at 133,000 head, was down 1,000 head from a year earlier but up 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,220 pounds, up 110 pounds from April 1999, and up 10 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from production in these

same States in April 1999. March revised production, at 12.7 billion pounds was up 3.7 percent from March 1999. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 15 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,598 pounds for April, 44 pounds above April 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 66,000 head more than April 1999 and 12,000 head more than March 2000.

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 10.91 million head on May 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 1999 and 12 percent above May 1, 1998. **Placements in feedlots** during April totaled 1.69 million, slightly below 1999 but 6 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.60 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 307,000, 700-799 pounds were 568,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 511,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million, 4 percent below 1999 and 1 percent below 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. **Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during April, 13 percent below 1999 and 2 percent below 1998.

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle on feed May 1, 2000, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.36 million, up 9 percent from the previous year and 13 percent above May 1, 1998. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.45 million, slightly above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998. **Marketings** during April totaled 1.59 million, 5 percent below 1999 and down 1 percent from 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. **Other disappearance** during April was 71,000 head, 9 percent below 1999 but 16 percent above 1998.

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

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 1999 <u>1/</u>	April 2000	April '00 as % of April '99
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,784	7,014	103
Average Layers (000)	321,515	329,271	102
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,110	2,130	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	35,084	36,943	105
Chicks Hatched (000)	41,950	36,621	87
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	635,797	636,719	100
Chicks Hatched (000)	734,734	743,516	101

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.46 billion pounds in April, down 9 percent from the 3.82 billion pounds produced in April 1999. April 1999 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2000 contained 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, down 6 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,202 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.39 billion pounds, down 14 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.21 million head, 15 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	April 1999	March 2000	April 2000	April 00 % of	
				April 1999	March 2000
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,155	2,300	2,026	94	88
Veal	18	20	17	94	84
Pork	1,629	1,700	1,394	86	82
Lamb & Mutton	21	24	23	112	98
Total U.S.	3,822	4,044	3,460	91	86
Total Kentucky	42.7	39.0	31.9	75	82

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 1999 & 2000 ^{1/}

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.3	1.1	1,068	908	825	835
Hogs	217.8	158.4	56,642	41,787	260	264
Sheep & Lambs	0.6	0.7	92	92	145	125
United States						
Cattle	2,971.0	2,782.4	3,568,896	3,343,673	1,201	1,202
Hogs	8,530.2	7,210.0	2,216,052	1,892,543	260	262
Sheep & Lambs	309.4	345.0	41,958	47,035	136	136

^{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/>

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Kentucky Agri-News (ISSN:8750-9792)(USPS0661-550) 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.