

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: ▶Agricultural Prices ▶Soybean Fertilizer Use ▶Cold Storage ▶Farm Labor
 ▶Milk Production ▶Cattle on Feed ▶Egg Production ▶Slaughter

LIVESTOCK PRICES STRONG AS CROP PRICES CONTINUE MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-May were up from April for livestock while grain prices continued to be mixed.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over at mid-May averaged \$78.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from a month earlier and \$4.00 from May 2002. Steer and heifer prices were at their highest level in 14 months. **Beef cows** averaged \$40.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from April while down \$1.00 from a year earlier. Cow prices were their highest since June 2002. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$91.00 per cwt. This was up \$1.00 from April and \$3.00 from May 2002. Calf prices were the highest since March 2002.

The mid-month price for **barrows and gilts** was \$40.00 per cwt. This was up \$5.00 from April and \$9.00 from a year earlier. Prices of barrows and gilts were the highest since September 2001. **Sows** averaged \$28.00 per cwt., up \$1.00 from a month earlier and \$5.00 from a year earlier.

The price of **all milk** for mid-month was \$12.00 per cwt. This was up 10 cents from April while down \$1.00 from a year earlier.

Corn price was down while the soybean and winter wheat prices were up. The mid-May **corn** price was \$2.60 per bushel, down 1 cent from April while up 59 cents from May 2002. **Soybean** price was \$6.35 per bushel for mid-May. This was up 35 cents from the April price and \$1.57 from a year earlier. Soybeans were at their highest price since May 1998. The mid-month **winter wheat** price was \$3.30 per bushel, up 24 cents from April and 82 cents from May 2002.

The Preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May is 107, based on 1990-92=100, up six points (5.9 percent) from the April Index. All commodity group indexes except potatoes and dry beans, tobacco, and the other crops category increased since last month. Higher prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for eggs, asparagus, onions, and tomatoes. 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 cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, and peaches offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, apples, and asparagus. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (12 percent) from May 2002. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, corn, and soybeans more than offset lower prices for dairy, potatoes, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		MAY 2002	APR 2003	MAY 2003	MAY 2003
		Entire Month		Mid-Month <i>a/</i>	
All Corn <i>b/ c/</i>	Bu.	2.01	2.61	2.60	2.44
Soybeans <i>b/</i>	Bu.	4.78	6.00	6.35	6.19
Winter Wheat <i>b/</i>	Bu.	2.48	3.06	3.30	3.32
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	95.00	105.00	110.00	102.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	55.00	61.00	64.00	87.30
All Hogs	Cwt.	30.70	34.70	39.50	40.60
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	31.00	35.00	40.00	41.10
Sows	Cwt.	23.00	27.00	28.00	29.20
All Beef Cattle <i>d/</i>	Cwt.	66.10	66.90	68.90	74.90
Steers & Heifers <i>e/</i>	Cwt.	74.00	76.00	78.00	79.00
Cows	Cwt.	41.00	38.00	40.00	41.10
Calves <i>f/</i>	Cwt.	88.00	90.00	91.00	99.30
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.00	11.90	12.00	11.10
Hog-Corn Ratios <i>g/</i>	Bu.	15.3	13.3	15.2	16.6

*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/*Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.85 billion pounds in April, down 1 percent from the 3.90 billion pounds produced in April 2002. April 2002 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2003 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.97 million head, up 1 percent from April 2002. The average live weight was 1,209 pounds, down 18 pounds from April a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 1 percent below April 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from April a year ago.

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

Type	April 2002	March 2003	April 2003	April 03 % of	
				April 2002	March 2003
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,195	*2,051	2,153	98	105
Veal	16.1	16.5	16.0	99	97
Pork	1,672	1,619	1,657	99	102
Lamb & Mutton	19.1	18.2	19.4	102	107
Total U.S.	3,902	*3,705	3,846	99	104
Total Kentucky	36.8	36.0	34.8	94	97

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

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. APRIL 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	1.6	1,280	1,400	890	891
Hogs	180.8	171.1	48,145	45,460	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	0.9	109	129	142	139
United States						
Cattle	2,948.7	2,966.2	3,618,825	3,586,198	1,227	1,209
Hogs	8,425.3	8,333.5	2,253,148	2,231,821	267	268
Sheep & Lambs	278.9	295.6	38,343	38,868	137	132

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

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2003, were greater than year earlier levels for cheese, butter, frozen eggs, total turkey, and orange juice.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks				April 2003 as % of	
Commodity	April 30 2002	March 31 2003	April 30 2003	April 2002	March 2003
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	30,334	22,710	29,649	98	131
Other Chicken	817,836	613,772	684,883	84	112
Total Chicken 1/	852,430	641,983	719,324	84	112
Turkey	515,189	539,100	573,186	111	106
Total Frozen Poultry 2/	1,374,055	1,186,918	1,298,553	95	109
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	405,738	403,148	388,291	96	96
Pork:					
Bellies	63,293	42,971	48,306	76	112
Total Frozen Pork 3/	567,719	530,499	519,365	91	98
Total Meat 4/	996,601	951,890	925,138	93	97

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.

APRIL ALL HIRED WAGE RATE HIGHER

There were 938,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of April 6-12, 2003, down 13 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 781,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 157,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.16 per hour during the April 2003 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.40 per hour, up 34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with

\$8.43 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.49 per hour, was up 34 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia** totaled 29,000 during the week of April 6-12, 2003. This compares to 23,000 hired workers for the same time period a year ago. Wage rates for these workers averaged \$7.64 per hour, up 1 cent per hour from 2002. Field workers earned an average \$7.32 per hour compared to \$6.89 per hour last year. Livestock workers were paid an average of \$7.24 per hour, down 63 cents per hour from a year ago.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for April 2003 totaled 136 million pounds, down 11 percent from April 2002 and unchanged from March 2003. Average number of milk cows on farms at 120,000 head, was down 3,000 head from a year earlier but unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,130 pounds, down 110 pounds from April 2002, and down 5 pounds from last month.

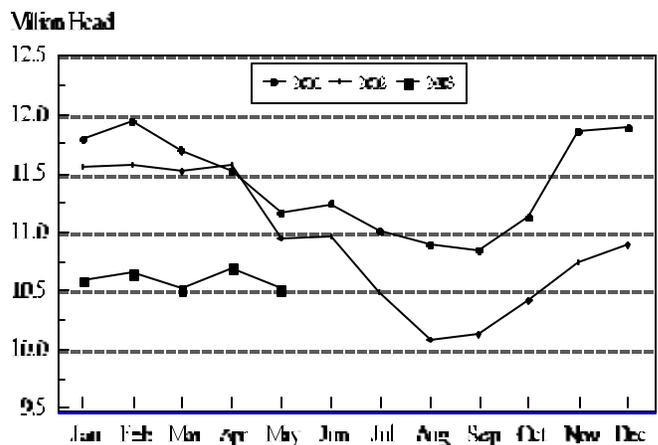
Milk production in the **20 major States** during April totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from

April 2002. March revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from March 2002. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,625 pounds for April, 4 pounds above April 2002. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.80 million head, 42,000 head more than April 2002, but 11,000 head less than March 2003.

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 10.53 million head on May 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent below May 1, 2002 and 6 percent below May 1, 2001. **Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.87 million, 29 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.81 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 296,000, 600-699 pounds were 324,000, 700-799 pounds were 613,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 637,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.99 million, 1 percent below 2002 but 9 percent above 2001. **Other disappearance** totaled 63,000 during April, 24 percent below 2002 and 29 percent below 2001.

United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



SOYBEANS: FERTILIZER USE BY STATE, 2002
PERCENT OF ACRES TREATED AND TOTAL AMOUNT APPLIED

State	Planted Acreage	Percent of Acres Treated and Total Applied					
		Nitrogen		Phosphate		Potash	
	(1,000)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)	(%)	(Mil. Lbs)
Arkansas	2,950	7	5.2	36	57.8	35	66.1
Illinois	10,550	18	37.5	25	143.1	38	422.6
Indiana	5,800	18	17.4	24	67.9	46	276.0
Iowa	10,400	3	9.3	7	48.3	12	163.7
Kansas	2,750	24	12.2	25	28.7	8	5.9
Kentucky	1,290	21	9.6	37	30.3	38	46.6
Louisiana	790	2	0.1	18	5.5	18	7.5
Maryland	490	23	2.7	17	2.9	26	7.0
Michigan	2,050	44	24.4	34	32.0	67	119.1
Minnesota	7,200	11	16.1	12	34.2	10	39.1
Mississippi	1,440	12	3.7	20	15.8	20	25.7
Missouri	5,050	13	11.8	29	62.9	36	158.1
Nebraska	4,700	31	23.1	36	79.9	11	14.6
North Carolina	1,360	36	14.4	36	25.0	41	51.3
North Dakota	2,670	64	44.1	59	50.5	11	3.3
Ohio	4,750	20	14.1	27	62.6	56	276.4
South Dakota	4,250	37	32.5	41	102.0	15	24.4
Tennessee	1,160	42	14.5	47	31.1	57	48.6
Virginia	480	25	3.6	33	7.3	46	18.4
Wisconsin	1,540	40	9.2	35	18.9	48	54.7
TOTAL	71,670	20	305.5	26	906.7	29	1,829.1

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	April 2002	April 2003	April '03 as % of April '02
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,105	7,129	100
Average Layers (000)	336,776	335,807	100
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,110	2,123	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	35,987	34,810	97
Chicks Hatched (000)	38,088	37,531	99
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set May 1 (000)	652,438	646,010	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	765,415	761,145	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/>